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United States Patent	12390020
Kind Code	B2
Date of Patent	August 19, 2025
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Breastfeeding pillow

Abstract

The disclosure includes a breastfeeding pillow comprising a head portion configured to support a head of a baby, a tail portion located opposite the head portion and configured to support at least one leg of the baby, a middle portion located between the head portion and the tail portion, the middle portion configured to support a torso of the baby, and a foot support extending from an end of the tail portion, the foot support configured to receive at least one foot of the baby.

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Appl. No.:	18/945179
Filed:	November 12, 2024

Prior Publication Data

Document Identifier	Publication Date
US 20250151927 A1	May. 15, 2025

Related U.S. Application Data

us-provisional-application US 63598812 20231114

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: **A47D13/08** (20060101); **A47D13/00** (20060101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC A47D13/083 (20130101); A47D13/08 (20130101);

Field of Classification Search

CPC: A47D (13/083); A47D (13/08)

USPC: 5/655; 5/652

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS (1) The present application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 63/598,812 filed on Nov. 14, 2023, entitled “Breastfeeding Pillow” the entire disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein.

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The present disclosure relates to the field of pillows and cushions designed for nursing, or breastfeeding, an infant.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(2) Breastfeeding pillows are specially designed cushions used by nursing mothers to provide support and comfort during breastfeeding or bottle-feeding sessions. The primary purpose is to help both the mother and the baby maintain a comfortable and ergonomic feeding position.

Breastfeeding pillows can be in a “C” shape designed to curve around both sides of the abdomen of the mother and provide a surface on which to place the baby during feeding.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

(3) The disclosure includes a breastfeeding pillow including a head portion configured to support a head of a baby, a tail portion located opposite the head portion and configured to support at least one leg of the baby, and a middle portion located between the head portion and the tail portion, the middle portion configured to support a torso of the baby. In some embodiments, the breastfeeding pillow further comprises a foot support extending from an end of the tail portion, wherein the foot support is configured to receive at least one foot of the baby. The foot support may be configured to extend substantially perpendicular to the tail portion and may be configured to at least partially surround the end of the tail portion. In some embodiments, the foot support is configured to provide a surface for the at least one foot of the baby to press against, thereby providing pressure against the at least one foot of the baby.

(4) The breastfeeding pillow may comprise a first side configured to align the baby with a first breast of a nursing mother and a second side configured to align the baby with a second breast of the nursing mother. In some embodiments, the foot support is configured to move between a first position and a second position, wherein in the first position, the foot support extends substantially perpendicular from the first side, and in the second position, the foot support extends substantially

perpendicular from the second side.

(5) The foot support may be configured to move between a first position and a second position, wherein in the first position the foot support extends along a first direction from the tail portion, and in the second position the foot support extends along a second direction from the tail portion, wherein the second direction is substantially opposite the first direction. The first direction and the second direction may extend substantially perpendicular from the tail portion.

(6) In some embodiments, the foot support comprises a first end coupled to the tail portion and a second end located opposite the first end. The first end of the foot support may be configured to wrap around the tail portion. In some embodiments, the first end of the foot support wraps around the tail portion in an uneven manner such that the first end of the foot support extends further along an outer edge of the breastfeeding pillow than an inner edge of the breastfeeding pillow. The foot support may also include a stretchable member located between the first end and the second end, and the stretchable member may be configured to maintain a curved shape of the foot support.

(7) The middle portion of the breastfeeding pillow may define a curved shape configured to fit around an abdomen of a nursing mother. In some embodiments, the curved shape reduces an amount of space between the baby and the nursing mother to thereby facilitate physical contact between the baby and the nursing mother. The head portion, the tail portion, and the middle portion may define an apostrophe shape.

(8) In some embodiments, the head portion defines a first height and the tail portion defines a second height that is less than the first height, thereby configuring the breastfeeding pillow to elevate the head of the baby above the at least one leg of the baby. The middle portion may define a third height that is less than the first height and greater than the second height such that the breastfeeding pillow slopes downward from the head portion to the tail portion. In some embodiments, the first height is at least nine inches, the second height is at least three inches, and the third height is at least seven inches.

(9) The foot support may define a height of about five inches and a length of about twelve inches. In some embodiments, the breastfeeding pillow defines an overall length of about twenty inches. The breastfeeding pillow may be sized and configured for use in feeding newborns and infants up to about six months of age.

(10) In some embodiments, the breastfeeding pillow includes a removable slipcover configured to receive and retain each of the head portion, the middle portion, and at least a portion of the tail portion.

(11) The foregoing, and other features and advantages of the invention, will be apparent from the following, more particular description of the preferred embodiments of the invention, the accompanying drawings, and the claims.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

(1) These and other features, aspects, and advantages are described below with reference to the drawings, which are intended to illustrate, but not to limit, the invention. In the drawings, like characters denote corresponding features consistently throughout similar embodiments.

(2) FIG. 1 illustrates a mother and a baby, with the baby lying on a breastfeeding pillow, according to some embodiments.

(3) FIG. 2 illustrates a perspective view of the breastfeeding pillow, according to some embodiments.

