

Facts About 3M™ Bair Hugger™ System

The 3M™ Bair Hugger™ warming system provides hospitals and clinicians with a safe and effective way to warm patients during surgery. Based on proven, scientific results, the Bair Hugger system contributes to infection prevention and improved surgical outcomes while also fostering a positive patient experience.

This clinical success provides orthopedic surgeons, anesthesiologists and perioperative nurses with the peace of mind that they are using a best-in-class device that has been trusted by leading hospitals and providers for more than 25 years.

The Standard in Patient Warming

- The Bair Hugger system is the standard of care for maintaining patient normothermia, a key component of infection prevention during surgery. Found in more than 80 percent of U.S. hospitals, the Bair Hugger system is used by 8 of the top 10 orthopedic facilities according to the 2016 U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals rankings.ⁱ
- The Bair Hugger system is an indispensable component of surgical care. Since 1987, more than 200 million patients have been safely supported by the Bair Hugger system before, during or after surgery.

A Critical Component of Infection Prevention

- Normothermia is an important tool in the fight against surgical site infections (SSIs).^{ii,iii,iv,v} Studies have shown that maintaining normothermia can decrease SSI rates;^{vi} shorten the length of hospital stays;^{vii} and contribute to reduced blood loss^{viii} and transfusion requirements.^{ix}
- Prewarming with the Bair Hugger system has also been shown to help prevent unintended hypothermia in patients, which can reduce the rate of complications.^x
- Quality initiatives, including the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) and the Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP), and professional organizations such as the Association of PeriOperative Registered Nurses (AORN), the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) and the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPAN), all note the important role of normothermia maintenance in SSI reduction.^{xi,xii}

Ensuring Safe Surgical Settings

- The Bair Hugger warming system is safe and effective, with numerous studies supporting that the use of a convective or forced-air warming (FAW) system does not lead to an increased risk in surgical site infections (SSIs).^{xiii,xiv}

- Additional Studies have shown that FAW systems pose no risk for nosocomial infections,^{xv} do not cause a clinically relevant increase in bacterial distribution near the patient,^{xv, xvi} nor contaminate or increase the bacterial counts in the sterile surgical field.^{xvi}
- The 2013 International Orthopedic Consensus Meeting on Periprosthetic Joint Infection and the ECRI Institute concluded that there is insufficient evidence of FAW systems leading to an increase in SSIs.^{xvii,xix}
- Flow visualization techniques demonstrate that the airflow from Bair Hugger blankets has no significant effect on operating room airflow,^{xx,xxi,xxii} nor does it disrupt laminar flow or compromise the protection of the surgical site.^{xxiii}

The Bair Hugger system is an indispensable component in the care of surgical patients and the most utilized patient warming product in the country, with more published studies than any other patient warming modality. Please access the 3M™ Bair Hugger™ System Research Compendium for a comprehensive summary of the published research involving the Bair Hugger system.

References:

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