

**Table I.** Main clinical characteristics of the treatment and control groups.

	Intravenous corticosteroids		Inhalation corticosteroids	
	Steroids	Controls	Steroids	Controls
<b>Number of infants</b>	28	28	30	30
<b>Age of mother</b> [years $\pm$ SD]	29.4 $\pm$ 6.6	29.5 $\pm$ 7.9	31.6 $\pm$ 7.2	30.0 $\pm$ 6.0
<b>Prenatal corticosteroids:</b>	25 (89.3%)	25 (89.3%)	21 (70.0%)*	28 (93.3%)*
> 48 hours before birth	17 (60.7%)	16 (57.1%)	14 (46.7%)	20 (66.7%)
<b>Multiple birth</b>	6 (21.4%)	8 (28.5%)	10 (33.3%)	9 (30.0%)
<b>Caesarean section</b>	17 (60.7%)	14 (50.0%)	20 (66.7%)	19 (63.3%)
<b>Females</b>	11 (39.3%)	16 (57.1%)	13 (43.3%)	20 (66.7%)
<b>Gestational age</b> (weeks ; days $\pm$ SD)	26 w. + 3 d. 183.2 $\pm$ 11.6 d.	26 w.+ 4 d. 184.0 $\pm$ 11.2 d.	27 w. + 2 d. 191.0 $\pm$ 11.3 d.	27 w. + 3 d. 191.2 $\pm$ 11.3 d.
<b>Birth weight</b> [g $\pm$ SD]	794 $\pm$ 187	853 $\pm$ 282	867 $\pm$ 239	980 $\pm$ 297
<b>Length at birth</b> [cm $\pm$ SD]	33.4 $\pm$ 2.9	34.2 $\pm$ 3.2	33.9 $\pm$ 2.8	35.9 $\pm$ 2.9
<b>Head circumference at birth</b> [cm $\pm$ SD]	23.5 $\pm$ 1.8	23.4 $\pm$ 2.9	24.5 $\pm$ 2.1	25.1 $\pm$ 2.0
<b>Apgar at 1 minute</b> [median (range)]	5 (1-8)	4 (1-8)	4 (1-8)	5 (1-8)
<b>Apgar at 5 minutes</b> [median (range)]	6 (4-10)	6 (2-9)	7 (2-9)	7 (4-9)

\*p=0.016. There was not a significant difference in other variables between infants receiving steroids and controls among the two research groups.