



**Conventional Ventilation or
ECMO for
Severe
Adult
Respiratory Failure**

CESAR Trial recruitment starts 23 July 2001

CESAR Trial

The CESAR trial is comparing conventional ventilation methods with ECMO for the treatment of adults with severe acute respiratory failure. It aims to compare a strategy of transfer of patients for consideration of ECMO with continued conventional ventilation. **ECMO** (Extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation) is a system to by-pass the lungs.

Participating Intensive Care Units

All ICUs in the UK have been invited to take part and recruitment will start from 8am Monday 23rd July 2001. 100 centres have expressed an interest and already 15 centres have obtained local research ethics committee approval.

ECMO treatment will only be available in the context of the trial during the 3-year recruitment period.

Criteria for trial entry

All adult patients aged 18-65 years with severe, but potentially reversible respiratory failure are eligible for the trial. Severe respiratory failure is defined as either a Murray score ≥ 3.0 , or uncompensated hypercapnoea with a pH < 7.20 .

Trial exclusions

Duration of high pressure and high FIO₂ ventilation for more than 7 days.

Severe trauma and/or surgery within the last 24 hours, intra-cranial bleeding and any other contra-indication to limited heparinisation.

Patients who are moribund and have any contra-indication to continuation of active treatment.

Trial protocol, summary protocol and Frequently Asked Questions are available for downloading from the website www.cesar-trial.org

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PLEASE CONTACT

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