

Research Studies Register: Registration Proforma

Study Title: <i>A multi-centre randomised double-blind controlled trial of oxygen versus air for the relief of breathlessness in terminally-ill patients with intractable dyspnoea and PaO₂ >55mmHg</i>					
Brief description of the study: Management of breathlessness is a central challenge in the care of terminally-ill patients; a common theme is the role of oxygen therapy. While it is clear that oxygen improves survival, function, and the sensation of breathlessness for severely hypoxemic patients (PaO ₂ ≤ 55mmHg), the effectiveness of oxygen in other terminally-ill breathless patients remains unclear. Palliative oxygen is commonly provided on a compassionate basis when PaO ₂ > 55mmHg and the funding criteria for home oxygen are not met. In this context the goal is generally relief of breathlessness and improvement in quality of life. This study will seek to establish the role of palliative oxygen in the context for which it is usually provided – relief of the sensation of breathlessness for terminally-ill patients. The goal is to determine if the use of oxygen improves the subjective sensation of dyspnea in those palliative care patients with intractable dyspnea who do not meet the current international guidelines for the provision and funding of home oxygen. Our hypothesis, based upon current clinical acumen, is that oxygen will be superior. The results will have significant meaning to the large number of terminally-ill patients with breathlessness. The study will also advance a long-standing international debate about the role of palliative oxygen and it's funding.					
Study Methodology: (Please mark with an x which type of study methodology)					
	Epidemiology				
	Health Services / Health Economics / Quality Improvement				
	Qualitative, Observational or Descriptive				
	Mixed Method				
	Systematic Review				
X	Intervention: RCT				
	Intervention: Comparative or cohort study				
	Intervention: Case series				
Project details:					
Funding source (Optional): NHMRC project grant					
Has the study received ethics approval?	X	Yes		No	Not applicable
Project starting date: June 2004					
Project completion date: December 2007					
Multi site:	X	Yes		No	Not applicable
RESEARCHERS					
Principle Investigator (name)	David Currow				
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Investigator B (Name)	Amy Abernethy				
Investigator C (Name)	Peter Frith				
Investigator D (Name)	Iven Young				
Investigator E (Name)	Christine McDonald				
Associated publications / reports:					

A Abernethy, D Currow, P Frith, B Fazekas. Prescribing palliative oxygen: a clinician survey of expected benefit and patterns of use. Palliative Medicine, 2005. 19; 168-170.

TOPIC: Respiratory Symptoms

TOPIC Number: 0002