

Pediatrics, Neonatology & Primary Care

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The last 25 years have witnessed continued improvement in the survival of extremely low birth weight infants particularly in the industrialized nations of the world. This has been accompanied by a shift in attitudes to the provision of intensive care to infants regarded as being at the margins of viability. Intensive care is increasingly offered to such infants with significant intra- and inter-country variations in outcomes. Infants of birth weight <500 g encapsulate the moral and ethical dilemmas of perinatal clinicians who struggle to balance the natural parental emotional desire for every effort to be made to save their premature infants with the clinicians' uncertainty about the infant's prospects for survival and/or disability. It is difficult for