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**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**A PROSPECTIVE CLINICAL STUDY HEATED HUMIDIFIED HIGH FLOW NASAL CANNULA  
VERSUS NASAL CONTINUOUS POSITIVE AIRWAY PRESSURE AS PRIMARY MODE OF  
RESPIRATORY SUPPORT FOR RESPIRATORY DISTRESS IN PRETERM INFANTS**

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**Manuscript Info**

**Abstract**

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**Introduction:-**

Respiratory distress syndrome is a major etiology of respiratory morbidity in preterm neonates with incidence of 37.28% [1].

Non-invasive ventilator strategies such as nasal continuous positive airway pressure (NCPAP) and early surfactant are known to reduce the lung inflammation and injury associated with mechanical ventilation (MV) [2].

Heated humidified high flow nasal cannula (HHHFNC) is a newer device for NIV that assists breathing by delivering positive distending pressure without clinical limitation of NCPAP [3].

HHHFNC has gained popularity in developed countries given its perceived benefits of ease of administration, user and baby friendly interface and less nasal trauma [4].

Hence the present study was undertaken to study the efficacy of HHHFNC in comparison with NCPAP as a primary mode of respiratory support in respiratory distress.

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**Objective:-**

To study the effectiveness of HHHFNC compared to NCPAP in reducing the need for mechanical ventilation within 72 hrs of life when used as a primary mode of respiratory support in preterm infants with moderate Respiratory distress.

**Material & Methods:-****Study Design:**

Prospective hospital based observational study.

**Study area:**

The present study was conducted in the department of paediatrics, M V J Medical College and Research Hospital, Hoskote, Bangalore, Karnataka.

**StudyPeriod:**

2months.

**Study population:**

Neonates fulfilling the inclusion criteria admitted during the study period.

**Sample size:**

study consisted a total of 22 cases.

**Sampling method:**

Simple Random sampling method.

**Inclusion criteria:**

Preterm infants between 28-34 weeks of gestation and more than 1000gms with mild to moderate RD (SAS score 4-6) within 6hrs of birth.

**Exclusion criteria:**

Infants with 5 mins APGAR score <5.

Nasal pharyngeal pathology like cleft lip or palate, choanal atresia.

Major congenital malformations.

Those antenatal detected congenital heart diseases.

**Study tools and Data collection procedure:**

Neonates fulfilling the inclusion criteria were readmitted during the study period.

Eligible neonates will be randomized to either HHHFNC/NCPAP group using computer generated table of random number.

Mild to moderate RD is defined as SAS score (3-6); Fio2 requirement <60% at initiation to maintain SP02 92-95% and arterial PH >7.2; PCO2 <60.

HHHFNC will be administered using RT329 infant oxygen therapy breathing circuit and MR850 humidifier (Fisher and Paykel healthcare) using short binasal prongs.

NCPAP will be delivered by bubble CPAP system (Fisher and Paykel healthcare) with MR850 humidifier using short binasal prongs as interface.

Infants diagnosed to have failed HHHFNC or NCPAP will be put on MV when they remained hypoxic (b) SAS score >6 (c) had recurrent apnea (>3 episodes within 24 hrs) (d) PH <7.2 (e) Paco2 >60 mmHg) required inotropic support.

**Results:-**

In our study, 50% of the study subjects were males and another 50% were females.

The distribution of sex according to mode of respiratory support also 50% in each group.

Male to females' ratio was 1:1 in our study. In our study, out of 32, in 28.1% (9) of the study subjects, primary respiratory support was converted into mechanical ventilation.

Among the conversion 37.5% (6) were in the CPAP group, whereas 18.7% (3) were in HHHFNC group.

The association was not statistically significant but larger proportion of CPAP group needed mechanical ventilation in our study.

**Statistical analysis:**

Data was entered into Microsoft excel data sheet and was analyzed using SPSS 22 version software. Categorical data was represented in the form of Frequencies and proportions. Chi-square test was used as test of significance for qualitative data. Normality of the continuous data, was tested by Kolmogorov–Smirnov test and the Shapiro–Wilk test. Independent t test was used as test of significance to identify the mean difference between two quantitative variables.

Graphical representation of data: MS Excel and MS word were used to obtain various types of graphs such as bar diagram.

p value(Probability that the result is true) of <0.05 was considered as statistically significant after assuming all the rules of statistical tests.

