



4<sup>th</sup> International Neonatal Conference  
2016  
Poznan, Poland

**Transition for the neonate**

**Can we do  
resuscitation on  
intact cord ?**

David J R Hutchon  
Emeritus consultant obstetrician  
Darlington Memorial Hospital,  
England.



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## The 2015 ILCOR

“There is insufficient evidence to recommend an approach to cord clamping for infants who require resuscitation at birth, and more randomized trials involving such infants are encouraged.”

**Wyllie J, Perlman JM, Kattwinkel J, Wyckoff MH, Aziz K, et al.** (2015) on behalf of the Neonatal Resuscitation Chapter Collaborators. Part 7: neonatal resuscitation: International Consensus on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care Science with Treatment Recommendations. **Resuscitation 2015.**

# DELAYED CLAMPING OF THE UMBILICAL CORD TO REDUCE INFANT ANAEMIA

## World Health Organization Recommends Delayed Cord Clamping

*Late cord clamping (performed after 1 to 3 minutes after birth) is recommended for all births while initiating simultaneous essential newborn care.*



## Should delayed cord clamping be done for an asphyxiated newborn needing resuscitation?

This practice would depend upon the experience of the provider. The WHO 2012 *Guidelines on Basic Newborn Resuscitation* state that the cord should be clamped and cut to allow for effective ventilation in term or preterm babies requiring positive-pressure ventilation. However, if the clinician has experience in providing effective positive-pressure ventilation without cutting the cord, ventilation can be initiated at the perineum with the cord intact to allow for delayed cord clamping.<sup>7</sup>

## HANDOVER

Obstetrician - expert in fetal care and birth  
“hands over” to neonatologist – expert in  
neonatal care.



## TRANSITION

from fetal placental  
breathing  
to neonatal  
pulmonary breathing.



## 'Our little miracle' Ella the ice baby, who died in the womb and was stillborn, amazes doctors by coming back to life after 25 MINUTES

But despite a seemingly uncomplicated birth, Rachel's placenta had ruptured during the labour, restricting the baby's oxygen and blood supply. 'I'd held her for no more than two seconds when the midwife told Jason to pull the emergency cord,' Miss Claxton said.

'All of a sudden there were doctors everywhere.'

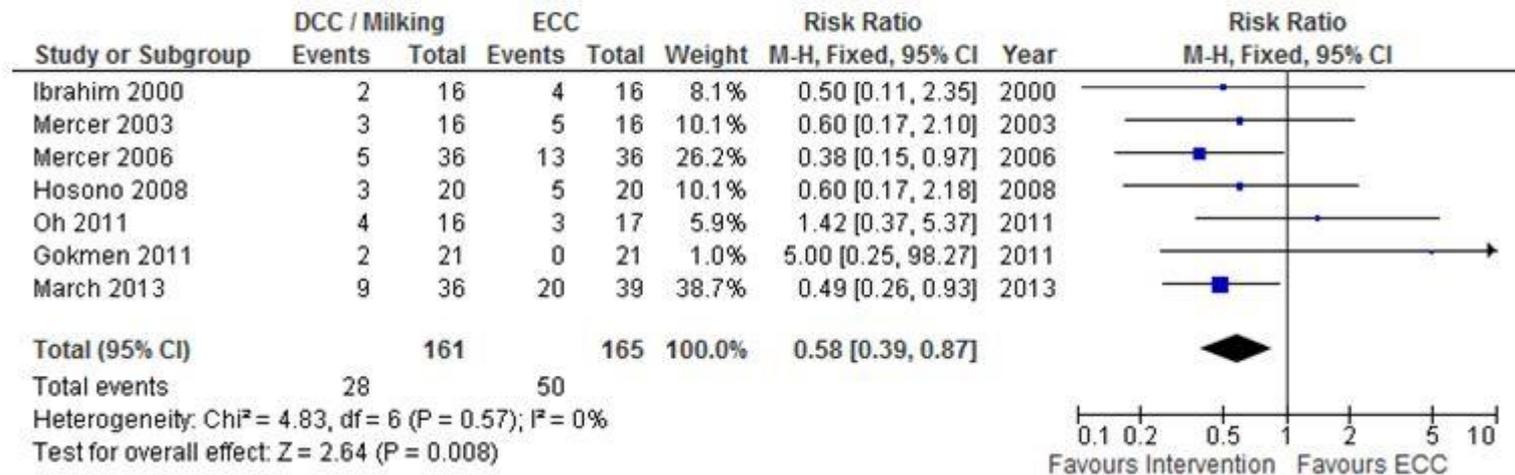


### E. Mortality Risk



**Figure 4: Meta-analysis and forest plots for neonatal morbidities**

### A. Total IVH



**Backes C H, Rivera B K, Haque U, Smith C V, Hutchon D J R, Mercer J S. Umbilical cord clamping and other placental transfusion strategies in very preterm infants: A systematic review and meta-analysis. (2013) Submitted to Obstetrics and Gynaecology.**

