United Kingdom Oscillation Study: long-term outcomes of a randomised trial of two modes of neonatal ventilation

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Authors' objectives
To compare respiratory and functional outcomes of school-age children born extremely prematurely who received either high-frequency oscillation (HFO) or conventional ventilation (CV) immediately after birth to test the hypothesis that the use of HFO would be associated with superior small airway function at school age without adverse effects.

Authors' conclusions
Follow-up at 11–14 years of age of extremely prematurely born infants entered into a randomised trial of HFO versus CV has demonstrated significant differences in lung function in favour of HFO. There was no evidence that this was offset by poorer functional outcomes; indeed, HFO children did better in some school subjects. It will be important to determine whether or not these differences are maintained after puberty as this is the last positive effect on lung function.

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