New Independent Clinical Study Reveals Waterwipes® Reduces Incidence and Shortens Duration of Diaper Dermatitis in Premature Babies

Published in Advances in Neonatal Care, 'A Quality Improvement Approach to Perineal Skin Care'[1] is the first independent clinical study in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) to show that WaterWipes® are well tolerated by both term and preterm infants, including in those less than 30 weeks gestation.

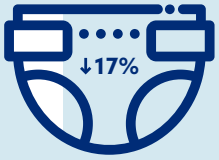
Standardizing perineal skin care guidelines

All infants, and particularly those born prematurely, have a less effective skin barrier function compared to that of older children and adults; DD therefore remains prevalent in many NICUs.[2] Prior to implementation of the Perineal Skin Care Guidelines, the University of Utah's NICU reported a high DD incidence of 46%.

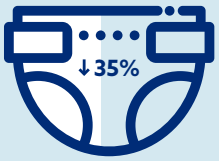
Many NICUs lack a standardized approach to perineal skin, which can result in underestimations in the prevalence of DD, challenges in monitoring improvements in care and varying use of cleansing methods and products. DD has been shown to cause emotional and physical distress in premature infants[3] and can also lead to an increased risk of infection.[4]

As part of Utah Hospital's clinical study, a multidisciplinary quality improvement team was formed within the NICU to identify neonatal risk factors for DD – reviewing skin care guidelines and compiling interventions. Following the development of new Perineal Skin Care Guidelines, the team began implementing changes, educating staff, tracking progress and monitoring compliance.

The study of 1,070 premature babies revealed that use of WaterWipes, along with implementation of new perineal skin care guidelines resulted in:



Reduced overall diaper dermatitis incidence in premature babies by **17%**



Reduced severe diaper dermatitis incidence in premature babies by **over a third**

Shortened duration of **severe diaper dermatitis** in premature babies by **more than half***

3.5 days per 100 patient-days

"Diaper dermatitis (DD) is a major issue for infants in the NICU; leading to increased medical costs, risk of infection and emotional distress for both babies and parents," says Misty Williams, NICU Advanced Practice Partner, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Arkansas, US.

"The reduced incidence and duration of DD in the NICU at the University of Utah Hospital is a great accomplishment for the team. It provides a best in practice case to inspire other NICUs to review current management of DD, use of baby wipe products and to implement guidelines to help improve perineal skincare outcomes and maintain skin integrity for premature babies' delicate skin."

The results of the Utah study mirror the findings of a recent clinical study of 698 full-term babies. The Baby Skin Integrity Comparison Survey (BaSICS)[5] and Utah study both show that babies cleansed with WaterWipes had a reduced incidence and shorter duration of DD.

WaterWipes are gentle on the most sensitive skin

Research demonstrates cleansing perineal skin with diaper wipes that are free of potential irritants such as alcohol, fragrance and soap can be more beneficial than using cloth and water and can help to reduce skin irritation.[6,7]

WaterWipes have been specifically developed to be purer than cotton wool and water while offering the convenience of a wipe. Containing just two ingredients, 99.9% high purity water and a drop of fruit extract, they provide gentle cleansing for the most delicate newborn skin and even premature babies' skin.

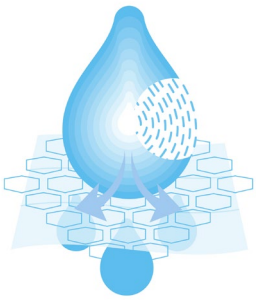
WaterWipes are purer than cotton wool and water*

Cotton wool and water*

Water
Impurities and other minerals

Cotton wool
Detergents and impurities

***cooled boiled water**



WaterWipes

7 step purification process
Removes impurities, softens and purifies the water

Fruit extract
Helps maintain skin integrity

WaterWipes are recommended by midwives and other healthcare professionals worldwide and have become the preferred wipe for many Neonatal Intensive Care Units throughout the UK, Ireland, Portugal, US, Australia and New Zealand*

1. Rogers S, Thomas M, Chan B, et al. A Quality Improvement Approach to Perineal Skin Care: Using Standardized Guidelines and Novel Diaper Wipes to Reduce Diaper Dermatitis in NICU Infants. Adv Neonatal Care 2020. doi:10.1097/anc.0000000000000795 [Epub ahead of print] 2. Malik A, Witsberger E, Cottrell L, et al. Perianal dermatitis, its incidence, and patterns of topical therapies in a level IV neonatal intensive care unit. Am J Perinatol. 2018;35(5):486-493 3. Stamatas GN, Tierney NK. Diaper dermatitis; etiology, manifestations, preventions, and management. Pediatr Dermatol. 2014;31(1):1-7. 4. Pogacar MS, Maver U, Varda NM, et al. Diagnosis and management of diaper dermatitis in infants with emphasis on skin microbiota in the diaper area. Int J Dermatol. 2018;57(3):265-275. 5. Price AD, Lythgoe J, Ackers-Johnson J, et al. The BaSICS (Baby Skin Integrity Comparison Survey) Study: a prospective experimental study using maternal observation to report the effect of baby wipes on the incidence of irritant diaper dermatitis from birth to eight weeks of age. Pediatrics & Neonatology 2020. doi:10.1016/j.perneo.2020.10.003. [Epub ahead of print] 6. Blume-Peytavi U, Lavender T, Jenerowicz D, et al. Recommendations form a European roundtable meeting on best practice healthy infant skin care. Pediatr Dermatol. 2016;33(3):311-321. 7. Visscher M, Odio M, Taylor T, et al. Skin care in the NICU patients: effects of wipes versus cloth and water on stratum corneum integrity. Neonatology. 2009;96(4):226-234.

*WaterWipes data on file