

Current best practice for patient warming during anaesthesia is to use a forced air warming (FAW) device. Our current setup was a completely passive system, comprising an electric blanket, additional standard blanket, and silver and bubble wrap for wrapping extremities. We wanted to improve our patient safety during anaesthesia by reducing peri-operative patient cooling. We chose to compare our current set up with the EICKEMEYER® EickWarm Air FAW system because the MOECK mats do not leak air like other models, keeping warm air within the blanket and minimising the potential for aerosolised bacteria. It is also licensed to be used with reusable blankets. We have been keenly aware of the environmental impact of disposables and have been looking for ways to reduce waste without compromising patient safety. Many alternative FAW systems rely on single-use blankets which create a lot of landfill waste.

Over the past month, we've been trialing the EICKEMEYER® EickWarm Air FAW System together with the reusable warming mats from MOECK. We liked the internal thicker mat made up of three separate layers. The meshed layers maintained circulation of air underneath the patient in contrast to other models where the blankets are completely flattened preventing air from circulating and resulting in a potentially higher heat loss to the table.

What we've learned

- Patient safety comes first:** Keeping patients warm and safe is always our priority. Comparing the pre-op temperature to the lowest peri-operative temperature for a patient, the EICKEMEYER® EickWarm Air together with the MOECK reusable warming mats resulted in almost no temperature drop (0.21 °C), compared to an average temperature drop of 1.9 °C using our previous passive system.
- Reusable mats work well:** The MOECK mats are effective, reusable, and easy to position under patients. They fit comfortably to the body and have been straightforward to clean between uses.
- Straightforward Integration:** The system has been easy to incorporate into our routine. It's quiet, quick to set up, and the additional temperature monitoring feature, which improves patient safety requires no set up at all because it is automatic.

Average drop in temperature

Difference in pre and peri-operative temperatures (in °C)



Conclusion

Switching to the EICKEMEYER® EickWarm Air and the MOECK reusable warming mats has been a positive change for us. It has not only achieved our goal of reducing perioperative temperature drop, it has done so in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Amy Wheeler

Clinical Director Highcroft CVS