

Can Aromatherapy Help Neonatal Babies Get Through Opioid Withdrawal?

Neonatal babies exposed to opioid-based drugs develop withdrawal symptoms

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MINNETONKA, Minn., Nov. 19, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- With the increasing prevalence of opiate dependency and medically assisted treatment for opiate dependency, the number of infants born at risk for withdrawal is increasing nationwide.

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Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, also known as NAS, is when a fetus exposed to opioid-based drugs during pregnancy goes through withdrawal symptoms after birth. Treatment of NAS can require opiate replacement therapy and result in long hospital stays. A team of physicians, Dr. Lori Shook and Dr. John Daniel at the Neonatology division of the Kentucky Children's Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky are researching the effects of aromatherapy in the treatment of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). Existing small studies on the use of lavender aromatherapy have shown promise in decreasing neonatal and maternal stress in normal populations. This team of physicians at the Kentucky Children's Hospital are studying the effectiveness of a lavender and chamomile inhalation patch from Bioesse for improving stress and sleep in infants undergoing treatment for NAS.

Drs. Shook and Daniel filed an investigational new drug application (IND) with the FDA to study the Bioesse patch in infants with NAS. After receiving FDA and IRB approval the team has started enrolling infants with NAS in a randomized study and expect to enroll infants for 12-18 months.

The Bioesse Inhalation Patch is a patented delivery system for providing essential oil therapy through inhalation. Medical professionals now have a clean and simple alternative for administering aromatherapy without any oils having dermal contact. It only takes seconds to open and apply, will last 6-8 hours, and there is no mess to clean up. The patch is pre-filled with a controlled dosage of 100% premium therapeutic quality essential oils for ease of use in facilities such as hospitals. Its cost effectiveness makes it practical to use in many different settings.

The patented inhalation patches are manufactured in Minnesota by Bioesse Technologies LLC in Minnetonka, MN, www.bioessetech.com.

Medical facilities interested in learning more about the inhalation patch and how they can integrate them into their clinical aromatherapy programs can contact:

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