

# Skin damage associated with incontinence devices

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Medical Devices and Skin vulnerability sandpit



# Background

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Continence products are essential in enhancing the quality of life of those with bladder and/or bowel leakage who:

- Are unable to be (fully) cured.
- Are awaiting treatment.
- Are waiting for treatment to take effect.
- Elect not to pursue cure options.

**Continence Product Advisor**  
Independent research based advice  
A collaborative project from:  
**ICCI** & **IICS**  
[www.continenceproductadvisor.org](http://www.continenceproductadvisor.org)



**5<sup>th</sup> International Consultation on  
Incontinence  
Paris: February 2012**



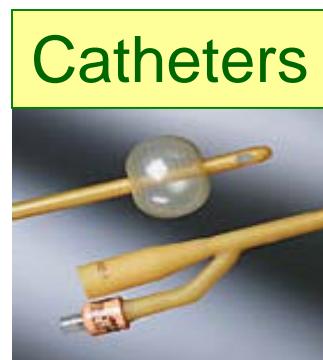
# Prevalence and costs (UK)

- Around 400,000 NHS pad users
  - £96 million pa (CF 2000)
- Around 40-50,000 ICath users
  - £60 million pa (PCA 2009)
- Around 50,000 LTCath users
  - £20 million pa (PCA 2009)
- Around £20 million pa other products
  - DH Prescription cost analysis (PCA 2009)

# Products for managing toileting, urinary retention, UI and FI



Pads



Catheters



Bags



Mech. devices



Toileting aids



Urinals

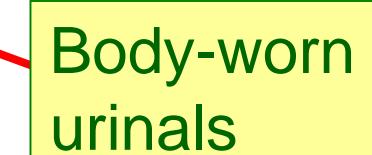
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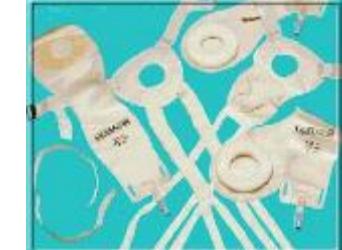
Sheaths



FI devices



Body-worn urinals





# Absorbent pads

Disposable insert



Washable products



Disposable  
pull-ups



Disposable  
diaper/AIO



Disposable T-  
shaped diaper



# Median urine mass per pad (g)



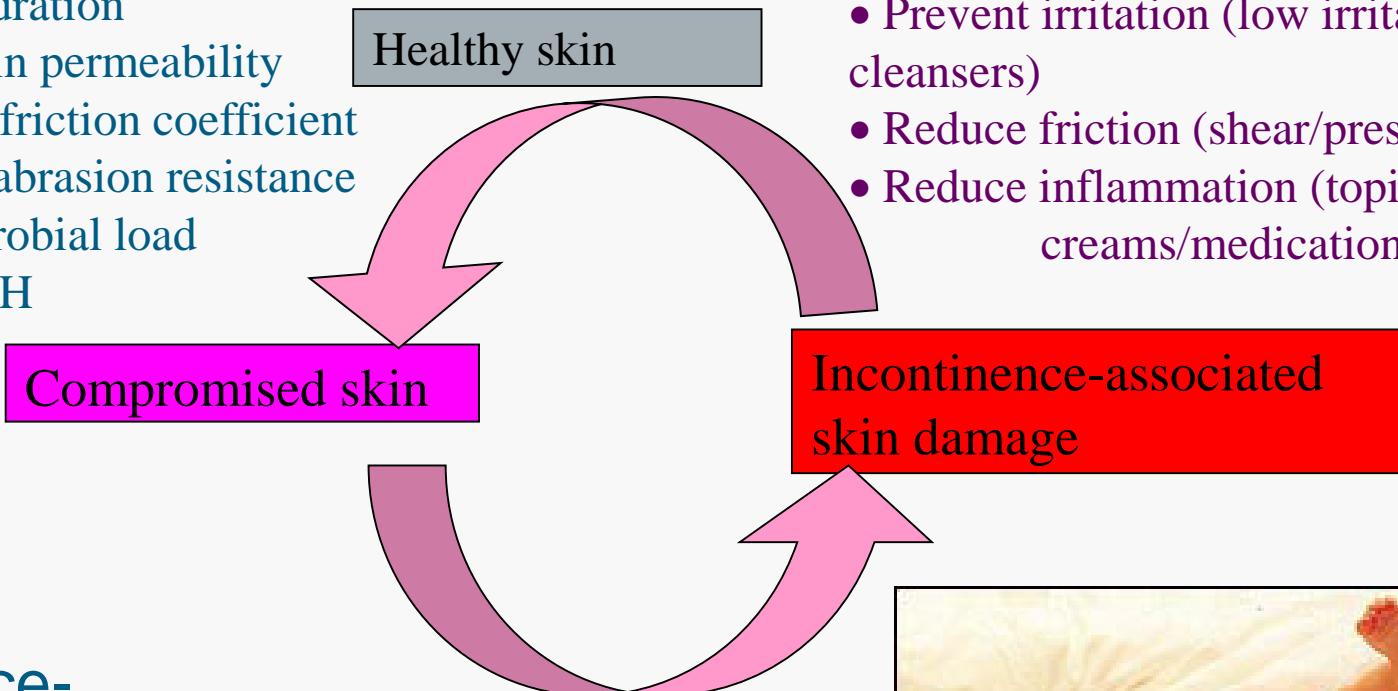
	Insert	Diaper / AIO	Pull-up	T-shape	Wash -able
Men	284	347	303	355	431
Women	147	203	176	186	311
N (pads)	1943	2196	2066	1426	819

