

Project Number: CC004

Title: Families' Views on Anaesthesia and Surgery for Repair of Oral Cleft: A Qualitative Analysis of a Focus-group Discussion

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Scientific Outline:

Surgery and anaesthesia are only performed when it is decided that the benefits are greater than the risks.

Laboratory models of anaesthesia have shown that the addition of Xenon, a rare anaesthetic gas, may improve anaesthesia for young children. Before we can test the use of this potential therapy in babies and children who are undergoing surgery, we need to make sure that parents feel that this is necessary and appropriate.

We would like to conduct a focus group study aiming to explore the perceptions and attitudes of anaesthesia and surgery of families with children who have undergone repair of oral cleft in the last five years. We will use this information to plan, pre-test proposed patient information, monitor, and direct the dissemination of results from any future study that may result.

Cleft Collective data will not be used but we request the permission to recruit families enrolled in the Cleft Collective who have consented to be contacted for new studies.

To our knowledge a study of this type has not been previously published and we feel that, both the method we propose, and the information gained regarding perceptions and attitudes will help other researchers optimise the design of paediatric studies.