

ECHIDNA: A study in infants having inguinal hernia repair surgery looking at their oxygen saturation levels before and after surgery using a Nonin oximeter

ACTRN12623000405617

Status	RECRUITING
Sponsor	Perth Children's Hospital
Enrollment	60 participants

Plain Language Summary

Inguinal hernias (where tissue pushes through a weak spot in the groin) are common in premature and young infants, and they almost always need to be surgically repaired. After the operation, babies need opioid pain relief, but these medications can suppress breathing, which is especially risky in young or premature infants. Standard care monitors oxygen levels in the blood, but does not routinely track carbon dioxide, which is actually a more sensitive indicator of breathing problems.

This small pilot study at Perth Children's Hospital will monitor both oxygen (SpO₂) and carbon dioxide (transcutaneous CO₂) levels in infants before and after inguinal hernia repair surgery. The aim is to understand how breathing changes in these vulnerable young patients during recovery and to identify which infants show the greatest respiratory changes — information that will guide safer post-operative monitoring protocols and help plan a larger future study.

Your baby may be eligible if they are up to 6 months corrected gestational age and are scheduled for elective inguinal hernia repair under general anaesthesia at Perth Children's Hospital. Babies with known significant heart or lung conditions, or who are currently taking opioid pain medications, would not be eligible.

Key Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion (2)

- Infants up to 6 months corrected gestational age.
- Undergoing elective inguinal hernia repair under general anaesthesia and/or regional block

Exclusion (3)

- Infants with known airway abnormalities or neurological conditions
- Infants with known significant cardiopulmonary disease
- Inability to give informed consent

Locations (2 total)

Perth Children's Hospital - Nedlands, WA, Australia
King Edward Memorial Hospital - Subiaco, WA, Australia

<https://www.anzctr.org.au/Trial/Registration/TrialReview.aspx?ACTRN=ACTRN12623000405617>

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