



Babies born prematurely who develop bowel problems, or babies who are born with a bowel blockage, may need emergency surgery...

To form a **stoma** (where the ends of the bowel are brought out of the body, allowing the baby to poo into a bag).

Stomas can be life-saving!



When is the best time to do this?
We don't know...



So a stoma will need to be closed with another operation.

But they can lead to problems such as the baby taking longer to grow, or the skin around the stoma becoming sore or damaged.

ToSCiN



Timing Of Stoma Closure In Neonates



asked:

would it be possible and practical to find out when is the best time to close babies' stomas by doing a **clinical trial** (dividing babies into two groups, closing one group's stomas at one time and the other group's at a different time, and seeing which group does better)?

Surveys

Focus groups

Interviews

Real-life babies' health data and progress

National data

Results

Parents and doctors agreed that this question is important and that a trial should be done

A trial comparing closure at six weeks after stoma formation to twelve weeks after stoma formation would **probably not be practical** to do



What might work: a trial looking at babies with a stoma formed as part of emergency care, **comparing:**



Closure at six weeks after stoma formation **With** The clinician waiting to close the stoma later

Where In all cases, the stoma is closed after the baby has passed 32 weeks gestational age

And looking at Which group of babies gains the most weight, or which group stays longest in hospital

