

Study pain relief and usage of the HEART HUGGER at home.

Location	Hospital Maria Middelaresse, Gent, Belgie
Period	September 2002 to March 2003
Number of patients	69
Department	nursery cardio-thoracic surgery
Coordinator	Dr R. Hamerlijnck, cardio thoracic surgeon
Main items	Painrelief, usage at home, period of using
Scale 1-10	1 = <u>completely disagree</u> 10 = <u>completely agree</u>

In the hospital:

Suggestion: During my stay in the hospital, Heart Hugger gave me pain relief during coughing..

ANSWER: 9

Suggestion: During my stay in the hospital, Heart Hugger gave me good support during coughing.

ANSWER: 9

Suggestion: During my stay in the hospital, Heart Hugger supported my chest well when changing positions in bed.

ANSWER: 8

At home:

Suggestion: At home Heart Hugger gave me pain relief during coughing

ANSWER: 9

Suggestion: At home Heart Hugger gave me pain relief when getting in/out of bed.

ANSWER: 8.5

Suggestion: At home Heart Hugger gave me pain relief when standing up from a chair.

ANSWER: 8

Suggestion: At home Heart Hugger gave me pain relief when getting in/out of the car.

ANSWER: 8

Suggestion: At home Heart Hugger gave me pain relief when climbing stairs.

ANSWER: 7.5

Suggestion: During respiration practise, Heart Hugger gave me pain relief.

ANSWER: 8

Suggestion: During revalidation practise, Heart Hugger gave me pain relief

ANSWER: 8

Period of use:

From the first day at home, patients could decide for themselves how long they wanted to wear Heart Hugger. The patients found the Heart Hugger helpful during; coughing, sneezing, moving, laughing, practising, standing up, climbing stairs.

From the first day, Heart Hugger was worn for an average time of 25 days.

See other side

Some remarks from patients during this study.

- "A perfect support for decreasing the pain" (26-12-2002)
- "Enormous support during coughing" (03-10-2002)
- "A sure help during moving" (28-12-2002)
- "A support that gives trust" (13-12-2002)
- "A good support to prevent from pain, easy to handle" (28-12-2002)
- "Great help" (13-12-2002)
- "Essential help" (14-11-2002)
- "A very good support and efficient help during 15-20 days after the operation. This evaluation is based on a double experience, April '99 and September 2002." (29-11-2002)
- "An essential device for after the operation" (13-09-2002)
- "A good invention, very helpful " (01-10-2002)
- "A simple help against all discomforts" (02-10-2002)
- "Very good device" (04-02-2002)
- "A good and helpful invention" (07-02-2003)
- "A pleasant help in difficult times" (20-01-2003)
"A great help, especially the first period after the operation and a period of coughing and sneezing" (31-01-2003)
- "A device that gave me a lot of comfort (10-12-2002)
- "Very great help in everything" (08-11-2002)
- "A good help during the revalidation period" (17-12-2002)
- "Very effective helping device" (29-11-2002)
- "An important support during the beginning of the healing process" (14-11-2002)
- "Helpful during sneezing" (08-10-2002)
- "A very special helping device" (26-10-2002)
- "Very good developed and made" (16-12-2002)
- "A great success" (21-01-2003)
- "The inventor of the Heart Hugger deserves a big "HUG " (03-12-2002)
- "A very good support after the operation" (24-09-2002)
- "A relief for such a painful operation" (02-12-2002)