

Clinical Background

Skin-to-skin contact between baby and mother immediately after birth is widely recognised as important for both mother and child, with the first hour being particularly valuable. This initial period is considered to promote better cognitive, motor and emotional development for the newborn infant. Studies have conclusively shown that uninterrupted skin-to-skin contact delivers advantages for both mother and baby.

For the baby, skin-to-skin contact improves temperature regulation, decreases stress and helps with the breast-feeding process^{1,2,3}. It has also been shown to have a positive impact on cardio-respiratory stability, sleep patterns, neurodevelopment outcomes, pain responses and length of hospital stay^{1,2}.

The Benjamin Care range of products have been designed to support developmental care practice and were conceived and designed by a neonatal intensive care nurse with many years of experience after her son was born prematurely at 25 weeks' gestation.

Skin-to-Skin Nursing at Birth



The HugMee support sling was developed specifically to facilitate and promote skin-to-skin contact in the period immediately after birth. The product design takes into account the particular needs found after Caesarean section delivery.

The HugMee is fully adjustable, allowing the baby to be positioned appropriately, promoting optimum skin-to-skin contact and ensuring that the newborn infant is kept warm and secure. Two openings in the sling allow the insertion of hands to touch the baby, whilst a foot pocket assures safety and security and a cut-away in the back allows access for any lines or monitoring leads.

Kangaroo Care

The Benjamin Kangaroo Sweater is designed to make it easier to provide kangaroo care for babies after the initial post-delivery period and is suitable for use in the NICU, SCBU, nursery and post-natal ward.



The Kangaroo Sweater has a range of practical features that keep the baby secure whilst allowing the parent freedom of movement. Special openings in the Sweater allow the parent to touch their infant, whilst mirrors built into the sleeves ensure that the parent can see the child's face. Provision is made for probes, respiration tubes, delivery lines and monitoring equipment cables to ensure that even babies needing intensive support can still benefit from kangaroo care.

Nests & Supports

The Benjamin ComfyNests offer a reassuring environment for babies whilst the ComfyStar, ComfyKiss and Comfy head support help with positioning and comforting. The products were developed with NIDCAP specialists to help deliver best developmental care practice.



Research has shown that the boundary provided by a nest has a positive effect on a baby's respiration, reducing stress and promoting better sleep patterns and neurological development¹. Nests also help an infant's thermoregulation, which stimulates better growth^{1,2,3}. The ComfyNest was specifically designed to suit premature and low birth-weight babies and is available in two sizes to suit babies with weights ranging from 500g to 2.5kg.



The ComfyNest, with the associated accessories, can be used to help position infants, including a mid-line orientation to promote hand-mouth and hand-hand contact. The smooth and flexible inner section allows the user to quickly and easily adjust the size to suit each individual patient and has non-slip material on the base to avoid unwanted movement of the baby. Four straps provide comfort and support to the baby and help to maintain its position; they can be applied either straight across the nest or in a cross-over orientation.

The Comfy head support is designed to help with positioning in order to avoid head preference and subsequent complications such as plagiocephaly. It can also be used to support the baby's head, for example when on CPAP. The Comfy head support can be easily moulded to each individual patient and comes in two sizes to cater for preemies up to term babies.



The ComfyStar can be used to support or provide reassurance for the infant by placing it under or against different parts of the body. It is soft and easily manipulated, including folding to reduce size for smaller pre-term babies. The outer material can be wiped clean and comes with a removable soft, washable, fast-drying cover.

The material used in the products is an advanced technical textile which is soft, stretchy and breathable to ensure the baby is safe and comfortable. It is washable at high temperature (up to 90°C), for infection control.

All the nests and supports are manufactured with an outer material that can be wiped clean. They are supplied with outer covers made in a soft, washable material. The advanced cover material dries four times faster than cotton and is colour-fast, shrink resistant and odour-free.

For ordering information please contact us, details below.

References

1. Jefferies A. Kangaroo care for the preterm infant and family. 2012. Paediatr. Child Health, Vol. 7, No. 3.
2. Hall D, Kirsten G. Kangaroo Mother Care - a review. 2008. Transfusion Medicine, Vol. 18.
3. Blois M. Hold me close: encouraging essential mother/baby physical contact. 2007. Published in: Practices in the Behavioral Management of Health from Preconception to Adolescence, pp108-132.