

A close-up, artistic photograph of a camera lens, likely a 50mm f/1.4D lens, mounted on a camera body. The lens is the central focus, showing its internal elements and the text '1:1.4 D' and '50mm' on the front element. The camera body is dark, possibly black or dark blue, with a textured surface. A red shutter release is visible on the left side. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, creating a moody atmosphere. The text 'BEREAVEMENT PHOTOGRAPHY' is overlaid on the left side of the image in white, bold, sans-serif font, with each word on a separate black rectangular background.

**BEREAVEMENT  
PHOTOGRAPHY**

## KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- The driving force behind your photos should focus on creating as many positive memories as possible for parents and families.
- Poses used for babes who are no longer alive, should mimic poses used for babes who are living
- Babes who are no longer living, lose all muscle tone and need to be supported physically more than living babes

# SPECIFIC TO IMMERSION PHOTOGRAPHY

## WHAT IT IS

Immersion Photography (IP) is the practice of fully immersing a baby in water or saline for the purposes of underwater photography after the baby have passed away. With the use of a clear tub and water or saline, the baby is immersed and then photographed through the clear walls of the plexi glass tub.

- ♥ The skin color and flaws on the baby improve as soon as the baby enters the water
- ♥ The baby's limbs become limber and flexible following several minutes of time in the water
- ♥ Immersion Photography mimics the look of a baby in the mother's womb

# REMINDERS

- Remove armband from baby prior to performing pictures and place the armband in the designated sleeve on the immersion tub
- Remove and secure umbilical cord clamp prior to performing pictures
- Remember the purpose of your photographs - To create lasting memories for patients and families - babe's skin and flaws may be lessened with photographs within immersion photography. The intent of the photos are not to have the babe appear to be "swimming or floating in water"
- The colder the water/saline the better

# REMINDERS CONTINUED

- Immersion photography should never interfere with time parents and family have holding and bonding with their babe
- Take a few of the same pose which allows you to edit the photos but retain the original picture
- The longer the babe is immersed in saline, the better the skin may appear
- **IMPORTANT FOR STAFF AT MWH:**
  - At the beginning and at the end of the photo session, Ensure a photo of the Mom's armband is taken at the ***beginning*** and ***end of the session***. Unfortunately, there are times when we have more than one fetal demise and there is the potential for "mixing up" or giving the wrong set of pictures to the family. **At a minimum, when staff omit this process there is valuable time spent in trying to "track down" the owner of the photographs.**

# PROCESS CHANGE

- Use of materials to clothe babe
  - Originally, the process was to remove all clothing from babe when using Immersion Photography. However, since this statement, we have found pictures are much better and the dignity of the babe is preserved if we utilize both stockinette hats and swaddles made from cheesecloth. We still advocate to use swaddles versus regular “baby clothing or outfits” as this conveys a more natural appearance of babe while in the Immersion Tub

# KEEPING THE MATERIALS OUTSIDE THE IMMERSION TUB

- With the use of inexpensive netting/tulle within the tub versus outside the tub, we have found the material masks the structure of the tub and provides a cushion and backdrop for the babe.
- The material used can be rinsed and given to parents if they desire but due to the low cost can also be discarded at the end of the photography session.

# Process Change Continued

- Taking pictures from the “Top” of the tub versus from the “Side” of the tub
  - Through much trial and error, with the use of swaddling and placing the draping materials within the tub, pictures appear much clearer and more precise when shooting the photos from the top of the tub
  - Utilizing pictures from the side of the tub may continue to be beneficial especially when taking photos of babe’s feet or hands

# TAKING PHOTOS OUTSIDE THE TUB

- If the babe qualifies for using Immersion Photography, start with Immersion Photography and follow with pictures of the babe outside the tub.
- **REMEMBER** the lack of muscle tone of babes born still and that their body must be supported when handling them. The use of swaddles made of solid color jersey material is best
- Even babes who have congenital anomalies will have some features to capture with photography. Focus on just a hand(s) or foot or feet.
  - Some parents may want a “full view” of their babe

# TAKING PHOTOS OUTSIDE THE TUB

- The longer the babe has been deceased prior to birth the more fragile and friable their skin can become
  - To decrease further damage to the skin and lessen the effects of skin discolorations or tears, try and keep the blankets and the babe as cold as possible. Avoid the use of heated blankets. Utilize lubricant/oil on the body surface, especially the head to minimize material adherence of fabric to the babe's skin. (especially cotton or knitted/crochet fabrics)
- At times, babies will leak serosanguinous fluid from their nose. Try placing a small amount of Vaseline inside the nares to decrease the flow of the fluid.

# TAKING PHOTOS OUTSIDE THE TUB

- Try to capture photos with the parents and family - Reminder - Allow the parents to “parent” by offering them to assist with bathing, dressing, reading a story to their baby.....



Cindy and Jeff Petersen begin to bathe child Luke after his birth and death. (Photo courtesy Todd Hockberg)



Carolyn and Brian Schneider hold Anna as Liam, 7, reads "The Runaway Bunny" to her, sibling James and grandparents are also present as the family says goodbye to Anna. (Photo courtesy Todd Hockberg)

# CAPTURING HOPE♥S





## CAPTURING HOPE ♥ S

Pictures of Babes outside of Water/Saline

# SOME SUGGESTIONS TAKING PHOTOS OUTSIDE

## THE TUB



# RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU



<https://www.awhonn.org/perinatal-bereavement-resources/>



<https://www.capturinghopesphoto.org/>



<https://www.lovewhatmatters.com/grieving-process-incredible-saline-bath-beautiful-pictures-miscarried-baby/>



<https://www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org/medical/>



QUESTIONS?



- Count off in pairs of two
- Grab your partner and a phone
- Take a few picture of a babe using the Immersion Tubs and taking pictures outside the Tub
  - Show it to someone else in the class

**LET'S PRACTICE**