



Automated Oxygen Delivery in Neonatal Intensive Care

Vrinda Nair^{1,2}, Prakash Loganathan¹, Mithilesh Kumar Lal^{1*} and Thomas Bachman³

¹ Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, South Tees Hospitals National Health Service (NHS) Foundation Trust, James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough, United Kingdom, ² Translational and Clinical Research Institute, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom, ³ School of Biomedical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague, Prague, Czechia

Oxygen is the most common drug used in the neonatal intensive care. It has a narrow therapeutic range in preterm infants. Too high (hyperoxemia) or low oxygen (hypoxemia) is associated with adverse neonatal outcomes. It is not only prudent to maintain oxygen saturations in the target range, but also to avoid extremes of oxygen saturations. In routine practice when done manually by the staff, it is challenging to maintain oxygen saturations within the target range. Automatic control of oxygen delivery is now feasible and has shown to improve the time spent with in the target range of oxygen saturations. In addition, it also helps to avoid extremes of oxygen saturation. However, there are no studies that evaluated the clinical outcomes with automatic control of oxygen delivery. In this narrative review article, we aim to present the current evidence on automatic oxygen control and the future directions.

Keywords: automated oxygen, hyperoxemia, hypoxemia, oxygen saturation, preterm

OPEN ACCESS

Edited by:

Charles Christoph Roehr,
University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Reviewed by:

Tomasz Szczapa,
Poznan University of Medical
Sciences, Poland
Janneke Dekker,
Leiden University, Netherlands

*Correspondence:

Mithilesh Kumar Lal
m.lal@nhs.net

Specialty section:

This article was submitted to
Neonatology,
a section of the journal
Frontiers in Pediatrics

Received: 07 April 2022

Accepted: 20 May 2022

Published: 22 June 2022

Citation:

Nair V, Loganathan P, Lal MK and
Bachman T (2022) Automated
Oxygen Delivery in Neonatal Intensive
Care. *Front. Pediatr.* 10:915312.
doi: 10.3389/fped.2022.915312

INTRODUCTION

Oxygen is a drug with a narrow therapeutic range in vulnerable preterm neonates. Avoiding both hypoxemia and hyperoxemia is important especially in neonates as both are associated with short-term and long-term adverse outcomes (1, 2). Hypoxemia causes cellular damage, and this may be associated with poor outcomes such as death or disability (3–5). Hyperoxemia causes oxygen toxicity and oxidative stress that has been implicated in the development of bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) and retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) (6–8). Although, there are recommendations for the oxygen saturation (SpO₂) targeting in preterm infant, it is challenging in the routine practice to keep the SpO₂ in the prescribed target range (TR) (9, 10). Traditionally the Fractional inspired oxygen (FiO₂) is often needed to be titrated by the bedside staff (Manual control, M-FiO₂) to try to maintain the SpO₂ in the TR. The compliance with manual control is hugely variable across centers (11). Studies have shown that M-FiO₂ results in a considerable proportion of time spent outside of the TR of SpO₂. The preterm infants in view of their cardiorespiratory instabilities and apnea of prematurity, are prone to fluctuations in SpO₂ and intermittent episodes of hypoxemia (12). In a prospective study, reporting achieved vs. intended SpO₂ targets in preterm infants <28 weeks, only 16–64% of time infants were in the intended range and above the range 20–73% of time (11). With the advent of automated system in oxygen delivery (A-FiO₂), the challenges to maintain the SpO₂ in the TR has been overcome to an extent. A-FiO₂ uses real time continuous SpO₂ data to makes necessary adjustments in FiO₂ based on algorithms that differ with devices and systems.

Studies using A-FiO₂ have consistently shown to improve the proportion of time spent in the TR of SpO₂, reduce hypoxemia and hyperoxemia in preterm infants on non-invasive or invasive respiratory support. Whilst the A-FiO₂ systems have been commercially available, it has not yet established itself in the routine care in the neonatal ICU (2, 13). This is indicative of the challenges with its use, and more importantly the lack of clinical outcome data with the use of A-FiO₂.

In this review article we will make a case for importance of SpO₂ targeting in preterm infants, clinical implications of intermittent hypoxemia/hyperoxemia, current evidence for the use of A-FiO₂, the types of algorithms available in clinical practice, challenges in implementation of technology and the future directions.

SPO₂ TARGETING IN PRETERM INFANTS

In the last decade, five large randomized controlled trials (14–18) were conducted to evaluate the optimal SpO₂ TR in preterm infants. Following this, three systematic reviews (19–21) including Cochrane review (9) and one individual patient meta-analysis (10) have been published. There was no difference in the primary composite outcome of death or major disability at 18–24 months corrected age between the lower SpO₂ group (85–89%) and higher SpO₂ group (91–95%). The lower SpO₂ group was associated with higher risk of mortality and NEC. The risk of ROP was higher in the higher SpO₂ group. However, there was no difference in the rates of severe visual impairment (22). Interestingly, the separation of SpO₂ between the two groups in these studies was less than expected with significant overlap in SpO₂ in the two groups. The current recommendations by international bodies suggest the use of 90–95% as SpO₂ TR in preterm infants until 36 weeks Post menstrual age (20, 23).

EFFECTS OF HYPOXEMIA AND HYPEROXEMIA

In *post-hoc* analysis of Canadian oxygen trial (COT study), intermittent prolonged hypoxemia (SpO₂ < 80%) for at least 1 min was associated with increase in composite outcome of death after 36 weeks or major neuro-disability (RR 1.66, 95% CI: 1.35–2.05) at 18 months corrected age (5). Jensen et al. in their *post-hoc* analysis also showed increased risk of severe BPD with both the frequency of severe hypoxemic episodes and duration of hypoxemia (4). Compared with infants with lowest decile of hypoxemic episodes, infants with highest number of hypoxemic episodes (10th decile) had an adjusted relative risk of 20.40 (95% CI: 12.88–32.32) for severe BPD.