## Clinical interventions to:

- Prevent water penetration (e.g. barrier products, pad changing, improved pads)
- Minimise faecal contact
- Prevent irritation (low irritant cleansers)
- Reduce friction (shear/pressure)
- Reduce inflammation (topical creams/medication)

### Environment within wet pad:

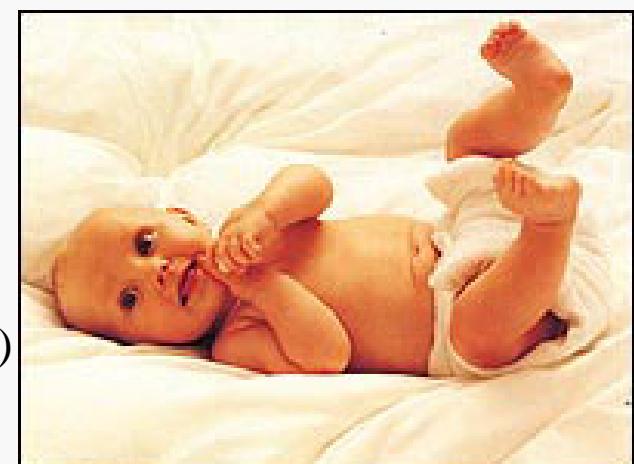
- Skin over-hydration  
→ Increased skin permeability
- Higher skin friction coefficient
- Lower skin abrasion resistance
- Greater microbial load
- Increasing pH



Model of incontinence-associated skin damage (based on Berg 1986)

### Aetiological factors:

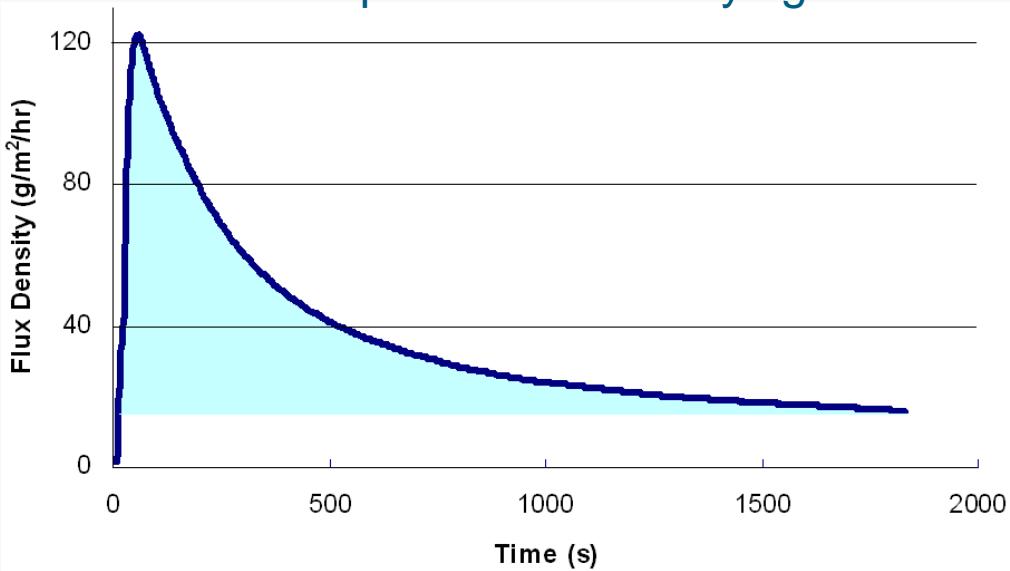
- Faecal enzymes
- Mechanical action (friction, shear, pressure)
- Chemical irritation (topical products)