**Statistical software:**

MS Excel, SPSS version 22 (IBM SPSS Statistics, Somers NY, USA) was used to analyze data.

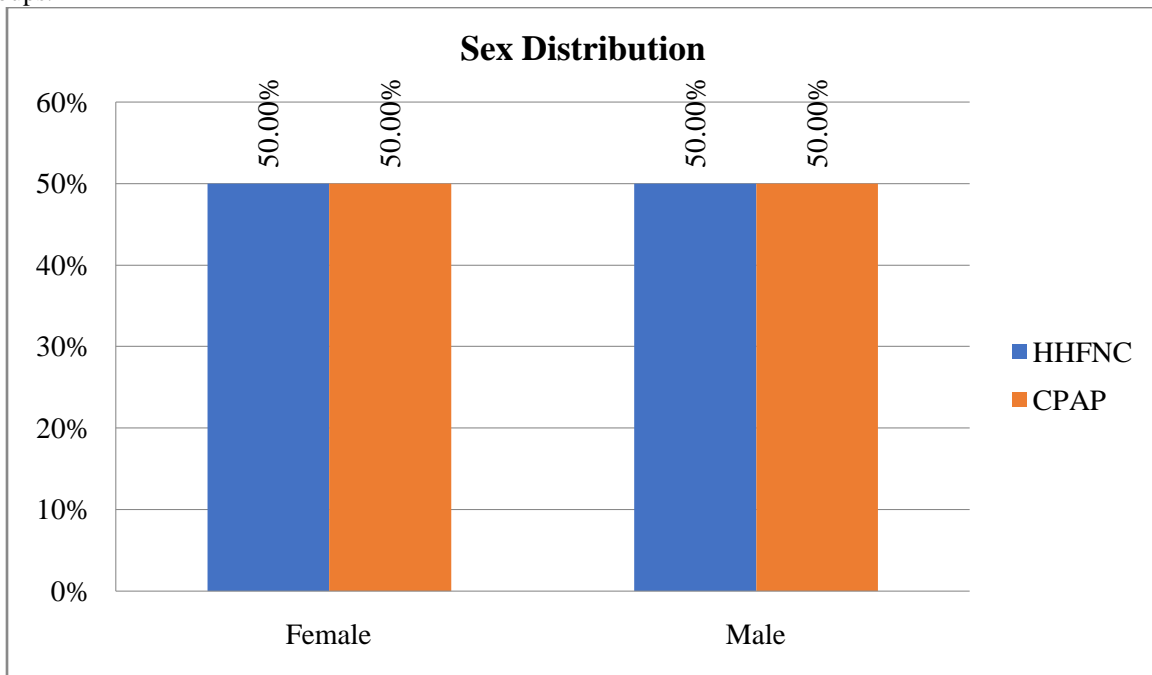
**Results:-**

**Table 1:-** Sex distribution comparison between two groups.

		Group			
		HHFNC		CPAP	
		Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %
Sex	Female	8	50.0%	8	50.0%
	Male	8	50.0%	8	50.0%

Chi-square = 0.000, df = 1, p value = 1.000

In both groups, 50% were males and females respectively. There was no difference in sex difference between two groups.



**Figure 1:-** Bar diagram showing Sex distribution comparison between two groups.

**Table 2:-** Period of Gestation comparison between two groups.

		Group	N	Mean	SD	P value
Period of Gestation	HHFNC		16	30.94	1.982	0.848
	CPAP		16	31.06	1.652	

Mean period of gestation in HHFNC group was  $30.94 \pm 1.982$  weeks and in CPAP group was  $31.06 \pm 1.652$  weeks. There was no significant difference in mean Period of gestation between two groups.

