



## Bair Paws® Patient Adjustable Warming System Healthcare Professional Q&A

### How does the Bair Paws gown work?

- The Bair Paws system offers comfort and clinical warming options before, during and after surgery – all in one convenient product. There are two elements to the Bair Paws system: the warming gown itself and the warming unit. The warming unit blows warmed air through a hose that connects to the Bair Paws gown.
- The Bair Paws gown is worn like a traditional cotton patient gown; patients put it on and tie at the neck and waist. However, the Bair Paws gown is different from traditional cotton gowns. There are three hose ports; two on the lower end of the gown and another over the left shoulder. The Bair Paws warming unit hose connects to one of the lower ports. Air flows into the gown through tiny perforations in the gown's air channels. The air temperature is adjusted by turning the knob on the hand-held temperature controller. In the OR, a Bair Hugger 500 or 700 series warming unit can be connected to the shoulder port or the second lower port for clinical forced-air warming.

### When is the Bair Paws warming gown used?

- The Bair Paws gown can be used throughout the perioperative process – including the operating room. When connected to a Bair Paws warming unit, the gown can be used before surgery for prewarming and comfort warming and after surgery to help maintain patient comfort. In addition, the gown is fully compatible with our Bair Hugger® warming units for the most demanding clinical needs of the OR and PACU.
- The Bair Paws gown also can be used anytime a patient gown is needed.

### Why is the Bair Paws gown an effective prewarming tool?

- Unlike traditional warm cotton blankets that lose heat quickly, the Bair Paws system actively warms with a continuous flow of warmed air. This eliminates the need for piles of traditional cotton blankets, meaning fewer trips to the blanket warmer and more time to spend on patient-care matters.
- In addition, recent studies suggest that forced-air warming may result in a reduction in the perioperative anxiety of the surgical patient. Forced-air warming is widely accepted as the most effective method of warming patients.
- Last but not least, the Bair Paws gown provides the surgical team with immediate access to a convenient, ready-to-use warming option without the hassle of extra prep work and supplies. That means patients undergoing shorter procedures who wouldn't typically be warmed during surgery can now easily enjoy the benefits of forced-air warming.

## How do I know if the warming gown is working?

- After the warming unit hose has been connected to the gown and the unit has been turned on, the patient will feel air moving through the gown. The gown will inflate as air fills the air channels. For comfort-warming patients, after the temperature on the hand-held controller is adjusted, the gown's air temperature will change accordingly within a few minutes.

## Can the gown be used with cotton blankets or sheets?

- Cotton blankets or sheets can provide additional warmth to areas not covered by the gown, such as the lower legs and feet, or offer patients additional coverage for modesty's sake. Blankets or sheets should be laid across the top or outside of the gown so the airflow holes near the skin are not blocked.

## How is the hose disconnected from the gown?

- If the patient needs to move around in the pre-op area, you or the patient can easily disconnect the hose from the gown. First, turn the knob on the temperature controller counter-clockwise to OFF. Then just squeeze and hold the two buttons on the sides of the hose nozzle while you remove the hose from the gown's hose port. To reconnect the hose, squeeze the two buttons again and insert the hose nozzle into the hose port.

## How can I tell if the Bair Paws system is making a difference with my patients?

- Temperature management ranks at the top of patient concerns according to a 2003 survey that found warmth to be the most cited patient comfort complaint.<sup>1</sup> Reducing patient concerns means satisfied patients, and satisfied patients can boost the bottom line.
- To better judge the satisfaction of your patients regarding the Bair Paws system, contact your Arizant Healthcare representative for assistance in implementing a Patient Satisfaction Survey.

1. Wilson, Linda; Kolkaba, Katharine. Practical Application of Comfort Theory in the Perianesthesia Setting, *Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nursing*, June 2004; 164-173.

## Can a patient safety strap be used with the Bair Paws gown?

- When the use of a safety strap is necessary, Arizant Healthcare's guideline is that the safety strap should be used between the patient and the Bair Paws gown.
- Since we cannot predict or know the various circumstances in which a strap may be used, or even the types of straps that may be used, we rely on the clinician's judgment as to the appropriateness of any particular positioning or use of the product. We offer the following observations:
- Placing a safety strap over the Bair Paws gown may occlude the air channels, potentially decreasing the effectiveness of warming therapy.
- When air channels are significantly occluded, higher inner channel air pressures are created and can impede the effective movement of warm air through the non-occluded areas of the gown. This may result in a decrease of the delivered air temperature and a reduction in the effectiveness of warming therapy.
- Please refer to the Instructions for Use provided with each Bair Paws gown for additional information.
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## **Is there a possibility that the gown could become uncomfortably warm?**

- A comfortable temperature is a matter of personal preference. If the patient is feeling too warm, turn the knob counter-clockwise on the temperature controller to a cooler setting until the airflow feels more comfortable. Airflow can be stopped completely by turning the knob counter-clockwise to OFF. To resume airflow, turn the knob back to a setting that is comfortable for the patient.
- If the patient is being clinically warmed, the clinician can adjust the temperature on the Bair Hugger warming unit.