(4) FIG. 3 illustrates a perspective view of a baby lying on the breastfeeding pillow, according to some embodiments.

(5) FIGS. 4A, 4B, 5A, and 5B illustrate perspective views of the breastfeeding pillow with the foot

support in different positions, according to some embodiments.

(6) FIG. 6 illustrates a partial view of a tail portion of the breastfeeding pillow, according to some embodiments.

(7) FIG. 7 illustrates an end view of the breastfeeding pillow, according to some embodiments.

(8) FIGS. 8 and 9 illustrate top views of the breastfeeding pillow, according to some embodiments.

(9) FIGS. 10 and 11 illustrate side views of the breastfeeding pillow, according to some embodiments.

(10) FIG. 12 illustrates a top view of a baby lying on the breastfeeding pillow, according to some embodiments.

(11) FIG. 13 illustrates a perspective view of the breastfeeding pillow inside the slipcover, according to some embodiments.

(12) FIG. 14 illustrates an end view of the breastfeeding pillow inside a slipcover, according to some embodiments.

(13) FIG. 15 illustrates a perspective view of the breastfeeding pillow including a headrest, according to some embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

(14) Breastfeeding pillows are specially designed cushions used by nursing mothers to provide support and comfort during breastfeeding or bottle-feeding sessions. One of the key elements of a successful breastfeeding session is the latch maintained by the baby on the mother's nipple and areola-without a deep latch, it can be difficult for the baby to transfer milk, resulting in low milk supply and possible nipple damage, which can be frustrating for both the baby and the mother. To get a good latch, the baby must feel stable. There are three key pressure points on a baby's body that help the baby feel stable, thereby encouraging a strong latch: the hands, the abdomen, and the feet.

(15) Traditional breastfeeding positions, with or without breastfeeding pillows, typically satisfy the pressure points in the hands and abdomen because the baby's hands are usually cupped around the mother's breast, and the baby's abdomen is usually pressed against the mother's torso. However, traditional feeding positions and typical breastfeeding pillows fail to provide pressure against the baby's feet, which can leave the baby feeling not fully supported or stable. For example, babies often kick their legs (or otherwise squirm) around while feeding, which can be an indication of some discomfort or instability.

(16) In addition, traditional "C"-shaped breastfeeding pillows are designed to curve around the mother's abdomen but may not be suitable for mothers of all sizes. Often, a gap forms between the center of the pillow and the mother, and the baby can sink into this gap rather than remain in a highly supported position for feeding. An optimal breastfeeding position includes the baby lying about level with the mother's breast, but this level position can't be maintained when the baby sinks too far into a pillow or between the pillow and the mother.

(17) In an effort to encourage stability and comfort while feeding, the breastfeeding pillow disclosed herein includes an angled surface for a feeding baby to lay on and a foot support element intended to provide the baby with a support to press their feet against.

(18) FIG. 1 illustrates a breastfeeding pillow **10** (hereafter, "the pillow **10**") resting on the lap of a mother **30**, with a baby **20** lying on the pillow **10**. In some embodiments, the pillow **10** is arranged and configured to position the baby **20** such that the baby's head is elevated above the rest of the baby's **20** body, which may help facilitate swallowing while feeding. The pillow **10** may include multiple elements configured to stabilize and support the baby **20**, as will be discussed throughout this disclosure. The baby **20** may rest directly on the pillow **10**, as demonstrated in FIG. 1, or the mother **30** may hold the baby **20** while the mother's arm(s) rest on the pillow **10**, thereby maintaining the sloped position for the baby **20**.

(19) FIG. 2 shows a perspective view of the pillow **10** including a head portion **202**, a tail portion **204** located opposite the head portion **202**, and a middle portion **206** located between the head

portion **202** and the tail portion **204**. In some embodiments, the pillow **10** includes a foot support **208** extending from the tail portion **204**, as illustrated. The foot support **208** may be configured to extend substantially perpendicular to the tail portion **204** and may be configured to at least partially surround the end of the tail portion **204**, as will be discussed further with reference to FIG. 6.

(20) Similar to FIG. 2, FIG. 3 shows a perspective view of the pillow **10** but includes the baby **20** lying on the pillow **10**. As demonstrated in FIG. 3, the head portion **202** of the pillow **10** may be configured to support a head **302** of the baby **20**, the tail portion **204** may be configured to support at least one leg **304** of the baby **20**, and the middle portion **206** may be configured to support a torso **306** of the baby **20**.

(21) In some embodiments, the foot support **208** is configured to receive at least one foot **308** of the baby **20**, such that the baby **20** may kick or press at least one foot **308** into and/or against the foot support **208**. As discussed above, the bottom surface of the at least one foot **308** of the baby **20** includes pressure points that, when stimulated, help the baby **20** feel stable and secure. Including the foot support **208** on the pillow **10** provides the baby **20** with something to press against to stimulate those pressure points and increase the baby's **20** sense of comfort and safety while breastfeeding. In some embodiments, the foot support **208** is sufficiently stiff (i.e., not flimsy) to maintain its position despite pressure from the baby **20** kicking and/or pushing against the foot support **208**. Stated another way, the foot support **208** may be firm enough to resist folding, collapsing, flopping, or other unintentional movement during, for example, nursing of the baby **20**.

