

The Parafricta® NICU Baby Nest

The NICU at St. Peter's Hospital in Chertsey contacted APA Parafricta with a problem – how could they incorporate the unique properties of Parafricta® into the Baby Nests that were used on the unit? They had heard of the skin protective benefits of Parafricta® being used to protect against skin breakdown in infants with Epidermolysis Bullosa, and in preventing pressure ulcers. The clinical staff wondered if this would help in the protection of the thin, delicate skin of a pre-term neonate.

The Problem

“As skin matures, the thickness of the stratum corneum increases. In the full-term infant this is a relatively well-developed barrier that may be 10 to 20 layers thick, as in the adult. However, in the pre-term infant (especially those younger than 30 weeks gestation) the barrier may be immature and only two to three layers thick. In infants younger than 24 gestational weeks, the stratum corneum may be non-existent. The thinness of the barrier layer leaves the pre-term neonate with... **a decreased ability to withstand mechanical forces of friction.**”¹

Therefore it is imperative to protect the neonate at this early stage from the destructive effects of friction from the surfaces which they are in contact with, which could lead to the breakdown of the skin with all the associated problems.



The Solution

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 of the neonate. This protects the vulnerable, thin-layered skin of the neonate from breakdown.

¹Maternal, fetal and neonatal physiology: a clinical perspective by Susan Tucker Blackburn

The benefits of Parafriкта® NICU Baby Nest

- The low friction and stiction characteristics of the fabric within the nest protect vulnerable neonatal skin from breakdown.
- The products can be washed a multiple of times without deterioration of performance or appearance, therefore ensuring value for money and quality of product.
- The Parafriкта® surface does not 'pill' or 'bobble' after washing, which gives a continuous smooth surface in contact with the neonatal skin.

In addition, the Parafriкта® NICU Baby Sheet, which has the same skin protective properties, can be used as a top or bottom sheet for the mattress in the incubator.



Product details

Product Code	Product Description	Dimensions	£ Price (excl VAT)
PFFNBN-001	Parafriкта® NICU Baby Nest	355mm (L) X 165mm (W)	39.99
PFFNBS-001	Parafriкта® NICU Baby Sheet	1060mm (L) X 740mm (W)	15.99

The Experience

After prototyping and testing at the NICU in Chertsey, the result is the Parafriкта® NICU Baby Nest. Caroline Atkins – one of the sisters on the NICU at St. Peter's evaluating the products – commented: "After our team approached Parafriкта and began working with them on the incorporation of the low friction properties of Parafriкта into a baby nest design, we have found the product to be smooth and protective for the neonate skin, and durable when washed".

Ordering

Online: www.parafriкта.com

Call: 0800 043 1412

Email with purchase order number to:
info@parafriкта.com

Protect against friction and shear on skin.

Low coefficient of friction and absence of 'stiction' means low skin damage.*

*Definition of Stiction: The increased force needed to overcome the tendency of skin to stick to a surface before sliding.

Explanation: "Stiction" (an abbreviation of "static friction") is the threshold of force, measured relative to the dynamic, frictional force, required to overcome the static cohesion between two surfaces, i.e. the excess force required for skin to overcome its traction and glide over a surface when a patient moves or is repositioned. Stiction is a threshold, not a continuous force, so this buildup results in a tug, or jerk to the skin.