

THE NEW CLEAR SILICONE SHEATH WITH ALOE PROVIDES EXTRA SECURITY

The Clear Advantage with Aloe

Advances in urinary sheaths

Urinary sheaths have come a long way from their simple origins as adapted latex condoms. Advancements in design, materials, adhesives, and size ranges have made sheaths a reliable, comfortable, non-invasive choice for managing non-retentive urinary incontinence in men. Healthcare professionals now have a wide variety of choices available, making it that much easier to find the best, most reliable sheaths for each individual patient (Figure 1).

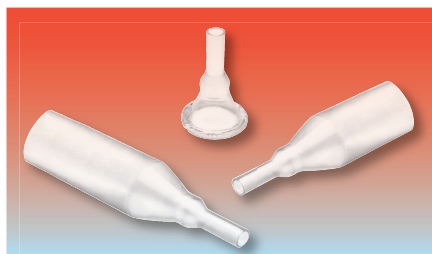


Figure 1. A selection of the sheath designs currently available.

Improvements in sheath materials have dramatically improved patient comfort and made skin care easier. Advancements in adhesive formulation and placement have made products more secure, helping patients to return to a more normal lifestyle. Every new generation of products has enhanced the quality of care and the quality of life for patients (Figure 2).

In the 1990s Rochester Medical introduced the first latex-free sheaths made of clear 100% silicone elastomer. This material's transparency makes it possible to confirm that the sheath is positioned correctly and to monitor skin condition beneath the sheath. This allows carers to diagnose and correct

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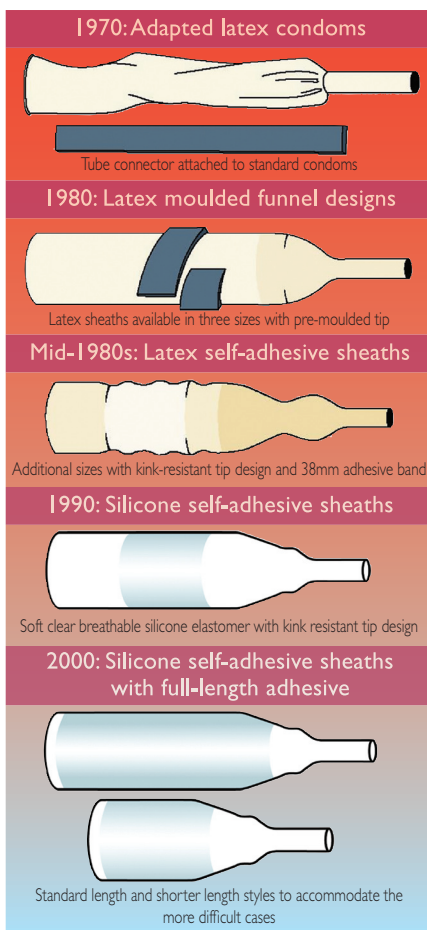


Figure 2. The development of urinary sheaths from the 1970s to the present.

small problems before they become more significant.

In addition, a silicone sheath has the ability to 'breathe' or release perspiration through the material, reducing moisture buildup that could lead to maceration and making the sheath more comfortable to wear.

The all-silicone Clear Advantage, offered in five sizes, was quickly adopted in the UK and has been a popular choice for the last 10 years.

New Clear Advantage with aloe

This year Rochester Medical's patented silicone and adhesive technologies have provided another urinary sheath design – Clear Advantage with aloe.

This new generation of products brings security and peace of mind within reach for many men, including those who previously had difficulty finding sheaths that would fit. The silicone material in this advanced sheath design is softer than in the original product, yet it retains all the advantages. Still latex-free, clear and breathable, it continues to reduce the risk of allergic reactions and helps ensure optimal skin integrity. The softer silicone also conforms more closely to the contours of the penis, providing better contact for the adhesive and better security against accidental detachment.

Just as importantly, there are now three styles of Clear Advantage with

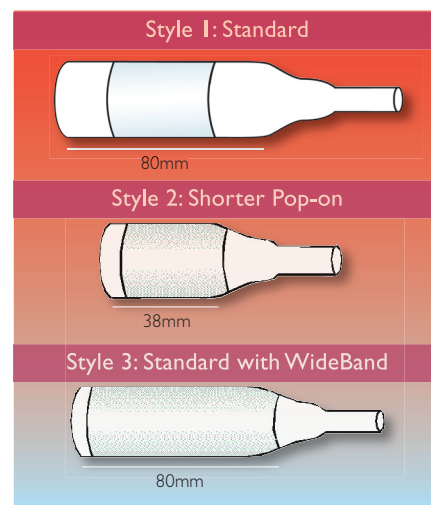


Figure 3. The new Clear Advantage with aloe sheath comes in three styles.

aloe to widen the choice of fitting (Figure 3). The new, shorter length sheath with forward placement of the adhesive makes it possible to fit men who have a shorter or even a retracted penis.

