

Use of the Fetal Pillow® at Full Dilatation Caesarean Section is Not Associated with Reduced Neonatal Morbidity: A Retrospective Cohort Study in Aotearoa New Zealand

Lynn Sadler^{1,2}, Thea Baillie-Bellew³, Amanda Harvey², Robin Cronin⁴, Erena Browne⁵, John Thompson², Chris McKinlay^{2,4}, Jane Alsweiler^{1,2}, Meghan Hill^{1,2}

¹Te Whatu Ora Auckland ²Department of O&G, University of Auckland ³Auckland University of Technology ⁴Te Whatu Ora Counties Manukau ⁵Te Whatu Ora Waikato

BACKGROUND

Caesarean Section with impacted fetal head represents an obstetric emergency with serious morbidity
The Fetal Pillow® is a head elevation device marketed to reduce morbidity at Full Dilatation Caesarean Section.

AIM

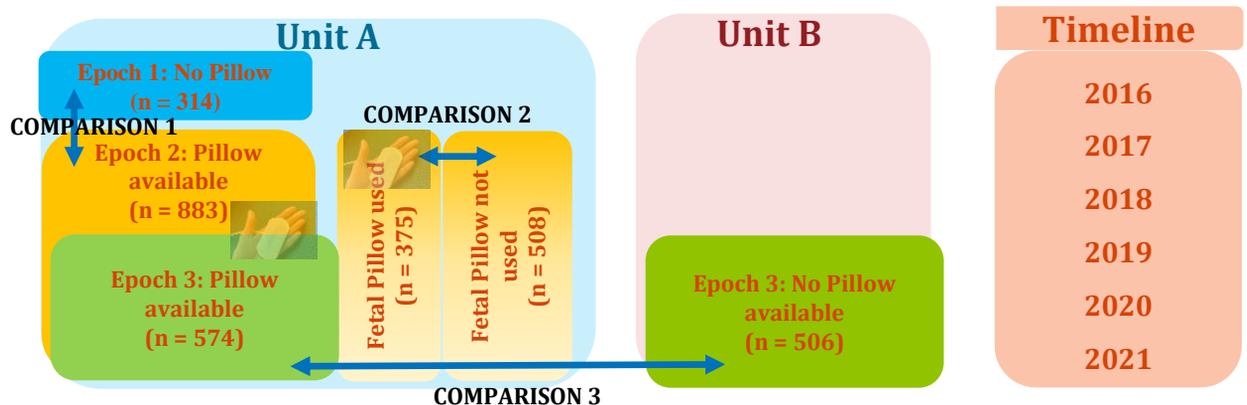


Does the Fetal Pillow® reduced neonatal morbidity at Full Dilatation Caesarean Section (FDCS)?

METHODS



Retrospective cohort including term cephalic singleton births at FDCS from 2016-2021 at two tertiary units.
Composite neonatal outcome = any of perinatal death, hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy, neonatal intensive care admission ≥ 48 hours, seizures, birth trauma



FINDINGS



	COMPARISON	N		Neonatal composite		Unadjusted FP v No FP		Adjusted*	
		FP	No FP	FP %	No FP %	OR	95%CI	OR	95%CI
Epoch 2 v 1: Unit A	1	883	314	4	4	1.0	0.6,2.0	1.1	0.6,2.1
Epoch 2: Unit A	2	375	508	5	4	1.2	0.6,2.4	1.0	0.5,2.0
Epoch 3: Unit A v B	3	574	506	5	7	0.7	0.4,1.2	0.7	0.4,1.4



*Adjusted: maternal age, BMI, ethnicity, birthweight, gestation, parity, previous CS, station, attempted operative vaginal birth, category 1 CS, length 2nd stage

SUMMARY

In this large retrospective cohort study there was no association between use of the Fetal Pillow® and neonatal benefit.

Further well-designed trials are required.