PERCEPTIONS OF AIRWAY GENE THERAPY FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS

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Background
❖ Airway gene therapy has the potential to produce a lasting therapeutic benefit for cystic fibrosis (CF) lung disease
❖ Both patient and public support is critical for the successful adoption of this new technology.
❖ Aim: to examine the perceptions towards airway gene therapy for CF among people with CF, their families, and people not affected by CF.

Methods
❖ Quantitative online survey.
❖ Measures of: experience with CF, perceptions of health, knowledge of current treatments, knowledge of gene vectors, potential benefits and harms of gene therapy, and the acceptability of different treatment regimens.
❖ Preliminary data has been collected from 128 participants (107 female, 21 male).
  ❖ 18 participants have a diagnosis of CF (M_age = 32.89, SD = 10.92, range 14-48).
  ❖ 73 participants have a family member with CF (i.e., child, sibling).
  ❖ 24 participants know someone with CF.

Current Findings
❖ 65% of the sample believe they have ‘quite a bit of knowledge’ about treatments for CF in general and 71% of had heard about gene therapy.
❖ Close to 60% of participants hope that gene therapy will be able to provide a cure for the disease.
❖ 64% would be willing to consider consenting to take part in a gene therapy trial.

Discussion
❖ Overall people have positive opinions about airway gene therapy for CF.
❖ Understanding the views of the CF community regarding gene therapy will provide researchers with important insights in to how to best target potential treatment.
❖ Further education for the community about gene therapy is vital.

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