

PROCEDURE

**TITLE: THERMAL WARMING DEVICE - BAIR HUGGER**

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**PURPOSE:** To outline methodology of using Thermal Warming Units.

**SUPPORTIVE DATA:** Warming unit is used on all patients in OR, PACU or OB-PACU, who demonstrates signs of hypothermia.

**EQUIPMENT LIST:**

1. Electrical warming unit.
2. Unit attachable paper-plastic blankets.

**CONTENT:**

**PROCEDURE STEPS:**

**KEY POINTS:**

**A. Procedure:**

1. Plug electrical unit into a properly grounded receptacle.
2. Remove disposable blanket from packaging, unfold the blanket.
3. Place blanket, paper side toward patient and air inlet port toward the foot, over patient.
4. Open lid of unit and remove air hose from storage compartment.
5. Insert tip of hose into cardboard connector on blanket securely. Twisting hose during insertion makes it easier to insert.
6. Set control to desired setting.
  - a. **Heat off** - Ambient temperature to circulate room temperature air to cool a hyperthermia patient.
  - b. **Low** - circulates airflow 32° C.
  - c. **Medium** - circulates airflow 38° C
  - d. **High** - circulates airflow 43° C.
7. Place one bath blanket lightly over air blanket to maintain actual temperature around patient.
8. Turn on power switch and check heat frequently.
9. **Standby Mode**  
Following events occurred. Standby light illuminates' blower and heater are off. Alphanumeric display deactivates. Alarm and fault detection functions remain active. Operating timer pauses.

**B. Precautions:**

1. Monitor vital signs and temperature frequently – every 15 minutes.
2. Reduce air temperature or discontinue therapy when normothermia is reached or if vital signs become unstable.
3. Hemodynamically unstable patients. Begin therapy at lower settings (low or medium). Heat may be gradually increased to tolerance of patient.

4. Aged patients should be treated as indicated in #3.
5. Safety precautions: Thermal unit should be used as directed and hose always connected to blanket

**C. Maintenance:**

1. Wipe unit regularly with damp cloth.
2. Change air filter, mounted on inside of back panel, regularly (q six (6) months).
3. Cabinet may be cleaned with damp cloth and mild detergent and dried with soft cloth.
4. Never clean while unit is in use or is plugged in.
5. Never use alcohol or other solvents to clean cabinet.
6. If unit alarms, trouble shoot, disconnect from patient and attach tag to unit explaining problem and notify BioMed.

**D. Fault Light Indicator**

When a system fault occurs, the amber fault light flashes and an alarm sounds. If fault alarm occurs turn off, unplug and notify Biomed.

**E. Over-Temp Indicator Light**

If a unit senses an over temperature condition the red over-temp indicator light flashes and an alarm sounds. If alarm occurs, discontinue use immediately and consult a Biomed Technician.

**DOCUMENTATION:**

**REFERENCE:** Source: Bair Hugger Model 750 Temperature Management Unit, Operations Manual 2003 Arizant Healthcare, Inc.