Overview

Lynn is a 63-year-old woman who suffered for many years with faecal incontinence due to Ulcerative Colitis. At the age of 44, she underwent surgery for a permanent colostomy.

After her colostomy, Lynn led a very active life; running the London and Vancouver marathons, as well as traveling extensively. However, at 49 years old, she underwent elective surgery for repair of a parastomal hernia. Unfortunately, she commenced irrigation too quickly post-operatively (at just a few days, and in the absence of any bowel sounds). This resulted in her bowel perforating and pelvic septicemia.

An emergency laparotomy revealed dense bowel adhesions, necessitating an extensive bowel resection. Five years later, medical tests revealed that the anastomosis between the large and small bowel had stenosed further. The adhesions and associated surgical risks, made any further surgery impossible. Due to the stenosis at the site of the anastomosis, Lynn is no longer able to eat and has to be fed intravenously overnight via a Hickmann line.

Problem:
Lynn is able to only drink decaffeinated tea and coffee with skimmed milk, as caffeine increases her stomal output and can lead to further dehydration. She administers her own intravenous feed overnight via her Hickmann line: 2 litres of parenteral nutrition infused at 200 mL/hr, and 50 mL for the last two hours. During the summer, in warmer climates, or with episodes of diarrhoea, Lynn needs to administer 2 litres of normal saline to stay hydrated. Lynn has experienced many problems finding a stoma pouch that can cope with the large amount of fluid her stoma produces whilst she is having her feed. She also needed a filter that could cope with the copious amount of effluent from her stoma during the night.
Solution:
Lynn recently tried the Hollister Conform 2 two-piece system with the new AF300 Filter. She believes this system is the most secure product she has found. The AF300 Filter copes well with the wet and copious amount of effluent from her stoma. It provides internal and external liquid protection (eliminating the need for filter covers), deodorizes gases, and helps reduce pouch ballooning. Additionally, the AF300 Filter has stopped any strike-through of faeces through the filter, and her underwear is no longer soiled from these mishaps. This is because the filter has dual membranes that help prevent fluids from entering the filter from the inside or outside of the pouch.

Outcome/Conclusion:
Since being on parenteral feed, Lynn has never been on holiday. This has been due to the combination of needing intravenous nutrition and not having the confidence and trust in her stoma pouch. Since using the Hollister Conform 2 pouching system with the AF300 Filter, Lynn has felt confident and secure enough to enjoy a three-week holiday in the north of England.