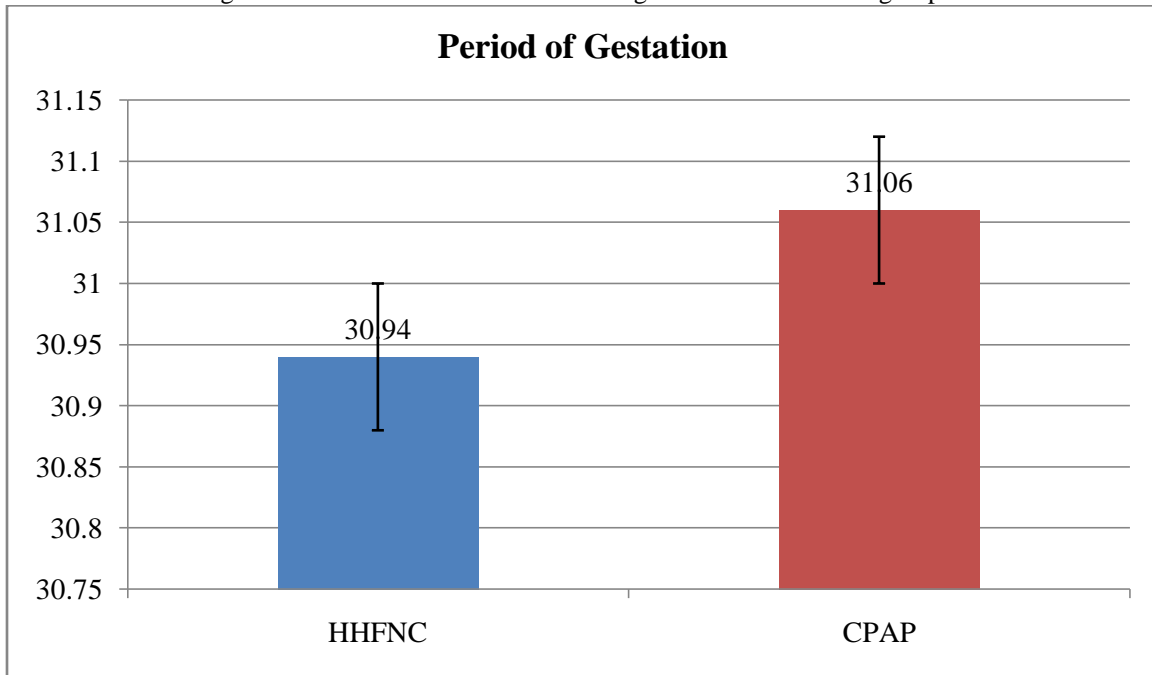


Figure 2:- Bar diagram showing Period of Gestation comparison between two groups.

Table 3:- Weight comparison between two groups.

	Group	N	Mean	SD	P value
Weight	HHFNC	16	1.89	0.28	0.863
	CPAP	16	1.90	0.28	

Mean weight in HHFNC group was  $1.89 \pm 0.28$  mts and in CPAP group was  $1.90 \pm 0.28$  mts. There was no significant difference in mean weight comparison between two groups.

