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Parafricta® develops Baby Nest to protect skin of pre-term Neonates

APA Parafricta Ltd has announced today that it is adding more skin protecting products to its portfolio.

The products were developed with input from the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit [NICU] staff at St. Peter's Hospital in Chertsey and two other NICUs in the UK.

Neonate on Parafricta Baby Nest at St. Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, UK.

George Sampson, CEO of APA Parafricta, commented "We were glad to help the NICU at St. Peter's when they approached us suggesting the low-friction properties of Parafricta would be beneficial to their pre-term infants, with very fragile skin. Our products have been used to help protect the fragile skin of babies and children suffering from Epidermolysis Bullosa and the extension of use to include this group is natural"

The problem occurs in pre-term infants is due to the skin barrier being immature and only two to three layers thick. The thinness of the barrier layer leaves the pre-term neonate with a decreased ability to withstand mechanical forces of friction.

The Parafricta® NICU Baby Nest and the Parafricta® NICU Baby Sheet are constructed using the unique low-friction properties of Parafricta® fabric, which is placed so as to be in contact with the skin. This protects the vulnerable, thin-layered skin of the neonate from breakdown.

Parafricta®, a UK-based high tech company, has developed scientifically and clinically tried and tested products including its proprietary P*f* Fragile Skin Protection System™. The high-tech, space age Parafricta® material can protect the skin and underlying tissue from breakdown to pressure ulcers – commonly known as bedsores. It is being used in undergarments, protective bootees, pillow cases, sheets, and a range of other products that protect the skin at the points of highest risk of skin breakdown.

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Information for Editors

APA Parafricta's patent-protected P*f* Fragile Skin Protection System™ is based on its Parafricta® Fabric, which is unique in that its friction coefficient is very low, with static and moving friction coefficients equal (so-called absence of "stiction" – this means absence of a jerk or "snatch" when one surface begins to move against another, which is the origin of damage to skin). In addition it is strong and durable, and when it becomes soiled it can be washed at high temperatures, essential in the healthcare setting, without altering its characteristics in any way. This combination is unusual for a fabric and is the basis of a series of products developed that will bring significant benefits to people with compromised skin – such as pressure ulcers and Epidermolysis Bullosa [EB] (EB is an inherited connective tissue disease causing blisters in the skin and mucosal membranes. As a result, the skin is extremely fragile. Minor mechanical friction or trauma will separate the layers of the skin and form blisters).
. In these conditions, the reduction of friction and shear achieved by Parafricta® achieves a significant reduction in damage at the skin surface and in underlying tissue. This benefit is key to achieving a reduction in pressure ulcer incidence as identified by NHS initiatives such as those from the Patient Safety Federation 'No Needless Skin Breakdown' [in tandem with the NHS National Patient Safety Agency and NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement], 'Zero Tolerance' initiative (Swansea) and NHS South Central 'Patient Safety Strategy 2009-2011', this points to the need and benefit of reducing pressure ulcer incidence and costs.

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