(22) It should be noted that the pillow **10** may be sized and configured for use by newborns and young infants from birth to about six months of age. In some embodiments, the pillow **10** is sized and configured for use by infants from birth to about one year of age, or in some cases, from birth to about two years of age. Of course, the exact timeline of use will depend on the comfort and confidence of the nursing mother and the size of the baby, in addition to the baby's strength and case of breastfeeding. For example, a four-month-old infant may have an easy time nursing and may, by that age, be able to successfully nurse in a variety of positions without needing the specific support provided by the pillow **10**. On the other hand, for example, a premature-born six-month-old infant may be smaller and/or not as strong and may need additional time to master breastfeeding in a highly supported environment, such as that provided by using the pillow **10**. Exemplary dimensions of the pillow **10** will be provided later in this disclosure.

(23) FIGS. 4A, 4B, 5A, and 5B again illustrate perspective views of the pillow **10**. In some embodiments, the pillow **10** comprises a first side **402**, as shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B, configured to align the baby **20** with a first breast of the nursing mother **30**. The pillow **10** may also comprise a second side **502**, as shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B, configured to align the baby **20** with a second breast of the nursing mother **30**. Stated differently, the mother **30** may be able to flip the pillow **10** to accommodate nursing from either breast. For example, the first side **402** may be configured to align with the right breast of the mother **30**, and the second side **502** may be configured to align with the left breast of the mother **30**. In some embodiments, the second side **502** is located opposite the first side **402**.

(24) In some embodiments, the foot support **208** is configured to move between a first position **404**, shown in FIG. 4A, and a second position **406**, shown in FIG. 4B. In the first position **404**, the foot support **208** may be configured to extend perpendicularly or substantially perpendicularly "upward" from the first side **402** of the pillow **10**. The foot support **208** may also be described as extending along a first direction when in the first position **404**, as indicated in FIG. 4A. The first position **404** may be ideal for use while breastfeeding when the baby **20** is lying on the first side **402**, such as in the position shown in FIG. 3.

(25) The second position **406** may be useful to move the foot support **208** out of the way while breastfeeding if the mother **30** does not want to use the foot support **208** while the baby **20** is lying on the first side **402**. The second position **406** may be described as the foot support **208** extending perpendicularly or substantially perpendicularly "downward" from the first side **402**. The foot

support **208** may also be described as extending along a second direction when in the second position **406**, as indicated in FIG. **4B**. The second direction may be opposite the first direction. The second direction may also be opposite the first side **402**. The first direction and the second direction may be substantially perpendicular to the tail portion **204**. In some embodiments, the ability to move the foot support **208** between the first position **404** and the second position **406** facilitates the use of both the first side **402** and the second side **502** of the pillow **10**.

(26) FIGS. **5A** and **5B** are similar to FIGS. **4A** and **4B**, but show the second side **502** of the pillow **10**, and illustrate the foot support **208** in the first position **504** and the second position **506** rather than the first position **404** and the second position **406**. In some embodiments, in the first position **504**, the foot support **208** is configured to extend perpendicularly or substantially perpendicularly “upward” from the second side **502**, as shown in FIG. **5A**. The foot support **208** may also be described as extending along a first direction when in the first position **504**, as indicated in FIG. **5A**. Accordingly, the first position **504** may represent the ideal positioning of the foot support **208** for breastfeeding with the baby **20** lying on the second side **502** of the pillow **10**, assuming the baby **20** uses the foot support **208**.

(27) As discussed with reference to the second position **406**, the second position **506** may be useful to move the foot support **208** out of the way while breastfeeding if the mother **30** does not want to use the foot support **208** while the baby **20** is lying on the second side **502**. The second position **506** may be described as extending perpendicularly or substantially perpendicularly “downward” from the second side **502**. The foot support **208** may also be described as extending along a second direction when in the second position **506**, as indicated in FIG. **5B**. The second direction may be opposite the first direction. The second direction may also be opposite the second side **502**. In some embodiments, the first direction and the second direction are substantially perpendicular to the tail portion **204**.

(28) It should be noted that the first position **404** and the second position **506** may be substantially the same position. Further, the second position **406** and the first position **504** may be substantially the same position. This may be understood because the foot support **208** extending “upward” from the first side **402**, as in the first position **404**, is the same as the foot support **208** extending “downward” from the second side **502**, as in the second position **506**. Similarly, the foot support **208** extending “upward” from the second side **502**, as in the first position **504**, is the same as the foot support **208** extending “downward” from the first side **402**, as in the second position **406**. Accordingly, “flipping” the foot support **208** between the first position **404**, **504** and the second position **406**, **506** may accomplish moving the foot support **208** out of the way and/or preparing the pillow **10** for use on the other side.

(29) It should also be noted that the foot support **208** may define substantially the same stiffness in the first position **404**, **504** and the second position **406**, **506**. Stated differently, whether in the first position **404**, **504** or the second position **406**, **506**, the foot support **208** may “feel” the same and may exhibit substantially equal ability to maintain its position despite pressure from the at least one foot **308** of the baby **20**.