# “Placental transfusion”

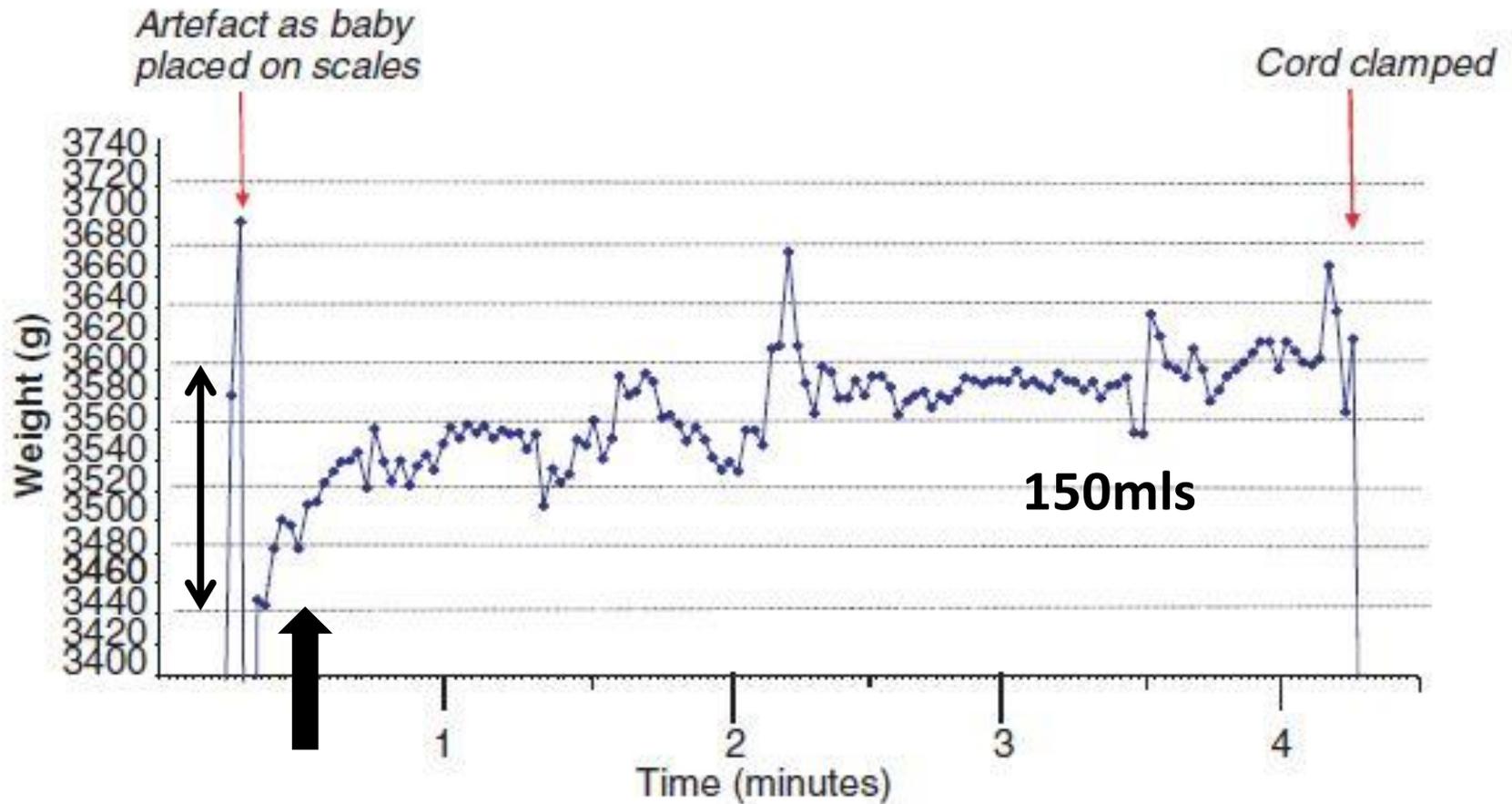


Figure 1. Weight change from birth to cord clamping.

Farrar D, Airey R, Law G, Tuffnell D, Cattle B, Duley L. Measuring placental transfusion for term births: weighing babies with cord intact. BJOG 2011;118:70–75.

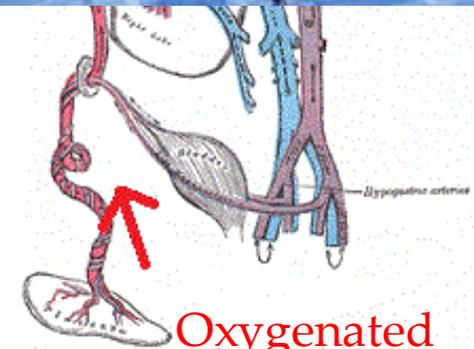
**One baby gained at least 214 gms,  
this equals 204 mls blood volume**

