Caesarean Section at Full Dilation (CSFD) occurs in 2% of all births and is the most common cause of difficult delivery of the fetal head, which leads to significantly higher morbidity for mother and baby (1,2,3,4). Fetal Pillow is a simple device that consistently elevates the fetal head and reduces morbidity (5).
Fetal Pillow® is intended to elevate the fetal head and facilitate delivery of the fetus in women requiring a Caesarean Section at full dilation or those requiring a Caesarean Section after a failed instrumental vaginal delivery. Fetal Pillow is indicated for use at a gestational age ≥37 weeks.

**Simple**
Fetal Pillow is very simple to use. It is inserted during patient preparation and inflated with 180mls of saline to elevate the fetal head.

**Safe**
Fetal Pillow enables a gentle, consistent and controlled elevation of a deeply engaged head. It is designed to ensure safe and easy delivery of the fetal head.

**Effective**
Fetal Pillow reduces intra-partum and post-partum complications for mother and baby.\(^5\,^6,^7\).

---

A Randomised Controlled Trial of 240 patients shows significantly easier delivery of the fetal head and reduction in maternal morbidity when Fetal Pillow is used.

### Reduction in Maternal Morbidity\(^5\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fetal Pillow</th>
<th>No Fetal Pillow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blood loss &lt;1000ml</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood loss &gt;1000ml</td>
<td>21.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood transfusion</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reduction in Fetal Morbidity\(^5\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fetal Pillow</th>
<th>No Fetal Pillow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apgar score ≤3 at 5 mins</td>
<td>0.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NICU admissions &gt;24hrs</td>
<td>23.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Reduction in hospital resources used\(^5\)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fetal Pillow</th>
<th>No Fetal Pillow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating time (min)</td>
<td>32.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of stay (days)</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Author’s Conclusion**
When the Fetal Pillow is readily available in the labor ward and is used during CSFD, this has benefits for women in this emergency, for doctors who have to manage them, and for hospitals that have to cope with the emergency.\(^10\)
In the US, Childbirth Connection\(^{(10)}\) estimated a disproportionate rise in costs when performing a caesarean section with complications.

**Total cost with complications is $24,853**

Use of Fetal Pillow to manage the complications associated with CS at full dilation can deliver significant financial savings.

**COST IMPACT ANALYSIS: Full Dilation Caesarean Section with and without use of Fetal Pillow based on data from the randomised controlled trial\(^{(10)}\)**

![Cost Impact Diagram](image-url)

- Theatre use
- Bed use
- NICU Admission <24hrs'
- NICU Admission >24hrs'
- Blood transfusion
- Re-Laparotomy
- Consumable use

**Total Saving of $7,283 per patient\(^*\)**

100 Patients treated will result in:

- 35 hours of operating time saved
- 110 Hospital bed days saved

**References**