Table 2: Effect of Age

Author (Year)	Title	Study Description	Data Class, Quality and Reasons	Results and Conclusions
Seruya et al (2012)	Helmet Treatment of Deformational Plagiocephaly: The Relationship Between Age at Initiation and Rate of Correction	Prospective comparison of the results of custom helmet therapy in 346 patients in 7 pre-defined age groups ranging from <20 weeks to >40 weeks Similar degree of deformity in both groups at outset of therapy Median duration of helmet therapy ranged from 7.8-13 weeks across groups Median helmet compliance was 22 h/day Outcome: transcranial difference in oblique diameters measured at end of therapy	Class II Prospective comparative study Outcome assessed at different times in the treatment groups (treatment discontinued when transcranial difference <5mm) Outcome subject to measurement bias	All patients achieved normal calvarial symmetry at the end of helmet therapy, except those helmeted >36 weeks of age Duration of helmet therapy was positively correlated with age Improvement was still seen even in infants aged >12 months at time of helmet therapy initiation

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Kluba et al (2011)	What is the Optimal Time to Start Helmet Therapy in Positional Plagiocephaly?	Prospective comparison of the results of helmet therapy in 24 infants with plagiocephaly helmeted at age <6 months vs 38 helmeted at age >6 months Similar degree of deformity in both groups at outset of therapy Helmet therapy started between 4-11 months of age Instructed to wear helmet 23 h/day Mean duration of helmet therapy was 14 weeks in those <6 months vs 18 weeks in those >6 months Outcome: change in cranial vault asymmetry index (CVAI) pre/post therapy	Class II Prospective comparative study Outcome assessed at different times in the 2 treatment groups Outcome subject to measurement bias (no exactly reproducible landmarks)	A significant reduction in asymmetry was seen in both groups Younger patients (<6 months) showed a greater decrease in CVAI and attained values considered "normal" Children starting therapy later (>6 months) showed significantly less absolute improvement and did not attain values considered "normal" Duration of therapy was statistically significantly shorter in the younger patients Clinical significance of observed treatment effect unclear