3597	151 (64-198)	0.6
3225	101 (36-167)	
3332	96 (38-154)	-0.9
3504	139 (64-214)	
3530	122 (69-174)	-0.6
2913	93 (-17-204)	
3426	87 (64-111)	7.1
3613	79 (57-100)	0.3

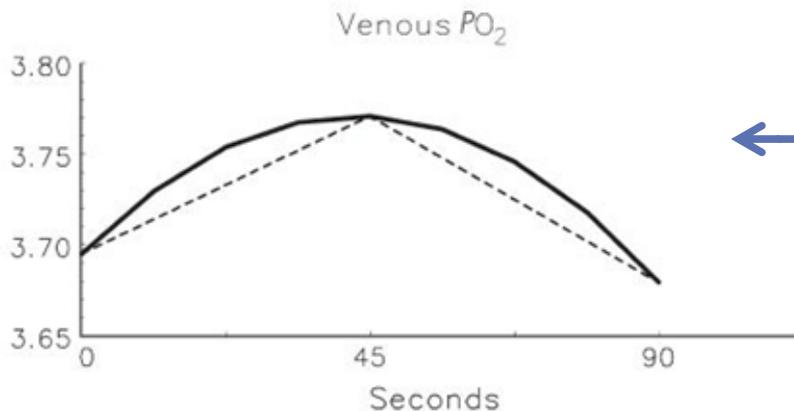
# Placental circulation after birth

The placental circulation **continues for several minutes** until stopped by **vasospasm** in the umbilical arteries and vein.

There is a **significant oxygen content 3.7 to 3.77 kPa** in the blood returning to the baby.



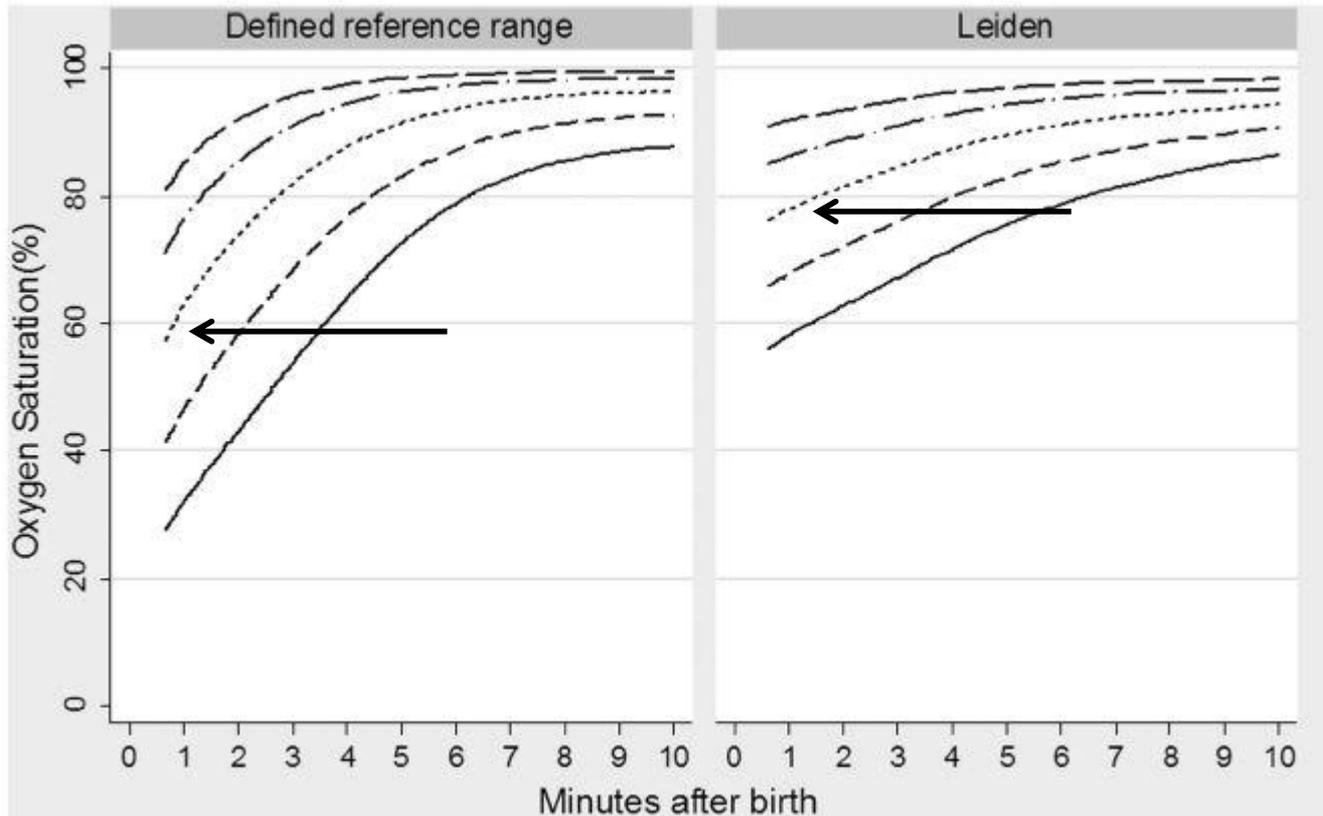
Oxygenated blood returning from the placenta to the baby



← Umbilical vein

90 seconds

# Immediate cord clamping leads to lower oxygen saturation for the first few minutes after birth



Smit M, et al. Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed 2014;0:F1–F6.