(30) FIG. **6** shows a partial view of the pillow **10**, including the tail portion **204** and the foot support **208**. In some embodiments, the foot support **208** is coupled to an end **608** of the tail portion **204**. In some embodiments, the tail portion **204** comprises the foot support **208** such that the foot support **208** may be considered an extension of the tail portion **204**, rather than a separate element attached to the end **608** of the tail portion **204**. In some embodiments, at least a portion of the foot support **208** is coupled to the tail portion **204** of the pillow **10**. For example, at least a portion of the foot support **208** may be coupled to the tail portion **204** via stitching, while another portion of the foot support **208** extends from the tail portion **204** as a continuation of the tail portion **204**.

(31) The foot support **208** may be configured to at least partially surround the end **608** of the tail portion **204**, as shown in FIG. **6**. In some embodiments, the foot support **208** wraps around the end **608** of the tail portion **204** in an uneven manner such that the foot support **208** extends further

along an outer edge **610** of the pillow **10** than an inner edge **612** of the pillow **10**, as demonstrated in FIG. 6. This may enable greater physical contact between the baby **20** and the mother **30**, as the inner edge **612** of the pillow **10** is the edge closest to the abdomen of the mother **30** during feeding. Accordingly, when the foot support **208** extends further along the outer edge **610**, there is less room along the inner edge **612** for the foot support **208** to be located between the mother **30** and the baby **20**, which may prevent or minimize skin-to-skin contact. In other embodiments, the foot support **208** may wrap around the tail portion **204** in an even manner such that the foot support **208** extends substantially equally along the outer edge **610** and the inner edge **612** of the pillow **10**.

(32) In some embodiments, the foot support **208** defines a first end **602a** coupled to the tail portion **204** and a second end **602b** located opposite the first end **602a**, as indicated in FIG. 6. The first end **602a** may be located adjacent to the tail portion **204**. The foot support **208** may also include a stretchable member **604** located between the first end **602a** and the second end **602b**. In some embodiments, the stretchable member **604** extends substantially an entire length of the foot support **208**. The stretchable member **604** may extend less than substantially an entire length of the foot support **208**. In some embodiments, the stretchable member **604** is comprised of a flexible and elastic material located within an interior portion of the foot support **208**. It should be noted that the stretchable member **604** is not limited to being comprised of “elastic” (the noun meaning “cord, tape, or fabric, woven with strips of rubber”) material, but may be comprised of “elastic” (the adjective meaning “able to resume its normal shape spontaneously after contraction, dilatation, or distortion”) material. The stretchable member **604** may include a continuous member (e.g., a continuous piece of material) or multiple members (e.g., multiple pieces of material).

(33) In some embodiments, the stretchable member **604** is configured to maintain the curved shape **606** of the foot support **208**, as illustrated in FIG. 6. The stretchable member **604** may maintain the curved shape **606** by providing tension along the length of the foot support **208**. Further, the stretchable member **604** may provide structure to the foot support **208**, which may help the foot support **208** remain upright when in the first position **404** or the first position **504** instead of simply “flopping” over under the force of gravity. The structure provided by the stretchable member **604** may also help the foot support **208** withstand pressure from the at least one foot **308** of the baby **20**. In some embodiments, the stretchable nature of the stretchable member **604** enables the movement of the foot support **208** between the first position **404** and the second position **406**, as shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B and, likewise, between the first position **504** and the second position **506**, as shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B, respectively.

(34) In addition to the stretchable member **604**, the structural integrity of the foot support **208** may be maintained by at least one segment **702** of the foot support, as shown in FIG. 7. In some embodiments, the foot support **208** includes multiple segments **702**, which are formed by seams **704** sewn between the first end **602a** and the second end **602b** of the foot support **208**. Each segment **702** may help keep the filler material of the foot support **208** in place, thereby helping the foot support **208** stay “stuffed” and maintaining the shape of the foot support **208**. Keeping the foot support **208** filled may, in turn, preserve the stiffness of the foot support **208** and further prevent collapse or other unintentional movement of the foot support **208**.

(35) FIG. 8 shows a top view of the pillow **10**. In some embodiments, as discussed with reference to FIG. 6, the foot support **208** is configured to at least partially surround an end **608** of the tail portion **204**. FIG. 8 also illustrates that the middle portion **206** of the pillow **10** may define a curved shape **802**. In some embodiments, the head portion **202** and the tail portion **204** are asymmetrical with respect to the curved shape **802** of the middle portion **206**. Stated differently, if the pillow **10** were reflected along an axis running substantially parallel with the length of the pillow **10** (see FIG. 9), the reflections on each side of that axis would be mirror images of one another, rather than being identical, as would be the case if the pillow **10** were symmetrical.

