

Frequently Asked Questions about the NASG

How does the NASG work?

The NASG provides mild pressure, pushing blood from the lower extremities into central circulation, making sure there is sufficient blood getting to the vital organs, including the brain. Additionally, the foam ball over the abdomen applies pressure to the blood vessels of the uterus, decreasing blood flow.

What are the indications for using the NASG?

The NASG could be used to manage any condition where there is severe bleeding below the diaphragm. Our studies have documented use with all forms of obstetric hemorrhage, as long as the fetus is not viable in utero.

How long can/should the NASG be used on a given patient?

There is no particular time limit. The patient should be stable and comfortable in the NASG for hours or days until the bleeding has been arrested (spontaneously or through surgery), the volume restored, and the blood replaced as needed.

When should the NASG be removed?

The NASG should only be removed when the source of bleeding has been identified and hemostasis attained. We recommend waiting until bleeding is less than 50 ml per hour for 2 hours and pulse and blood pressure are stable. Then, remove the NASG step by step, pausing for 15 minutes between segments and reassessing vital signs. Removal should only begin if the clinical impression is that the blood volume has been restored with IV fluids and blood as needed. If the NASG is applied at the community/PHC level it will remain in place until definitive care (usually at a referral hospital) has been given. For complete details on the proper removal procedure, please see the NASG removal section of our toolkit.

Can surgery be performed with the NASG in place?

Vaginal surgery and procedures, such as repair of lacerations or D&C can and should be done without complete removal of the NASG. The upper segments (#4 and #5) of the NASG must be opened for laparotomy. Please see the procedures and surgery section of the toolkit for more information.

How can one ensure that the garment is free of HIV and the hepatitis virus?

The NASG is wrapped on the outside of the body; it does not go inside the body. The NASG must be decontaminated with a 0.01% bleach solution, washed, and dried. These are universal precaution/infection prevention steps.

Can the NASG be reused?

Yes, the NASG can be decontaminated, washed, and reused at least 40 times.

How expensive is the NASG?

There are 3 manufacturers/distributors and the price depends on the number of NASGs ordered. For more detailed information, please see the purchasing section of this toolkit.