

Clinical Data

RESOURCES

Fetal Pillow™ is intended to **elevate the fetal head and facilitate delivery of the fetus** in women requiring a cesarean section at full dilation or those requiring a cesarean section after a failed instrumental delivery. Fetal Pillow is indicated for use in gestational age ≥ 37 weeks.

In addition to the intended use to elevate the fetal head and facilitate delivery of the fetus, several peer-reviewed publications below have also studied clinical outcomes with the use of Fetal Pillow, as noted with check marks below. The check marks do not imply statistical or numerical significance.



If you have further questions about the clinical data or would like a deeper understanding of the evidence, **please contact your sales representative who will connect you with CooperSurgical Medical Affairs.**



CITATION	STUDY TYPE	Total Operative Time	Incision to Delivery Interval	Uterine Incision Extensions	Uterine Extension Severity	Blood Loss	Maternal Transfusion	Maternal Hospital Stay	Maternal ICU Admission	Composite Maternal Complications	Apgar Score	NICU Admission	Duration of NICU Stay	Arterial Cord pH	Neonatal Trauma	Usability or Ease of Use	Ease / Difficulty of Delivery
Cornwall J, Angelisanti S. The Fetal Pillow – a retrospective analysis of use and complications in the Lehigh Valley Health. LVNH Scholarly Works. Poster presented at SELECT Capstone. 2025.	Retrospective cohort study		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓		
Elbarbary N, Datta T, Viswanatha R, Jan H, Ganapathy R. Impacted head at caesarean-section, can the use of fetal pillow improve safety? <i>BJOG: International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> . 2023;130:118.	Retrospective cohort study			✓		✓		✓		✓	✓			✓			
Fung T, Fletcher R, Dalmia S, Simpson H. Does the availability of fetal pillow reduces complications in full-dilatation caesarean sections? <i>BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> . 2021;128(SUPPL 2):150.	Retrospective Case Note Review		✓	✓		✓						✓		✓			✓
Ganapathy R, Cole J, Castleman J, Raut N. Our experience in use of the fetal pillow - An innovative method to reduce morbidity in second stage caesarean section. <i>BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> . 2015;122:175.	Retrospective cohort study			✓			✓	✓	✓			✓					✓
Gopal G, Hg OH, Nicoll A. Does fetal pillow reduce maternal and neonatal morbidity in full dilatation caesarean sections in East of Scotland women: A comparative case control study. <i>BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> . 2018;125:45.	Comparative case control					✓		✓			✓		✓	✓			
Gopal G, Ng OH, Nicoll A. Fetal pillow in impacted fetal head: Number needed to show reduction in morbidity. <i>European Journal of Obstetrics Gynecology and Reproductive Biology</i> . 2019;234:e4–e5.	Retrospective cohort study	✓	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Hanley I, Sivanesan K, Veerasingham M, Vasudevan J. Comparison of outcomes at full-dilatation cesarean section with and without the use of a fetal pillow device. <i>Int J Gynaecol Obstet</i> . 2020;150(2):228–233.	Retrospective cohort study			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Hepburn R, McClenahan J, Huda S. Evaluation of the use of Fetal Pillow at full dilatation caesarean section. <i>BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> . 2017;124:69.	Prospective observational study		✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓		
Ho N, Artis K, Bagchi T. Maternal and fetal outcomes following the use of fetal pillows in fully dilated caesarean section. <i>Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> . 2019;59:43.	Retrospective cohort study			✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓		
Kalburgi S, Sahare A, Ikomi A. Initial experience with the fetal pillow in South West Essex and comparison with historical cohort of 2nd stage caesarean sections. Paper presented at: <i>BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> . 2015.	Retrospective cohort study			✓	✓	✓	✓					✓				✓	✓