(36) In some embodiments, the curved shape **802** is configured to fit around the abdomen of the nursing mother **30**. The curved shape **802** may be configured to reduce the amount of space

between the baby **20** and the mother **30** to thereby facilitate and promote physical contact between the baby **20** and the mother **30** while nursing. For example, the curved shape **802** may define a gentle curve rather than a more pronounced “C” shape to reduce the chance of a gap forming between the pillow **10** and the mother **30**, into which the baby **20** could sink. In addition, the more open and gentle curve of the curved shape **802** may enable the pillow **10** to be used by mothers of different sizes, because the curved shape **802** is not as restrictive and enclosed as a more pronounced “C” shape pillow. In some embodiments, the curved shape **802** contributes to the overall apostrophe shape **804** of the pillow **10**. Stated another way, the head portion **202**, the tail portion **204**, and the middle portion **206** may define the apostrophe shape **804**. In some embodiments, the apostrophe shape **804** defines a substantially rounded apostrophe shape.

(37) FIG. **9** illustrates another top view of the pillow **10** and indicates the different widths of different portions of the pillow **10**, which may be attributed to the apostrophe shape **804**. For example, in some embodiments, the head portion **202** defines a first width **902**, and the tail portion **204** defines a second width **904** that is less than the first width **902**. Further, the middle portion **206** may define a third width **906** less than the first width **902** but greater than the second width **904**.

(38) In some embodiments, the first width **902** is about 14 inches (about 35.5 centimeters), the second width **904** is about 7 inches (about 18 centimeters), and the third width **906** is about 10 inches (about 25.5 centimeters). FIG. **9** also indicates the length **908** of the pillow **10**, which may be about 20 inches (about 51 centimeters). These values are intended as non-limiting examples, and the actual dimensions may be different than what is explicitly stated in this disclosure. For example, the width and/or length measurements of each of the first width **902**, the second width **904**, the third width **906**, and the length **908** may independently range \pm about 5 inches (about 13 centimeters) from the stated dimensions.

(39) FIG. **10** shows a side view of the pillow **10** and indicates the different heights of different portions of the pillow **10**. In some embodiments, the pillow **10** defines a tapered shape, as illustrated in FIG. **11**, where the head portion **202** defines the greatest height and the tail portion **204** defines the lowest height. For example, as shown in FIG. **10**, the head portion **202** may define a first height **1002**, the tail portion **204** may define a second height **1004** that is less than the first height **1002**, and the middle portion **206** may define a third height **1006** less than the first height **1002** but greater than the second height **1004**.

(40) In some embodiments, the first height **1002** is at least nine inches (about 23 centimeters), the second height **1004** is at least three inches (about 7.5 centimeters), and the third height **1006** is at least seven inches (about 18 centimeters). Further, the foot support **208** may define a height of about five inches (about 13 centimeters) and a length (i.e., distance curved around the tail portion **204**) of about twelve inches (about 30.5 centimeters). These values are intended as non-limiting examples, and the actual dimensions may be different than what is explicitly stated in this disclosure. For example, the height and/or length measurements may range \pm about 3 inches (about 7.5 centimeters) from the stated dimensions.

(41) In some embodiments, the pillow **10** is comprised of filler material, such as polyester fiberfill, foam padding, feathers, or the like encased in a fabric cover. Substantially the entirety of the pillow **10**, including the head portion **202**, the tail portion **204**, the middle portion **206**, and the foot support **208** may be comprised of the fabric cover with varying amounts of filler material. These varying amounts may contribute to the different heights identified in FIG. **10** and the slope **1102** illustrated in FIG. **11**.

(42) It should be noted that, in some embodiments, the pillow **10** is filled with an amount of filler material sufficient to support the baby **20**, even though the filler is able to be compressed. Stated differently, the pillow **10** may be considered similar to an “overstuffed” cushion, with a large amount of filler material inside, giving the pillow **10** a generally rounded appearance that is substantially firm (e.g., not overly compressible) to the touch, while still being soft enough for the comfort of the baby **20** and the mother **30**. The amount of filler material may be sufficient to

maintain the head **302** of the baby **20** in a position substantially level with the mother's **30** breast, rather than sinking into the pillow **10**. The varying amount of filler material in different portions of the pillow **10** may also be sufficient to maintain the angled position of the baby **20**, as shown in FIG. **1**.

(43) FIG. **11** shows another side view of the pillow **10**, and illustrates the slope **1102** of the pillow **10**. As previously discussed, the pillow **10** may define an angled shape such that the pillow **10** is configured to elevate the head **302** of the baby **20** above the rest of the body. The elevated position of the head **302** may help facilitate swallowing by using gravity to move milk down the baby's **20** esophagus. In some embodiments, the slope **1102** is less than 45 degrees (wherein the slope is measured against a horizontal axis of the pillow, such as for example a horizontal centerline). For example, the slope **1102** may be between 25 and 35 degrees. The slope **1102** may be between 35 and 45 degrees. In some embodiments, the slope **1102** is less than 25 degrees. The slope **1102** may be any angle suitable to safely support the baby **20** while aiding with swallowing during feeding.

(44) FIG. **12** is similar to FIG. **3** but shows a top view, rather than a front perspective view, of the baby **20** lying on the pillow **10**. In particular, FIG. **12** illustrates how the at least one foot **308** of the baby **20** fits into the pocket-like area created by the tail portion **204** and the foot support **208**, to thereby press against the foot support **208**. FIG. **12** also demonstrates the positioning of the baby **20** on the pillow **10**, with the head **302** resting on the head portion **202**, the torso **306** resting on the middle portion **206**, and at least one leg **304** resting on the tail portion **204**.

