

Sydney, Australia. 20 July, 2017.

NEW STUDY SHOWS BENEFITS OF CAFFEINE FOR PRE-TERM BABIES

Australian pharmaceutical manufacturer Phebra has welcomed the findings of a landmark new study which shows the sustained benefits of giving neonatal caffeine to pre-term babies suffering breathing difficulties.

Premature babies are at high-risk of experiencing recurring conditions like apnoea, where breathing is paused for more than 20 seconds and can be harmful to the development of a baby's brain, lungs and other vital organs. ¹

The research, led by the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne, followed the development of 142 premature babies, up until the age of 11. It showed that the rate of breathing difficulties was approximately halved for the pre-term babies who had been given caffeine once per day.²

Whilst Phebra was not involved in the study, the company has developed the high-quality products CAFNEA[®] (caffeine citrate) Injection and Oral Solution, approved by the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), with success for the short-term treatment of apnoea of prematurity in infants of gestational age 28 to less than 33 weeks.

Chief Executive Officer, Dr Mal Eutick, said Phebra was excited by the findings, which have been published in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

"It's the first-time research has clearly demonstrated the long-lasting effectiveness of treating premature babies with caffeine. Caffeine stimulates and helps regulate their breathing and importantly, it also reduces the risk of developing long-term respiratory problems as they get older," Dr Eutick said today.

"These findings strongly support Phebra's commitment to developing and supplying our high-quality caffeine based medicine CAFNEA[®] to treat apnoea. As the only TGA approved supplier of caffeine injections and oral solutions in Australia, Phebra is pleased that we are making a vital contribution in treating these harmful conditions in pre-term babies."

About Phebra

Phebra is an Australian based specialty pharmaceutical company which develops, manufactures and markets critical medicines in Australia and across the world.

At Phebra, we create critical medicines that save and improve lives.

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¹ Lee et al., 1997. *Population of Pharmacokinetics of Intravenous Caffeine in Neonates with Apnea of Prematurity*. Clin Pharmacol Ther 1997; 61:628-40.

² Doyle et al., 2017 *Neonatal Caffeine Treatment and Respiratory Function at 11 years in children <1251g birth weight*. American Thoracic Society.