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An assessment tool for infants requiring nasal CPAP and high flow O₂

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Nasal CPAP and high flow devices have the potential to cause tissue break down if used incorrectly. In an effort to prevent nasal excoriation/scaring and tissue break down, an assessment tool was implemented within the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, UK. On an hourly basis the infants' nares are scored and the score is documented on the Infants' intensive care record chart. This unique visual assessment tool is a simple staging system that when used together with the nCPAP and high flow competency serves as a strategy for prevention and treatment to this iatrogenic and cutaneous event. Following an extensive and scrutinized literature search involving Pub Med and CINHALL this assessment tool has been published in peer reviewed journals relating to the care of the neonate. The author is currently assisting other managed neonatal networks in the England in implementing this tool through presentations at conferences and attending individual neonatal units to support senior nurses in implementing this work. The author has recently presented this assessment tool at an international conference in the Philadelphia, USA.

Biography

Sue Lamburne has completed her Registered General Nurse Training in 1988. In 1990, she obtained her Special and Intensive Care of the Newborn qualification and has since worked within Neonatal Units in England and Bermuda. She has been a Research Nurse to two multicenter randomized controlled trials, DRIFT and TOBY. She is currently Sister/Team Leader in the NICU at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, UK. She has published articles in peer reviewed journals relating to the care of the newborn.

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