(45) In some embodiments, the pillow **10** further comprises a slipcover **1302**, as shown in FIGS. **13** and **14**. The slipcover **1302** may be removably coupled to the pillow **10** via the opening **1402** illustrated in FIG. **14**. In some embodiments, the slipcover **1302** includes a means for fastening, such as clastic or a similar stretchable material, used to keep the opening **1402** securely tight and closed over the pillow **10**. The slipcover **1302** may include another fastening means such as, but not limited to, a zipper, at least one snap, at least one button, hook-and-loop fastener, and the like. The opening **1402** may be a simple opening without a fastener to secure it in a closed position, similar to a traditional pillowcase.

(46) In some embodiments, the slipcover **1302** is configured to receive and retain each of the head portion **202**, the middle portion **206**, and at least a portion of the tail portion **204**, as demonstrated in FIG. **13**. In order to preserve the ability to move the foot support **208** between the first position **404**, **504** and the second position **406**, **506**, the slipcover **1302** may not be configured to receive and retain the foot support **208**. In some embodiments, the slipcover **1302** comprises a stretchable material, such as a knit fabric, configured to conform to the shape of the pillow **10**, including the foot support **208**. In such a case, the foot support **208** may be able to move between the first position **404**, **504** and the second position **406**, **506** while covered by the slipcover **1302**.

(47) FIG. **15** illustrates a top perspective view of the pillow **10**. In some embodiments, as shown in FIG. **15**, the head portion **202** includes a headrest **1502**. The headrest **1502** may be configured to further elevate the head **302** of the baby **20** above the surface of the pillow **10**. The headrest **1502** may be integrated into the pillow **10**, for example, located within an interior portion of the pillow **10**. In some embodiments, the headrest **1502** is removably coupled to the pillow **10** via a headrest pocket **1504**, as demonstrated in FIG. **15**. FIG. **15** shows the headrest **1502** partially removed from the headrest pocket **1504**, but it should be noted that during normal use, the headrest **1502** may be located substantially fully within the headrest pocket **1504**.

(48) The headrest pocket **1504** may be fixedly coupled (e.g., sewn) to the head portion **202** of the pillow **10**. In some embodiments, the pillow **10** includes two headrest pockets **1504**, one on the first side **402** and one on the second side **502**. The headrest **1502** may comprise a small cushion configured to fit inside the headrest pocket **1504** (on either the first side **402** or the second side **502**). Accordingly, the pillow **10** may include multiple headrest pockets **1504** and a single headrest **1502**, as the headrest **1502** may only be used on one side of the pillow **10** at a time.

(49) In some embodiments, the pillow **10** does not include the headrest pocket **1504**, and the

headrest **1502** is removably coupled to the pillow **10** with different means including, but not limited to, the following: hook-and-loop fastener, at least one snap fastener, at least one button, and combinations thereof. The headrest **1502** may be removably coupled so that the pillow **10** can be used without the headrest **1502**. In some embodiments, the headrest **1502** is restably coupled to the pillow **10** without any fastening means.

(50) The pillow **10** may be comprised of substantially natural materials, such as cotton, wool, linen, hemp, and the like. In some embodiments, the filler material comprises polyester, foam, or the like. The pillow **10** may be able to be washed in a standard laundry washing machine. In some embodiments, the pillow **10** includes a strap, buckle, or similar fastening element to secure the pillow **10** around the mother **30** to prevent movement of the pillow **10**.

(51) The disclosure includes a breastfeeding pillow including a head portion configured to support a head of a baby, a tail portion located opposite the head portion and configured to support at least one leg of the baby, and a middle portion located between the head portion and the tail portion, the middle portion configured to support a torso of the baby. In some embodiments, the breastfeeding pillow further comprises a foot support extending from an end of the tail portion, wherein the foot support is configured to receive at least one foot of the baby. The foot support may be configured to extend substantially perpendicular to the tail portion and may be configured to at least partially surround the end of the tail portion. In some embodiments, the foot support is configured to provide a surface for the at least one foot of the baby to press against, thereby providing pressure against the at least one foot of the baby.

(52) The breastfeeding pillow may comprise a first side configured to align the baby with a first breast of a nursing mother and a second side configured to align the baby with a second breast of the nursing mother. In some embodiments, the foot support is configured to move between a first position and a second position, wherein in the first position, the foot support extends substantially perpendicular from the first side, and in the second position, the foot support extends substantially perpendicular from the second side.

(53) The foot support may be configured to move between a first position and a second position, wherein in the first position the foot support extends along a first direction from the tail portion, and in the second position the foot support extends along a second direction from the tail portion, wherein the second direction is substantially opposite the first direction. The first direction and the second direction may extend substantially perpendicular from the tail portion.

(54) In some embodiments, the foot support comprises a first end coupled to the tail portion and a second end located opposite the first end. The first end of the foot support may be configured to wrap around the tail portion. In some embodiments, the first end of the foot support wraps around the tail portion in an uneven manner such that the first end of the foot support extends further along an outer edge of the breastfeeding pillow than an inner edge of the breastfeeding pillow. The foot support may also include a stretchable member located between the first end and the second end, and the stretchable member may be configured to maintain a curved shape of the foot support.

