

Title of Program: Preventing and Treating Retinopathy of Prematurity: Evidence from Cochrane Systematic Reviews

Speakers/Moderators: Roger F. Soll, MD, James Hagadorn, MD

Planning Committee: Jeffery D. Horbar, MD, Madge E. Buus-Frank, RN, MS, APRN-BC, FAAN, Roger F. Soll, MD

Date: December 18, 2017

Learning Objectives:


Participants will be presented with evidence from clinical trials and systematic reviews and will be able to evaluate and translate the evidence in the field of neonatology to better serve their practices. Specifically, evidence for strategies regarding the prevention and treatment of retinopathy of prematurity will be presented and critiqued.

DISCLOSURE:

Is there anything to disclose? *No financial interests to disclose*

COMMERCIAL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS (if applicable): *No Commercial Support*


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Preventing and Treating Retinopathy of Prematurity: Evidence from Cochrane Systematic Reviews

Conference begins at 12 Noon EST
December 18, 2017


Supported by: Vermont Oxford Network



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The Basics



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▼ Chat

Send to: All Panelists

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Cochrane
Preparing, maintaining and promoting the accessibility of systematic reviews of the effects of health care interventions

Cochrane Neonatal
Prepares and disseminates evidence-based reviews of the effects of therapies in the field of neonatal medicine



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James Hagadorn, MD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
University of Connecticut School of Medicine

 **In Memory**





Jerold F. Lucey, MD
Professor Emeritus
University of Vermont College of Medicine

Remembering Dr. Jerry Lucey, teacher, mentor, colleague, and friend.


 **Support**

Cochrane Neonatal acknowledges the generous support from Vermont Oxford Network in producing these seminars




 **Disclosure**

Roger F. Soll is the
Coordinating Editor of Cochrane Neonatal
and
President of Vermont Oxford Network

 **Why These Webinars?**

To develop an understanding of the evidence supplied by systematic reviews in neonatal perinatal medicine (as well as other large well conducted trials) and discuss how this evidence might influence your practice.

 **Retinopathy of Prematurity**

We will review the evidence from randomized trials and meta-analyses and discuss the different approaches that teams around the world are using regarding the prevention and treatment of retinopathy of prematurity.

Cochrane Neonatal

Retinopathy of Prematurity is in many ways the story of oxygen use in the preterm newborn....

1887 Early Incubator patent drawing

1950

Cochrane Neonatal

Oxygen in the Preterm Infant

"In the 1940s, Wilson and colleagues observed that periodic breathing in premature infants was nearly eliminated with the use of 70% oxygen.

Although Wilson cautioned against unrestricted use of oxygen, other investigators and the American Academy of Pediatrics advocated its liberal use...."

Polin NEJM 2013

Cochrane Neonatal

Retinopathy of Prematurity (Retrolental Fibroplasia)

First described in 1942:

"Grayish white opaque membrane behind each crystalline lens"

Terry 1942

Cochrane Neonatal

Retinopathy of Prematurity Pathogenesis

Phase 1: Relative retinal hyperoxia and interruption of normal vascularization

- retinal response to hyperoxia is vasoconstriction
- reduced vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF)

Phase 2: Hypoxia-revascularization

- VEGF is upregulated in response to hypoxia
- Abnormal neovascularization can occur

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Stages of Retinopathy of Prematurity

Demarcation line

Vascularized retina

Ridge

Isolated neo-vascular tufts

Avascular retina

Severe subretinal fibrovascular proliferation

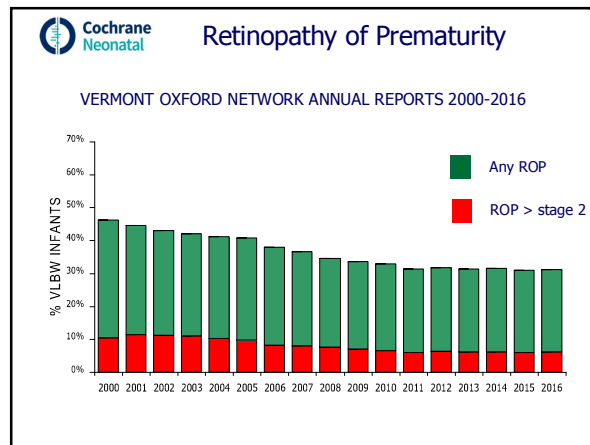
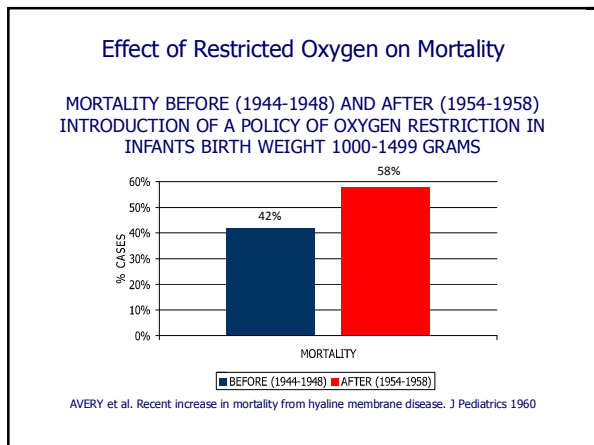
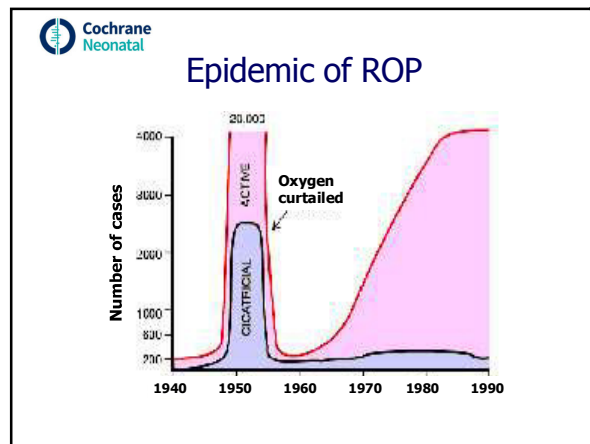
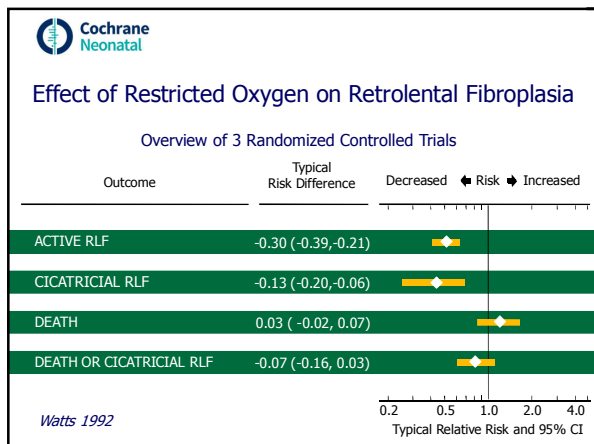
Detached retina

Cochrane Neonatal

Retinopathy of Prematurity

From: **The International Classification of Retinopathy of Prematurity Revisited**
Arch Ophthalmol. 2005;123(7):991-999. doi:10.1001/archophth.123.7.991

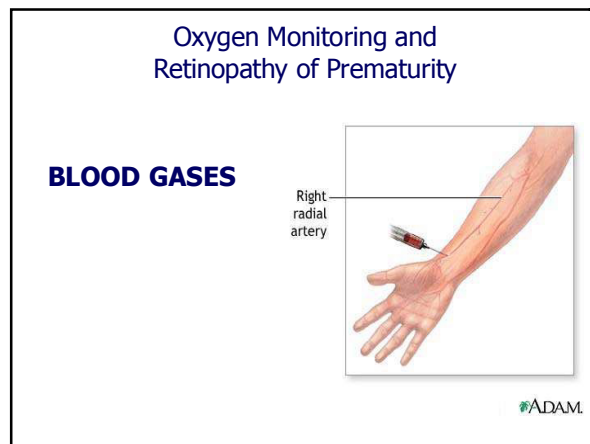
Scheme of retina of right eye (RE) and left eye (LE) showing zone borders and clock hours used to describe the location and extent of retinopathy of prematurity (adapted from the Committee for the Classification of Retinopathy of Prematurity).



