

A cost-effective solution for urinary incontinence: The Hollister® Retracted Penis Pouch

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ABSTRACT

The prevalence of urinary incontinence in the long term care environment in the United States ranges from forty to sixty percent. As the life expectancy increases, the number of elderly individuals who must deal with incontinence will increase. Associated problems such as odor, skin breakdown, rising costs and psychosocial issues affect both the individual and the care providers.

OBJECTIVE

Issues of importance to providers of health care focus on the prevention of problems and the management of costs. Potential problems include pressure ulcers, skin breakdown, infection, odor and discomfort. Financial issues involve the cost of products, laundry (linen, clothing) and labor (changing linen, cleaning patients).

Traditional management includes indwelling catheters, intermittent catheterization, external collection devices and absorbent products. The product selected should be used only after a complete nursing assessment of the individual resident. Although each product has its place, each product also has the potential for problems associated with its use (see Table 1).

In our facility, the use of external, condom catheters was problematic for some of our residents. Because indwelling catheters and absorbent products were not always appropriate alternatives, we chose to evaluate the Hollister® Retracted Penis Pouch with FlexTend™ Skin Barrier (Hollister Incorporated, Libertyville, Illinois).

PURPOSE

There are a certain number of males in the population who cannot wear external catheters due to a retracted penis. An external collection device was manufactured as an alternative to conventional incontinence products.



*Retracted Penis Pouch with
FlexTend™ Skin Barrier*

METHODOLOGY

In a controlled, crossover type evaluation, the test product was evaluated in ten investigational sites. This product is specifically designed for males who do not have enough penile length to successfully use a connectional external catheter. The design of this product allows for containment of odor and urine and protects the perineal skin.

Our facility was one of the investigational sites for the study. Our care site is a 200 bed skilled nursing facility. We selected ten men because of their inability to wear external catheters due to a retracted penis.

The staff was instructed on the correct application of the product. The correct application involved thoroughly cleaning, rinsing and drying of the skin and shaving the pubic hair to help ensure good adhesion and easy removal. This device is intended to serve as a conduit. The pouch drain was connected to a leg bag or bedside collector. With proper application and use, our study group was able to achieve an average wear time of 48 hours.

Potential Problems Associated with Continence Care Products	
Product	Potential Problems
Absorbent products (e.g., briefs, diapers, pads)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased odor • Decreased patient dignity • Skin breakdown (Fig. 1) • Labor intensive (4-5 changes per day)
Indwelling catheters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased risk of UTI • Decreased patient comfort • Increased nursing time (Changing and cleaning drainage bag and tubing, catheter care, changing catheter)
Intermittent catheterization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased risk of UTI • Decreased patient comfort • Increased nursing time
External catheters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sizing issues • Unpredictable wear time • Risk of strangulation, pressure with adhesive wrap styles

Table 1

Fig. 1: Skin dermatitis with blistering on a patient who wore diapers.



DISCUSSION

The Hollister® Retracted Penis Pouch kept the men diaper-free and has proven to be both time and cost-effective. Additional benefits observed included:

- Patient comfort
- Visual assessment of the urine
- Ability to more accurately measure urine output
- Maintenance of dry skin
- Prevention of skin breakdown due to urine contact
- Containment of odor
- Maintenance of patient dignity

CONCLUSION

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is only one agency studying and trying to contain sky-rocketing costs of continence care. One product will not work for every patient. Accurate nursing assessments and product options are key to the prevention of problems and the management of costs associated with continence care. The Hollister® Retracted Penis Pouch serves as a good alternative in the management of urinary incontinence.

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