

Nipple temperature may help guide newborns to breastfeed

Newborn babies instinctively crawl to the breast when placed skin-to-skin on their mother's abdomen. Research published in *Acta Paediatrica* indicates that a higher temperature around the mother's nipple may facilitate this process.

Researchers investigated the thermal gradient generated by the lips of the neonate and warmth of the nipple-areolar complex. Their findings demonstrate that a temperature gradient may support the process known as 'breast crawl'.

Reference

Zanardo V. et al. A temperature gradient may support mother-infant thermal identification and communication in the breast crawl from birth to breastfeeding. *Acta Paediatr* 2017;106:1596-99.

IVF linked with increased risk of spontaneous preterm birth

A new analysis of published studies found an 80% increased risk of spontaneous preterm birth when women become pregnant via IVF. The *Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology* analysis included 15 studies with approximately 3,800 preterm birth events. According to lead author Dr Paolo Cavoretto of the San Raffaele Hospital in Milan, Italy: "Placental development may play a key role in the pathogenesis of spontaneous preterm birth in IVF pregnancies. We recommend ultrasound cervical screening in this high risk group in order to apply timely preventive strategies."

Reference

Cavoretto P. IVF/ICSI treatment and the risk of spontaneous preterm birth in singleton pregnancies: a meta-analysis of cohort studies. *Ultrasound Obstet Gynecol* 2017. doi: 10.1002/uog.18930.

Comparison chart sheds light on infants' tears

A chart that enables users to calculate if a baby is crying more than it should has been created based on an analysis of existing studies of almost 8,700 babies.

Researcher Professor Muthanna Samara at Kingston University and his co-authors from Warwick University hope that parents and healthcare professionals will use the tool to assess whether a baby is crying more than expected, which may indicate that they need to seek an assessment, medical advice or support.

Reference

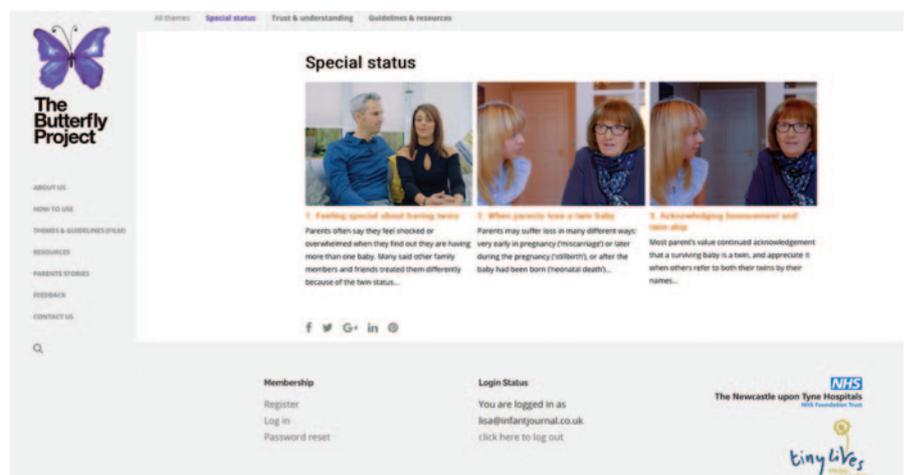
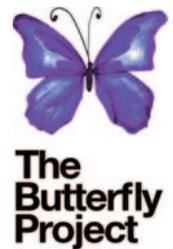
Wolke D. et al. Systematic review and meta-analysis: fussing and crying durations and colic prevalence in infants. *J Pediatr* 2017;185:55-61.

Butterfly Project launches new website

Most women who have a multiple pregnancy (twins, triplets or more) do not have complications, but sadly, every day in the UK at least one baby from a multiple pregnancy dies. A failure to recognise or acknowledge that a surviving baby was a twin, especially on neonatal units or in other healthcare settings (eg antenatal clinics), can cause considerable distress for the parents.

Healthcare professionals and research staff at Newcastle Neonatal Service and Newcastle University set out to develop guidelines and improve support for parents who have suffered the loss of a baby from a multiple pregnancy. The idea of using a butterfly symbol to identify surviving babies was developed into the butterfly cot card and gave rise to the Butterfly Project, which has now launched a new educational website. The website has been developed to help healthcare staff understand what it feels like to be a parent facing this challenging situation and aims to improve staff knowledge, understanding and practice. It includes a series of film clips dealing with different practical aspects of providing care. There are stories written by parents and downloadable resources – guidelines, leaflets and PowerPoint slides – as well as clinical practice points and advice for families and friends.

The project team is keen to receive feedback on the content – for further details visit www.neonatalbutterflyproject.org



Bliss announces new funding for neonatal research

Bliss, the charity for babies born premature or sick, has announced the launch of a new fund for neonatal research projects. Available to researchers across the UK, Bliss will contribute funding to projects focused on the following priority areas:

- the most effective ways of judging whether a premature or sick baby is feeling pain
- impact of developmental care support on neurodevelopmental outcomes
- emotional and other practical support to improve attachment and bonding of premature or sick babies and their families.

For more information about the research fund, visit bliss.org.uk/research-funding



Tamba launches unique twin growth charts

The world's first expectant mum who was scanned using twin pregnancy growth charts has given birth to twin boys at St George's Hospital, London.

Tamba, the Twins and Multiple Births Association, launched the twin growth charts following a £25,000 research project made possible by its fundraising appeal. The new charts can accurately measure unborn twins to check whether they are growing appropriately; previously, clinicians had to use their judgement using singleton growth charts. It is hoped that the twin charts will help to diagnose growth problems so that the mother can be managed appropriately, preventing the babies from being delivered prematurely and needing care in a neonatal unit.

The charts run on GE Healthcare's software ViewPoint. To find out more about the growth charts visit www.tamba.org.uk/blog/growth-charts.



Above: The twin boys delivered via caesarean section. Left: A scan using the twin growth charts. Pictures provided by Tamba.



Viewing a video update via vCreate.

Connecting parents and babies by secure video

Staff at the neonatal unit at St James's University Hospital, Leeds, have started using secure video messaging to ensure that parents of premature babies don't miss out on special moments in their baby's care journey. The web-based technology by vCreate aims to help parents who are not able to be on the unit stay connected via video updates recorded by the nurses.

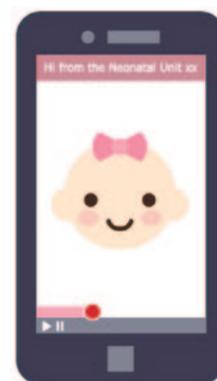
Secure video messaging will support the unit's pioneering family integrated care approach, a model of care that recognises parents as partners in care. Because vCreate videos can be accessed at any time, from anywhere and on any device, it is hoped that the updates will help parents and the wider family feel more connected to their baby's progress. Following discharge parents can download and keep all video clips of their baby, which can help them come to terms with the experience of having a premature infant.

HTN
AWARDS
WINNER OF THE YEAR
HEALTH TECH AWARDS 2017

vCreate®

Secure Video Messaging for Neonatal Units

Book a demonstration for your unit today, at vcreate.tv/neonatal



- Nurses record videos to reassure parents of baby's wellbeing when parents are away from the unit
- Parents login to view their secure baby-care video diary anywhere, at any time and on any device
- Innovative funding structure means you could qualify for the service at no cost to the unit or parents

0333 121 8422

theteam@vcreate.tv