Studies indicate that giving birth in the squatting position provides many benefits, such as shorter labor, reduced incidence of Cesarean section, and decreased need for forceps, or vacuum deliveries. Most women, however, do not have the upper leg strength required to stay in a squatting position throughout the second stage of labor (pushing), which can last from 20 minutes to 2 hours. The Kirkham Birthing Harness supports women in a squatting position without adding pressure or strain on their arms and legs. The birthing harness comprises thigh, rear torso, and body straps that support the patient. The harness itself is supported by a patient lift or comparable support systems, such as the Hoyer Lift, thus allowing the mother to maintain the squatting position for extended periods without muscle exhaustion.

**FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- Enables women to maintain a squatting position throughout labor and delivery with minimal muscular effort.
- Reduces labor time.
- Increases comfort during labor, while allowing for an epidural.
- Compatible with existing patient lift systems.
- Facilitates easy removal in case of emergency.
- Potential to reduce cesarean sections, episiotomies, and tearing.
- Allows physician and midwife to be in an upward seated position, reducing the risk of back injury.

**INVENTOR PROFILE**

Robert Kirkham, Clinical Nurse

**STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT**

- Completed prototype.
- Additional studies required for clinical data.

**IP PROTECTION**

Provisional Patent Filed

**TECHNOLOGY TYPE**

Class I/II Labor and Delivery Obstetrics Patient Support Harness Certified Nurse Midwife

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