Oxygen Monitoring and Retinopathy of Prematurity

Use of Oxygen and Retinopathy of Prematurity

- Blood gases
- Transcutaneous Monitoring
- Policies/guidelines to decrease oxygen exposure
- Recent multicenter trials (NeoProM)



Oxygen Monitoring and Retinopathy of Prematurity

Blood gases

Like watching a football game and checking in on the score every quarter...

First Quarter	Giants 12	Patriots 9
Second Quarter	Giants 18	Patriots 12
Third Quarter	Giants 25	Patriots 15
Fourth Quarter	Giants 31	Patriots 18

Oxygen Monitoring and Retinopathy of Prematurity

Blood gases

So what happened in the First Quarter?

Did the Giants score 4 field goals, or a touchdown, a missed extra point and 2 field goals, or a touchdown and a field goal and a safety?

Have to watch the game more closely to know!

Transcutaneous oxygen monitoring

Continuous TcPO2 Monitoring Compared to Intermittent PaO2 Monitoring

Retinopathy of prematurity
All Study Infants BW 500-1300 grams

Monitoring Method	% Cases
TcPO2 MONITORING	35%
CONVENTIONAL MANAGEMENT	45%

RD -0.11 (-0.21, 0.01)

BANCALARI et al. Influence of transcutaneous oxygen monitoring on the incidence of retinopathy of prematurity. Pediatrics 1987; 79: 663-669

Continuous TcPO2 Monitoring Compared to Intermittent PaO2 Monitoring

BANCALARI AND COWORKERS 1987

Outcome	Risk Difference (95% CI)	Decreased Risk	Increased Risk
ANY ROP	-0.11 (-0.21, 0.01)	Yes	No
CICATRICAL ROP	-0.01 (-0.05, 0.03)	Yes	No
DEATH	0.08 (-0.02, 0.18)	No	Yes
DEATH OR ROP	-0.02 (-0.13, 0.09)	Yes	No

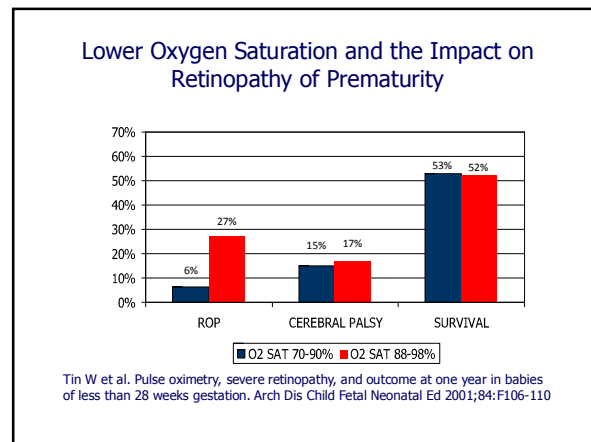
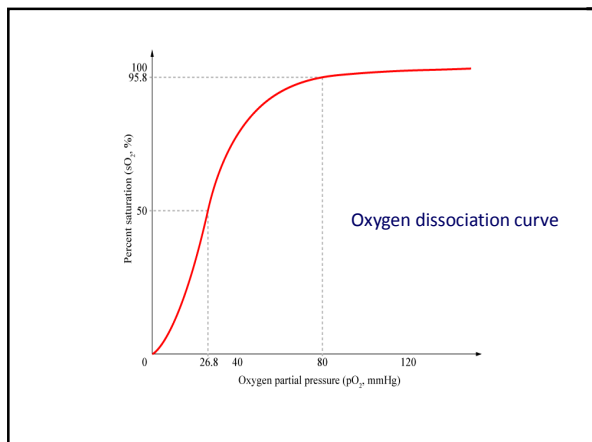
BANCALARI et al. Influence of transcutaneous oxygen monitoring on the incidence of retinopathy of prematurity. Pediatrics 1987; 79: 663-669

0.2 0.5 1.0 2.0 4.0
Relative Risk and 95% CI

Oxygen saturation monitoring

A pulse oximeter estimates the amount of oxygen carried in the bloodstream using infrared technology across the skin.

#ADAM



Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

Askie LM, Darlow BA, Davis PG, Finer N, Stenson B, Vento M, Whyte R.
 Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2017, Issue 4. Art. No.: CD011190. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD011190.pub2.

Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

Objectives:

1. What are the effects of targeting lower versus higher oxygen saturation ranges on death or major neonatal and infant morbidities, or both, in extremely preterm infants?
2. Do these effects differ in different types of infants, including those born at a very early gestational age, or in those who are outborn, without antenatal corticosteroid coverage, of male sex, small for gestational age or of multiple birth, or by mode of delivery?

NeOProm

Askie et al. BMC Pediatrics 2011, 11:6
 http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2431/11/6

STUDY PROTOCOL **Open Access**

NeOProm: Neonatal Oxygenation Prospective Meta-analysis Collaboration study protocol

Lisa M Askie^{1*}, Peter Brocklehurst², Brian A Darlow³, Neil Finer⁴, Barbara Schmidt^{5,6}, William Tarnow-Mordi^{7,8}, for the NeOProm Collaborative Group¹

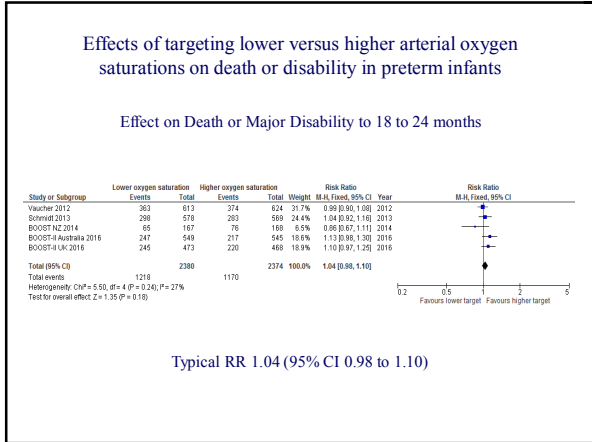
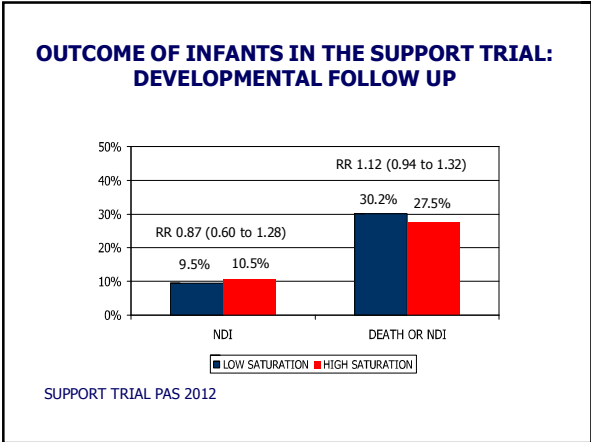
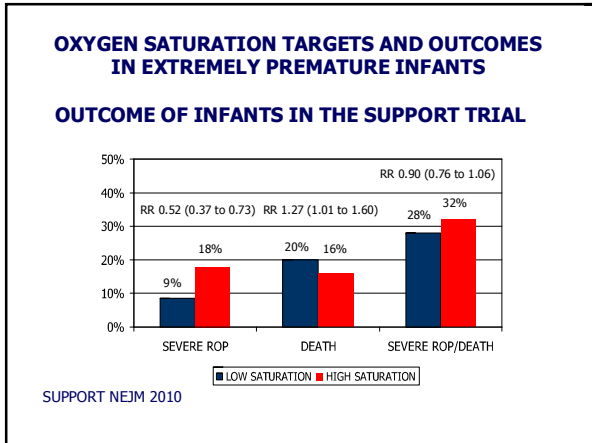
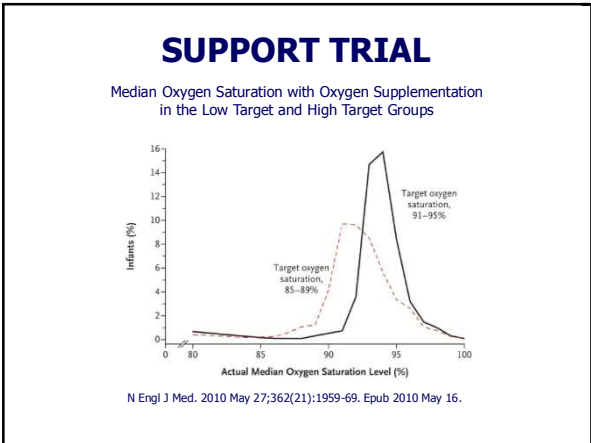
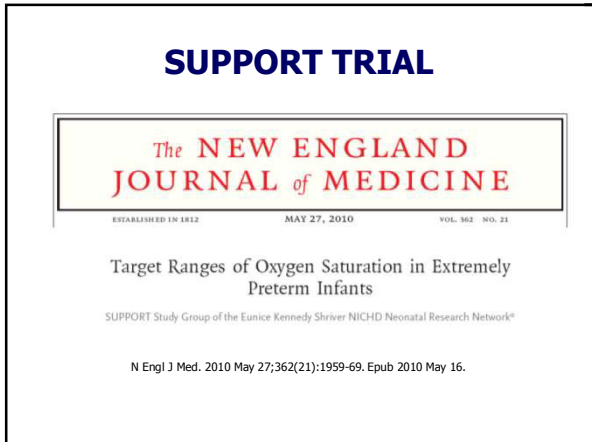
Characteristics of randomized trials included in the NeoProm Collaboration

