

## **STUDY UPDATE FOR PARENTS 28 APRIL 2011**

### **Re: The Australian BOOST II study – improved survival with high oxygen saturation targeting**

We are pleased to inform you that the study that your baby took part in has produced an early answer likely to help preterm babies in the future.

#### **What was BOOST II trying to find out?**

The BOOST II study, with other studies around the world, was set up to find out whether nursing very premature babies at a higher or slightly lower level of oxygen saturation level was better or worse in the long term. Both levels are within the normal target range in use in Australia and around the world.

Half the babies were treated with oxygen levels targeted in the upper half of the accepted range and half with levels targeted in the lower half, to find out if this affects the number alive without disability at 2 years old.

#### **What are the results and why have they come out early?**

Usually an independent committee reviews a study like BOOST II regularly, to make sure that it doesn't continue if there is already a clear answer. The Australian and UK committees looked at data from three studies around the world. It found that babies nursed with oxygen levels in the upper half of the range (85 – 95%) accepted as normal were more likely to survive to 36 weeks gestation. This is why no more babies are being recruited to the study.

The committees asked us to let doctors, nurses and families know that babies nursed with the higher oxygen saturation levels are more likely to survive. A report is being published in a medical journal in April 2011. We are still collecting information about other illnesses in hospital from babies in BOOST II, as planned. Those results will be published later, this or next year. We will let you know what they show.

#### **What do the results mean for babies in the future?**

Improving survival of premature babies is very important, but it is also important to know if they have other problems or benefits from higher or lower oxygen saturation levels. It is very important to continue to follow all babies enrolled in the BOOST II until two years of age, as planned, to get the full picture.

#### **What do the results mean for my baby?**

Many things can affect the survival and long-term development of preterm babies. In both study groups, some did not survive and some will have longer term health problems. The difference in oxygen saturation levels only explains part of the risks these tiny babies have. We will never be able to work out exactly why an individual baby had a particular outcome, but this study should help more babies to survive in future.

Thank you for taking part in this important study. If you would like to discuss this any further please contact the BOOST II study doctor or nurse in the hospital where your baby received intensive care.