Recommendation of the Michigan Cranial Reshaping Orthosis is always made by the infant’s physician upon completing an evaluation. Pediatricians, pediatric neurosurgeons and plastic surgeons are then usually consulted by the families when they first notice the baby’s abnormal head symmetry. Using this transdisciplinary approach, an accurate diagnosis can be reached. Babies from 3 to 14 months of age can usually be successfully treated with this type of orthosis therapy.

After the prescription is issued by the doctor, the clinician will fill out a work order which specifies the size of the orthosis needed. The work order must be filled out completely. This gives the manufacturer of the orthosis the exact instructions on both the needed materials as well as the necessary fabrication techniques to meet each baby’s individual needs.

The size and shape of the baby’s head determines whether a standard size will be used, or if a full custom mold needs to be taken. If a custom orthosis is required, a cast of your baby’s head will be engineered using established casting procedures and/or scanning methods, ensuring that the landmark locations (centerline, nose, ears, eyes, and trim lines) are clearly marked. At this point the cast can be sent to Danmar as is, (See Packing Instructions); our technicians will then mold the positive plaster cast and do the modifications to round out the shape. The orthotist can also mold the positive cast, make the modifications and send that finished cast to Danmar. We can also return the orthosis untrimmed if the orthotist decides to do the final trimming at the time of the fitting.

Available color choices are Light Blue, Light Pink, Royal Blue, Black, Purple, Red or White. We also offer designs to both personalize and enhance the cosmetic appearance of the orthosis.

The family and/or primary caregivers are required to review the Use and Care Instructions and Frequently Asked Questions provided at the first fitting appointment. They explain the importance of monitoring the baby’s progress and head growth. Head circumference measurements and evaluations of neurological development will be done at regular intervals to reduce the potential of any impairment affecting regular growth and development.

Parents should keep a journal noting such items as the position of the orthosis (i.e. is it stationary or does it shift?) as well as any red marks (shade and severity) it may be leaving on the skull. WARNING: Skin conditions should be evaluated every 3-4 hours for the first 3 or 4 days. If skin irritation and/or redness exist, do not wait until it forms a blister—call the Orthotist immediately. If any skin breakdown (chaffing, peeling, bleeding, etc.) is noted, remove the orthosis and call the Orthotist immediately. This type of skin evaluation should be done at frequent intervals, after every few hours of wear.

Any red spots that last for more than 3 1/2 hours could indicate that the orthosis needs to be adjusted. The primary caregiver must be instructed to call the orthotist and inform them right away, and should not wait for their next appointment. A regular appointment schedule will be set between the family and the Orthotist to ensure periodic evaluation by a professional.

Your baby’s head will perspire due to wearing the orthosis: this is normal. Keep him/her as comfortable as possible by dressing in light clothing and by wiping their head. Occasionally a thin stocking cap can be used as well.

Our highly trained technicians have many years of experience in fabrication of orthoses and headgear, and operate within a system which ensures prompt deliveries. We have been in business since 1967, concentrating our energies into creating unique and innovative products to meet the needs of our customers.

CAUTION: USA FEDERAL LAW Restricts the Sale of This Device to, or on the Orders of, A Physician. The Sale, Distribution and Use of This Device is Restricted to Prescription Use Only, in Accordance with 21 CFR 801.109.
WHERE CAN I GO FOR INFORMATION ON CRANIAL SHAPING THERAPY?

Your pediatrician can explain the basics of positional plagiocephaly and also offer referrals to one of the many type of specialists in this field, including plastic surgeons and/or pediatric neurosurgeons.

Many resources are available for further research. There are links to informational sites on our website, http://www.danmarproducts.com, under Cranial Shaping. There are also websites which contain helpful links to Preferred Physicians Listings, Specialists in this field, Parent Support Groups, and recent articles from various publications.

WHAT IS THE BEST AGE FOR THIS ORTHOSIS TREATMENT?

The optimal age range for Cranial Shaping Therapy is from 3 months up to 18 months of age. The best results are achieved when treatment is started early because as a child develops, their skull becomes thicker and the molding becomes more difficult to achieve.

HOW WILL THE ORTHOSIS BE FITTED?

A circumference measurement will be taken of your baby's head, and the clinician will adjust the sizing of the orthosis, then secure it by means of the side fasteners. In the event that a custom orthosis is needed, a stockingnette will be put on baby's head and a cast will be taken using plaster bandages, which will set in just a few minutes. Standard casting procedures are used, and while baby will most likely not be very happy about having this done, it will not hurt them in any way. There may be some water that may drip down during the casting process, but is not harmful. Then the cast is removed, and the orthotist marks the cast showing where the eyes, nose, ears and centerline are located. At the next appointment, a custom lightweight plastic orthosis with an inner soft foam layer will be fitted to your baby's head.

HOW LONG WILL MY BABY HAVE TO WEAR THIS ORTHOSIS?

There are too many variables to provide a definitive answer, as each baby is unique and will be evaluated periodically during the appointments at the orthotist's office. For example, the timeline is dependent on the age of the baby when the treatment starts, and the degree of reshaping that is necessary. Usually, it is just a matter of months before the desired results are obtained. The average treatment time based on our studies is 9.6 months.

DOES OUR INSURANCE COVER THE COSTS OF THIS THERAPY?

With so many types of insurance available, the best answer we can give is to call your insurance provider after you have the prescription from your doctor. Some insurance companies classify deformational plagiocephaly as cosmetic rather than a medical necessity. Be persistent; some parents have reported after first being denied, they were later approved for payment.