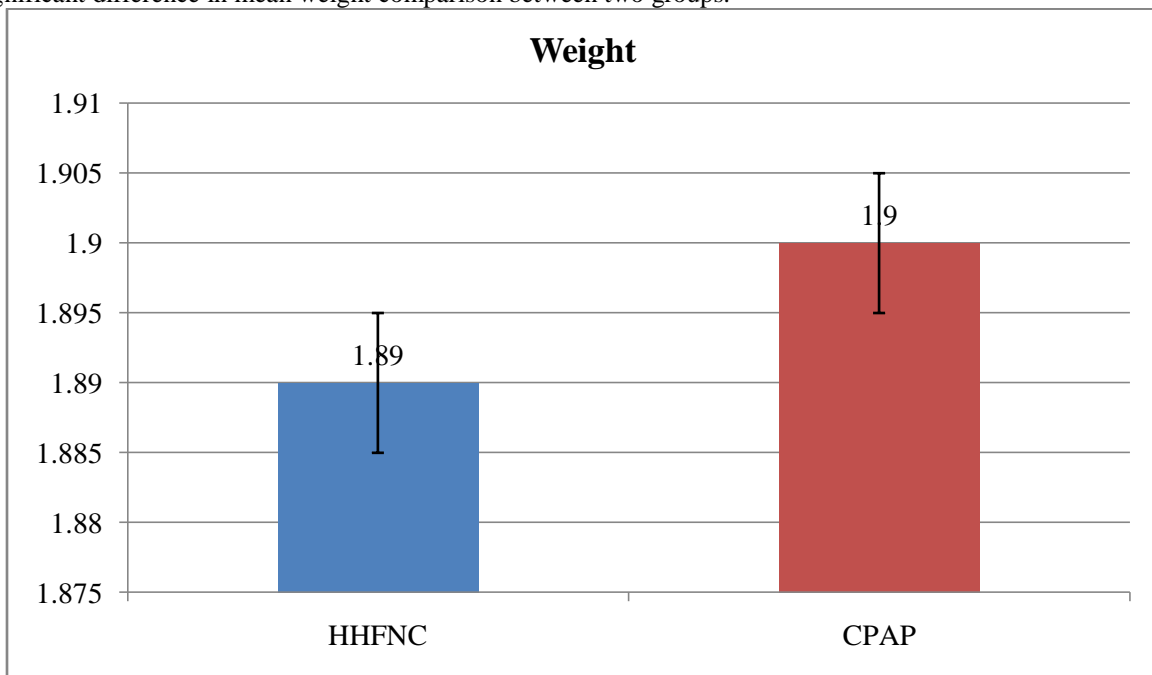


Figure 3:- Bar diagram showing Weight comparison between two groups.

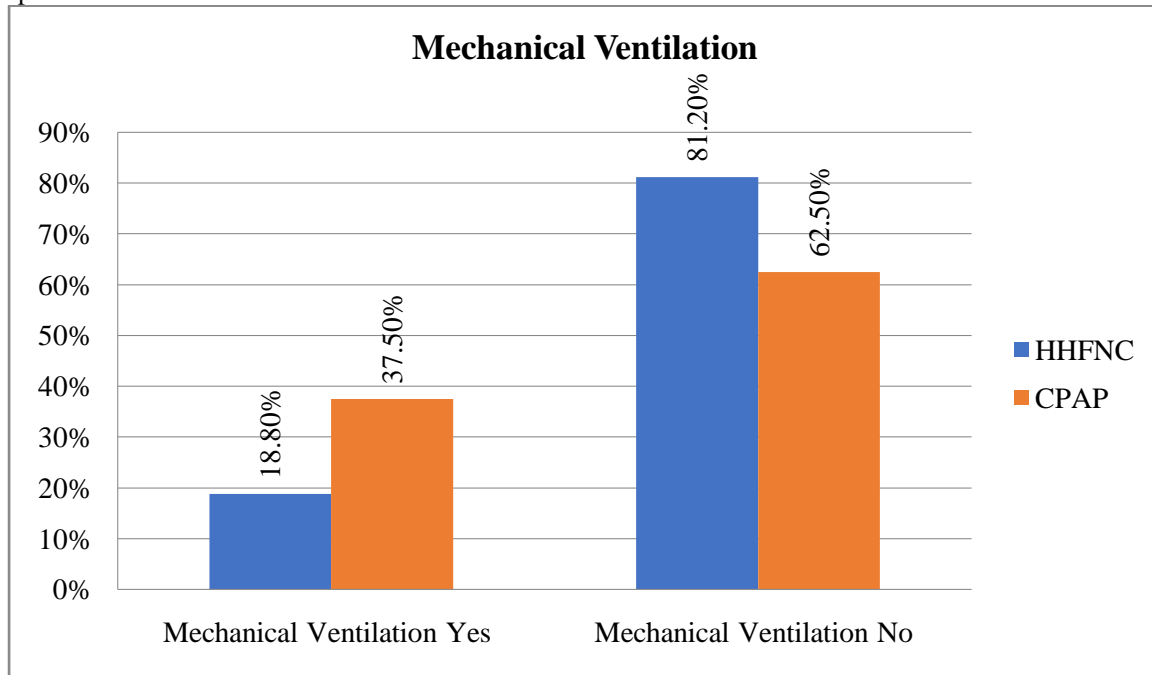
**Table 4:-** Mechanical Ventilation comparison between two groups.

		Group			
		HHFNC		CPAP	
		Count	Column N %	Count	Column N %
Mechanical Ventilation	Yes	3	18.8%	6	37.5%
	No	13	81.2%	10	62.5%

Chi-square = 1.391, df = 1, p value = 0.238

In HHFNC group, 18.8% required Mechanical ventilation and in CPAP group, 37.5% required mechanical ventilation. There was no significant difference in mechanical ventilation between two groups.

However need for mechanical ventilation was high in CPAP group compared to HHFNC group between two groups.

**Figure 4:-** Bar diagram showing Mechanical Ventilation comparison between two groups.**Conclusion:-**

From our study, it can be concluded that HHFNC as a primary respiratory support was the best respiratory support when compared to CPAP as less number of infants required the conversion into mechanical ventilation.

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