Oxygen supplementation and hyperoxemia, whilst on supplemental oxygen, has been associated with ROP, BPD and PVL (24, 25). Hyperoxemia, mostly an overshoot to the oxygen supplementation following a hypoxemic event, is a preventable by strict adherence to the SpO₂ target or by the use of A-FiO₂.

Whilst it is important to maintain the SpO₂ in TR for preterm infants, it is equally imperative to avoid hypoxemia and hyperoxemia. Hence it is essential to choose and adhere to the

appropriate alarm limits for the SpO₂ TR (26). A-FiO₂ studies have shown an advantage of A-FiO₂ over M-FiO₂ in reducing extremes of SpO₂.

ALGORITHMS FOR A-FIO₂

The A-FiO₂ works on the principles of continuous SpO₂ monitoring using pulse oximeter, regular feedback into the rule-based algorithms and changes in FiO₂ delivery based on this feedback. The algorithms vary in designs and hence the frequency and magnitude of changes to FiO₂ is variable across the various A-FiO₂ devices. The designs include on adaptive model control algorithms, proportional integral differential algorithm and state machine control algorithm (27).

The state machine control algorithm is based on a set of rules. The algorithm uses the difference between the desired and the actual SpO₂, its velocity and acceleration as input. The incorporated rules then set out a FiO₂ change by the controller. In the proportional integral differential algorithms, the controller calculates the difference between the desired and the actual SpO₂ (error), integrates over time and velocity and determines the oxygen output. The adaptive model algorithms consider the infant's physiology that may have the effect on oxygen dissociation curve. A non-linear model is created based on FiO₂-oxygen saturation relationship. The controller adjusts its model of this relationship to achieve target saturations (28).

The currently available algorithms include CLiO₂TM integral to the Avea[®] infant ventilator (**Figure 1**), CLAC (Closed Loop automatic oxygen control) incorporated into the Leoni ventilator, IntellO₂TM in the Oxygen assist module in Vapotherm Precision Flow (**Figure 2**), OxyGenie on SLE6000 ventilator, PRICO on the Fabian acutronic ventilators and SPOC on Sophie neonatal ventilator (MEDACX).

CURRENT AVAILABLE EVIDENCE FOR THE USE OF A-FIO₂ IN NEONATES

The details of the currently available studies are shown in **Table 1** (29–45). Majority of these studies were cross-over RCT. The SpO₂ targets used were variable across the studies, as were the post-natal age at entry and the algorithms used. All the studies were of short duration varying from 2 to 48 h. Six of these studies included infants on invasive ventilation, another six used a combination of invasive ventilation and nasal continuous positive airway pressure (NCPAP), and further six studies only included infants on non-invasive respiratory support (NCPAP or High Flow therapy). The primary outcome in most was the proportion of time in SpO₂ TR. The studies consistently reported significantly higher proportion of time in SpO₂ TR, lower proportion of time below & above the SpO₂ TR and reduced need for manual adjustments with A-FiO₂. In a recent systematic review with 13 studies, A-FiO₂ resulted in increased time spent in target SpO₂ of 85–96% [MD = 8.96; 95% CI (6.26, 11.67), *p* < .00001], and 90–95% [MD = 18.25; 95% CI (4.58, 31.65), *p* = 0.008] (46). A-FiO₂ reduced the time in hypoxemia

TABLE 1 | Characteristics of A-FiO2 studies.

References	Study design	Study population	Primary outcome (automatic vs. manual)	Other outcomes (automatic vs. manual)
Claire et al. (29)	Randomized cross over trial for 2 h on each mode.	<i>N</i> = 14 Mechanically ventilated Very Low Birth weight infants	Increase in time spent in TR	No significant difference in other outcomes.
Claire et al. (30)	Randomized cross over trial for two 4-h periods	<i>N</i> = 16 Mechanically ventilated preterm infants and receiving supplemental oxygen	Increase in time spent in TR	Decrease in time above the TR Decrease in time SpO ₂ ≥ 98% Decreased time with SpO ₂ < 88%
Claire et al. (31)	Randomized cross over trial for 2 consecutive 24-h periods	<i>N</i> = 32 Mechanically ventilated preterm infants and receiving supplemental oxygen	Increase in proportion of time spent in TR	Decrease in time spent in SpO ₂ > 98% Decrease in time SpO ₂ < 87% Decrease in number of FIO ₂ changes No difference in time spent in SpO ₂ < 80% or <75%
Lal et al. (32)	Randomized cross over trial for 2 consecutive 12-h periods	<i>N</i> = 27 Mechanically ventilated Preterm infants <32 weeks on supplemental oxygen	Increase in proportion of time spent in TR	Decrease in proportion of time in SpO ₂ below the TR Decrease in proportion of time in SpO ₂ above the TR Decrease in proportion of time in SpO ₂ < 80 Decrease in proportion of time in SpO ₂ ≥ 98
Morozoff et al. (33)	Cross over study with three algorithms with manual control	<i>N</i> = 7 Mechanically ventilated preterm infants	Increase in proportion of time spent in TR	Decrease in number of hypoxemic episodes Decrease in number of manual adjustments.
Sturrock et al. (34)	Randomized cross over trial for 2 consecutive 12-h periods	<i>N</i> = 24 Mechanically ventilated preterm infants at a corrected gestation age < 6 months	Decrease in number of desaturations with SpO ₂ < 85% lasting >30 and >60 s	Increase in proportion of time spent in TR. Decrease in proportion of time in SpO ₂ below the TR Decrease in proportion of time in SpO ₂ above the TR
Hallenberger et al. (35)	Randomized cross over trial for 24-h period.	<i>N</i> = 34 Preterm infants either mechanically ventilated or on NCPAP and receiving supplemental oxygen.	Increase in proportion of time spent in TR	Decrease in proportion of time below the TR No difference in time above the TR Decrease in number of manual FIO ₂ adjustments
van Kaam et al. (36)	Randomized cross over trial for 24 h each and randomized to two SpO ₂ targets	<i>N</i> = 80 Preterm infant < 33 weeks on invasive or non-invasive respiratory support	Increase in proportion of time spent in TR	Decrease in proportion of time spent below TR and SpO ₂ < 80% Decrease in number of episodes with SpO ₂ < 80% for >1 min
Waitz et al. (37)	Randomized cross over trial for 24 h each	<i>N</i> = 15 Preterm ventilated infants	Increase in proportion of time spent in TR	Decrease in number of prolonged (>60 sec) episodes with SpO ₂ < 88% Decrease in proportion of time spent in SpO ₂ > 96%
Gajdos et al. (38)	Randomized cross over trial for 12 h period.	<i>N</i> = 12 Very Low Birth weight infants	Increase in proportion of time spent in TR	Decrease in time spent below the TR Decrease in number of episodes in SpO ₂ < 88% for > 180 s No difference in time spent above TR, median FIO ₂ and tissue oxygenation.
Schwarz et al. (39)	Randomized cross over trial: Three modes: CLAC _{fast} , manual control only, manual control with CLAC _{slow}	<i>N</i> = 19 Preterm infants <34+1-week gestation receiving respiratory support (invasive or non-invasive) and supplemental oxygen	Increase in time spent in TR (CLAC fast vs. manual)	Decrease in time spent below the TR (CLAC fast vs. manual)
Urschitz et al. (40)	Randomized cross over trial of 90 min for three group. - Routine manual control. - Optimal manual control. - FIO ₂ Controller	<i>N</i> = 12 Preterm infants on NCPAP and receiving supplemental oxygen	Increase in time spent in TR with A-FiO ₂ as compared to routine M-FiO ₂	Decrease in manual adjustments of FIO ₂ with A-FiO ₂
Plottier et al. (41)	Non-randomized study with 4-h intervention with A-FiO ₂ with	<i>N</i> = 20 Preterm infants on non-invasive	Increase in proportion of time spent in TR	Decrease in time spent below the TR, above the TR, SpO ₂ < 80%. SpO ₂ > 98%