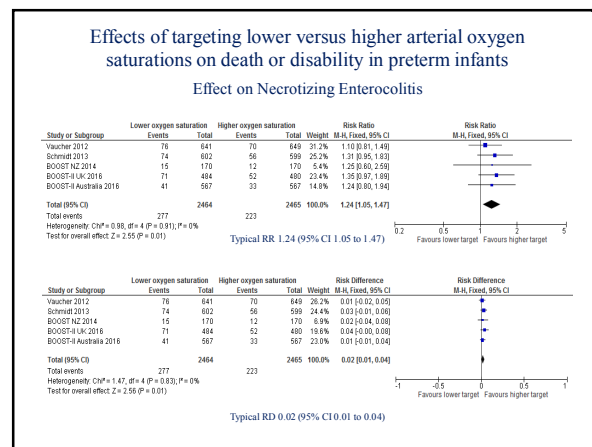
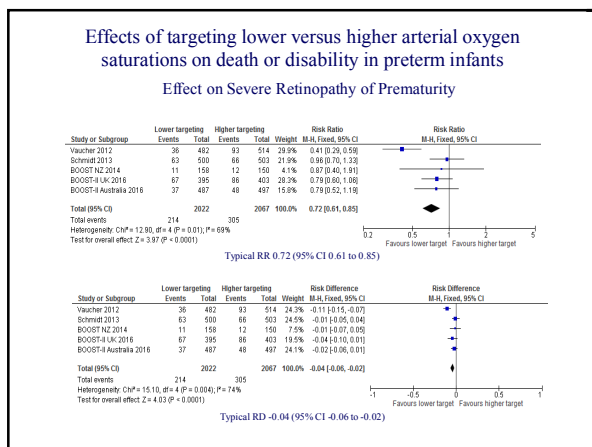
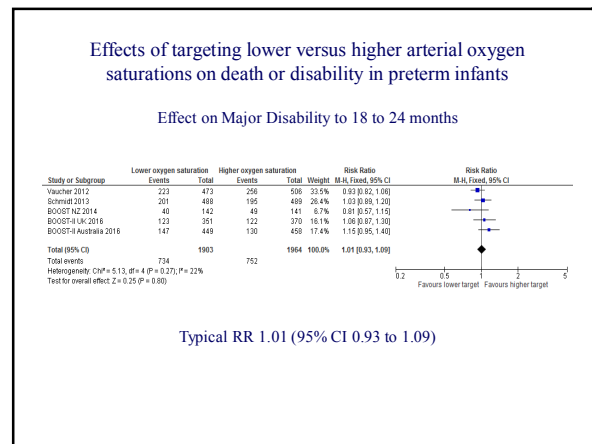
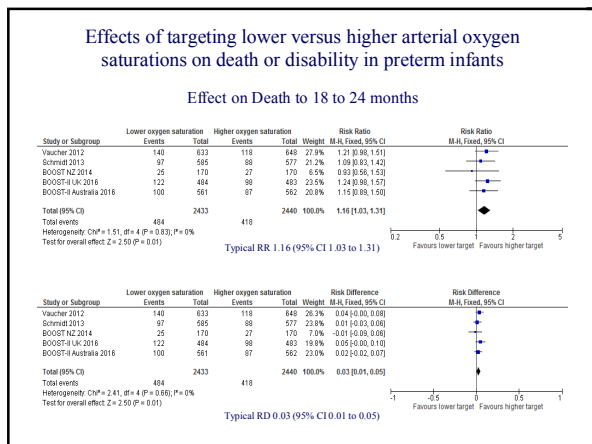
Trial acronym	BOOST II-Australia	BOOST II-UK	BOOST-NZ	SUPPORT	COT
Registration number	ACTRN12605000055606	ISRCTN00842461	ACTRN12605000253606	NCT00233324	ISRCTN62491227
Planned sample size	1200	1200	320	1310	1200
Countries of recruitment	Australia	United Kingdom	New Zealand	United States	Canada, USA, Argentina, Germany, Israel, Finland
Participants	Infants < 28 wks gestation inborn or outborn < 24 hrs old	Infants < 28 wks gestation < 12 hrs old (24 hrs if outborn)	Infants < 28 wks gestation inborn or outborn < 24 hrs old	Infants 24-27 wks gestation < 2 hrs old	Infants 23 0/7-27 6/7 wks gestation < 24 hrs old
Masked?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Intervention	Lower oxygen saturation (85%-89%)	Lower oxygen saturation (91%-95%)	Lower oxygen saturation (85%-89%)	Lower oxygen saturation (85%-89%)	Lower oxygen saturation (85%-89%)
Comparator	Higher oxygen saturation (91%-95%)	Higher oxygen saturation (85%-89%)	Higher oxygen saturation (91%-95%)	Higher oxygen saturation (91%-95%)	Higher oxygen saturation (91%-95%)
Intervention & comparator duration	Oximeter applied asap after admission to NICU, continued for minimum of 2 wks. Thereafter continued until 36 wks corrected age or 90% in room air for 95% of time over 3 days.	Oximeter applied from randomisation until postmenstrual age (PMA) of 36 wks or until baby is breathing air. All monitoring at any time prior to 36 wks to be done using study oximeter. BP defined as 36 wks using a physiological test.	Oximeter applied asap after admission to NICU, continued for minimum of 2 wks. Thereafter continued until 36 wks corrected age or 90% in room air for 95% of time over 3 days.	Oximeter applied within 2 hrs following infant has been in room air for 72 hrs or until 36 wks corrected age, assessed by physiologic oxygen test.	Oximeter applied from day of birth until a minimum 36 wks PMA, if breathing room air without any form of respiratory assistance from 36 wks PMA onwards, study oximetry discontinued at a 36 wks PMA. If receiving any form of respiratory assistance and/or oxygen therapy from 35 wks PMA onwards study oximetry continued until 45 wks PMA. Study oximetry stopped at any time before 45 wks PMA if baby discharged home (with or without respiratory assistance and/or oxygen).

Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

Results:

- Five trials, which together enrolled 4965 infants, were eligible for inclusion.
- The investigators of these five trials had prospectively planned to combine their data as part of the NeOProm (Neonatal Oxygen Prospective Meta-analysis) Collaboration.





Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

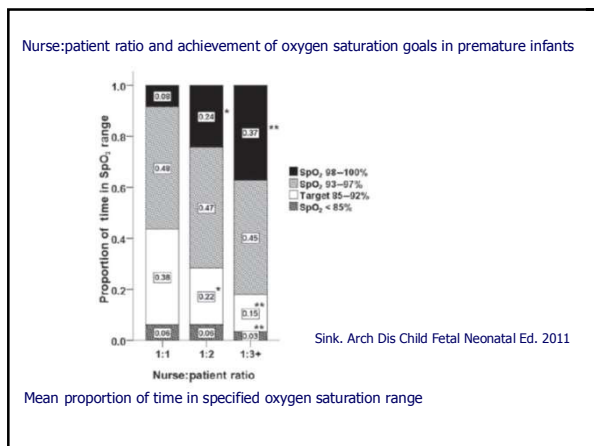
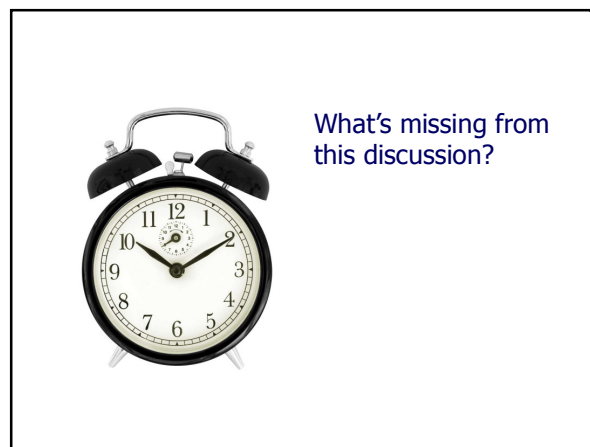
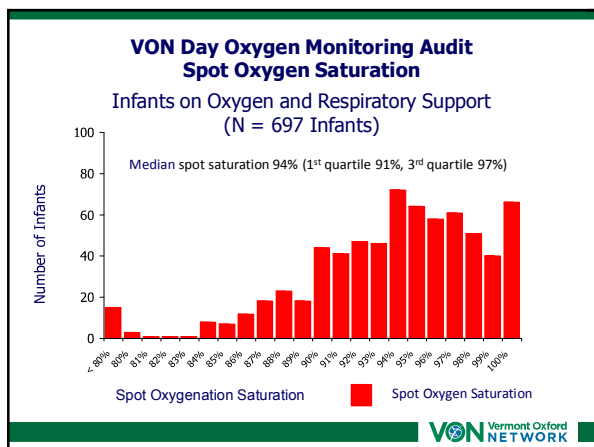
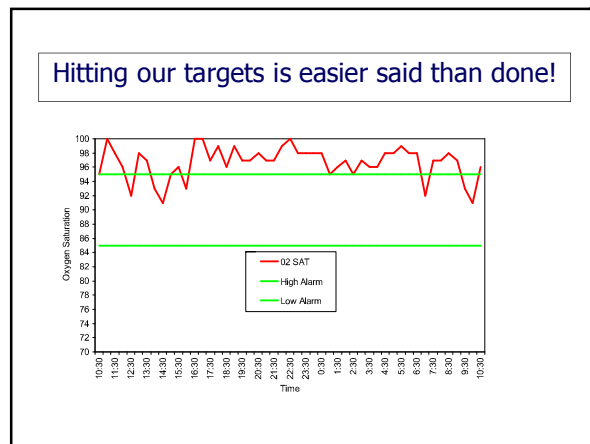
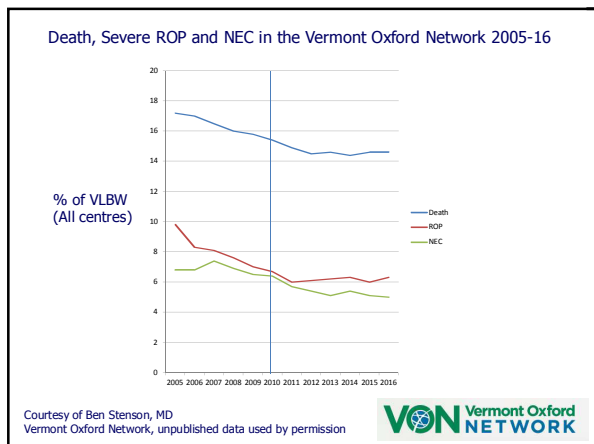
Author's Conclusions:

In extremely preterm infants, targeting lower (85% to 89%) SpO₂ compared to higher (91% to 95%) SpO₂ had no significant effect on the composite outcome of death or major disability or on major disability alone, including blindness, but increased the average risk of mortality by 28 per 1000 infants treated.

The trade-offs between the benefits and harms of the different oxygen saturation target ranges may need to be assessed within local settings (e.g. alarm limit settings, staffing, baseline outcome risks) when deciding on oxygen saturation targeting policies.

Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants

Outcome of concern	Appropriate choice of saturation range (SpO ₂)
Composite outcome of death or major disability	lower (85% to 89%) or higher (91% to 95%)
Death	higher (91% to 95%)
Retinopathy of Prematurity	lower (85% to 89%)
Necrotizing Enterocolitis	higher (91% to 95%)



Compliance with alarm limits for pulse oximetry in very preterm infants

Dependent on:

- Staff knowledge of unit policies and guidelines
- Nurse / patient ratio
- Patient acuity
- Patient age

Trials have now shown us the appropriate range to maintain oxygen saturation.

Maintaining appropriate oxygen saturation is a complex task that includes oxygen targets, alarm settings and staff response and unit culture.

MORE ON OXYGEN!

SUPPLEMENTAL THERAPEUTIC OXYGEN FOR PRETHRESHOLD ROP

Eligibility Criteria

- Preterm infants screened for ROP
- Prethreshold ROP in at least one eye
- Median pulse oximetry saturation < 94%

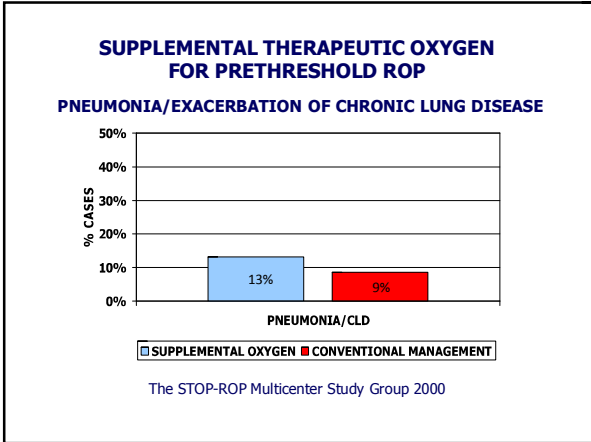
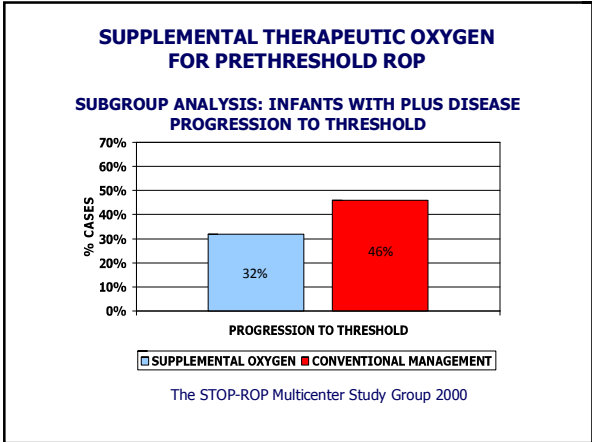
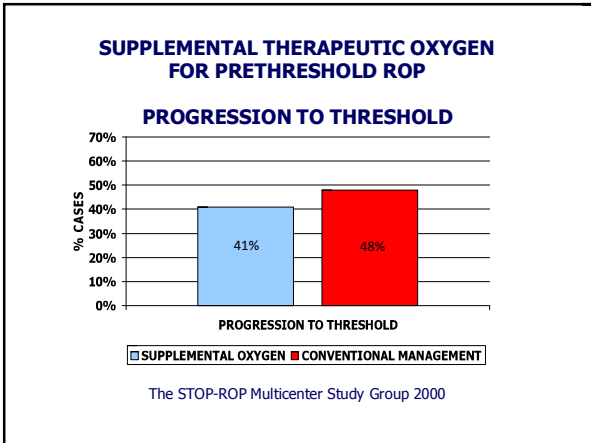
The STOP-ROP Multicenter Study Group 2000

SUPPLEMENTAL THERAPEUTIC OXYGEN FOR PRETHRESHOLD ROP

Intervention

- Continuous pulse oximetry monitoring
- Conventional arm: maintain oxygen saturation 89-94%
- Supplemental arm: maintain oxygen saturation 96-99%

The STOP-ROP Multicenter Study Group 2000



Moving on from oxygen,
How else can we prevent or treat
ROP?