Evaporimeter

### Desorption curve for drying skin



M Fader, S R Clark-O'Neill, W K R Wong, B Runeman, A Farbrot and A M Cottenden. Review of methods used for quantifying excess water in over-hydrated skin using evaporimetry (Skin Research and Technology February 2010 16, (1) 1-8).

Development and preliminary testing of a standardized method for quantifying excess water in over-hydrated skin using evaporimetry. Physiological Measurement 2011, 32 305-317.

# Protecting skin from wet pads



Apply cream



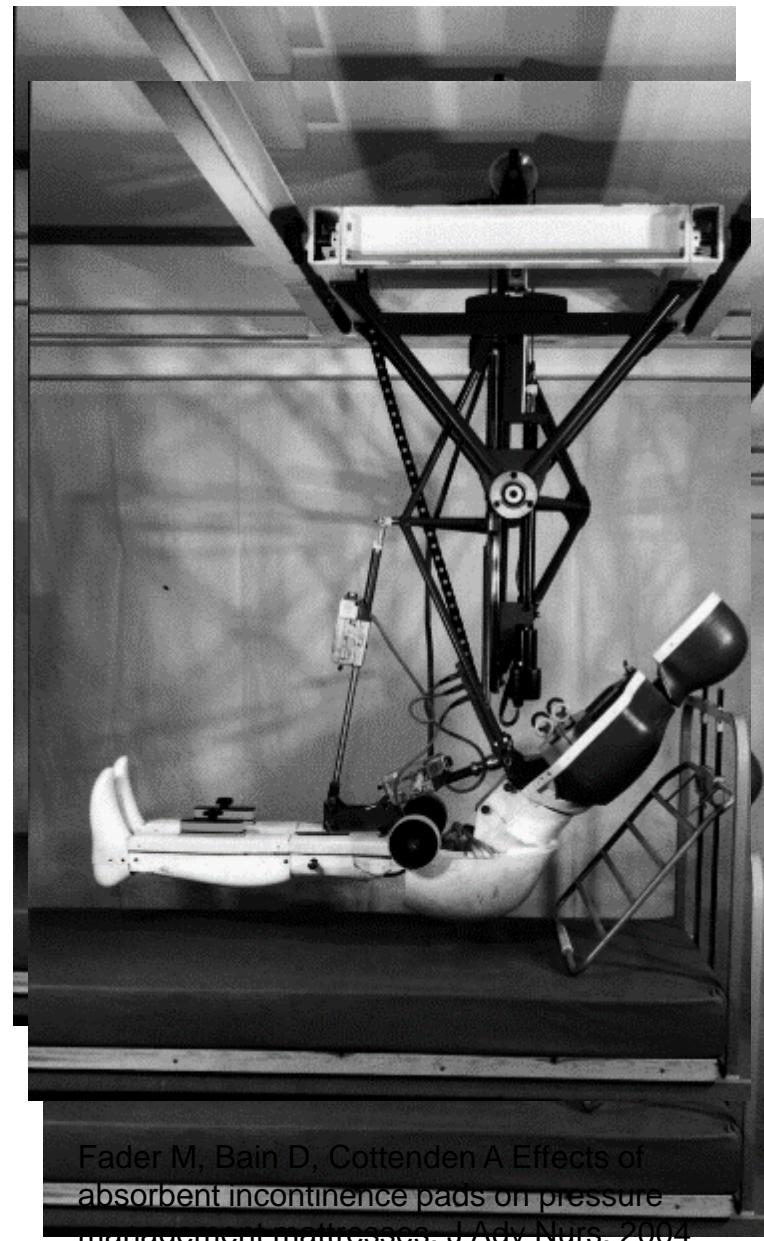
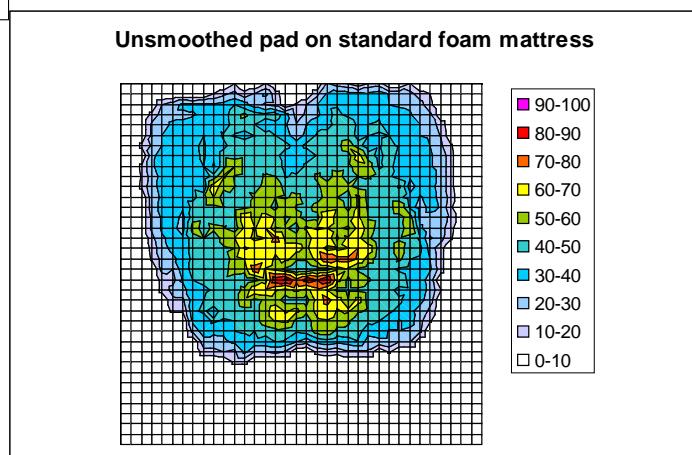
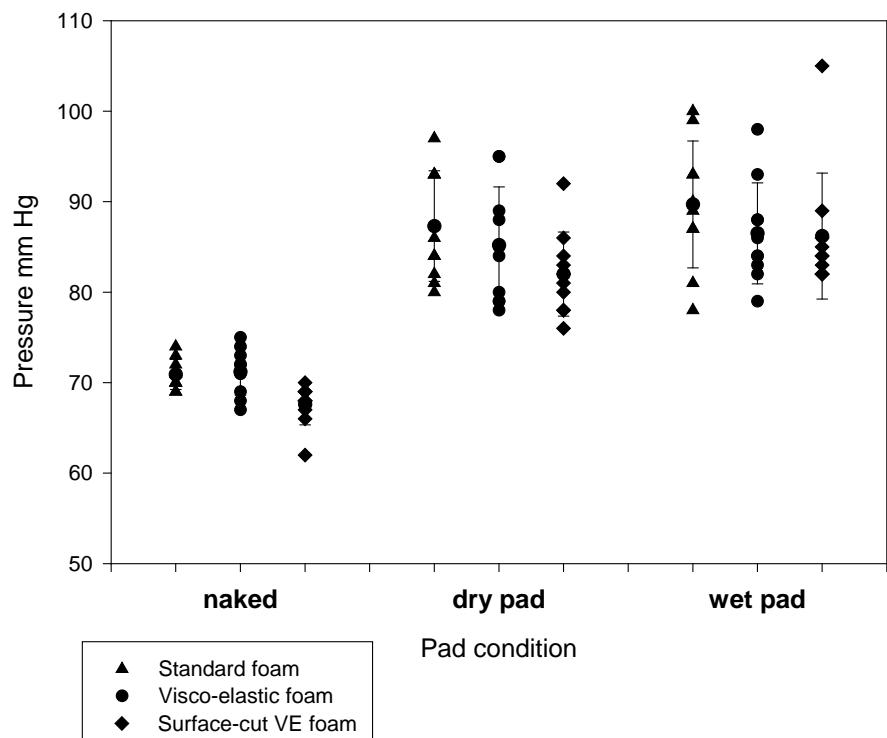
Wear saline-soaked patch  
for 20 min



Monitor SSWL  
for 10 min

10 subjects, one measurement per treatment + control

- ◆ Peak pressures (SD) recorded from three mattresses (standard, visco-elastic, surface-cut foam) under three conditions (naked, dry pad, wet pad)



Fader M, Bain D, Cottenden A. Effects of absorbent incontinence pads on pressure management mattresses. J Adv Nurs. 2004 Dec;48(6):569-74.