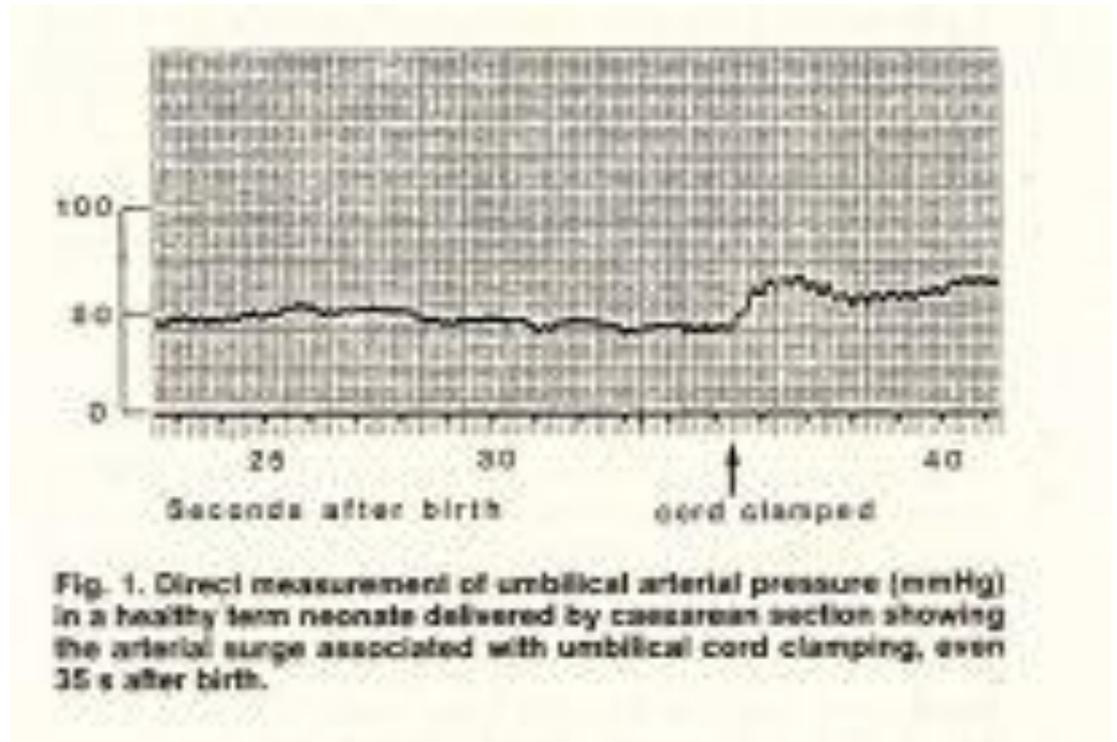
# Effects of cord clamping

.Venous occlusion

**.Arterial occlusion (40% of CCO)**

Fig 1. Direct measurement of the umbilical arterial pressure in a healthy term neonate delivered by caesarean section showing the arterial surge associated with umbilical cord clamping even 35 s after birth.

Hofmeyr G J. et al  
Periventricular/intraventricular haemorrhage and umbilical cord clamping. S Afr Med J 1988 73 104

