

Innovation

Bild 1: Presentation

First I would like to thank the organization committee for inviting me to have this talk about my innovation Cubitus baby.

Bild 2: Thesis

I'm a midwife, and during the last 20 years I've been doing research, mainly focused on how to improve care after a stillbirth.

My thesis was a follow up study of all women giving birth to a stillborn baby, in 1991. In summarize the main message in the thesis is: if the woman had memories, hand and foot-prints, lock of hair, photographs and if the woman had spent time with her baby after the birth, she had a better psychological outcome as compare with those who had no memories of the child.

Bild 3: Statistik

In Sweden 626 babies were stillborn or died within the first 27 days after birth in 2013.

Bild 4: Elin's citat

This is a quote from Elin, a mother to a little girl who died in late pregnancy.

I have heard many mothers and fathers saying: "The worst thing was to leave the baby in the hospital".

Just like parents to live born babies, parents to stillborn babies wish the best for their child.

From a web questionnaire we also have data on how common it is to take the baby home. About 2.5 % of the stillborn babies in Sweden are brought home, but more babies would have been brought home if the parents had known that this was a possibility.

Bild 5. Citat upplevelsen av var barnet är kylskåp

If the parents stay at the hospital a couple of days after birth, it is not unusual that the baby is taken from the parents at night. The baby is placed in a refrigerator at the delivery ward. The newborn baby has to share the space with placentas, blood and urine samples. This is a quote from a mother who participated in a web survey.

Bild 6. Kylrum

The baby can also be transferred to the pathology department and placed in a cold room. This is a quote from another mother in the survey.

Bild 7. Innovations start

On the basis of research and the fact that dead babies are placed in a refrigerator at the hospital, I have developed a tool that can improve the dignity for the child and the child's family.

In the beginning, and with support from Idélab Mälardalens University, a designer could materialize my thoughts to a prototype that could be tested for clinical use.

Bild 8. Teamet

The tool was at first tested in laboratory and after that at two birth clinics. The midwives gave very positive feedback and also, they had suggestions how further development of the tool could be improved.

Bild 9. Teamet

After an evaluation of the test of the first prototype it was time to take this project to the next level.

Here you can see the team that helped me with the development of the prototype to the final version of Cubitus baby.

Bild 10. Skisser

We have processed a lot of ideas under way and different solutions have been considered.

Bild 11. Different solutions are considered

Except from functional issues, we had to consider the costs of the tool.

Bild 12. Testing of various methods for bonding styrofoam

Concerning choose of material we have also always have had a sustainable development thinking.

Bild 13. Handmade frame of foam as a base, testing the cooling block

Here we try to figure out how the cooling block shall be placed in the tool.

Bild 14. Insidan

As you can see we chose a simple cooling technique. Cooling blocks ensure that the temperature is kept low; they are a total of 12 and easy to change when necessary.

Bild 15. Byte av block

Cooling blocks can be replaced without "disturbing" the child. The changes of the cooling block can also be seen as a care action.

Bild 16. Ta hem

Cubitus baby can also be used if the parents want to take their baby home before the funeral.

Bild 17. Kista

And be used as a coffin.

Bild 18. A generous donation

Thanks to a generous donation, I have had the opportunity to produce 50 of this and as a non-profit project. I could donate one Cubitus baby to all birth clinics in Sweden.

Bild 18. My office before the implementation

Here you can see my office before the start of the implementation project.

Bild 19. Implementaion

The implementation took about two years and I have personally delivered one Cubitus baby to all 48 birth clinics in Sweden. A lot travel by train, sometimes by ferry and nice walk by the sea to Visby hospital. It has also been many valuable meetings with the staff and an opportunity to listen to their important and engaged work when babies die and also discuss research in the field.

Bild 20. Documenting and research

I will follow up and evaluate the project. At the moment in all 114 unique reports has been sent in from the birth clinics. The tool has improved the care dramatically.

The staff do not longer place dead babies in the refrigerator, something they never found dignified in the first place. The longest time a family have had their baby at home in a Cubitus baby is 11 days.

Bild 21. Facebook

During the whole project I have also felt supported by parental organizations, which support parents after a stillbirth. When they spread information about the implementation project 10 000 likes and 500 positive comments came on Facebook within 24 hours.

Bild 21. Honorable mention Design S,

In November last year the innovation also got attention when Cubitus baby got an honorable mention of Sweden's national design award.

I especially like the wording: the product acts as a silent companion during the time needed.

Bild 22. From idea to implementation 7 years

It took seven years from the first idea that I got at the International stillbirth alliance conference in Birmingham in 2007. At the conference I saw a film that affected me very much. We could follow a couple from Nya Zeeland who took the baby home and how they struggled to keep the body cold during the days at home.

Cubitus baby can maintain the baby at below room temperature and it is not necessary for the parents to be separated from their child. I am so grateful to many persons and organizations. This project had not been possible without their support.

Bild 23. KI innovation

Finally I would like to thank Innovation office at KI. With excellent support you help me to make an agreement with a company that will produce and distribute Cubitus baby to the rest of the world.

Thank you!