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Project
Client
Time Period

Nasal masks for premature babies
EME Ltd (now owned by Viasys Healthcare)
1998



Introduction

The EME CPAP Nasal Masks are a comfortable, non-invasive interface for providing pre-term babies with what's referred to as Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP). Because the diaphragm muscles of pre-term babies are not yet strong enough, they often need help breathing.

Processes

- Psychological product experience evaluation
- Ergonomics
- Proof of concept prototyping
- Part Design and Engineering
- Development prototyping
- Testing

The Brief

The idea for the nasal masks came out of a research study carried out by the Brunel Institute for Bio-engineering, at the neo-natal care unit at St George's Hospital, Tooting.

It was found that nurses were finding it difficult to create an adequate seal using the existing CPAP nasal prongs. This sometimes led to nurses tightening the straps to try and improve the seal, which in some cases had led to irreversible damage to the babies' noses.