

# The Bradford Sling®

## Sling helps patients to Faster Recovery

### History

Bradford will never forget the Bradford City Fire Disaster in 1985; claiming 56 lives and seeing hundreds of people rushed to hospital suffering from burns. Professor David Sharpe was a consultant on call at Bradford Royal Infirmary on the weekend of the fire and led a team of surgeons from all parts of the country to help the injured supporters.

It was during the treatment of the supporters that a piece of medical equipment demonstrated its great effectiveness; with it going on to be used by many hospitals throughout the UK ever since. Available exclusively from Salitas the 'Bradford Sling®' was invented by Professor Sharpe and proved to be a much-needed tool during treatment of the Bradford fire victims.

### How it Works

The sling works by lifting the patient's arm to a comfortable position and supporting it whilst the patient recovers from surgical procedures or burns. It is versatile as it is able to easily convert into a mobile sling; adjustable to allow both high and normal sling positions.

The sling increases patient comfort and encourages a faster recovery. This is thanks to its foam construction reducing any risk to the patient's pressure points and hook/loop fastenings allowing easy access for woundcare. It is also disposable and single-use; enabling it to avoid cross contamination.

Professor Sharpe, Consultant Plastic Surgeon at Bradford Royal Infirmary, said: "When the fire took place we had 80 patients admitted - the majority suffering from hand burns. Thankfully we had the Bradford Slings there to use on these patients, helping us to deliver quality patient care."

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## ■ Origins

The Bradford Sling® was created in 1982 by Professor Sharpe along with Professor Ian Jackson when they decided to redesign some surgical instruments. The pair designed the sling based on what seemed like a logical idea; improving on the method at that time to hold a limb which was simply a loop of canvas attached to a bedside support.

Professor Sharpe said: “The Bradford Sling was invented after identifying a need for a versatile sling which could support the weight of a patient’s arm, be used when the patient is mobile and adjust to fit any size of arm.”

“Once we’d drawn up the design for the sling; we worked with seamstresses to find a strong enough seam so that if you stretch it with the weight of a patient’s limb, it won’t tear. Despite holding strength, the sling still remains lightweight and easy for the healthcare professional to use.”

## ■ Applications

Originally designed for use on patients recovering from burns and plastic surgery; the sling is now a popular choice across a wider range of post-procedural end uses. These include applications in vascular treatment trauma/elective orthopaedics, accident and emergency, paediatrics, physiotherapy, general medicine and for outpatients.



## ■ Salitas and the Bradford Burns Unit

Salitas is a company committed to developing innovations in modern health care. The company is currently involved in an extensive research and development programme for a range of products designed to improve treatment and aid recovery.

The heritage of the Bradford Sling® is recognised by the fact that Salitas makes a direct contribution from sales revenues generated by the Bradford Sling, to the world-renowned Bradford Plastic Surgery and Burns Research Unit, which was set up in the aftermath of the Bradford City Fire and which has Professor Sharpe as its Unit Director.

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