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Kalburgi S, Oyekan E, Bagtharia S, Ikomi A. Impact of the fetal pillow device on maternal morbidity. <i>BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> . 2018;125:61.	Retrospective cohort study			✓	✓	✓										✓	
Lassey SC, Little SE, Saadeh M, et al. Cephalic Elevation Device for Second-Stage Cesarean Delivery: A Randomized Controlled Trial. <i>Obstet Gynecol</i> . 2020;135(4):879-884.	Randomized controlled trial	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Laverick B, Berg L, Chandrakumar D, Parisaei M. Outcomes of caesarean section at full dilatation, difficulty delivering the fetal head and the impact of the introduction of the fetal pillow. <i>BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> . 2019;126:134.	Retrospective cohort study					✓					✓			✓	✓		
Lila AA, Noureldeen R, Redfearn C. The Effect of Using a Fetal Pillow in Second-Stage Cesarean Sections on Fetal and Maternal Outcomes in Comparison to Other Usual Methods: A Retrospective Study. <i>Cureus</i> . 2025;17(4):e82158.	Retrospective cohort study			✓		✓		✓				✓		✓	✓		
Mufti NM, Thomas TT, Sircar SS. The fetal pillow (FP): A novel intervention to reduce maternal and fetal complications in caesarean sections at full dilatation (CSFD). <i>Archives of Disease in Childhood: Fetal and Neonatal Edition</i> . 2013;98.	Retrospective Study	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓			✓					✓
Papanikolaou N, Tillisi A, Louay L, Singh M, Ikomi A, Varma R. 0737 Reducing complications related to Caesarean section (CS) in second stage: UK experience in the use of fetal disimpacting system (FDS). <i>Int J Gynaecol Obstet</i> . 2009(107):S304.	Prospective study			✓		✓								✓		✓	✓
Rahim A, Cotzias T, Page L, Girling J. A retrospective analysis of fully dilated caesarean sections at West Middlesex Hospital. <i>BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> . 2018;125:70.	Retrospective cohort study			✓		✓											
Ronen M, Porat C, Betser M, Segev L. The Use of a Fetal Pillow Device at Full Dilatation Cesarean Delivery. <i>Pregnancy</i> . 2025;1(S1):112.	Matched retrospective cohort study				✓	✓		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		
Sacre H, Sharp A. Use of a fetal pillow in caesarean section at full dilatation – a comparative study of maternal and fetal outcomes. <i>BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> . 2019; 126 (S1): 93.	Retrospective cohort study					✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓			
Sacre H, Bird A, Clement-Jones M, Sharp A. Effectiveness of the fetal pillow to prevent adverse maternal and fetal outcomes at full dilatation caesarean section in routine practice. <i>Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand</i> . 2021;100(5):949-954.	Retrospective cohort study			✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		
Sadler LC, Thompson JMD, Alswelker JM, et al. Maternal and neonatal morbidity associated with Fetal Pillow® use at full dilatation caesarean: A retrospective cohort. <i>BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> . 2024a;131(9):1240-1248.	Retrospective cohort study	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		
Safa H, Beckmann M. Comparison of maternal and neonatal outcomes from full-dilatation caesarean deliveries using the Fetal Pillow or hand-push method. <i>Int J Gynaecol Obstet</i> . 2016;135(3):281-284.	Retrospective cohort study			✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓			
Sarkar P, Das S. Prospective study evaluating the role of fetal pillow in caesareans section at full dilatation in reducing maternal and fetal morbidity. <i>American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology</i> . 2018;218(1):S242.	Prospective observational study		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			✓		✓

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Singh M, Varma R. Reducing complications associated with a deeply engaged head at caesarean section: a simple instrument. <i>The Obstetrician & Gynaecologist</i> . 2008;10(1):38-41.	Pilot study														✓		✓
Tussey C, Ruck LB, McCluskey K, Wallen TT, Rigali K, Wolf MJ. How a Fetal Elevation Device Assists the Birth of a Neonate With a Deeply Impacted Head in the Pelvis. <i>Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing</i> . 2022;51(4):S58-S59.	Quality improvement project			✓		✓					✓					✓	
Zille-e-Huma, R., Haran, S., Mantovani, E et al. Maternal and perinatal morbidity following caesarean delivery at full dilatation of cervix. <i>Int J Gynaecol Obstet</i> . 2017;124(S2), 50	Retrospective cohort study			✓								✓		✓	✓		

* This study contains some off-label use of the device. If you would like to discuss this study further, please contact your sales representative who will connect you with CooperSurgical Medical Affairs.

