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@ 4:27 PM

HEALTH + FITNESS WOMEN'S HEALTH PREGNANCY C-SECTION BIRTH

# A Crucial Moment in C-Sections Is About to Change Forever

*This is GREAT news for mom and baby.*



BY MARIA  
CARTER



Getty Images

Holding your new baby for the first time is **one of life's most powerful**

moments.

Not only is it an incredibly moving experience, it's also necessary for well-being: The skin-to-skin contact promotes mother-child bonding, reduces stress, and can even help with things like breastfeeding and brain development, according to the clinical practice journal *Nursing for Women's Health*.

Yet as many as one third of American moms—the percentage who give birth by cesarean section each year—may not get the chance: Sterile draping used during the procedure often presents a visible and physical obstacle. It's not uncommon for C-section patients who want to hold their babies right away to hear "No, we can't do that in the operating room," reports the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

C-section babies are typically cleaned and placed in a warmer (operating rooms can be chilly) before they're handed to a parents. Sometimes it's dad who holds the infant first, while mom watches.





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Not anymore: Registered nurses Deborah Burbic, Kimberly Jarrelle and Jess Niccoli, of the Richmond, VA, area, have developed a surgical drape with a flap window so the doctor can pass the baby to the mother.

"When mom gets to hold that baby for the first time on her chest, it is just unbelievable, that experience," Burbic told the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. "We were going, 'How could we make this happen in the operating room?'"



## Woman'sDay

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and-delivery experience among them, spent three years producing 50 different prototypes before hitting on "something workable."



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They brainstormed over coffee, referring to [numerous studies](#), some spanning 30 years,

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The result is what Burbic, Jarrelle and Niccoli call the [Skin to Skin C-Section Drape](#). After the baby is delivered and passed through the drape's portal, the flap can be closed, allowing surgeons to maintain the sterility of the operation room while stitching up the uterus and incision.



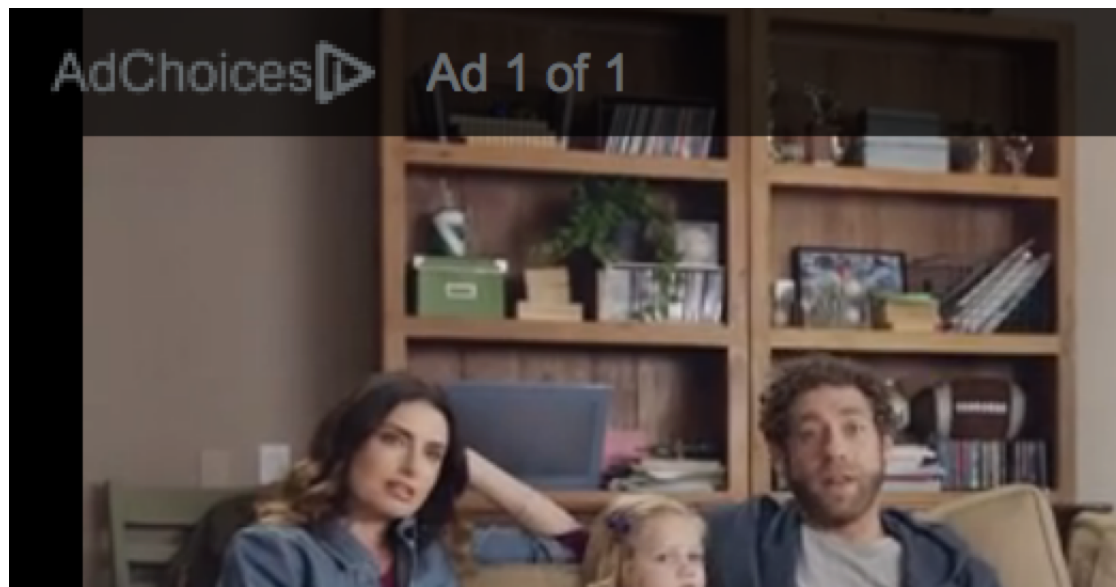
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So far, three hospitals have agreed to test the drape.

Because of the importance placed on sterility in the operating room, new hospital products are usually treated with skepticism. "It's a slow process," Burbic said.

C-sections are a disheartening "bump in the road" for some expectant moms, according to Burbic. "They know that this big drape comes up [and] they [won't] get to see their baby being born," she said. "This is one way we can break that barrier."

[via *Richmond Times-Dispatch*]



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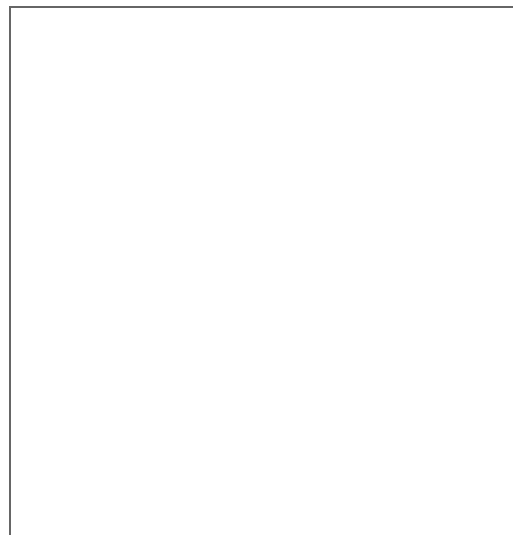
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