(Continued)

TABLE 1 | Continued

References	Study design	Study population	Primary outcome (automatic vs. manual)	Other outcomes (automatic vs. manual)
	total of 8 h manual control (4 h before and after automated oxygen).	support and supplemental oxygen		Decrease in number of changes to oxygen therapy
Dargaville et al. (42)	Cross over study with 24-h intervention with automated oxygen with total of 24 hrs manual control (12 h before and after automated oxygen)	$N = 35$ Preterm infants on non-invasive respiratory support and supplemental oxygen	Increase in proportion of time spent in TR	Decrease in time in SpO ₂ < 80%. Decrease in time spent in severe and prolonged hyperoxemia and hyperoxemia
Zapata et al. (43)	Randomized trial with total study duration of 12 h	$N = 20$ Preterm infants <30 weeks and <1,000 grams receiving supplemental oxygen with nasal cannula	Increase in time spent in TR	Decrease in time spent in SpO ₂ > 95% Reduced need for manual adjustments
Reynolds et al. (44)	Randomized cross over trial	$N = 30$ Preterm infants on High Flow Nasal Cannula with FIO ₂ ≥25%.	Increase in time spent in TR	Decreased number of prolonged episodes of SpO ₂ < 80% No difference in number of episodes/hours of SpO ₂ >98%
Dijkam et al. (45)	Randomized cross over trial for 2 consecutive 24-h periods	$N = 27$ Preterm infants < 30 weeks on High Flow Nasal Cannula and FIO ₂ >0.25	Increase in proportion of time spent in TR	Decrease in proportion of time spent below TR, above TR and SpO ₂ No difference in time spent in SpO ₂ > 98%

[SpO₂ < 85%; MD = -1.24; 95% CI (-2.05, -0.43), $p = 0.003$] and hyperoxemia [SpO₂ > 98%; MD = -0.99; 95% CI (-1.74, -0.25), $p = 0.009$].

Various algorithms are available with A-FiO₂. Only two studies compared different A-FiO₂ algorithms. Schwarz et al. compared fast and slow CLAC algorithms (39) and Salverda et al. compared OxyGenie controller (SLE6000 ventilator) with CLiO₂ controller (AVEA ventilator) in randomized cross over trial (47). In the latter study 15 preterm infants received each intervention for 24 h in a cross over fashion. Time spent in the SpO₂ TR were higher with OxyGenie with median time of 80.2 (72.6–82.4) % vs. 68.5% (56.7–79.3%) in CLiO₂ algorithm. With OxyGenie time spent above the TR were lower (6.3 vs. 15.9%, $p < 0.005$) and time spent below the TR (14.7 vs. 9.3%, $p < 0.05$) were higher as compared to CLiO₂. The difference in the hypoxemia and hyperoxemia episodes may be related to the different design of the algorithm.