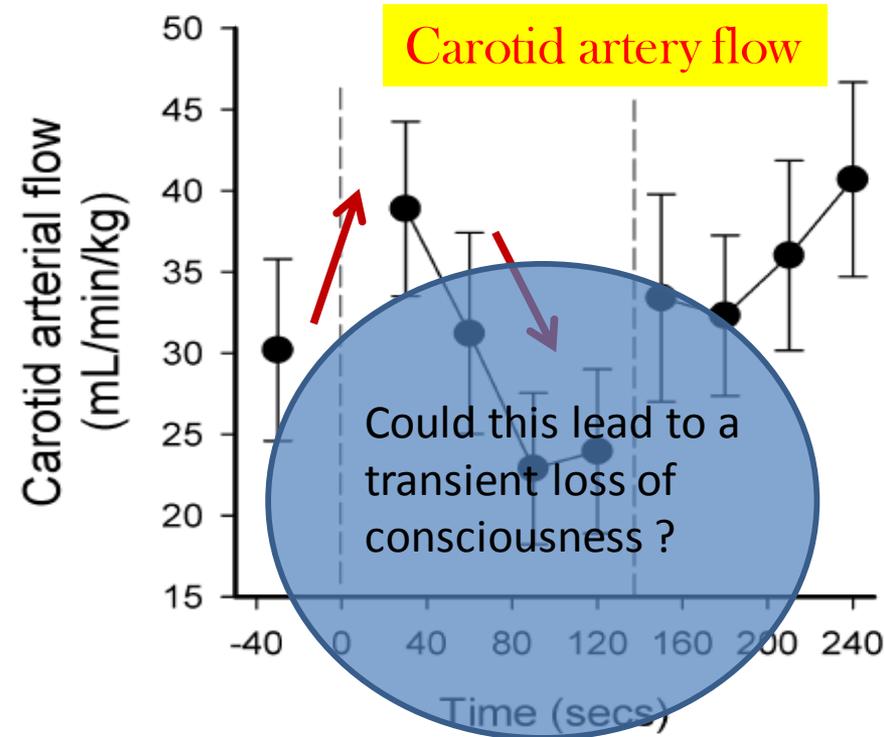
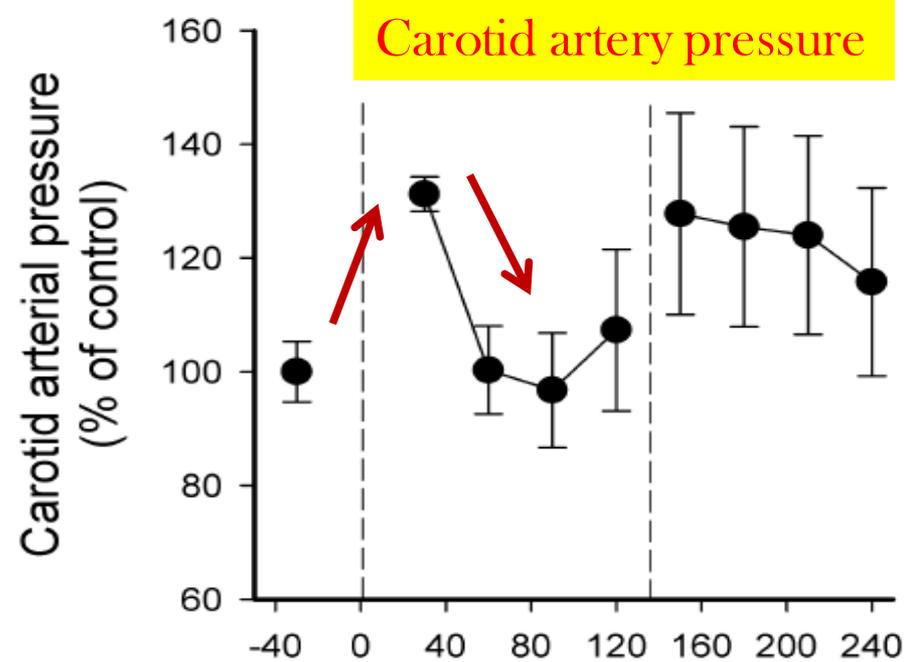


There is a transient increase in Carotid Artery pressure and flow soon after cord clamping

But, by 1 minute both Carotid Artery pressure and flow begin to drop profoundly to <50% baseline