LIGHT REDUCTION IN PREVENTING RETINOPATHY OF PREMATURETY

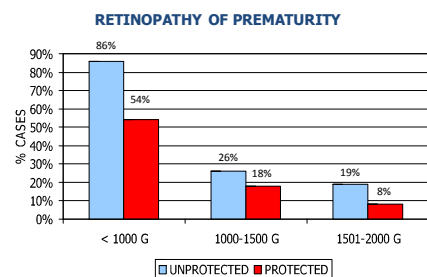
Glass and coworkers 1985

investigated effect of exposure to light in two intensive care nurseries

- standard bright nursery environment
- reduced light level environment

Effect of bright light in the Hospital Nursery on Retinopathy of Prematurity 1985

LIGHT REDUCTION IN PREVENTING RETINOPATHY OF PREMATURETY



Effect of bright light in the Hospital Nursery on Retinopathy of Prematurity 1985

Early light reduction for preventing retinopathy of prematurity in very low birth weight infants



Jorge EC, Jorge EN, El Dib RP. Early light reduction for preventing retinopathy of prematurity in very low birth weight infants. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2001, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD000122. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD000122.

Early light reduction for preventing retinopathy of prematurity in very low birth weight infants

Seiberth 1994: 169 infants of less than 1501 grams birth weight from one nursery were enrolled and then randomized to no patching or patching of both eyes from the day of birth until 35 weeks' postmenstrual age.

Braz 2006: 226 infants of less than 1600 grams birth weight or < 32 weeks' gestation were enrolled and randomized. In the experimental group, patching of both eyes began on the day of birth and continued until 35 weeks' postmenstrual age.

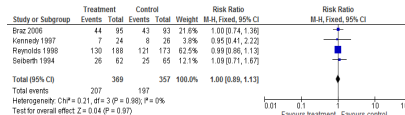
Kennedy 1997: 71 infants weighing 1250 grams or less, or of gestational age 32 weeks or less, were enrolled and randomized at 0 to 6 hours after birth to wearing goggles until 31 weeks' postmenstrual age.

Reynolds 1998: 409 infants of less than 31 weeks' gestation and less than 1251 grams birth weight were randomized to wearing goggles or control. The goggles were placed on the infant within 24 hours of birth, reducing light by 97% (100% of ultraviolet) and were continued until the infant was 31 weeks' postmenstrual age or four weeks chronological age, whichever occurred later.

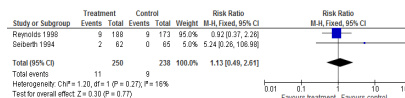
Jorge EC, Jorge EN, El Dib RP. Early light reduction for preventing retinopathy of prematurity in very low birth weight infants. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2001, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD000122. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD000122.

Early light reduction for preventing retinopathy of prematurity in very low birth weight infants

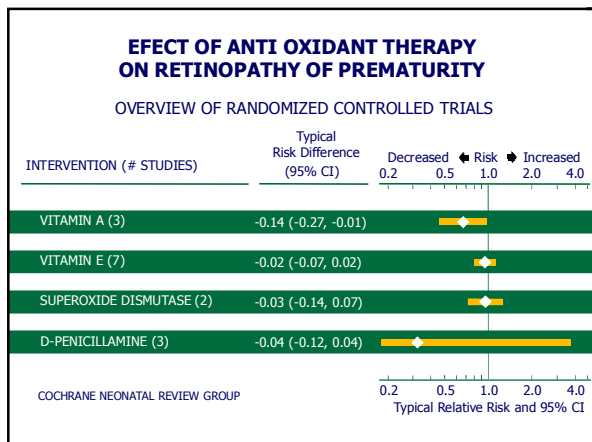
Effect on Any Retinopathy of Prematurity in infants < 2001 grams



Effect on "poor" Retinopathy of Prematurity outcomes in infants < 2001 grams



Jorge EC, Jorge EN, El Dib RP. Early light reduction for preventing retinopathy of prematurity in very low birth weight infants. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2001, Issue 1. Art. No.: CD000122. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD000122.



Beta-blockers for prevention and treatment of retinopathy of prematurity in preterm infants

Kaempfen S, Neumann RP, Jost K, Schulzke SM. Beta-blockers for prevention and treatment of retinopathy of prematurity in preterm infants. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2015, Issue 9. Art. No.: CD011893. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD011893. (full review pending publication January 2018)

Beta-blockers for prevention and treatment of retinopathy of prematurity in preterm infants

Background: The use of beta-adrenergic blocking agents (beta-blockers), which modulate the vasoproliferative retinal process, may reduce the progression of ROP or even restore established ROP.

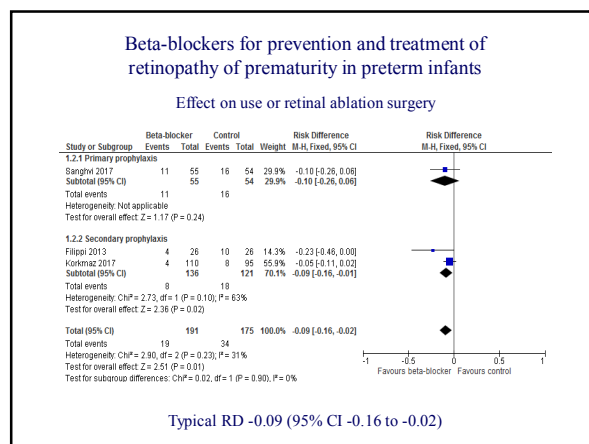
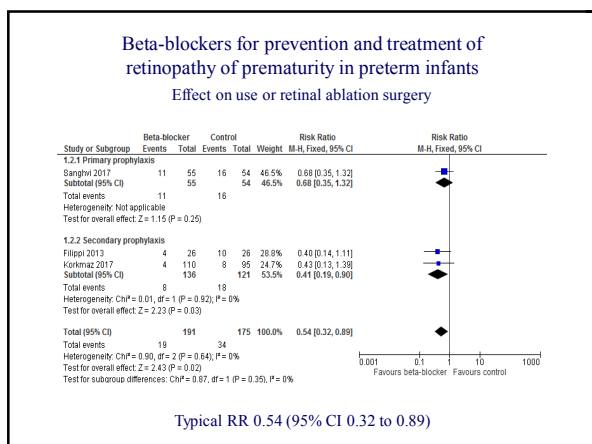
Objectives: To determine the effect of beta-blockers on short-term structural outcomes, long-term functional outcomes, and the need for additional treatment, when used either as prophylaxis in preterm infants without ROP, stage 1 ROP (zone I), or stage 2 ROP (zone II) without plus disease or as treatment in preterm infants with at least prethreshold ROP.

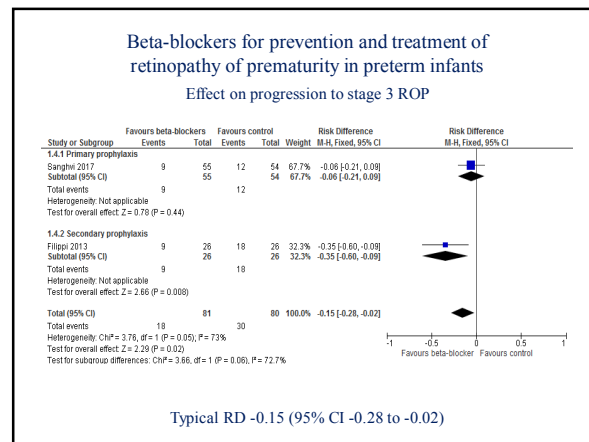
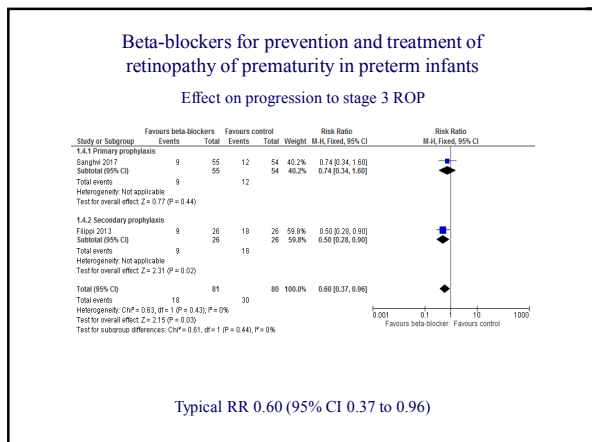
Beta-blockers for prevention and treatment of retinopathy of prematurity in preterm infants

Three studies incorporating a total of 366 preterm infants met inclusion criteria of this review (Filippi 2013; Korkmaz 2017; Sanghvi 2017).