(55) The middle portion of the breastfeeding pillow may define a curved shape configured to fit around an abdomen of a nursing mother. In some embodiments, the curved shape reduces an amount of space between the baby and the nursing mother to thereby facilitate physical contact between the baby and the nursing mother. The head portion, the tail portion, and the middle portion may define an apostrophe shape.

(56) In some embodiments, the head portion defines a first height and the tail portion defines a second height that is less than the first height, thereby configuring the breastfeeding pillow to elevate the head of the baby above the at least one leg of the baby. The middle portion may define a third height that is less than the first height and greater than the second height such that the breastfeeding pillow slopes downward from the head portion to the tail portion. In some embodiments, the first height is at least nine inches, the second height is at least three inches, and the third height is at least seven inches.

(57) The foot support may define a height of about five inches and a length of about twelve inches. In some embodiments, the breastfeeding pillow defines an overall length of about twenty inches. The breastfeeding pillow may be sized and configured for use in feeding newborns and infants up to about six months of age.

(58) In some embodiments, the breastfeeding pillow includes a removable slipcover configured to receive and retain each of the head portion, the middle portion, and at least a portion of the tail portion.

(59) Some of the components listed herein use the same number from figure to figure. It should be appreciated these components use the same numbers solely for ease of reference and to facilitate comprehension for the reader. While these components may use the same numbers, differences may be present in these components as illustrated in the various figures in which they appear and as described in the specification herein.

(60) None of the steps described herein is essential or indispensable. Any of the steps can be adjusted or modified. Other or additional steps can be used. Any portion of any of the steps, processes, structures, and/or devices disclosed or illustrated in one embodiment, flowchart, or example in this specification can be combined or used with or instead of any other portion of any of the steps, processes, structures, and/or devices disclosed or illustrated in a different embodiment, flowchart, or example. The embodiments and examples provided herein are not intended to be discrete and separate from each other.

(61) The section headings and subheadings provided herein are nonlimiting. The section headings and subheadings do not represent or limit the full scope of the embodiments described in the sections to which the headings and subheadings pertain. For example, a section titled “Topic 1” may include embodiments that do not pertain to Topic 1 and embodiments described in other sections may apply to and be combined with embodiments described within the “Topic 1” section.

(62) To increase the clarity of various features, other features are not labeled in each figure.

(63) The various features and processes described above may be used independently of one another, or may be combined in various ways. All possible combinations and subcombinations are intended to fall within the scope of this disclosure. In addition, certain method, event, state, or process blocks may be omitted in some implementations. The methods, steps, and processes described herein are also not limited to any particular sequence, and the blocks, steps, or states relating thereto can be performed in other sequences that are appropriate. For example, described tasks or events may be performed in an order other than the order specifically disclosed. Multiple steps may be combined in a single block or state. The example tasks or events may be performed in serial, in parallel, or in some other manner. Tasks or events may be added to or removed from the disclosed example embodiments. The example systems and components described herein may be configured differently than described. For example, elements may be added to, removed from, or rearranged compared to the disclosed example embodiments.

(64) Conditional language used herein, such as, among others, “can,” “could,” “might,” “may,” “e.g.,” and the like, unless specifically stated otherwise, or otherwise understood within the context as used, is generally intended to convey that certain embodiments include, while other embodiments do not include, certain features, elements and/or steps. Thus, such conditional language is not generally intended to imply that features, elements and/or steps are in any way required for one or more embodiments or that one or more embodiments necessarily include logic for deciding, with or without author input or prompting, whether these features, elements and/or steps are included or are to be performed in any particular embodiment.

(65) The terms “comprising,” “including,” “having,” and the like are synonymous and are used inclusively, in an open-ended fashion, and do not exclude additional elements, features, acts, operations and so forth. Also, the term “or” is used in its inclusive sense (and not in its exclusive sense) so that when used, for example, to connect a list of elements, the term “or” means one, some, or all of the elements in the list. Conjunctive language such as the phrase “at least one of X,

Y, and Z,” unless specifically stated otherwise, is otherwise understood with the context as used in general to convey that an item, term, etc. may be either X, Y, or Z. Thus, such conjunctive language is not generally intended to imply that certain embodiments require at least one of X, at least one of Y, and at least one of Z to each be present.

(66) The term “and/or” means that “and” applies to some embodiments and “or” applies to some embodiments. Thus, A, B, and/or C can be replaced with A, B, and C written in one sentence and A, B, or C written in another sentence. A, B, and/or C means that some embodiments can include A and B, some embodiments can include A and C, some embodiments can include B and C, some embodiments can only include A, some embodiments can include only B, some embodiments can include only C, and some embodiments can include A, B, and C. The term “and/or” is used to avoid unnecessary redundancy.

(67) The term “about” is used to mean “approximately.” For example, the disclosure includes, “The foot support may define a height of about five inches . . .” In this context, “about five inches” is used to mean “approximately five inches.” Any dimension between 2 and 8 inches may be understood as falling within the acceptable range of “about five inches,” as defined in this disclosure.