They recover slowly after ventilation onset

Bhatt et al. *J Physiol* 2013; 591:2113-26  
Figure courtesy: Dr. Stuart Hooper



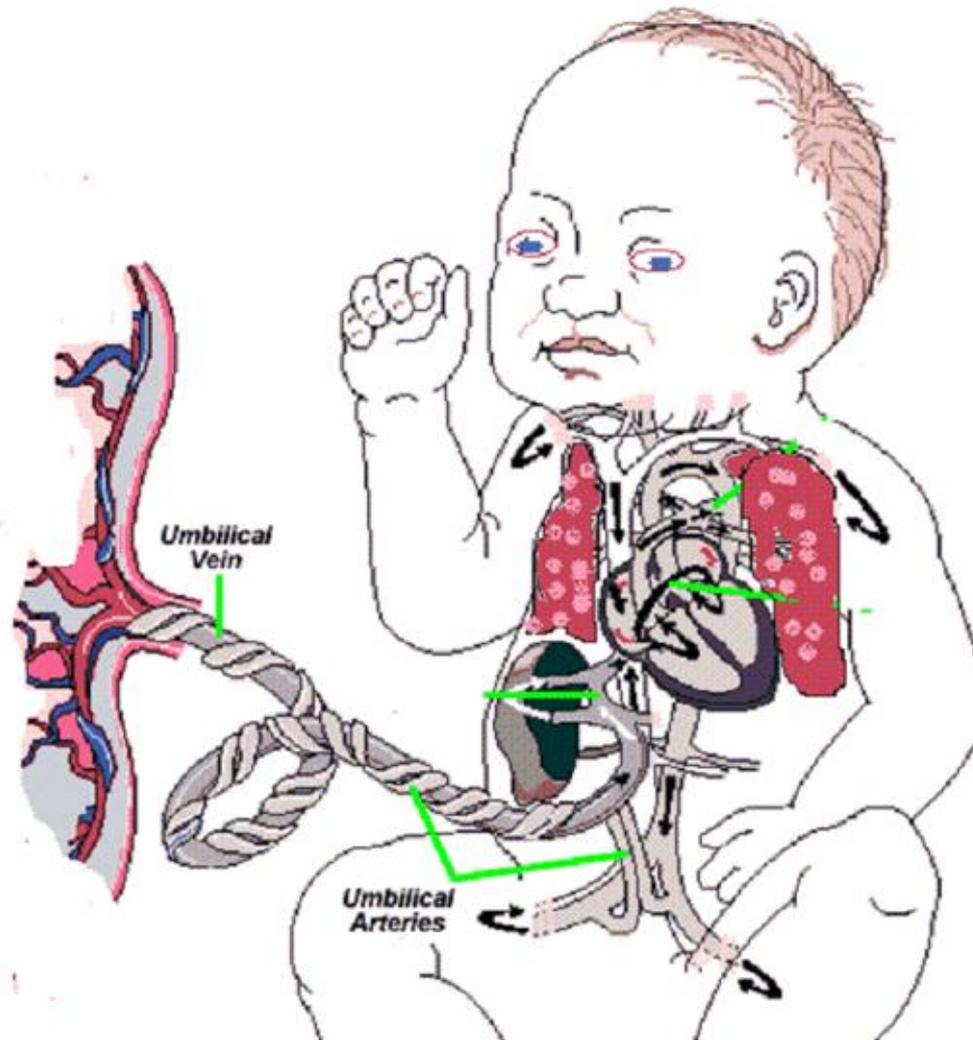
# Lamb studies

## What did the Data Say ?

- Otherwise, if there is a long delay between UCC and lung aeration, the infant will be exposed to a hypoxic episode superimposed on top of a period of severely restricted cardiac function.
- The combined effects of these two adverse events are potentially catastrophic, leading to a **severe hypoxic/ischaemic event**.

The redistribution of blood into the baby occurs faster if the baby is breathing.

Redmond D, Isana S, Ingall D. Relation of onset of respiration to placental transfusion. *Lancet*. 1965;1:283–285



# Summary

- Delaying cord clamping until the ventilation is established assures a smoother change during transitional circulation

The Journal of Physiology Hooper S et al February 11, 2013, doi:  
[10.1113/jphysiol.2012.250084](https://doi.org/10.1113/jphysiol.2012.250084)

- **(Ensures that a normal physiological transition is not interfered with)**

# Somersault manoeuvre



Cord blood gases from the intact cord  
Wiberg N, Kallen K, Olofsson P (2008)  
Delayed umbilical cord clamping at birth  
has effects on arterial and venous blood  
gases and lactate concentrations. BJOG  
115: 697-703.



## Resuscitation with cord intact using standard resuscitation trolley



### RCOG London Congress 2007

Difficult to move trolley  
quickly enough

Interference with  
operating surgeon

Not practical for assisted  
vaginal births

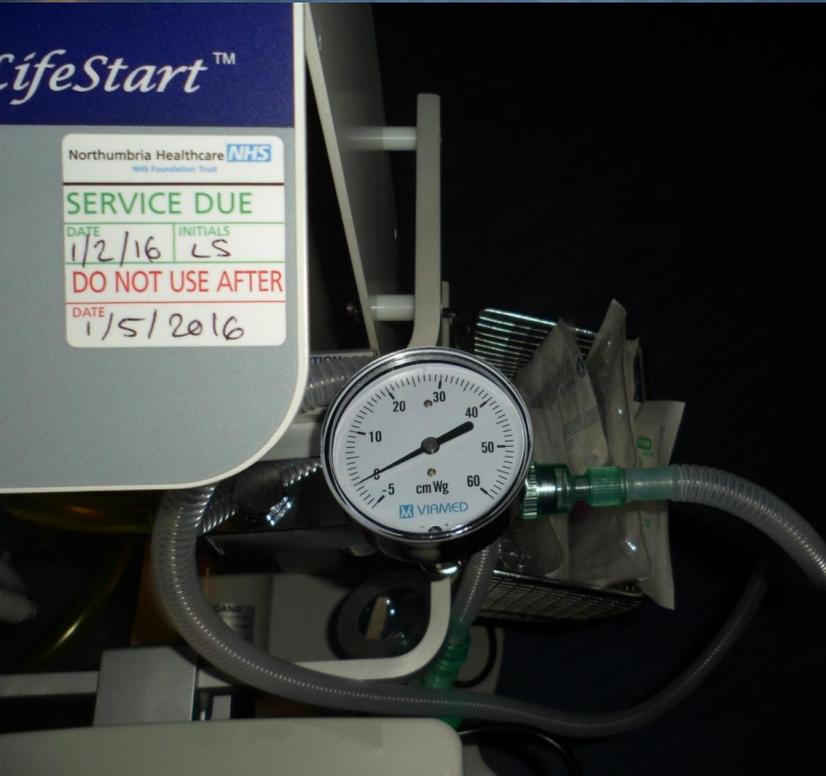
Problems with short  
cord.