These trials were conducted as ROP prevention trials and included preterm infants diagnosed with \leq stage 2 ROP without plus disease (Filippi 2013; Korkmaz 2017) or preterm neonates in whom ROP was not assessed at enrolment but very unlikely to be present as they were $<$ 8 days old (Sanghvi 2017).

Of the three included trials, two trials were placebo-controlled (Korkmaz 2017; Sanghvi 2017), while the third trial compared beta-blocker administration to no treatment (Filippi 2013).





Beta-blockers for prevention and treatment of retinopathy of prematurity in preterm infants

Concern and impression regarding other important clinical outcomes

Outcome (# studies)	Typical RR (95% CI)
Hypotension (3)	7.00 (0.38 to 129.11)
Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (2)	1.14 (0.75 to 1.73)
Necrotizing Enterocolitis (2)	2.45 (0.50 to 12.11)
Mortality (2)	0.99 (0.30 to 3.29)

Beta-blockers for prevention and treatment of retinopathy of prematurity in preterm infants

Authors' conclusions: Limited evidence of low to moderate quality suggests that prophylactic administration of oral beta-blockers might reduce progression towards stage 3 ROP and decrease the need of anti-VEGF agents or laser therapy.

The clinical relevance of those findings is unclear as no data on long-term visual impairment were reported.

Adverse events attributed to oral propranolol at a dose of 2 mg/kg/d raise concerns regarding systemic administration of this drug for prevention of ROP at the given dose.

Inositol in preterm infants at risk for or having respiratory distress syndrome

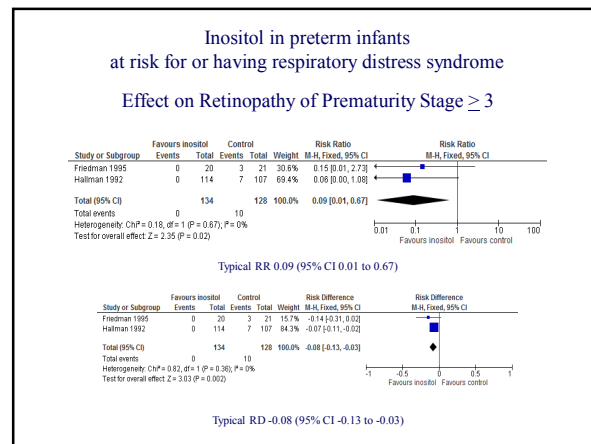
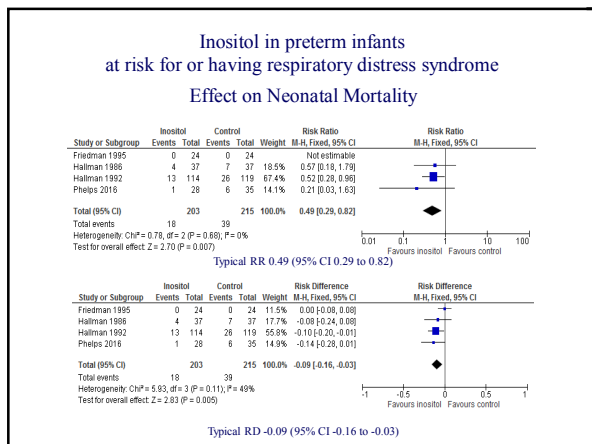
Howlett A, Ohlsson A, Plakkal N. Inositol in preterm infants at risk for or having respiratory distress syndrome. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2015, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD000366. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD000366.pub3.

Inositol in preterm infants at risk for or having respiratory distress syndrome

Background: Inositol is an essential nutrient required by human cells in culture for growth and survival. Inositol promotes maturation of several components of surfactant and may play a critical role in fetal and early neonatal life.

Objectives: To assess the effectiveness and safety of supplementary inositol in preterm infants with or without respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) in reducing adverse neonatal outcomes.

Results: Four published RCTs and one ongoing RCT were identified



NICHD Neonatal Research Network Inositol Trial Concerning preliminary reports

Objective: To test the safety and efficacy of inositol to improve survival without severe ROP, defined as Type 1 ROP, in very preterm infants.

Design/Methods: We conducted a randomized, placebo controlled trial of Inositol (INS) in preterm infants. 18 centers of the NICHD Neonatal Research Network conducted a randomized controlled trial of 5% inositol given daily to infants < 28 weeks' gestation until 10 weeks chronologic age, 34 weeks' postmenstrual age, or discharge.

Preliminary results: The Data Safety Monitoring Committee ultimately recommended cessation of the trial for a safety concern, unrelated to the manufacturing issue after enrollment of 638 infants.


The unfavorable outcome of Type 1 ROP or death prior to ROP determination was 21% in the placebo group, and 29% in the INS group, p<0.01.

Late onset sepsis was more common in the INS group (26%, vs 20% in placebo), although the difference was not statistically significant (p=0.06). Other diagnoses including BPD and severe IVH, adverse events, and serious adverse events occurred at similar rates in the two groups.

Conclusion(s): Daily inositol at 80mg/kg/day for up to 10 weeks did not benefit infants <28 weeks' gestation, and may be harmful for extremely preterm infants. The biologic mechanism for these findings is unknown.

Treatment of Retinopathy of Prematurity

Peripheral retinal ablation for threshold retinopathy of prematurity in preterm infants



Andersen C, Phelps D. Peripheral retinal ablation for threshold retinopathy of prematurity in preterm infants. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 1999, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD001693. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001693.

MULTICENTER TRIAL OF CRYOTHERAPY

- Infants weighing less than 1251 grams
- Ophthalmologic examinations to begin at 4-6 weeks of age
- Repeated every two weeks until "prethreshold"
- Repeated weekly until "threshold"

Cryotherapy for Retinopathy of Prematurity Cooperative Group 1988

MULTICENTER TRIAL OF CRYOTHERAPY

"threshold" disease

at least five contiguous or eight cumulative 30 degree sectors of stage 3 ROP in zone 1 or 2 in the presence of plus disease

Cryotherapy for Retinopathy of Prematurity Cooperative Group 1988

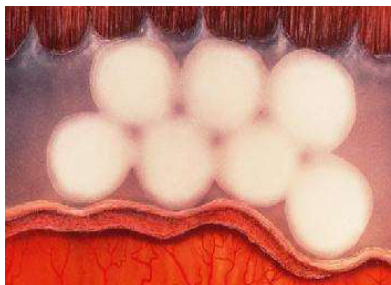
MULTICENTER TRIAL OF CRYOTHERAPY

Randomization

- "symmetric": both eyes meet threshold one eye randomly assigned to treatment
- "asymmetric": one eye met threshold randomize worst eye

Cryotherapy for Retinopathy of Prematurity Cooperative Group 1988

MULTICENTER TRIAL OF CRYOTHERAPY



Cryotherapy for Retinopathy of Prematurity Cooperative Group 1988

MULTICENTER TRIAL OF CRYOTHERAPY

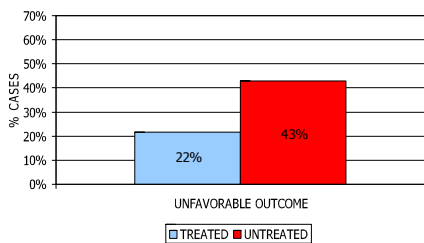
Unfavorable outcome

- a retinal fold involving the macula
- retinal detachment involving zone 1
- retrolental tissue or "mass"