(68) The term “substantially” is used to mean “completely” or “nearly completely.” For example, the disclosure includes, “The foot support may be configured to extend substantially perpendicular to the tail portion . . .” In this context, “substantially perpendicular” is used to mean “completely perpendicular” or “nearly completely perpendicular.” The foot support is not required to extend at a perfect 90-degree angle to the tail portion to be understood as extending “substantially perpendicular.” An angle between 80 and 100 degrees may be considered within the acceptable range of “substantially perpendicular,” as defined in this disclosure.

(69) While certain example embodiments have been described, these embodiments have been presented by way of example only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the inventions disclosed herein. Thus, nothing in the foregoing description is intended to imply that any particular feature, characteristic, step, module, or block is necessary or indispensable. Indeed, the novel methods and systems described herein may be embodied in a variety of other forms; furthermore, various omissions, substitutions, and changes in the form of the methods and systems described herein may be made without departing from the spirit of the inventions disclosed herein.

Claims

1. A breastfeeding pillow, comprising: a head portion configured to support a head of a baby; a tail portion located opposite the head portion and configured to support at least one leg of the baby; a middle portion located between the head portion and the tail portion, the middle portion configured to support a torso of the baby; a first side configured to align the baby with a first breast of a nursing mother; a second side configured to align the baby with a second breast of the nursing mother; and a foot support extending from an end of the tail portion, the foot support configured to receive at least one foot of the baby, wherein the foot support is configured to extend substantially perpendicular to the tail portion and is configured to at least partially surround the end of the tail portion, wherein the foot support is configured to provide a surface for the at least one foot of the baby to press against, thereby providing pressure against the at least one foot of the baby, and wherein the foot support is configured to move between a first position and a second position, wherein in the first position the foot support extends substantially perpendicular from the first side and in the second position the foot support extends substantially perpendicular from the second side.

2. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 1, wherein the foot support comprises a first end coupled to the tail portion and a second end located opposite the first end.

3. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 2, wherein the first end of the foot support is configured to

wrap around the tail portion.

4. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 3, wherein the first end of the foot support wraps around the tail portion in an uneven manner such that the first end of the foot support extends further along an outer edge of the breastfeeding pillow than an inner edge of the breastfeeding pillow.

5. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 2, wherein the foot support comprises a stretchable member located between the first end and the second end, the stretchable member configured to maintain a curved shape of the foot support.

6. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 1, wherein the middle portion defines a curved shape configured to fit around an abdomen of a nursing mother and reduce an amount of space between the baby and the nursing mother to thereby facilitate physical contact between the baby and the nursing mother.

7. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 6, wherein the head portion, the tail portion, and the middle portion define an apostrophe shape.

8. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 1, wherein the head portion defines a first height and the tail portion defines a second height that is less than the first height, thereby configuring the breastfeeding pillow to elevate the head of the baby above the at least one leg of the baby.

9. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 8, wherein the middle portion defines a third height that is less than the first height and greater than the second height such that the breastfeeding pillow slopes downward from the head portion to the tail portion.

10. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 9, wherein the first height is at least nine inches, the second height is at least three inches, and the third height is at least seven inches.

11. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 1, wherein the foot support defines a height of about five inches and a length of about twelve inches.

12. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 1, wherein the breastfeeding pillow defines an overall length of about twenty inches.

13. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 1, wherein the breastfeeding pillow is sized and configured for use in feeding newborns and infants up to about six months of age.

14. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 1, further comprising a removable slipcover configured to receive and retain each of the head portion, the middle portion, and at least a portion of the tail portion.

15. A breastfeeding pillow, comprising: a head portion configured to support a head of a baby; a tail portion located opposite the head portion and configured to support at least one leg of the baby; a middle portion located between the head portion and the tail portion, the middle portion configured to support a torso of the baby; a first side configured to align the baby with a first breast of a nursing mother; a second side configured to align the baby with a second breast of the nursing mother; and a foot support extending from an end of the tail portion, the foot support configured to receive at least one foot of the baby, wherein the foot support is configured to extend substantially perpendicular to the tail portion and is configured to at least partially surround the end of the tail portion, wherein the foot support is configured to provide a surface for the at least one foot of the baby to press against, thereby providing pressure against the at least one foot of the baby, and wherein the foot support is configured to move between a first position and a second position, wherein in the first position the foot support extends along a first direction from the tail portion, and in the second position the foot support extends along a second direction from the tail portion, wherein the second direction is substantially opposite the first direction.

16. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 15, wherein the first direction and the second direction extend substantially perpendicular from the tail portion.

17. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 15, wherein the foot support is configured to provide pressure against a bottom surface of the at least one foot of the baby, thereby stimulating at least one pressure point on the bottom surface of the at least one foot of the baby.

18. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 15, wherein the foot support comprises a plurality of

segments extending from a first end of the foot support to a second end of the foot support, wherein the first end is coupled to the tail portion.

19. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 18, wherein each segment of the plurality of segments is filled with filler material.

20. The breastfeeding pillow of claim 19, wherein the plurality of segments is configured to maintain a shape and a stiffness of the foot support.