Although A-FiO₂ has consistently shown to be superior to the M-FiO₂ in maintaining the SpO₂ in the TR, we do not know if this physiological benefit is associated with improved clinical benefits. It can be hypothesized that better control in maintaining SpO₂ in TR, reduction in hypoxemia and hyperoxemia may concomitantly result in improved short- and long-term clinical outcomes. There are currently no studies available that has looked at use of A-FiO₂ to improve clinical outcomes. For a clinical outcome study with A-FiO₂, it is imperative that parallel arm RCT design is chosen. The study should also capture the entire period on respiratory support and supplemental oxygen. A large RCT with aim to recruit 2,340 preterm infants (<28 weeks) is currently underway (NCT03168516) (48). In this clinical outcome study, infants are randomized to either A-FiO₂ or M-FiO₂, continue to be in randomized arm as much as time

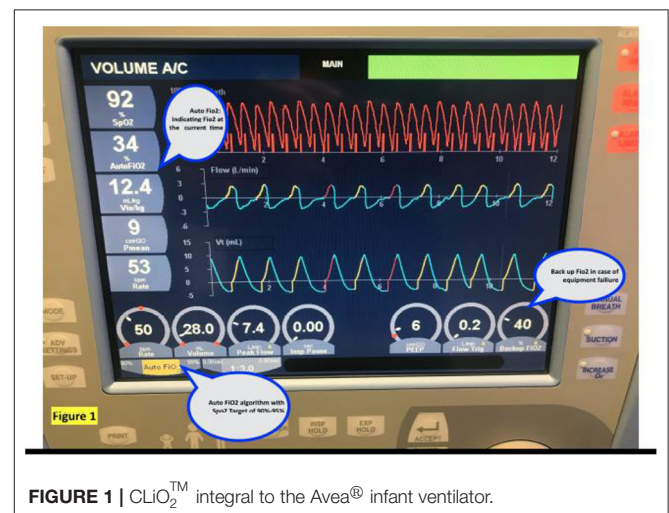


FIGURE 1 | CLiO₂TM integral to the Avea[®] infant ventilator.

possible without any crossover. Primary outcome of this RCT is composite outcome of death or severe ROP, BPD or NEC. This study has another primary outcome of composite of death or any of the following: language or cognitive delay, motor impairment, severe visual impairment or hearing impairment all assessed at 2 years of age.

An improvement in saturation targeting with A-FiO₂ was not associated with improved tissue oxygenation in studies by Dani et al. and Waitz et al. (37, 49).

Alarms are necessary evils in any intensive care units (50). Alarm overloads can result in fatigue and desensitization among staff which in turn could pose a clinical risk. Studies with A-FiO₂ have shown a significant lower alarm rate as compared to

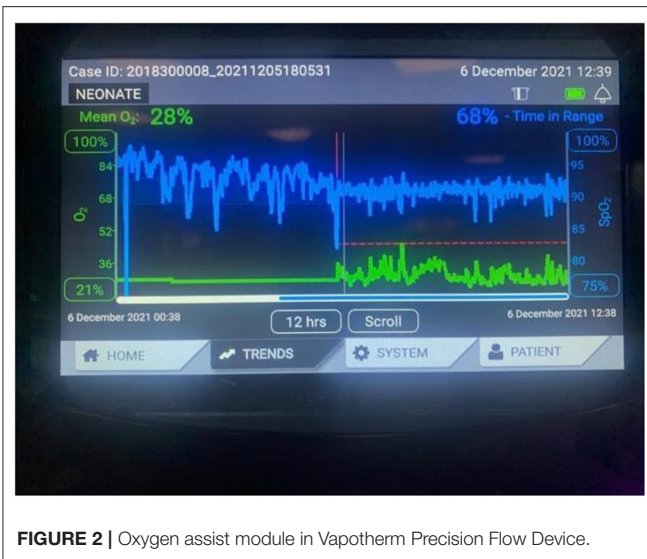


FIGURE 2 | Oxygen assist module in Vapotherm Precision Flow Device.

M-FiO₂ (32). The frequency of alarms in A-FiO₂ can be further reduced with much looser alarm limits (51). The reduction in alarm frequency may help in reducing the nursing workload and possibly increase cognitive attention. However, it is imperative to consider the appropriate alarm threshold for SpO₂ and FiO₂ so as to alert the caregivers of a deterioration.

Few centers have implemented A-FiO₂ for routine care of preterm infants. Van Zanten et al. reported outcomes of before and after implementation of A-FiO₂ (52). Although there was a significant improvement in time spent in the SpO₂ TR, there was no difference in duration of respiratory support and mortality. Salverda et al. also reported pre (2012–2015; *N* = 293) and post (2015–2018; *N* = 295) implementation of A-FiO₂ in preterm infants (53). There was no difference in any of the clinical outcomes like ROP, NEC, BPD, and duration of hospital stay. Both these studies by the nature of their design were not powered for these outcomes.

Van Zanten et al. also reported that the staff were reluctant to go back to M-FiO₂ after implementation of A-FiO₂ as this reduced their workload (52). To our knowledge, there are no studies reporting parental experience with use of A-FiO₂ either in clinical or research set-up.

In summary, currently there is good evidence to show that A-FiO₂ is superior to M-FiO₂ in maintaining SpO₂ in TR and reducing extremes of SpO₂ in preterm infants. However, there are no studies to support the clinical benefits of A-FiO₂.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT POSITION OF A-FIO₂ IN NICUS

Recent survey among UK neonatal units (192 units), showed that around 19 neonatal units (9.9%) units used A-FiO₂ (54). Sixty-eight percent of the users used it in extreme preterm infants <26 weeks. Most responders to the survey reported higher ability to achieve proportion of time within the target SpO₂ range and reduced need for manual adjustments. 89% of responders did not

report any adverse outcomes. There were two reports that A-FiO₂ resulted in inadvertent higher FiO₂ when the probe was displaced and one report of masking event of desaturations.

The main challenges to implementation of A-FiO₂ in NICU are lack of devices delivering A-FiO₂, unfamiliarity with the devices and the lack of clinical outcome studies. Most of the new neonatal ventilators have A-FiO₂ options on them. However, without appropriate expertise and training, the introduction and implementation of any change can be a failure. There are few reports that A-FiO₂ can result in inadvertent higher FiO₂ when the probe was displaced and mask desaturations.