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* Barman S, Chakraborty B, Saha S, Sahana R, Maity S, Roy D. Use of Fetal Pillow during cesarean section in deeply engaged head: a comparative study with Patwardhan's technique. <i>Indian Journal of Clinical Practice</i> . 2015;26(4):375.	Prospective interventional trial	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓				✓	✓
* Chooi KYL, Deussen AR, Louise J, Cash S, Dodd JM. Maternal and neonatal outcomes following the introduction of the Fetal Pillow at a tertiary maternity hospital: A retrospective cohort study. <i>Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> . 2023;63(3):360-364.	Retrospective cohort study			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
* Mufti N, Beaton L, Sircar S. Re-audit of the fetal pillow (FP): a novel intervention to reduce maternal and fetal complications at caesarean section at full dilation (CSFD). Paper presented at: <i>BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology</i> . 2015.	Re-audit, retrospective study	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓									✓
* Wyn Jones N, Mitchell EJ, Wakefield N, et al. Impacted fetal head during second stage Caesarean birth: A prospective observational study. <i>Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol</i> . 2022;272:77-81.	Prospective Observational Study			✓		✓			✓			✓		✓	✓		

In addition, the publications below consist of surveys, case reports, simulation studies, expert opinions, etc. which also include information on Fetal Pillow.

- Barbieri R. The Fetal Pillow: A new option for delivering the deeply impacted fetal head. *OBG Management*. 2020;32(7):8-11.
- Cornthwaite K, Bahl R, Lenguerrand E, Winter C, Kingdom J, Draycott T. Impacted foetal head at caesarean section: a national survey of practice and training. *J Obstet Gynaecol*. 2021;41(3):360-366.
- Cornthwaite K, Hewitt P, van der Scheer JW, et al. Definition, management, and training in impacted fetal head at caesarean birth: a national survey of maternity professionals. *Acta Obstet Gynecol Scand*. 2023;102(9):1219-1226.
- Cornthwaite K, Bahl R, Winter C, et al. Management of Impacted Fetal Head at Caesarean Birth (2025 Second Edition). Scientific Impact Paper No. 73. *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. 2025;0:1-27.
- Hanley SJ, Walker KF, Wakefield N, et al. Managing an impacted fetal head at caesarean section: a UK survey of healthcare professionals and parents. *Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol*. 2022;271:88-92.
- Johns KF, Yasir N, Khoo CL, Grivell R. Obstetrician opinion on the use of the C-snorkel and fetal pillow for the fully dilated caesarean section (FDCS). *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. 2018;125:93.
- *Jordan A, Herbert N, Rundle-Thiele D, Holland S, Wong A. Foetal Pillow associated uterine and bladder rupture. *J Obstet Gynaecol*. 2022;42(5):1551-1552.
- Martin A, Nzelu D, Briley A, Tydeman G, Shennan A. A comparison of techniques to disimpact the fetal head on a second stage caesarean simulator. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*. 2022;22(1):34.
- *Mumtaz H, Magro M, Kunal Rathod K. Two cases of posterior uterine rupture after foetal pillow use; do we need to think twice about using the foetal pillow. *J Gynecol Clin Obstet Reprod Med*. 2023;1(3):90-95.
- Romano G, Mitchell E, Plachcinski R, Wakefield N, Walker K, Ayers S. The acceptability to women of techniques for managing an impacted fetal head at caesarean section and of randomised trials evaluating those techniques: a qualitative study. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*. 2021;21(1):103.
- Romano G, Ayers S, Constantinou G, et al. The acceptability and feasibility of a randomised trial exploring approaches to managing impacted fetal head during emergency caesarean section: a qualitative study. *BMC Pregnancy Childbirth*. 2023;23(1):216.
- Sadler L, Cronin R, Browne E, Harvey A, Hill MG. Obstetrician views on Fetal Pillow® device use and research in Aotearoa New Zealand: A cross-sectional survey. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*. 2024b.
- van der Krogt L, Suff N, Story L, Shennan A. Management of impacted fetal head at caesarean section - Current practice and future development. *Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol*. 2025;307:170-174.
- Walker KF, Mitchell EJ, Ayers S, et al. Feasibility of a RCT of techniques for managing an impacted fetal head during emergency caesarean section: the MIDAS scoping study. *Health Technol Assess*. 2023;27(6):1-87.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Fetal Pillow is indicated to elevate the fetal head and facilitate delivery of the fetus in women ≥37 weeks gestation undergoing cesarean section at full dilation (with or without an instrumental delivery). The Fetal Pillow is contraindicated in the presence of an active genital infection. The safety and effectiveness of Fetal Pillow has not been established in the following: previous cesarean section, <37 weeks gestation, non-vertex presentation, Intrauterine Fetal Death, Pregnancy induced hypertension, Intrauterine Growth Retardation, diabetes, major congenital abnormalities, chorioamnionitis, and multiple gestations. For detailed benefit and risk information, please consult Instructions for Use. www.fetalpillow.com/instructions-for-use