Studying the effect of retinopathy of prematurity screening on cerebral and gut regional oxygenation.

ACTRN12618000773235

Status	RECRUITING
Sponsor	University of Otago
Enrollment	30 participants

Plain Language Summary

Premature babies — especially those born before 31 weeks or weighing less than 1,300 grams — are routinely checked for a condition called retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), where the blood vessels in the developing eye grow abnormally and can damage vision. The screening involves an ophthalmologist examining the baby's eyes after administering dilating eye drops. While this screening is essential for protecting vision, there is some evidence that it can temporarily affect babies' blood flow to the gut and cause stress responses.

This study is using gentle, non-invasive monitoring devices (including near-infrared spectroscopy — essentially a light sensor placed on the skin — and ultrasound of the abdominal blood vessels) to measure exactly what happens to blood flow and oxygen levels in the brain and gut before, during, and for three hours after the eye screening. The goal is to understand which part of the screening process causes these changes so that the procedure can be made as safe as possible.

This study involves premature babies who meet the standard criteria for ROP screening. It is purely observational — no changes are made to the screening itself — and participation is decided by the clinical team caring for the baby. No extra blood draws or invasive procedures are involved.

Key Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion (7)

- Infants will be considered for recruitment into the study if they meet the criteria for screening for ROP
- Eye checks are performed on
- •All infants <1301 grams birth weight and all infants <31 weeks gestation at birth. [one criteria only needs to be met]
- •Infants >1300 grams and >31 weeks will be referred for ROP screening only if the clinical course has been unstable and the infant is felt to be at high risk for ROP e.g. an infant who has required high Heart Rate and concentrations of oxygen
- Timing of the first examination

... and 2 more (see full listing online)

Exclusion (1)

- If the clinicians caring for the baby consider that participation in the trial would be detrimental to the neonate or compromise the care being provided to the neonate then the patient would not be considered eligible.

Locations (1 total)

Wellington, New Zealand