# Requirements



## LifeStart trolley

- A stable warm platform with Inditherm mattress
- Medirails for **user preferred equipment**
  - i. Tom Thumb PEEP
  - ii. Bird Oxygen Blender
  - iii. Suction
- Hands free height adjustment
- Small footprint
- Good mobility



# Requirements



## LifeStart trolley

- Co-operation by obstetricians, midwives and neonatologists
- Simulation practice in all modes of birth
- Written roles for each member of the team to be agreed
- Committed teamwork

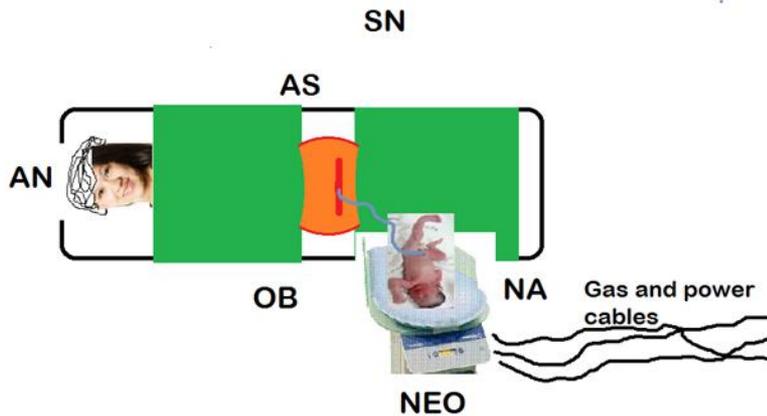
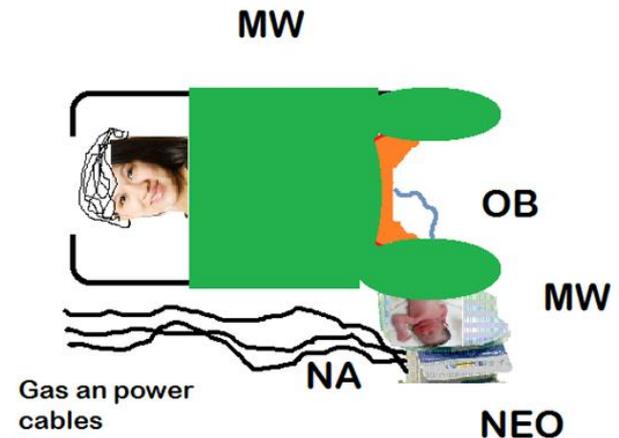


Figure 1

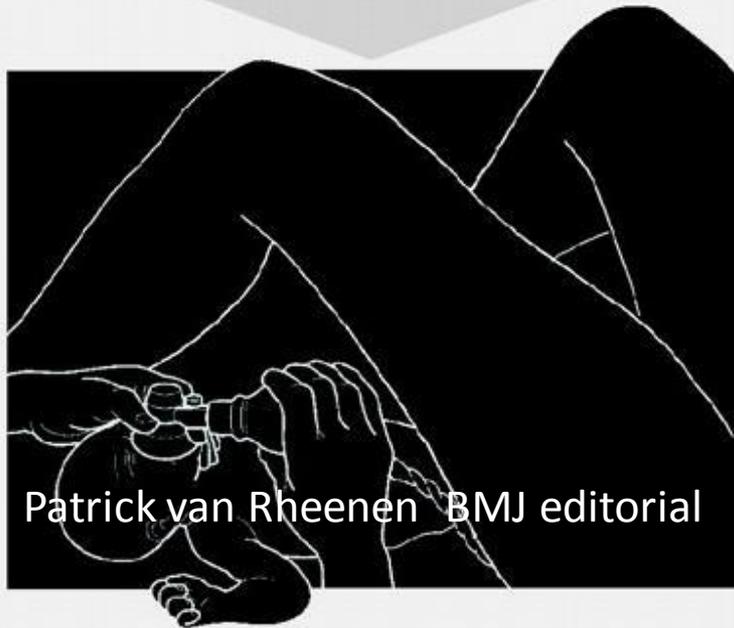
Position and role of each member of the team will vary from unit to unit and needs to be worked out and agreed, It must be documented and then practiced in simulated situations so that every member of the team knows their role.

## EXAMPLE SET UPS



# Normal births

## Resuscitation with cord intact



Patrick van Rheenen BMJ editorial

When the infant needs resuscitation, delay clamping for 60 seconds with the infant placed between the mother's legs

Midwifery 34 (2016) 42–46



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Midwifery

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/midw](http://www.elsevier.com/midw)



Bedside resuscitation of newborns with an intact umbilical cord: Experiences of midwives from British Columbia

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# Delayed Cord Clamping:

## A review of its introduction within a medium-sized UK consultant-led maternity unit.

George Brooks, Shorag Mackenzie, Michelle Salem Warsbeck General Hospital, Northumberland NE63 9JJ contact: george.brooks@northumbria-healthcare.nhs.uk



### Background

This tentative review was undertaken to identify issues which could be examined in further studies to determine the impact of introducing "Delayed Cord Clamping for all" within an obstetric service providing low/high risk care.

