

Case Study 4: Daniel

Child's age, weight, height

8 month old male, 15 pounds, 25 inches

Medical Diagnosis/condition

Severe Hydrocephalus

Reason for Referral

Daniel's physician wanted an occupational therapist to determine the most appropriate child safety seat to accommodate his positioning needs.

Current child safety restraint

Daniel is currently seated in a rear facing infant safety seat.

Other child passengers and restraints

None

Vehicle Year, Make and Model

1999, GMC Suburban



Child's Seating Position in Vehicle D=driver

D		
Daniel		

Infant positioned in infant only seat with rolled receiving blankets along torso and soft cervical collar.

Vehicle Issues

None

Evaluation

An evaluation was performed at Daniel's home as his mother did not feel comfortable transporting him to the hospital due to the large size of his head and his lack of head control. Daniel was evaluated in both an infant safety seat and a convertible safety seat. The hip straps of the five-point harness infant only seat positioned his pelvis better in the seat due to his small body size and high muscle tone.

Recommendation

It was recommended that Daniel remain in his infant only seat and that his mother continue to monitor his growth and contact the occupational therapist once he is close to out growing his infant safety seat so he can be re-evaluated.

Intervention

After deciding that Daniel's best option for safe transportation was the infant car seat, supplemental lateral support was provided by rolled receiving blankets and a soft cervical neck collar was also provided. This collar was fitted to prevent his head from falling forward during acceleration/deceleration.