Cryotherapy for Retinopathy of Prematurity Cooperative Group 1988

MULTICENTER TRIAL OF CRYOTHERAPY

UNFAVORABLE OUTCOME



Cryotherapy for Retinopathy of Prematurity Cooperative Group 1988

COMPLICATIONS OF CRYOTHERAPY

Intraoperative ocular complications

- conjunctival hematoma 10%
- conjunctival hemorrhage 5%

Systemic complications

- bradycardia/arrhythmia 9%
- cyanosis 2%

Cryotherapy for Retinopathy of Prematurity Cooperative Group 1988

LASER PHOTOCOAGULATION VS. CRYOTHERAPY FOR THRESHOLD ROP

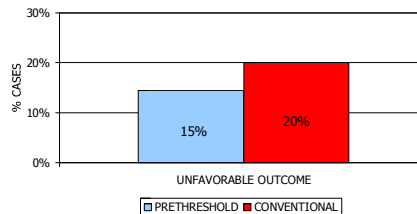
VISUAL ACUITY

- Follow up at ten years of age
- Good outcome defined as 20/50 or better
- Odds ratio for "good outcome": 5.2 (95% CI 1.4, 19.8)

NG and coworkers Ophthalmology 2002: 928-934

EARLY TREATMENT FOR RETINOPATHY OF PREMATURITY TRIAL

UNFAVORABLE OUTCOME

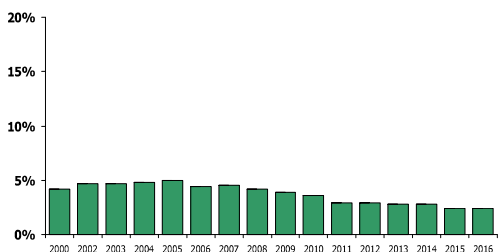


Early Treatment for Retinopathy of Prematurity Cooperative Group. Arch Ophthalmol. 2003; 121: 1684-1696



Retinopathy of Prematurity ROP Surgery

VERMONT OXFORD NETWORK ANNUAL REPORTS 2000-2016



ANTI VEGF IN THE TREATMENT OF RETINOPATHY OF PREMATURITY



Anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) drugs for treatment of retinopathy of prematurity



Sankar M Jeeva, Sankar J, Mehta M, Bhat V, Srinivasan R. Anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) drugs for treatment of retinopathy of prematurity. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2016, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD009734. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD009734.pub2. (update pending publication December 2017)

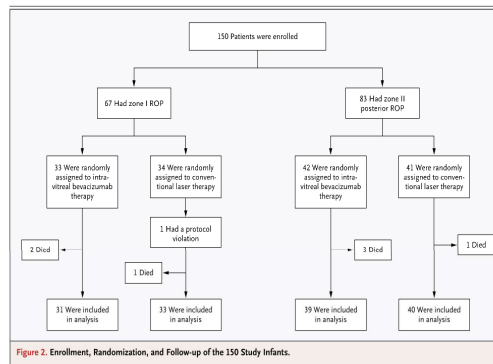
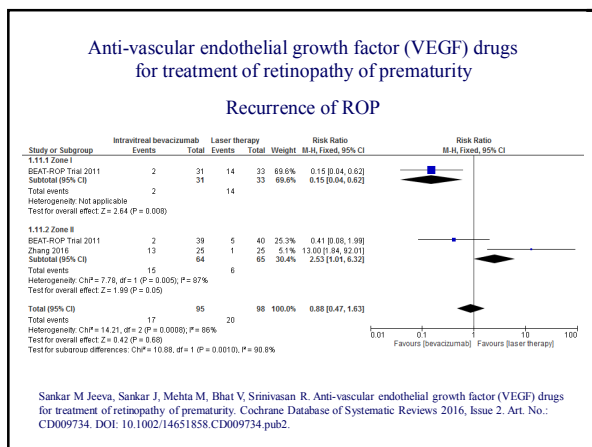
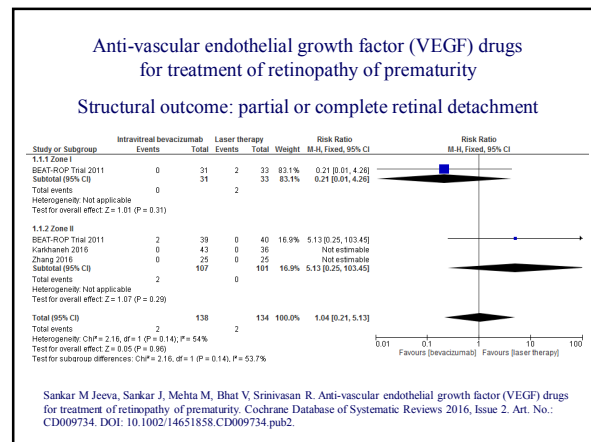
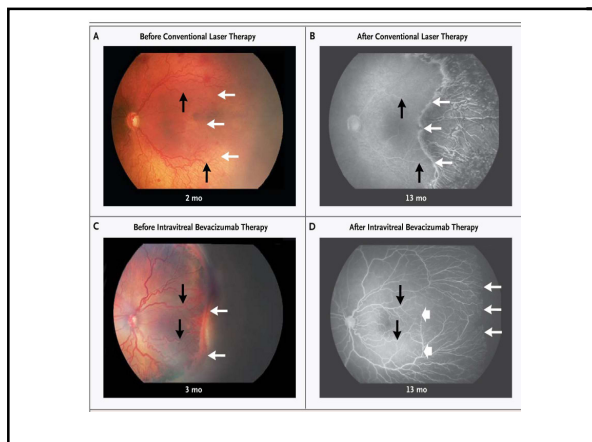


Figure 2. Enrollment, Randomization, and Follow-up of the 150 Study Infants.



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Data from the Canadian Neonatal Network demonstrated 3.1 times higher odds (95% CI 1.2 to 8.4) in infants (gestation less than 29 weeks) treated with bevacizumab versus laser, after adjusting for key confounders like gestation, gender, maternal education, Score for Neonatal Acute Physiology-II (SNAP-II) score, bronchopulmonary dysplasia, sepsis, and severe brain injury further underscore the importance of evaluating long-term safety outcomes following anti-VEGF therapy.

Morin and colleagues. Canadian Neonatal Network and the Canadian Neonatal Follow-Up Network Investigators. Neurodevelopmental outcomes following bevacizumab injections for retinopathy of prematurity. Pediatrics 2016;137(4):e20153218.

Anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) drugs for treatment of retinopathy of prematurity


“Given the potential risk of systemic absorption and consequent adverse effects like cerebrovascular accidents following intravitreal anti-VEGF therapy, the lack of evidence on safety outcomes is a major concern”.


Sankar and colleagues. Anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) drugs for treatment of retinopathy of prematurity. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2016, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD009734. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD009734.pub2. (update pending publication December 2017)

Cochrane Neonatal

Scanning the Horizon


James Hagadorn, MD
Associate Professor of Pediatrics
University of Connecticut School of Medicine

 **Scanning the Horizon**
Emerging Evidence for Prevention and Treatment of ROP




 **ClinicalTrials.gov**

- “Retinopathy of Prematurity”
- 92 trials with ROP as primary or secondary outcome
 - Registered but not yet enrolling
 - Enrolling
 - Closed to enrollment but actively following


 **1. Oxygen Saturation Targeting:
Effects of Closed-loop Automatic Control of FiO2 in Extremely Preterm Infants**

- Open treatment RCT
- Projected Enrollment: 2340, Estimated completion December 2022
- Eligible: Gestational age 23+0/7 - 27+6/7 weeks
- Intervention: closed-loop automatic control of the inspiratory fraction of oxygen vs standard care
- Outcomes: mortality; ROP and other in-hospital morbidities; 24-month outcomes

NCT03168516


 **2. Growth Factor Biologicals:
Bevacizumab, Ranibizumab, IGF-1**

- 6 trials
- Intravitreal bevacizumab vs laser for severe ROP (BEAT-ROP trial) – visual acuity follow-up continues through 7 years
- Phase 3 ranibizumab vs laser for severe ROP
- Non-inferiority studies of lower dose bevacizumab intravitreal for treatment of ROP Type 1
- Observational studies of serum VEGF levels
- IGF-1/IGFBP3 Prevention of ROP - follow up
- *New data will address current safety concerns regarding anti-VEGF monoclonal Ab therapy*

