

## **Moldcare is very useful in the head and neck setting and helpful to eliminate the gap**

(Script of the Webinar, Demonstration Part of “Use of & Experience with Moldcare”)

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So, just a quick demo to show you how we assess the head rest fit for our patients, and how the use of a **Moldcare cushion can potentially improve that stability and reproducibility and the conformity at the back of the neck.**

So, I've got Molly who is one of our students here who has willingly volunteered to help us out this afternoon and what I'm going to first is just show you is the 3 head rests and how they fit on the back of Molly's head and neck.

So, at the moment we've got the yellow one on and as you can see there, with Molly lying down in the standard position, there's quite a significant gap there and we've also got a gap at the top here, so both of those things are obviously not ideal.

So, if Molly was a real patient, we would have a look at using one of the alternative head rests, so I'll just switch this one out and have another look again.

So, if Molly pops her head back there, we can see that gap is still there to a certain degree, but it is much better, but we still have that gap underneath Molly's neck and shoulders there.

So, the next option will be the red pillow and we'll do the same again. And again, if we just have a look here you see that gap is much better here now that's gone but we still have a gap here. So, if Molly was a real patient that was going to come to us for some treatment then we would certainly consider using a **Moldcare** cushion to improve that shell fit and I'll show you how we do that now.

Okay, so to prepare the **Moldcare** cushion, they come in these vacuum sealed bags, take it out of the bag and then what we need to do is spray it with some water to activate the chemicals.

Definitely a skill in doing this.

Obviously want it to be wet enough so that it activates the chemicals but not too wet that it is uncomfortable for the patient, I tend to do both sides to make sure.

Okay so when we are ready, I will ask the patient to raise her head and we pop this down so it fits under the back of the neck. Equalise it on the head rest and then we ask the patient to push their head back, and then push back just to make an impression on the **Moldcare**.

And then, as you can see, **we've now eliminated the gap at the top**. Molly's head sits nice and square there. There's no gap here anymore. The other thing to consider when we're using **Moldcare** bags of this size and shape is that we make sure we don't occlude the holes for the pins on the BDS.

So, again, if Molly was a real patient, we would leave her in that position and then we proceed to make the BDS while that is drying and setting. And that is pretty much the procedure.

Okay, so this is what the **Moldcare** cushion will look like once it's dried and we've acquired the CT scan. As you can see **it comes apart from the head rest nice and easily, there's no issues with it sticking**.

You can see as it sits on there it will only sit on there in one position, so there is no problems with the cushion moving superior to inferior and potentially having a misfit on the patient, and that's pretty much it really. It takes about 10 minutes to do and as I was saying we generally make it before we make the shell and leave it on the patient drying while we make the shell and so there doesn't seem to be any significant addition to the time taken to make the shell at CT.

The other thing worth mentioning is that, I know we've spoken about the use of **Moldcare** cushions in the radical setting, we have used these on a number of occasions on palliative patients that haven't been able to lay as flat as the head rests dictate. On a number of occasions we have used one or two of these stacked on top of each other just to add a bit to the patients' neck and the head and to make them more comfortable. It's another example of where the **Moldcare cushions are very, very useful in the head and neck setting**.

\*The contents of this document are based on the webinar "Use of & Experience with Moldcare" held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.

For more information, please refer to the original video below.

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/854492766>