POTENTIAL AND/OR PERCEIVED BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Masking of Clinical Deterioration

One of the concerns with regards to use of A-FiO₂ is that it may mask clinical deteriorations. A-FiO₂ is better than M-FiO₂ at reducing hypoxemic episodes by automatically increasing the FiO₂. However, the hypoxemic events may occur in relation to clinical deterioration like sepsis and just by increasing the FiO₂ during these episodes, such events may be masked. This is generally not an issue especially if the staffing level is such that there is continuous close observation of these infants. This can also be overcome by appropriate staff training and using appropriate FiO₂ alarms. In our unit we have addressed this by staff education and training. The CLiO₂ system provides base FiO₂ which is a trend, and a trend upwards may be indicative of deteriorating clinical condition. There is continuous scrutiny and medical staff are alerted when there is an upwards trend of more than 5%.

Hypoxemic Events Related to Apnea

Another potential limitation with A-FiO₂ is its inability to differentiate hypoxemic events secondary to apneic episodes. A-FiO₂ would provide sufficient oxygen to keep the SpO₂ in TR, whereas with severe apneic episodes the infant may need other intervention like stimulation and positive pressure support. This issue can be overcome again by close observation of the infant and appropriate vital parameter alarm limits. Again, in these scenarios the role of staff education and training cannot be over emphasized.

Average FiO₂

It is often perceived at the bedside that FiO₂ tends to be higher with A-FiO₂ than M-FiO₂. Some cross over studies with A-FiO₂, did not show any statistical difference in the median FiO₂ (32, 36, 42), was lower in A-FiO₂ arm in Claire et al.'s study (31) and higher in Dijkman et al.'s study using PRICO (45).

Lower SpO₂ Median

Whilst on M-FiO₂, the staff proactively intervene for hypoxia than hyperoxia episodes (11). Also, in a M-FiO₂ set-up there is a tendency to keep the SpO₂ in the upper range of the target (closer to 95%), whereas automated oxygen devices tend to target middle of SpO₂ TR (close to 92–93%). This could potentially lead to lower mean/median SpO₂ with A-FiO₂. Whether this would have

any impact on clinical outcomes needs to be studied and if needed this issue could be tackled with changes in algorithm. Further if such subtleties of control are found to be warranted, shifting of A-FiO₂ TR and alarm limits can be implemented.

Disparity in SpO₂ Readings Between the Monitors

In most of the A-FiO₂ devices, the SpO₂ can be monitored on the device in which the algorithm is incorporated. Some of the A-FiO₂ devices albeit having the monitoring functionality does not have SpO₂ alarms incorporated. This necessitates having additional SpO₂ monitoring system with alarms to alert the staff of the deviation from TR. Despite using the same SpO₂ technology, on occasions there seems to be discrepancy in SpO₂ between the two monitoring devices. In our practice, we instruct our nursing staff to reposition/replace SpO₂ probe which seems to resolve this discrepancy on most occasions. Resolution of discrepancy on most occasions reassures us that this discrepancy is not to the extent of clinical significance (hypoxia/hyperoxia), still it could result in staff and parental anxiety. However, this can be overcome by incorporating SpO₂ monitoring with alarm limits on the same device.

Cost-Effective and Staff Workload

Cost of the equipment is reported as another major limitation. Although, most of the newer neonatal ventilators are equipped with A-FiO₂, the older versions may not have this facility. The discussion around cost-effectiveness should consider the clinical benefits with this technology. However, we are clearly lacking clinical studies looking at the short- and long-term outcomes of A-FiO₂. When staff work load is considered, A-FiO₂ has shown to be associated with significant reduction in the number of manual adjustments required thus allowing staff to focus on other aspects of clinical care (55).

Customizing TR in Preterm Infants

Not all neonates of the exact same maturity are alike. The recent AAP guidelines recommends TR between 90 and 95%. However, it also underlines that there is no ideal TR and that it is patient specific and vary with gestation, chronological age and the underlying condition (56). Studies have shown that SGA are more susceptible to lower SpO₂ (57). Also, the outcome data from individual centers may influence the TR used (58). A-FiO₂ offers the potential to individualize TR according to the needs of the infant.

ROLE OF A-FIO₂ IN NEONATAL RESUSCITATION

At birth, preterm infants slowly transition from fetal to neonatal life and often need interventions to support with this transition. Oxygen supplementation is often needed for these infants to maintain recommended SpO₂ levels in the first 10 min of life. Hence use of pulse oximetry is recommended by the resuscitation council to monitor and titrate oxygen supplementation (59). With particular focus on reducing hyperoxemia and hypoxemia,

most resuscitation councils recommended use of oxygen ranging from 21 to 30% for preterm infants at birth (59, 60).

Even with advances in neonatal resuscitation it remains a challenge to meet the SpO₂ targets during the first 10 min of life. In a study with preterm infants ≤ 30 weeks the median percentages of time spent above and below the target were 44 and 51%, respectively (61). A-FiO₂ could be one of the solutions to achieve the SpO₂ targets at the time of birth. A study in ventilated preterm lambs showed a significant reduction in time spent above the SpO₂ TR with the use of A-FiO₂ using PRICO technology at birth (3). Use of A-FiO₂ in resuscitation could be potentially useful and needs further research.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Need for RCTs that are adequately powered for short term and long-term outcomes. These studies should also report the cost effectiveness of the intervention, considering all the health outcomes and staff workload. The future studies should consider recruitment as soon as possible after birth to limit extremes of oxygenation during early period of the life.
- Studies are needed with characterization of all the existing algorithms with both invasive and non-invasive respiratory support.
- Innovations are needed to provide commercial algorithms that could support moving SpO₂ targets (like during first 10 min of birth).
- Role of automated oxygen during elective neonatal intubation and reduction in hypoxemia during these procedures.
- Use of automated oxygen in preterm infants receiving nasal cannula low flow oxygen.
- Establish a role of A-FiO₂ in low resource-staff limited settings.

