

## Sling helps patients recover faster

### ■ The Bradford Sling

Bradford will never forget the Bradford City Fire Disaster in 1985; claiming 56 lives and seeing hundreds of people rushed to hospital suffering from burns. Professor David Sharpe was a consultant on call at Bradford Royal Infirmary on the weekend of the fire and led a team of surgeons from all parts of the country to help the injured supporters.

It was during the treatment of the supporters that a piece of medical equipment demonstrated its great effectiveness; with it going on to be used by many hospitals throughout the UK ever since. Available from Knaresborough, North Yorkshire based Salitas; the 'Bradford Sling' was invented by Professor Sharpe and proved to be a much needed tool during treatment of the Bradford fire victims.

### ■ How it works

The sling works by lifting the patient's arm to a comfortable position and supporting it whilst the patient recovers from surgical procedures or burns. It is versatile as it is able to easily convert into a mobile sling; adjustable to allow both high and normal sling positions.

The sling increases patient comfort and encourages a faster recovery. This is thanks to its foam construction reducing any risk to the patient's pressure points and velcro fastenings allowing easy access for woundcare. It is also disposable and single-use; enabling it to avoid cross contamination.

Professor Sharpe, Consultant Plastic Surgeon at Bradford Hospital, said: "When the fire took place we had 80 patients admitted - the majority suffering from hand burns. Thankfully we had the Bradford Slings there to use on these patients; helping us to deliver quality patient care."

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The Bradford Sling was created in 1982 by Professor Sharpe along with Professor Ian Jackson when they decided to redesign some surgical instruments. The pair designed the sling based on what seem like a logical idea; improving on the method at that time to hold a limb which was simply a loop of canvas attached to a bedside support.

Professor Sharpe said: "The Bradford Sling was invented after identifying a need for a versatile sling which could support the weight of a patient's arm, be used when the patient is mobile and adjust to fit any size of arm."

"Once we'd drawn up the design for the sling; we worked with seamstresses to find a strong enough seam so that if you stretch it with the weight of a patient's limb, it won't tear. Despite its holding strength, the sling still remains lightweight and easy for the healthcare professional to use."

## How it works

Originally designed for use on patients recovering from burns and plastic surgery; the sling is now a popular choice across a wider range of post-procedural end uses. These include applications in vascular treatment trauma/elective orthopaedics, accident and emergency, paediatrics, radiography, physiotherapy, general medicine and for out patients.

## Salitas

Salitas is a company committed to developing innovations in modern health care. The company is currently involved in an extensive research and development programme for a range of products designed to improve treatment and aid recovery.



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