 **RAINBOW Study: Ranibizumab Compared With Laser Therapy for Treatment of ROP**

- Phase 3 treatment study, Active/Not enrolling
- Randomized open label, 86 sites
- Enrollment: 220
- Eligible: Birth weight < 1500 grams with severe ROP (Zone I, stage 1+, 2+, 3 or 3+ disease, or Zone II, stage 3+ disease, or Aggressive posterior ROP)
- Intervention: intravitreal ranibizumab 0.2 mg, 0.1 mg, or laser
- Outcome: No active ROP or unfavorable structural outcome 24 weeks after starting investigational treatment; many secondary outcomes

NCT02375971

 **Phase 1 Trial of Bevacizumab Treatment for Severe ROP**

- Purpose: to find an effective dose of intravitreal bevacizumab that is lower than currently used, and can be tested in future larger studies.
- Single-group assignment, 10 sites; Enrollment: 110
- Eligible: Infants with Type 1 ROP
- Intervention: intravitreal bevacizumab in de-escalating doses
- Outcome: improvement by 4-day exam and no recurrence requiring additional treatment within 4 weeks of injection in 80% of participants at that dose.

NCT02390531



3. Nutritional Supplements

- 5 trials
- DHA vs placebo for ROP prevention
- Correlation of RBC omega-3 PUFAs and subsequent ROP severity
- Arachidonic acid/DHA supplementation vs placebo for ROP prevention
- Vitamin A for ROP prevention



Enteral Administration of Docosahexaenoic Acid to Prevent Retinopathy of Prematurity

- Rationale: DHA comprises 40% of the PUFAs in the brain and 60% in the retina
- Phase 2 prevention study, Mexico
- Projected enrollment: 100
- Eligible: Birth weight < 1500 grams
- Intervention: Docosahexaenoic acid vs placebo enterally once daily x 14 days
- Outcome: Incidence and severity of ROP through 42-45 weeks corrected age

NCT02683317



4. Erythropoietin

- 2 trials
- Influence of erythropoietin and early iron supplements on ROP prevalence and severity
- Recombinant erythropoietin for neuroprotection in very preterm infants



5. Propranolol

- Rationale: beta-blockers may reduce retinal expression of VEGF and IGF-1 through blockade of beta-adrenoreceptors
- 4 trials - China, Germany, Italy
- Phase 2 studies to prevent progression of moderate ROP
- Projected enrollment 100-276
- Enteral; topical ophthalmic



Prospective Cohort Study for Propranolol Treatment in Retinopathy of Prematurity

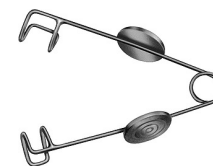
- Phase 2 treatment study, Not yet enrolling
- Randomized masked controlled; China
- Enrollment: 100
- Eligible: Birth weight < 1500 grams with stage 1 or 2 ROP without plus
- Intervention: oral propranolol 0.25 mg/kg/day vs propranolol ophthalmic drops vs placebo (NS)
- Outcome: progression of ROP; safety; 12-month visual and developmental outcomes


NCT03038295




6. Retinal Exams

- 2 trials
- RCT oral paracetamol combined with local anesthetics for pain relief during retinal exam
- Comparison of pain using two eyelid retractors




 **7. Topical ophthalmic NSAIDs: Kerotolac, ibuprofen**

- 2 trials
- Single-center RCT of kerotolac vs placebo for ROP prevention
- RCT Synergy of caffeine + ibuprofen + kerotolac for ROP prevention


 **8. ROP As A Secondary Outcome**

- Many trials
- Thyroxine
- Delivery room resuscitation with room air versus FIO2
- Prevention of BPD
- Smartphone screening for eye diseases
- Probiotics
- Feeding approaches during transfusion

 **Summary:**

- Many trials underway examining ROP as a primary or secondary outcome
- Exciting prospects for new evidence to guide prevention and treatment of ROP



 **Scanning the Horizon**
Emerging Evidence for Prevention and Treatment of ROP

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Characteristics of infants with severe retinopathy of prematurity in countries with low, moderate, and high levels of development: implications for screening programs.

Gilbert C, Fielder A, Gordillo L, Quinn G, Semiglia R, Visintin P, Zin A; International NO-ROP Group.

Pediatrics. 2005 May;115(5):e518-25. Epub 2005 Apr 1.

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OBJECTIVE:

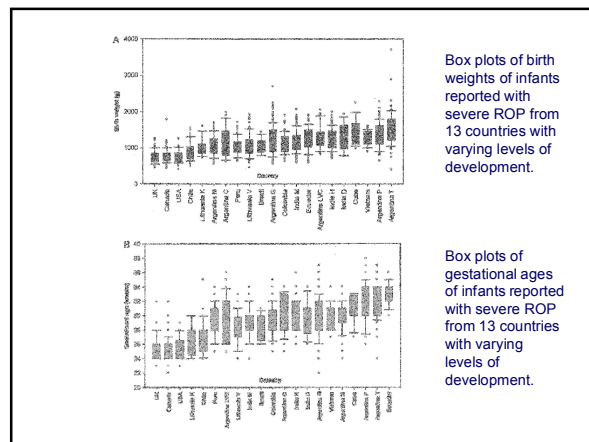
The proportion of blindness as a result of ROP varies greatly among countries depending on their level of development, being influenced by the availability of neonatal care, neonatal outcomes, and whether effective screening and treatment programs are in place.

The objective of this study was to compare characteristics of premature infants who developed severe ROP between 1996 and 2002 in highly developed countries with less developed countries.

METHODS:

This was an observational study. A questionnaire was completed by ophthalmologists in countries with low, moderate, and high development rankings (3 highly developed countries and from 10 less well-developed countries) who screen for ROP in which they supplied birth weights and gestational ages (GAs) of infants who were treated for threshold ROP or identified with more advanced stages of the disease. Birth weights and GAs of infants with severe ROP were measured.

Gilbert and colleagues. Pediatrics. 2005 May;115(5):e518-25. Epub 2005 Apr 1.



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CONCLUSIONS:

These findings suggest that larger, more mature infants are developing severe ROP in countries with low/moderate levels of development compared with highly developed countries. ROP screening programs need to use criteria that are appropriate for their local population.

Gilbert and colleagues. Pediatrics. 2005 May;115(5):e518-25. Epub 2005 Apr 1.

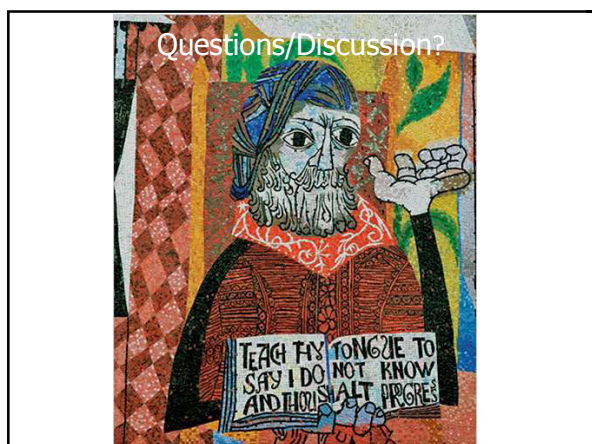
RETINOPATHY OF PREMATURITY

Limited ability to prevent Retinopathy of Prematurity

Effective: Appropriate Oxygen Restriction and Monitoring
Ineffective: Vitamin E, Superoxide dismutase, Light reduction
Jury still out: Vitamin A, Inositol, B blockers

Treatment of pre-threshold ROP

Effective: Retinal ablation surgery
Ineffective: Supplemental oxygen in evolving ROP
Jury still out: Anti VEGF Therapy



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Housekeeping details!

CME credit?

<https://neonatal.cochrane.org/december-2017-continuing-medical-education-credit-and-nursing-contact-hour-credit>

Next web seminar?

Making the GRADE: Understanding the strength of the evidence

Late winter 2018