At the other end of the scale, there is a new version of the standard-length sheath with a wide band of adhesive extending into the funnel area. This is designed to provide additional reassurance for patients who have concerns about security of attachment.

Patient evaluation

The key to successful management of incontinence is careful assessment. This is especially true in the case of a sheath user, where the best fit provides the best outcome. The patient's manual dexterity, penis size, degree of incontinence and personal preference must all be taken into account to ensure the compliance necessary to achieve dryness.

Once it has been determined that a client is a suitable candidate for a sheath, a detailed patient evaluation will help determine the right product to use. The most important aspect of the evaluation is the measuring and physical assessment of the penis. This should not be left to a carer who has not been fully trained.

With minimal instruction most carers can gain the confidence to advise patients regarding the selection of the correct type and size of sheath. These simple rules will result in increased dryness and quality of life for patients:

- ▶▶ Use an accurate measuring device, preferably of flexible tape-style
- ▶▶ Measure behind the glans
- ▶▶ Choose the nearest size of sheath above the measurement
- ▶▶ Select a shorter sheath length for a shorter penis
- ▶▶ Carefully follow the fitting instructions provided with the sheath to avoid wrinkles as it is secured to the penis.

Innovations in adhesives

A critical component that affects the performance and reliability of sheaths is the strength and placement of the

Case study

Mr M was an 85-year-old man who was incontinent following a cerebral vascular accident. Mr M lived at home with his wife but was dependent on two carers visiting four times a day to manage his needs. He was overweight, largely immobile and spent a lot of time in bed. Mr M's carers were using pads to manage his urinary incontinence, but these were proving to be insufficient and his wife was struggling to cope with the washing. Mr M's GP suggested that a sheath might be suitable, particularly for night time use.

The Clinical Nurse Specialist assessed the degree of penile retraction while Mr M was both sitting and lying down. There was insufficient penile shaft length to accept a standard sheath. However, the Clinical Nurse Specialist measured the diameter of Mr M's penis and fitted him with the Rochester Transfix 32mm Style 2 (shorter length) sheath. Instructions were left for the carers who would be fitting it for him each day.

At follow-up the couple reported that the sheath had been working well. Mr M's wife reported that both of them had been sleeping well. They have since decided to use the shorter style sheath system to manage Mr M's incontinence during the day as well as at night.

Written by Claire Gibbs, Specialist Nurse Advisor

adhesive. Manufacturers differ in the types of materials and adhesives used, but the main elements that affect adhesive security are the softness of the sheath material and the consistency of adhesive application.

Clear Advantage with aloe uses a skin friendly, non-sensitizing adhesive that is built into the sheath lining. The manufacturing process carefully controls the amount of adhesive applied and ensures its consistency.

Proper application of the sheath is every bit as important as the design and quality of the product. For an adhesive system to be effective it must not only adhere securely but also be easy for the carer or patient to apply correctly. Reports of sheaths that fall off too easily or stick too firmly are common. These problems are often the result of incorrect product selection or improper application.

It would be hard to overstate the importance of making sure that the skin is clean and dry and free of creams or lotions, yet these are common mistakes. It is especially important to ensure dryness, as it may take some patients up to 10 minutes for the skin to return to its normal level of dryness after washing with soap and water.

Improving choices to increase quality of life

Urinary sheaths provide a solution to the often debilitating problem of incontinence. Sheaths can offer reliability, comfort, and ease of application without the wetness and odour associated with absorbent products or the risk of infection associated with indwelling urinary catheters (Saint et al, 2006).

Advancements in technology have made sheaths an extremely reliable management option for men with dribbling incontinence, functional incontinence, and incontinence due to neurological impairment. With its patented, forward adhesive placement and proprietary silicone and adhesive technologies, Rochester Medical's Clear Advantage with aloe makes the choice of optimal comfort and security available to an increased number of patients. **CUK**

References

Saint S, Kaufman SR, Rogers MA, Baker PD, Ossenkop K, Lipsky BA (2006) Condom versus indwelling urinary catheters: a randomized trial. *J Am Geriatr Soc* **54(7)**: 1055–61

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