Parents Not Informed of Risks

Researchers improperly experimented on premature babies. The parent consent form for oxygen-related research emphasized benefits and downplayed risks. Although blindness and death were possible, the only risk mentioned was skin irritation from the oximeter device. What also “wasn’t made clear to parents was that the study created two groups of babies with different treatments for which researchers expected different outcomes.”

And in fact, 20 percent of the babies died with lower amounts of oxygen compared to only 16 percent in the higher oxygen group. And 18 percent of the babies who got high oxygen experienced severe eye damage versus only 9 percent who got low oxygen. Parents never knew this could happen.