The Perinatal Research Repository

The Perinatal Research Repository (PRR) is conducted through the Ohio Perinatal Research Network (OPRN). The primary goal is to help future patients faced with the challenges typically associated with premature birth. These challenges could include Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD), learning delays, hearing and vision loss, and sometimes even death.

The PRR aims to be a centralized system to collect, store, and distribute clinical data and biospecimens to collaborating researchers. The primary objective of the PRR is to develop a database with the specimens and data collected; with the information collected, the OPRN hopes to find similarities between the data sets. These similarities will help researchers find better treatments and therapies for babies born prematurely, and their mothers. Treatments for conditions directly, and indirectly, related to prematurity will always be researched. This research is needed to enhance the quality of the treatments already available, and to find new treatments; these innovations will help improve the lives of those affected by premature birth.

The data for this repository comes from questionnaires, medical records, and biological specimens. Specimens may include blood, urine, a buccal (cheek) swab, tracheal aspirate, breast milk, cord blood, and placenta sections. The variety of samples collected, and number of samples collected, depends on when the participant is enrolled. Participants are enrolled from Nationwide Children's (NCH) NICUs, including those located at Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center (OSU) and Riverside Methodist Hospital (RMH). Expecting mothers can also enroll in the PRR from OSU's Preterm Birth Clinics and the Labor and Delivery Unit.

Mothers, infants, and fathers can all enroll in the PRR. The OPRN wants to gather as much information as possible to be able to provide for fellow researchers. Kids enrolled in the PRR through the NICU will be followed up with at around 3, 12, and 24 months of age to check on their development. This long-term data will help researchers be able to help kids as they grow up.

Thank you for your consideration in the PRR. Please contact us with any questions you may have.