

LESSONS LEARNED IN CONDUCTING THE HUNTER TRIAL: A RESEARCH STAFF PERSPECTIVE



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BACKGROUND

- Most late preterm and term infants with respiratory distress are cared for in non-tertiary special care nurseries (SCNs).
- The HUNTER trial compared nasal high flow with continuous positive airway pressure in infants ≥ 31 weeks requiring respiratory support in Australian regional and metropolitan SCNs.
- This survey aimed to explore challenges faced, and lessons learned, when conducting the HUNTER trial, the largest randomised trial of respiratory support for newborn infants undertaken in a non-tertiary setting.

SETTING

The HUNTER trial was conducted in the unique research setting of 9 non- tertiary SCNs (2 in NSW & 7 in Vic).

Table 1. Differences in setting

Non-Tertiary Setting	Tertiary
Infrequent clinical research projects	Multiple concurrent research projects
Research roles not yet established	Dedicated research teams
Unfamiliar device for clinical practice	Frequent use of new or unfamiliar devices
Limited access to investigations	Extensive access to investigations

RECRUITMENT

- Large eligible population
- Willingness to approach families for consent
- Recruitment targets exceeded

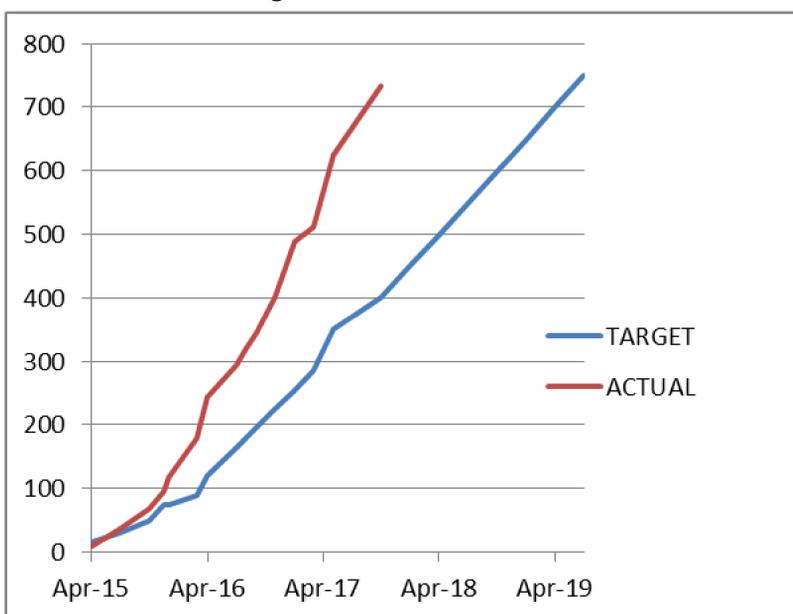


Figure 1. Recruitment

METHODS

- Staff survey developed by the HUNTER research team at completion of recruitment.
- Ethics approval at each site.
- Short online survey sent to site investigators and research nurses via SurveyMonkey
- 17 questions (combination 5 point Likert scale and free text)

RESULTS

17 staff responded (7 site investigators & 10 research nurses)

70% no prior experience working on a randomized controlled trial.

65% had >10 years experience working in a non-tertiary SCN

Barriers

- The top three barriers to recruitment were; language barrier, parent(s) unavailable to discuss consent, and a reluctance of medical staff to approach families.

Satisfaction

- All respondents reported being satisfied or very satisfied in their research role with 80% stating they would consider a similar role in a future trial in the non-tertiary setting (Figure 2).

- 93% of respondents reported the trial was very well or well accepted into the day to day care of babies in the SCN (Figure 3).

How likely is it that you would consider a similar research role in future research trials in the non-tertiary setting?

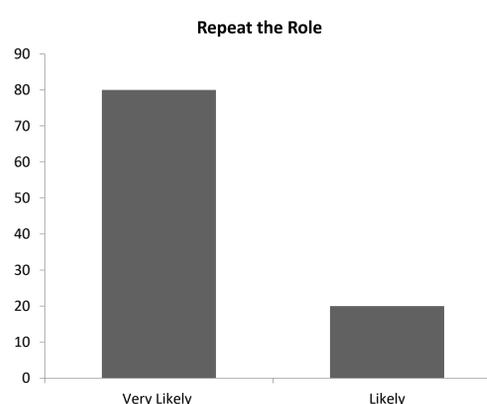


Figure 2.

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your experience in a research role on the HUNTER trial?

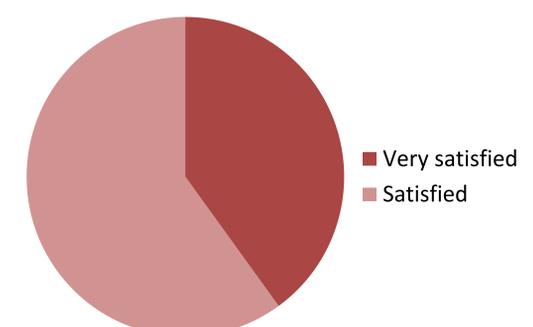


Figure 3.

SUMMARY

Conducting research in regional special care nurseries is feasible, possible, desirable, fundable. Staff are willing to accept research roles, have satisfaction in those roles, maintain research and data integrity, and families are willing to consent to research in this setting.

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