

ABSTRACT

Diploma thesis deals with historical formation of neonatal intensive care in the Czech Republic. Its aim is to map the evolution of intensive care, from the very beginning up to the contemporary period, and provide a concise overview of events leading to Czech Republic being one of the countries where level of neonatal care is considered to be most advanced.

Theoretical nature of the thesis required a study of historical and contemporary literature, particularly articles and books. As an extra supplement, authentic information have been gathered from the pathfinders.

In the introduction to the thesis, reason for choosing the topic is described, then current status of knowledge in this area is summarized. Following that, process of creating of the historical analysis is described. Chapter on neonatology introduces and explains terms that are crucial for comprehending the context stated in the historical part of the thesis. Chapter which maps the historical evolution itself is divided into seven sub chapters which describe course of events in the particular periods. Evolution of perinatal care abroad is also shortly described.

Thesis reviews an extraordinary evolution of neonatal intensive care which has occurred in very short period of time. During this period pioneers had to overcome many hurdles, manage initial failures, as well as generate immense amount of effort to reach the present level of care which current generation finds completely natural.

Keywords: newborn, intensive care, neonatology, perinatology, evolution, history