Delayed Cord Clamping (DCC) was introduced within our maternity unit in 2009. DCC is recommended for up to 3 minutes within our low risk intrapartum care guidelines. A minimum of 1-2 minutes of DCC is advised for infants born by instrumental delivery/LSCS regardless of indication for delivery. This audit was planned to determine if this was being put into practice.

The resident neonatal staff, a team of Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioners (ANNP), work with the midwifery/obstetric teams to ensure infants benefit from DCC. Practice changes such as sitting alongside the obstetrician at instrumental deliveries were introduced.

### Methods

A review of the most recent cohort of deliveries was undertaken. This looked at:

- ❖ Was DCC practised?
- ❖ How many babies required resuscitative measures?
- ❖ What proportion of infants born at term were admitted to the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) for respiratory care?
- ❖ These data were reviewed in light of what is known about resuscitation practice before the introduction of DCC.

### Results

- 1973 births were reviewed (born late 2012-13)
- 1904 (96.5%) received at least 1 minute DCC
- 1456 (73.8%) received 2-4 minutes DCC
- 141 (7.14%) infants had an Apgar score <5 at 1 minute
- 41 (2.07%) babies had Apgar score <7 at 5 minutes
- 81 infants were transferred to the resuscitaire for intervention (4.08%). Newborn resuscitaire measures in this instance were crudely identified as any action requiring transfer to a delivery room resuscitaire within the first 5 minutes of life.
- 50 (2.55%) were admitted to SCBU for respiratory care following delivery.
- Few (3.5%) of babies did not benefit from DCC
- Resuscitation incidence prior to introducing DCC was 15% (333/2470 births in 2006). At this time 4.5% of term infants were admitted to SCBU for respiratory problems.

### Discussion

1. The introduction of DCC has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of babies born within our consultant-led unit receiving resuscitative measures at birth. Ashington now very much supports the practice of "assisted transition" from placental to pulmonary respiration. The act of delaying the separation of the infant from mother in itself appears to prevent infants receiving resuscitation that they don't require.

2. The only change in practice over the time period examined was DCC. In line with Kroll *et al* (1994) who demonstrated a dramatic reduction in resuscitation we also reduced the indications for ANNP attendance at birth over this time. However having an experienced midwife or ANNP attending births acting as an advocate for the baby (and DCC!) by holding their nerve in delaying the cord clamping of some compromised infants has also contributed to the decrease in intervention.

3. DCC is contraindicated if placental abruption was suspected or if an anteriorly positioned placenta was incised at caesarean section. Other reasons were cited such as cord snapping, PPH and a small number were attributable to non-compliance with the guideline.

4. DCC is explained and the women are reminded of this at the birth. Less separation from mother ensures our compliance with current requirement for facilitating skin-to-skin contact at birth.

### Future Action

- ❖ Consultant obstetricians and senior midwives will continue to remind junior staff at induction.
- ❖ Duration of DCC is now included in neonatal documentation which will facilitate further audit. The reason for NOT doing DCC has to be documented.
- ❖ Senior nurses and midwives attending delivery will continue to advocate DCC and the notion that allowing for normal physiological transition most babies will resuscitate themselves.
- ❖ A more formal project will add validity and transferability to the findings of this audit.

### References

1. Kroll, L Twohey, L Daubeney, PE *et al* Risk factors at delivery and the need for skilled resuscitation. *Eur J Obstet & Gynecol and Reprod Biol* 1994; **44**: 175-7.



Remote resuscitaire

Many babies moved over to resuscitaire away from mother do not need any more care than could have been carried out by the mother

Mother and father “think the worst”

Two or three minutes seem like hours !

# Consent

## Montgomery ruling

In the UK valid consent has moved away from what the simply providing information as to the standard medical practice to that of providing the information regarding the risks that a reasonable woman would wish to know in order to provide the consent.

Would a reasonable woman want to know the effects of early cord clamping in order to get her baby over to the resuscitaire ?

# Thank you

Yes, resuscitation of the neonate at birth can be carried out with an intact cord.

David J R Hutchon  
Retired obstetrician from  
Darlington Memorial Hospital.

**Questions ?**



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A marked fall in cardiac output, I think



THE ASSON OF A DELIGHTFUL POLKA

# APGAR SCORING SYSTEM

	0 Points	1 Point	2 Points	Points totaled
Activity (muscle tone)	Absent	Arms and legs flexed	Active movement	↓
Pulse	Absent	Below 100 bpm	Over 100 bpm	
Grimace (reflex irritability)	Flaccid	Some flexion of Extremities	Active motion (sneeze, cough, pull away)	
Appearance (skin color)	Blue, pale	Body pink, Extremities blue	Completely pink	
Respiration	Absent	Slow, irregular	Vigorous cry	

Severely depressed	0-3
Moderately depressed	4-6
Excellent condition	7-10

APGAR = 2

Problem is lack of cerebral circulation

NOT

lack of oxygen