CONCLUSIONS

There is overwhelming evidence that A-FiO₂ achieves higher proportion of time in SpO₂ TR, reduces duration and episodes of hypoxemia and hyperoxemia. Although the impact on clinical outcomes associated with A-FiO₂ is yet to be proven, from the available studies we can presume that there is no harm. Merely adopting the recommendations of targeting SpO₂ (90–95%) will not suffice. It is essential that this is achieved. If not, this will be justice half done and infact we may not see the actual clinical benefits of SpO₂ targeting. A-FiO₂ is a promising technology that helps to achieve this target. However, the clinical benefits of it are still unknown.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

VN, PL, and ML conceptualized the review, drafted the initial manuscript, reviewed, and revised the manuscript. TB reviewed and revised the manuscript. All authors approved the final manuscript as submitted and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

REFERENCES

- Tan A, Schulze A, O'Donnell CP, Davis PG. Air versus oxygen for resuscitation of infants at birth. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* (2005) 2005:CD002273. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD002273.pub2
- Dargaville PA, Marshall AP, McLeod L, Salverda HH, Te Pas AB, Gale TJ. Automation of oxygen titration in preterm infants: current evidence and future challenges. *Early Hum Dev.* (2021) 162:105462. doi: 10.1016/j.earlhumdev.2021.105462
- Hütten MC, Goos TG, Ophelders D, Nikiforou M, Kuypers E, Willems M, et al. Fully automated predictive intelligent control of oxygenation (PRICO) in resuscitation and ventilation of preterm lambs. *Pediatr Res.* (2015) 78:657–63. doi: 10.1038/pr.2015.158
- Jensen EA, Whyte RK, Schmidt B, Bassler D, Vain NE, Roberts RS. Association between intermittent hypoxemia and severe bronchopulmonary dysplasia in preterm infants. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* (2021) 204:1192–9. doi: 10.1164/rccm.202105-1150OC
- Poets CF, Roberts RS, Schmidt B, Whyte RK, Asztalos EV, Bader D, et al. Association between intermittent hypoxemia or bradycardia and late death or disability in extremely preterm infants. *JAMA.* (2015) 314:595–603. doi: 10.1001/jama.2015.8841
- Cunningham S, Fleck BW, Elton RA, McIntosh N. Transcutaneous oxygen levels in retinopathy of prematurity. *Lancet.* (1995) 346:1464–5. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(95)92475-2
- Laughon M, Allred EN, Bose C, O'Shea TM, Van Marter LJ, Ehrenkranz RA, et al. Patterns of respiratory disease during the first 2 postnatal weeks in extremely premature infants. *Pediatrics.* (2009) 123:1124–31. doi: 10.1542/peds.2008-0862
- Saugstad OD. Update on oxygen radical disease in neonatology. *Curr Opin Obstet Gynecol.* (2001) 13:147–53. doi: 10.1097/00001703-200104000-00009
- Askie LM, Darlow BA, Davis PG, Finer N, Stenson B, Vento M, et al. Effects of targeting lower versus higher arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in preterm infants. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* (2017) 4:CD011190. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD011190.pub2
- Askie LM, Darlow BA, Finer N, Schmidt B, Stenson B, Tarnow-Mordi W, et al. Association between oxygen saturation targeting and death or disability in extremely preterm infants in the neonatal oxygenation prospective meta-analysis collaboration. *JAMA.* (2018) 319:2190–201. doi: 10.1001/jama.2018.5725
- Hagadorn JI, Furey AM, Nghiem TH, Schmid CH, Phelps DL, Pillers DA, et al. Achieved versus intended pulse oximeter saturation in infants born less than 28 weeks' gestation: the AVIOx study. *Pediatrics.* (2006) 118:1574–82. doi: 10.1542/peds.2005-0413
- Martin RJ, Wang K, Köroglu O, Di Fiore J, Kc P. Intermittent hypoxic episodes in preterm infants: do they matter? *Neonatology.* (2011) 100:303–10. doi: 10.1159/000329922
- Beddis IR, Collins P, Levy NM, Godfrey S, Silverman M. New technique for servo-control of arterial oxygen tension in preterm infants. *Arch Dis Child.* (1979) 54:278–80. doi: 10.1136/adc.54.4.278
- Carlo WA, Finer NN, Walsh MC, Rich W, Gantz MG, Luptook AR, et al. Target ranges of oxygen saturation in extremely preterm infants. *N Engl J Med.* (2010) 362:1959–69. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa0911781
- Darlow BA, Marschner SL, Donoghoe M, Battin MR, Broadbent RS, Elder MJ, et al. Randomized controlled trial of oxygen saturation targets in very preterm infants: two year outcomes. *J Pediatr.* (2014) 165:30–5.e2. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2014.01.017
- Schmidt B, Whyte RK, Asztalos EV, Moddemann D, Poets C, Rabi Y, et al. Effects of targeting higher vs lower arterial oxygen saturations on death or disability in extremely preterm infants: a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA.* (2013) 309:2111–20. doi: 10.1001/jama.2013.5555
