

To whom it may concern,



ASSESSMENT OF OPUS 5 BED

OPUS 5 is a Danish manufactured bed, recently developed in a joint cooperation between KR and Randers Hospital.

It is characterised by being slightly wider and longer than the beds at Slagelse Hospital (SLS), OPUS 3.

In addition, it can tilt laterally, which makes it easy to turn the patient from side to side and to help the patient out of bed in a natural (and the easiest) way.

Using one function on the control, it can mobilise the patient to sit in a chair position. From there, the patient can also be helped out of bed and stand up at the foot end. The bed is comparable to the intensive care bed "Hillrom" and "Linnet", but is significantly less expensive. It is also cleaning-friendly. "Hillrom" is not.

We have been testing OPUS 5 for a 4-week period and, in that time, have made the following observations:

Patients experience greater comfort, because with the OPUS 5 bed it is easy to be helped into a chair-sitting position, where the patient sits comfortably and can stay on his/her pressure-relieving underlay. Should the patient tire of sitting in the chair position, the position can easily and quickly be adjusted by one person.

The patient can change positions more often and avoids sitting up longer than he is able. Often, there is also a certain waiting time for help getting into bed, as two staff members need to be free at the same time.

Use of the lateral tilt function helps the patient be turned onto the side quickly, gently and safely. Again, one person can often manage this alone, whereas now, two caregivers are needed.

During the testing period, we found that the patient was better able to participate in the moves. Possibly because it seems simpler for them when there are fewer helpers to work with.

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Lateral tilt makes it easier to get out of bed in a natural way. Early mobilisation exercises, e.g. balance exercises at the edge of the bed become better to do for the patient and easier for staff to help the patient with, because it is easier to sit at the mattress edge with your feet reaching the floor.

Lateral tilt can also allow the patient to sleep with fewer interruptions, because it is possible to change positions in phases with the lateral tilt function, without touching the patient. Theoretically, this should help prevent intensive delirium.

Patients who need to lie flat can be tilted laterally and thus still achieve pressure relief without compromising the need to lie flat.

By using the chair function, it is easy to mobilise the patient to the same position that a comfort chair can offer, but with a minimum of personnel resources and with better comfort for the patient.

In terms of work environment, there is a lot to gain for staff in the form of less physical exertion lifting patients into chairs and turning and moving. This is particularly the case in bariatric care, where all exertion is intensified. We cared for a patient who weighed about 150 kg and found that OPUS 5 made a big difference.

The patient sat very comfortably in the bed's chair position and was able to sit up much more often than he would have if he needed to be lifted to an ordinary chair with the help of two to three caregivers like we normally do. The comfort of sitting in OPUS 5 is greater than in a comfort chair (note that we often run into the problem that we cannot find a suitable comfort chair for bariatric patients in intensive care and for intensive care patients in general.)

With a personal scale limit of 185 kg together with the bed's other merits, I think the OPUS 5 is a good choice for bariatric patients. As a transfer instructor in charge of bariatric patients, I think we should avoid using the bariatric beds that Slagelse Hospital has, because they are outdated, and it is difficult to achieve good work positions.

We have not tried intubating a patient in an OPUS 5, but with other procedures we have tried, we were able to achieve a better work position thanks to the bed's many setting options.

It is also possible to use pressure mattresses with OPUS 5. In particular, we have noted how well patients lie on the pressure mattress in connection with the lateral tilt function.

I have been in contact with the In-patient Department of Surgery B6 at Randers Hospital, which helped develop OPUS 5 and has now used the bed for three months. They point out the same merits and benefits that we have discovered here in intensive care and they have noted less use and need for pressure-redistribution mattresses.

I hereby recommend that we purchase OPUS 5 beds to replace all beds here at the intensive care unit in Slagelse.

Alice Pico, intensive care nurse ■