



OSCAR

High Frequency OSCillation in ARDS

Welcome to the First OSCAR Trial Newsletter

This is our first update to keep you informed of the trial, progress with units going live and our recruitment numbers to date

The OSCAR Hospitals



- Aberdeen Royal Infirmary
- Derriford Hospital
- John Radcliffe Hospital
- Manchester Royal Infirmary
- Medway Maritime Hospital
- Royal Sussex County Hospital
- Royal United Hospital, Bath
- Selly Oak and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals
- University College London Hospital
- University Hospital of Wales
- Wrexham Maelor Hospital

At the time of going to press the hospitals highlighted in pink are our 'live' sites

Who's who at each hospital?

Hospital	Principal Investigator	Research Nurse
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary	<i>Brian Cuthbertson</i>	Jane Taylor
Derriford Hospital	Peter Macnaughton	Nicola Donlin
John Radcliffe Hospital	<i>Duncan Young</i>	Sandip Patel
Manchester Royal Infirmary	Bernard Foex	TBA
Medway Maritime Hospital	Catherine Plowright	Jen Coomber Lisa Camber Danni Shanmugam
Royal Sussex County Hospital	Stephen Drage	Sarah Lowes
Royal United Hospital, Bath	Andrew Padkin	Margi Jenkins
Selly Oak and Queen Elizabeth Hospitals	<i>Bill Tunnicliffe</i>	Maxine Moseley & Peter Taylor
University College London Hospital	Geoff Bellingan	TBA
University Hospital of Wales	<i>Sanjoy Shah</i>	TBA
Wrexham Maelor Hospital	Paul Hughes	TBA

*The consultants whose names are in italic and bold are also members of the OSCAR Management Group.

Training

The first wave of training has been delivered to 10 sites. There are some dates still in the diary just to get all sites up to speed with the Vision Alpha ventilator. The feed back from the training days has been very good, with all baseline knowledge having been improved and the majority of attendees feeling confident to use the Vision Alpha ventilator.

The clinical scenarios that we were able to run through really helped everyone get used to the ventilator and also get used to the algorithms that we have provided to help guide the management of the patients

We are arranging future dates for sites to refresh their knowledge and to also try and catch more staff.

Patient Recruitment

We have had a staggered start to OSCAR, with our 7, currently 'live', units up and running from between the 1st December 2007 and 27th February 2008.

At the time of going to press we have had 8 patients recruited to the trial, 3 have been allocated to HFOV and 5 to the control arm.

Hospital	Total
Aberdeen Royal Infirmary	4
Royal Sussex County	2
John Radcliffe	1
Medway Maritime	1
Derriford	0
Manchester Royal Infirmary	0
Royal United Hospital	0
Total	8

Using the Vision Alpha Ventilator

The initial feedback form using the Vision Alpha ventilator has been very positive. At the John Radcliffe Hospital we had a variety of nursing staff managing the first patient and they were all very positive about how straightforward it was to use. One of the nursing staff had previously worked with the Sensormedics oscillator and she was very pleased as to how much more straightforward this ventilator is to use.

The general feedback has been that the whole experience of using the oscillator has been much easier than feared. We have also had very good feedback as to the ventilator's noise levels, and that it is quieter than other apparatus on the intensive care unit. All 3 initial cases have run smoothly.

We will let hospitals know if a patient goes on to the oscillator at another unit near to them, giving everyone an opportunity to potentially visit that unit to see a patient being managed on the oscillator.



Filter for the Pressure Tubing

We have sourced a filter to insert into the green pressure sensing tubing on the Vision Alpha ventilator. Some units have experienced condensation forming in the tubing. These are currently on order from Air Safety Ltd and will be with you soon.



The 12th Site?

Wrexham Maelor Hospital has joined the trial as an 11th site. They have bought the Vision Alpha outside of the trial and we will provide them with consumables as they recruit patients for us.

There are 3 other units in the UK who currently use the Vision Alpha ventilator independently of the trial and a further 3 in discussion with Inspiration Healthcare about buying one. We are currently liaising with these sites with the aim of recruiting a 12th site for OSCAR.

Using the HFOV Algorithms

When first glanced at the HFOV algorithms can look quite confusing, with lots of arrows and steps. We have created a word format of the 'Control of Oxygenation' algorithm as an alternative to work through. Often at the training days the algorithms were viewed with suspicion however after working through a scenario or two it became obvious that the algorithms were actually straightforward to follow.

Staff have found the algorithms very useful when looking after their first HFOV patient as it has given them a step by step guide for management. And if a blood gas has come back with a worse result there has been guidance as to what to do next. This has helped with getting through that first 24 hours of a new ventilator.

Not as a Rescue Therapy

We just wanted to emphasise that the patients you should be recruiting are not necessarily the really sick ones. We very much want you to be looking for early ARDS and patients that have a P:F ratio of ≤ 26.7 kPa.

We are aware that some of the patients you may be recruiting aren't patients who you might have automatically labelled as having ARDS, but we are working with the recognised definition of ARDS so please don't exclude someone just because they are not 'sick' enough.

Ultimately we want to get these patients early so that they receive the perceived benefits as early as possible and so that we are not using this as a rescue therapy.

Support

There is plenty of support available for each unit when managing an OSCAR patient.

Technical Support:

Please contact [Inspiration Healthcare](#) if you have any concerns about the function of your Vision Alpha ventilator.
0116 2351010

Clinical Support:

During office hours please contact the OSCAR trial office or the OSCAR trial mobile for any clinical advice.

01865 221755/220614

07825 733953

Out of hours please contact the trial mobile which is diverted to one of the OSCAR management group clinicians.

07825 73395

Important Trial Contact Details:

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything we can provide for your unit during the OSCAR Trial