

An observational study of the maintenance of the 30° side-lying lateral tilt position among aged care residents at risk of developing pressure injuries when using the standard care pillow and a purpose-designed positioning device

Authors: Suzanne Kapp, Marie Gerdtz, Amit Gefen, Roshani Prematunga and Nick Santamaria



Study aim:

To evaluate the maintenance of the 30° side-lying lateral tilt position among aged care residents at the risk of developing pressure injuries when using the standard of care pillow and a purpose-designed positioning device.



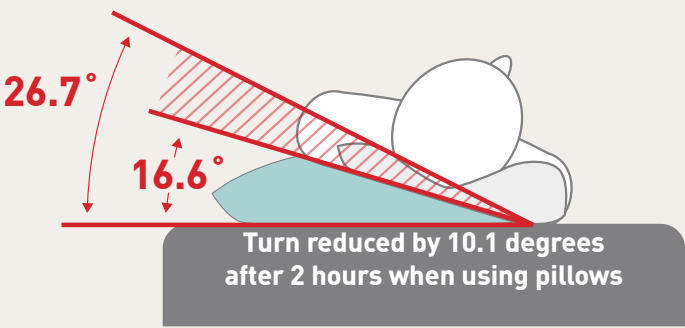
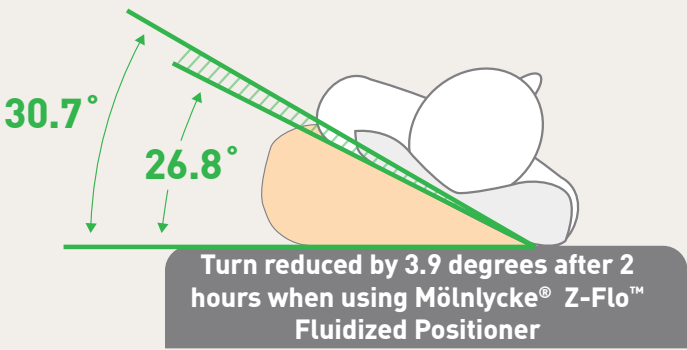
Clinical challenge:

Positioning patients in a 30° lateral tilt position in bed, which can redistribute pressure and shear away from the sacral area, is an effective strategy to prevent pressure injuries in this anatomical location. Standard of care pillows are typically placed along the back to support this position. However, the flattening of the standard of care pillow can lead to a reduction of the angle of the lateral tilt position and the result can be an increased risk of the body sustaining pressure and shear.

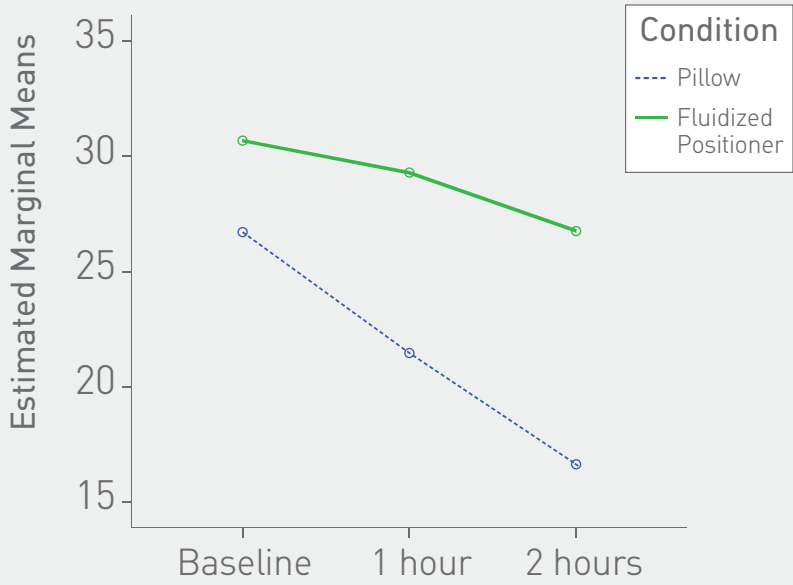


Key findings:

Results showed a statistically significant difference between the two positioning devices' ability to maintain a turn over time.



Results:



'The maintenance of body position is essential for positioning to be effective!'



The author concludes:

This evaluation study found that Mölnlycke® Z-Flo® Fluidized Positioners was associated with better maintenance of the side-lying body position when compared with positioning using standard of care pillows.

Devices that maintain the 30° side-lying lateral tilt position have the potential to improve the care provided to patients; prevent pressure injuries; and reduce the associated costs to individuals, health care services, and society.

Reference: 1. Kapp S, Gerdtz M, Gefen A et al (2019) An observational study of the maintenance of the 30°side-lying lateral tilt position among aged care residents at risk of developing pressure injuries when using the standard care pillow and a purpose-designed positioning device. Int Wound J. 2019;1:7