

What Are the Barriers and Facilitators of Surrogate Decision-Makers Providing Consent for Critical Care Trial Enrollment?

STUDY DESIGN

- 20 surrogate decision-makers (SDMs) were interviewed on a median of the third hospital day (IQR 1-8)
- Interviews were 15 minutes in length (IQR 11.5-20.5)
- SDMs reported a range of positive and negative responses toward research that was categorized into 6 general themes

RESULTS

THEMES IDENTIFIED:



General attitudes: Positive or negative overall attitude



Motivation: Altruism, building knowledge, expanding treatment options



Concerns: Risk to the patient, research involvement impacting the disease, being assigned to placebo



Advice for researchers: Honest, easy to understand, face-to-face, provide time for enrollment



Medical team involvement: Medical update prior to research discussion, recommendation, decision-making on behalf of patient



Incentives: Mixed opinions; charitable donations and public recognition were viewed favorably

The study supports and extends previous findings that health system trust, study risks and benefits, altruism, knowledge generation, interference with clinical care, and placebos are key concerns and barriers for surrogate decision-makers to enroll patients in critical care trials.