

22nd February 2009

SAFE EPIC: Saline vs. Albumin Resuscitation - Extrapolation to Paediatric Intensive Care

Dear Critical Care Colleague,

Fluid resuscitation practices around the world have altered since the publication of the Cochrane Review on Albumin¹ (1998), the SAFE study paper² (2004) and subsequent reanalysis by the Cochrane Albumin Reviewers³. Opinions vary on the optimal choice of resuscitation fluid and practices in the paediatric intensive care unit (ICU) may vary from institution to institution.

In order to better understand current practices in fluid resuscitation worldwide, we invite you to participate in a multi-national inception cohort study to determine fluid resuscitation practices for critically ill and injured children around the world.

The aim of SAFE EPIC is to document current practices in paediatric fluid resuscitation in intensive care worldwide to determine whether there are identifiable patient characteristics that influence the choice of fluid used, and also to determine whether there are identifiable regional or national variations in choice of resuscitation fluid that are not explained by patient characteristics. Data will be compared with data collected from adult intensive care units⁴.

The study will collect data from all patients under 16-years in your ICU. All types of paediatric and mixed intensive care units around the world will be included in the study. Each participating unit will be required to complete one form on the demographics of the ICU itself plus one form for each patient on the ICU or admitted to the ICU during any of the 24-hours of the study day.

SAFE EPIC will aim to collect data on ***either September 1 2009 or October 1 2009***, depending on which day you choose.

This proposed research study is organized and supported by the Paediatric Study Group of the Australia and New Zealand Intensive Care Society (ANZICS PSG).

We hope that your unit and others in your region will be able to participate. To register an interest in participation and to obtain further information, please contact Dr Marino Festa at The Children's Hospital Westmead, Sydney, Australia (marinof@chw.edu.au) with your name and email contact, and the name and address of your intensive care unit.

Thank you for your support of paediatric critical care research.

Dr Marino Festa MRCP(UK), FJFICM
on behalf of SAFE EPIC, Paediatric Study Group, Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society

1. The Cochrane Injuries Group Albumin Reviewers. Human albumin administration in critically ill patients: systematic review of randomised controlled trials. *BMJ* 1998;**317**:235-40

2. The SAFE Study Investigators. A comparison of albumin and saline for fluid resuscitation in the intensive care unit. *New England Journal of Medicine* 2004;**350**:2247-56

3. The Albumin Reviewers (Alderson P, Bunn F, Li Wan Po A, Li L, Pearson M, Roberts I, Schierhout G). Human albumin solution for resuscitation and volume expansion in critically ill patients. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2004, Issue 4. Art. No.: CD001208. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001208.pub2.

4. <http://www.anzicrc.monash.org/safe-trips.html>