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Riddle doctor, family helping to save lives (With Video)

July 16, 2011, 7:15 a.m. EDT
Delaware County Daily Times

MEDIA — One local family is working on a project that could save the lives of thousands of infants a year.

Dr. Harel Rosen of Riddle Hospital, and his parents, Arye and Daniella Rosen of Advanced Medical Technology Inc., have received one of 65 grants issued by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for an LED blue-light blanket to treat neonatal jaundice.

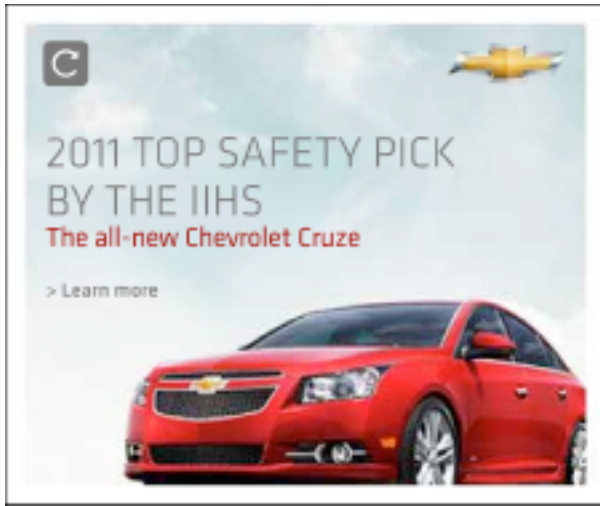
Eventually, Dr. Rosen hopes the blanket will be used in Africa, where jaundice is deadly.

“The idea that light helps jaundice is not a new one,” Rosen said. “Decades ago, it was noticed that babies in nurseries that were near the windows were less jaundiced. That led to research that showed that it was actually blue light that was effective.”

Rosen, in conjunction with his parents, came up with the idea of implementing a flexible bank of blue-light-emitting diodes (LEDs) in the treatment of jaundiced children. With their blanket, babies can be covered completely by the lights, potentially healing them faster than current forms of light treatment, or “phototherapy.”

A Deadly Condition

Infants in the womb rely on a high number of red blood cells from their mother to get oxygen. When red blood cells are broken down, a fat-soluble waste molecule called bilirubin is produced. The bilirubin is normally processed in the liver into a water-soluble molecule that can be excreted.



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