- Tarnow-Mordi W, Stenson B, Kirby A, Juszczak E, Donoghoe M, Deshpande S, et al. Outcomes of two trials of oxygen-saturation targets in preterm infants. *N Engl J Med.* (2016) 374:749–60. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1514212
- Vaucher YE, Peralta-Carcelen M, Finer NN, Carlo WA, Gantz MG, Walsh MC, et al. Neurodevelopmental outcomes in the early CPAP and pulse oximetry trial. *N Engl J Med.* (2012) 367:2495–504. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1208506
- Manja V, Lakshminrusimha S, Cook DJ. Oxygen saturation target range for extremely preterm infants: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *JAMA Pediatr.* (2015) 169:332–40. doi: 10.1001/jamapediatrics.2014.3307
- Manja V, Saugstad OD, Lakshminrusimha S. Oxygen saturation targets in preterm infants and outcomes at 18–24 months: a systematic review. *Pediatrics.* (2017) 139:e20161609. doi: 10.1542/peds.2016-1609
- Saugstad OD, Aune D. Optimal oxygenation of extremely low birth weight infants: a meta-analysis and systematic review of the oxygen saturation target studies. *Neonatology.* (2014) 105:55–63. doi: 10.1159/000356561
- Stenson BJ. Achieved oxygenation saturations and outcome in extremely preterm infants. *Clin Perinatol.* (2019) 46:601–10. doi: 10.1016/j.clp.2019.05.011
- Sweet DG, Carnielli V, Greisen G, Hallman M, Ozek E, Plavka R, et al. European consensus guidelines on the management of respiratory distress syndrome - 2016 update. *Neonatology.* (2017) 111:107–25. doi: 10.1159/000448985
- Gantz MG, Carlo WA, Finer NN, Rich W, Faix RG, Yoder BA, et al. Achieved oxygen saturations and retinopathy of prematurity in extreme preterms. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonat Ed.* (2020) 105:138–44. doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2018-316464
- Askie LM, Brocklehurst P, Darlow BA, Finer N, Schmidt B, Tarnow-Mordi W. NeOProm: neonatal oxygenation prospective meta-analysis collaboration study protocol. *BMC Pediatr.* (2011) 11:6. doi: 10.1186/1471-2431-11-6
- Schmidt B, Whyte RK, Roberts RS. Trade-off between lower or higher oxygen saturations for extremely preterm infants: the first benefits of oxygen saturation targeting (BOOST) II trial reports its primary outcome. *J Pediatr.* (2014) 165:6–8. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2014.03.004
- Salverda HH, Cramer SJE, Witlox R, Dargaville PA, Te Pas AB. Automated oxygen control in preterm infants, how does it work and what to expect: a narrative review. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonat Ed.* (2021) 106:215–21. doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2020-318918
- Morozoff EP, Smyth JA. Evaluation of three automatic oxygen therapy control algorithms on ventilated low birth weight neonates. *Annu Int.* (2009) 2009:3079–82. doi: 10.1109/IEMBS.2009.5332532
- Claire N, Gerhardt T, Everett R, Musante G, Herrera C, Bancalari E. Closed-loop controlled inspired oxygen concentration for mechanically ventilated very low birth weight infants with frequent episodes of hypoxemia. *Pediatrics.* (2001) 107:1120–4. doi: 10.1542/peds.107.5.1120
- Claire N, D'Ugard C, Bancalari E. Automated adjustment of inspired oxygen in preterm infants with frequent fluctuations in oxygenation: a pilot clinical trial. *J Pediatr.* (2009) 155:640–5.e1-2. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2009.04.057
- Claire N, Bancalari E, D'Ugard C, Nelin L, Stein M, Ramanathan R, et al. Multicenter crossover study of automated control of inspired oxygen in ventilated preterm infants. *Pediatrics.* (2011) 127:e76–83. doi: 10.1542/peds.2010-0939
- Lal M, Tin W, Sinha S. Automated control of inspired oxygen in ventilated preterm infants: crossover physiological study. *Acta Paediatr.* (2015) 104:1084–9. doi: 10.1111/apa.13137
- Morozoff E, Smyth JA, Saif M. Applying computer models to realize closed-loop neonatal oxygen therapy. *Anesth Analg.* (2017) 124:95–103. doi: 10.1213/ANE.0000000000001367
- Sturrock S, Ambulkar H, Williams EE, Sweeney S, Bednarczuk NF, Dassios T, et al. A randomised crossover trial of closed loop automated oxygen control in preterm, ventilated infants. *Acta Paediatr.* (2021) 110:833–7. doi: 10.1111/apa.15585
- Hallenberger A, Poets CF, Horn W, Seyfang A, Urschitz MS. Closed-loop automatic oxygen control (CLAC) in preterm infants: a randomized controlled trial. *Pediatrics.* (2014) 133:e379–85. doi: 10.1542/peds.2013-1834
- van Kaam AH, Hummler HD, Wilinska M, Swietlinski J, Lal MK, te Pas AB, et al. Automated versus manual oxygen control with different saturation targets and modes of respiratory support in preterm infants. *J Pediatr.* (2015) 167:545–50.e1-2. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2015.06.012
- Waitz M, Schmid MB, Fuchs H, Mendler MR, Dreyhaupt J, Hummler HD. Effects of automated adjustment of the inspired oxygen on fluctuations of arterial and regional cerebral tissue oxygenation

