



The importance of warming surgical patients during the COVID-19 pandemic

May 2020

An optimized core temperature helps support patient resistance to infection. Maintaining normal body temperature provides valuable benefits to surgical patients, including reducing the risk of surgical site infections, reduced mortality, fewer postoperative cardiac events, reduced blood loss, faster recovery times and shorter length of hospital stays for patients.¹

Hypothermia can be avoided when temperature is monitored and an active warming measure is instituted throughout the perioperative process — starting before the induction of anesthesia.

The 3M™ Bair Hugger™ warming system provides hospitals and clinicians with a safe and effective method of keeping patients warm before, during and after surgery. An overwhelming number of studies and medical organizations, based on proven and scientific results, support the use of a convective warming system for maintaining patient normothermia.

Many healthcare organizations around the world have published recommendations or guidelines emphasizing the importance of maintaining normothermia. According to a recent communication from AORN (Association of periOperative Registered Nurses), “Forced air warmers may be used during surgical procedures in COVID-19 positive patients to decrease the risk of hypothermia.”²

If you have questions or comments, please contact 3M Customer Service at 1-800-441-1922 or call your local 3M sales representative.

1. Sessler DI. Perioperative thermoregulation and heat balance. *The Lancet*. 2016;387(10038):2655-2664.
2. AORN. Updated Clinical Information to Support Nurses & Healthcare Teams During COVID-19 Pandemic. <https://www.aorn.org/guidelines/aorn-support>. Published 2020. Accessed 5/19/2020.



Medical Solutions Division
2510 Conway Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55124

3M and BAIR HUGGER are trademarks of 3M company. Unauthorized use prohibited.
© 3M 2020. All rights reserved. 70-2011-7960-6