



Currently, there are three general types of masks available for CPAP users: Nasal masks that create a seal around the nose (e.g. Comfort Select, Profile Lite, Ultra Mirage); Nasal pillows that are placed on/around the nostrils (e.g. Breeze Sleepgear and NasalAire); and the less common Oral mask (e.g. Oracle). Every individual's face is different, and it is very important to find a mask that is comfortable, as well as creating a good seal. After all, mask satisfaction is the most critical component of successful CPAP therapy.

Patients who prefer the nasal mask type will be interested in the new ComfortGel mask from Respironics. The cushion on this mask combines the customizable blue gel originally seen in the Profile™ Lite mask with a dual-layer clear silicone cushion/seal design found in other Comfort Series masks. This combination provides patients with comfort, fit, stability and seal characteristics. These two layers of cushions can be removed for easy cleaning, and replaced individually if the seal wears out after a period of time, which saves money for our patients.

Respironics has improved the engineering of this mask to make it more comfortable for patients. These features include:

- A removable arm and forehead pad that adjusts to match the angle of the patient's forehead.
- An adjustable bridge that raises and lowers for proper mask angle, seal, and fit.
- New ball-and-socket headgear attachments which allow for easy mask removal.

The ComfortGel mask was introduced several months ago, and we have received very positive feedback from our patients. Over 90% of the patients who use this mask agreed that the ComfortGel seals very well (due to the double cushioning), and is very quiet with good stability.

On the whole, our Respiratory Therapists are very pleased with the ComfortGel mask; it has certainly increased compliance in many patients.

Introducing the Nasal-Aire II

Almost two years ago, a revolutionary mask called the **Nasal-Aire** was introduced to us. **Nasal-Aire** was quite different from the typical masks available on the market. Modeled like an oxygen cannula, the NasalAire involved no headgear, masks, or straps. As a result, the patient received a full range of motion without limitation. The simplicity of the design was definitely appealing to many patients; however, the drawbacks with the **Nasal-Aire** were the noise level generated from the exhalation ports, and the strap which did not secure the position of the mask.

Since then, improvements were made to **Nasal-Aire** resulting in the new **Nasal-Aire II**. This mask will particularly appeal to patients who have claustrophobia, patients who dislike the conventional nasal mask that covers the nose, and patients who enjoy the freedom to speak, eat, drink, and wear eyeglasses without removing the device.

The appearance of the **Nasal-Aire II** is almost identical to the original **Nasal-Aire**, except for two features. First, the shape of the exhalation ports is altered to reduce the noise level. Secondly, the straps have been re-designed to hold the interface securely in place.

Patients who are interested in this product should contact our Patient Coordinators at our offices, or attend our next CPAP Clinic. (details on Page 3)



NASAL-AIRE II

