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Lag it

Figure 1 Sling with neck padding made from copper pipe lagging.

Many patients with upper limb injuries are given a broad arm sling as part of their treatment. This is used for elevating, protecting, and supporting the injured limb. It is traditionally and cheaply made using a linen triangular bandage. When worn, the part of the triangular bandage that is supported by the neck forms a narrow band which patients often find uncomfortable. This is especially the case when part of the upper limb is made heavier with a cast.

In our unit the Collar'n'Cuff versatile sling material made of 100% polyurethane foam is used to help pad the neck. Relief with this method is only short lived as the foam is of low density and has a tendency to slip off. A patient attended our fracture clinic using an alternative padding, made of copper pipe lagging, which allowed almost complete relief (fig 1). This is an ideal material, as it is made of a higher density foam and is comfortable, conforms to the shape of the neck, and stays in place.

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