Are Outcomes Affected by RBC Transfusion Thresholds in Patients on Venovenous Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation?



STUDY DESIGN

 Single-center, retrospective, observational analysis of 229 patients on venovenous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (VV-ECMO) in three different cohorts:

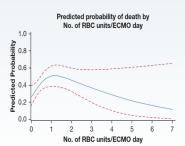
No threshold cohort (n=91)

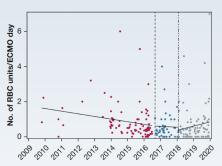
Hemoglobin < 8 g/dL cohort (n=48)

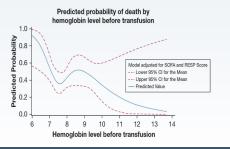
Hemoglobin < 7 g/dL cohort (n=90)

RESULTS

- Despite a decrease in transfusions over time, segmented regression showed no association between implementation of transfusion thresholds and changes in trends in number of RBC units/day
- Associations with clinical outcomes were mixed







Transfusion thresholds may lead to decreased RBC transfusions in patients on VV-ECMO, but further investigation is needed to determine if specific thresholds confer an overall mortality benefit.