

CLINICAL EVALUATION ON RIBCAP PROTECTIVE HATS FOR FALL RISK PATIENTS

Ribcap is an effective AND stylish protective cap that patients can and do wear beyond the hospital setting.

Concept - Ribcap

We're dedicated to keeping you on the move.

We integrate our **unique shock absorbing foam** so that you have the same comfort as a premium beanie but you **keep your head safe!**

Our unique foam **absorbs the impact and keeps you comfortable and fashionable!**

The material from which the protectors are manufactured is a Swiss high-tech material. The protection material is certified with the „**Oeko-Tex Standard 100**“. This confirms that the material is free from pollutants and solvents (Test-Nr. ZHAO 053928).

Unique features:

- Protective
- Foldable
- Breathable
- Washable

Ribcap your head, protect your style!

CE 89/686/EEC

Attn: not the same protective effect like a helmet



Situation

Patient falls are the single largest category of reported adverse incidents in hospitals resulting in significant adverse outcomes and increased cost, and they continue to be a considerable challenge across the care continuum. One-third of all people over age 65 will fall in the next twelve months, and one third of those that fall will suffer some type of injury. Approximately 11,000 fatal falls occur in US hospitals every year, and by the year 2020, the annual direct and indirect costs for fall related care across all healthcare settings is estimated to reach \$47 billion. Brain injuries and injuries to the hips, legs and feet are both the most fatal and costly of fall injuries accounting for 78% of fatalities and 79% of fall related costs. While improvements have been made in reducing fractures from falls in the hospital setting, reducing head injuries has continued to be an issue in the hospital and all non acute settings.





UAMS Medical Center, Little Rock, AR

Staff Comments:

"We love these."

"We feel more comfortable letting our patients get up when they wear the Ribcap."

"Our patients are less irritable because we aren't telling them to sit down all the time."

"We finally have an alternative solution for head protection in our patients that refuse to wear helmets."

Patient Comments:

"I like this so much better than a helmet. I can wear this and no one knows its protecting my head. It just looks good."

"I wish I had a Ribcap earlier in my treatment."

"My Ribcap does everything. It covers up the hair I lost, keeps my head warm and protects me all at the same time."

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Challenge

Although there has been evolution of technology for head injury prevention for sports, little attention has been paid to evaluating the application of these technologies to promote better patient outcomes. **Medical helmets have been available for a number of years , but their use has been limited and compliance poor, as patients find them to be "unattractive", "uncomfortable" and feel they "draw negative attention"**.

Solution:

Designed with a viscoelastic impact polymer, Ribcap is a technologically advanced means of head protection hidden under a regular appearing cap. Unlike a helmet with a hard outer shell, this protective cap is made of a soft, pliable polymer that locks up on impact. Independent testing by **professor Rémy Willinger** from the **university of Strasbourg** (<http://www.physique-ingenierie.unistra.fr/spip.php?article63>) to evaluate the impact on diffuse axonal injuries and subdural hematomas has previously demonstrated that **Ribcaps provide "significant head protection and may prevent head trauma in a number of head impact situations"**. With IRB approval, Ribcap was tested in an acute care population to evaluate patient satisfaction and clinical impact.

Results:

Ribcap was implemented in a pilot area at the **UAMS Medical Center, Little Arkansas, US** (<http://uamshealth.com/>) in March of 2015.

Patients prioritized for using **Ribcap included those with: low platelet counts, anticoagulant therapy, unsteady gait, weakness and fatigue and chemotherapy**. Since initiation of the trial there have been no head injuries on the pilot unit. Patients and their families have been overwhelmingly complimentary of the Ribcaps and we have even observed patients returning for subsequent admissions still using their Ribcaps. Use of the Ribcaps is being implemented across the hospital and the clinical criteria for using Ribcap has expanded to any patient with a coagulopathy or those at risk for a fall that staff feel would benefit from having a padded cap.