- in preterm infants with frequent desaturations. *J Pediatr.* (2015) 166:240–4.e1. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2014.10.007
38. Gajdos M, Waitz M, Mendler MR, Braun W, Hummler H. Effects of a new device for automated closed loop control of inspired oxygen concentration on fluctuations of arterial and different regional organ tissue oxygen saturations in preterm infants. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed.* (2019) 104:F360–5. doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2018-314769
 39. Schwarz CE, Kidszun A, Bieder NS, Franz AR, König J, Mildnerberger E, et al. Is faster better? A randomised crossover study comparing algorithms for closed-loop automatic oxygen control. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed.* (2020) 105:369–74. doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2019-317029
 40. Urschitz MS, Horn W, Seyfang A, Hallenberger A, Herbergs T, Miksch S, et al. Automatic control of the inspired oxygen fraction in preterm infants: a randomized crossover trial. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* (2004) 170:1095–100. doi: 10.1164/rccm.200407-929OC
 41. Plottier GK, Wheeler KI, Ali SK, Fathabadi OS, Jayakar R, Gale TJ, et al. Clinical evaluation of a novel adaptive algorithm for automated control of oxygen therapy in preterm infants on non-invasive respiratory support. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed.* (2017) 102:F37–43. doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2016-310647
 42. Dargaville PA, Marshall AP, Ladlow OJ, Bannink C, Jayakar R, Eastwood-Sutherland C, et al. Automated control of oxygen titration in preterm infants on non-invasive respiratory support. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed.* (2022) 107:39–44. doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2020-321538
 43. Zapata J, Gómez JJ, Araque Campo R, Matiz Rubio A, Sola A. A randomised controlled trial of an automated oxygen delivery algorithm for preterm neonates receiving supplemental oxygen without mechanical ventilation. *Acta Paediatr.* (2014) 103:928–33. doi: 10.1111/apa.12684
 44. Reynolds PR, Miller TL, Volakis LI, Holland N, Dungan GC, Roehr CC, et al. Randomised cross-over study of automated oxygen control for preterm infants receiving nasal high flow. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed.* (2019) 104:F366–71. doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2018-315342
 45. Dijkman KP, Mohns T, Dieleman JR, van Pul C, Goos TG, Reiss IK, et al. Predictive intelligent control of oxygenation (PRICO) in preterm infants on high flow nasal cannula support: a randomised cross-over study. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed.* (2021) 106:621–6. doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2020-320728
 46. Abdo M, Hanbal A, Asla MM, Ishqair A, Alfar M, Elnaiem W, et al. Automated versus manual oxygen control in preterm infants receiving respiratory support: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Matern Fetal Neonatal Med.* (2021) 1–8. doi: 10.1080/14767058.2021.1904875
 47. Salverda HH, Cramer SJE, Witlox R, Gale TJ, Dargaville PA, Pauws SC, et al. Comparison of two devices for automated oxygen control in preterm infants: a randomised crossover trial. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed.* (2022) 107:20–5. doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2020-321387
 48. Maiwald CA, Niemarkt HJ, Poets CF, Urschitz MS, König J, Hummler H, et al. Effects of closed-loop automatic control of the inspiratory fraction of oxygen (FiO₂-C) on outcome of extremely preterm infants - study protocol of a randomized controlled parallel group multicenter trial for safety and efficacy. *BMC Pediatr.* (2019) 19:363. doi: 10.1186/s12887-019-1735-9
 49. Dani C, Pratesi S, Luzzati M, Petrolini C, Montano S, Remaschi G, et al. Cerebral and splanchnic oxygenation during automated control of inspired oxygen [FiO₂] in preterm infants. *Pediatr Pulmonol.* (2021) 56:2067–72. doi: 10.1002/ppul.25379
 50. Li T, Matsushima M, Timpson W, Young S, Miedema D, Gupta M, et al. Epidemiology of patient monitoring alarms in the neonatal intensive care unit. *J Perinatol.* (2018) 38:1030–8. doi: 10.1038/s41372-018-0095-x
 51. Warakomska M, Bachman TE, Wilinska M. Evaluation of two SpO₂ alarm strategies during automated FiO₂ control in the NICU: a randomized crossover study. *BMC Pediatr.* (2019) 19:142. doi: 10.1186/s12887-019-1496-5
 52. Van Zanten HA, Kuypers K, Stenson BJ, Bachman TE, Pauws SC, Te Pas AB. The effect of implementing an automated oxygen control on oxygen saturation in preterm infants. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed.* (2017) 102:F395–f9. doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2016-312172
 53. Salverda HH, Oldenburger NJ, Rijken M, Pauws SC, Dargaville PA, Te Pas AB. The effect of automated oxygen control on clinical outcomes in preterm infants: a pre- and post-implementation cohort study. *Eur J Pediatr.* (2021) 180:2107–13. doi: 10.1007/s00431-021-03982-8
 54. Kaltsogianni O, Dassios T, Belbal R, Greenough A. Survey of closed-loop automated oxygen control systems in neonatal intensive care units. *Acta Paediatr.* (2022) 111:1002–3. doi: 10.1111/apa.16239
 55. Sturrock S, Williams E, Dassios T, Greenough A. Closed loop automated oxygen control in neonates-A review. *Acta Paediatr.* (2020) 109:914–22.
 56. Cummings JJ, Polin RA, Committee on Fetus and Newborn. Oxygen targeting in extremely low birth weight infants. *Pediatrics.* (2016) 138:e20161576. doi: 10.1542/peds.2016-1576
 57. Di Fiore JM, Martin RJ, Li H, Morris N, Carlo WA, Finer N, et al. Patterns of oxygenation, mortality, and growth status in the surfactant positive pressure and oxygen trial cohort. *J Pediatr.* (2017) 186:49–56.e1. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2017.01.057
 58. Schmidt B, Whyte RK. Oxygen saturation target ranges and alarm settings in the NICU: what have we learnt from the neonatal oxygenation prospective meta-analysis (NeOProm)? *Semin Fetal Neonatal Med.* (2020) 25:101080. doi: 10.1016/j.siny.2020.101080
 59. Pemberton C, Howarth C. Resuscitation Council UK: review of updated 2021 neonatal life support guideline. *Arch Dis Child Educ Pract Ed.* (2022). doi: 10.1136/archdischild-2021-323277. [Epub ahead of print].
 60. Aziz K, Lee HC, Escobedo MB, Hoover AV, Kamath-Rayne BD, Kapadia VS, et al. Part 5: Neonatal Resuscitation: 2020 American Heart Association Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiovascular Care. *Circulation.* (2020) 142(16_suppl_2):S524–50. doi: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000000902
 61. Goos TG, Rook D, van der Eijk AC, Kroon AA, Pichler G, Urlesberger B, et al. Observing the resuscitation of very preterm infants: are we able to follow the oxygen saturation targets? *Resuscitation.* (2013) 84:1108–13. doi: 10.1016/j.resuscitation.2013.01.025

Conflict of Interest: The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

Publisher's Note: All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers. Any product that may be evaluated in this article, or claim that may be made by its manufacturer, is not guaranteed or endorsed by the publisher.

Copyright © 2022 Nair, Loganathan, Lal and Bachman. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY). The use, distribution or reproduction in other forums is permitted, provided the original author(s) and the copyright owner(s) are credited and that the original publication in this journal is cited, in accordance with accepted academic practice. No use, distribution or reproduction is permitted which does not comply with these terms.