# Products and devices for men

Pads



Indwelling catheters



Body-worn urinals

Sheaths & bags



Mechanical devices



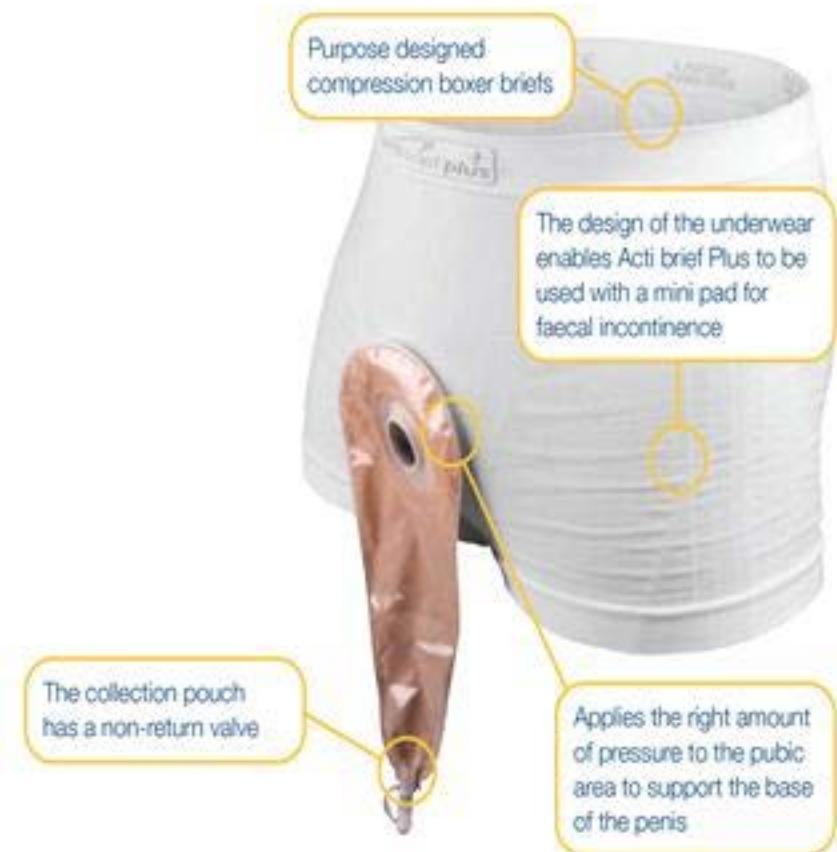
# Sheath



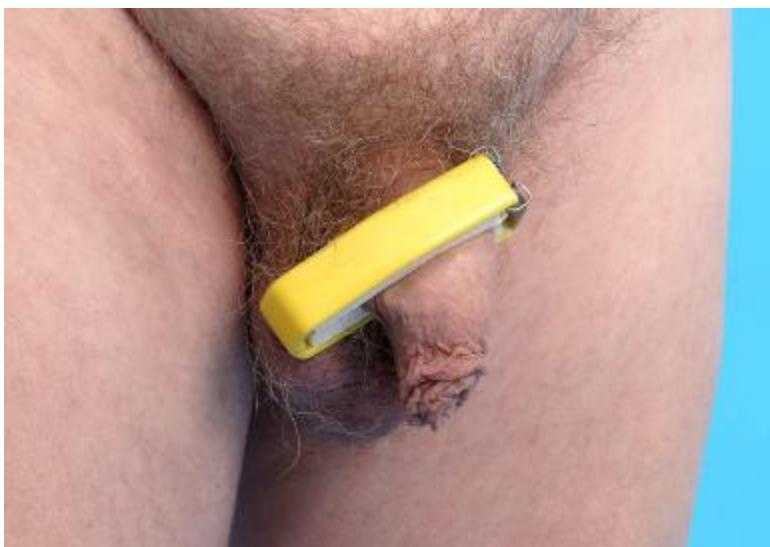
# Body-worn urinals



# Device briefs



# Penile compression devices (clamp)



N=56

% = proportion of men rating as 'good' or 'acceptable' v 'poor'

✓ and ✗ = designs performed significantly **better** or **worse**  
than one, two or all other designs ( $p=0.05$ )

	Pad %	Sheath %	BWU %	Clamp %
<b>% reporting – No leak</b>	21	49✓	36	75✓✓✓
<b>% reporting - No smell</b>	38	69✓✓	53	70✓
<b>% reporting - Feels secure</b>	46	38	32	68✓✓✓
<b>% reporting – Can wear any Clothes</b>	38	42	38	68✓✓✓
<b>% reporting - No pain</b>	75	58	35**	11***
<b>% reporting - Comfortable (dry)</b>	77✓	64✓	38	n/a
<b>% reporting - Easy to put on</b>	84✓✓✓	43✓	25	51✓

Design differences  
for key performance characteristics

# Measuring skin damage from clamps

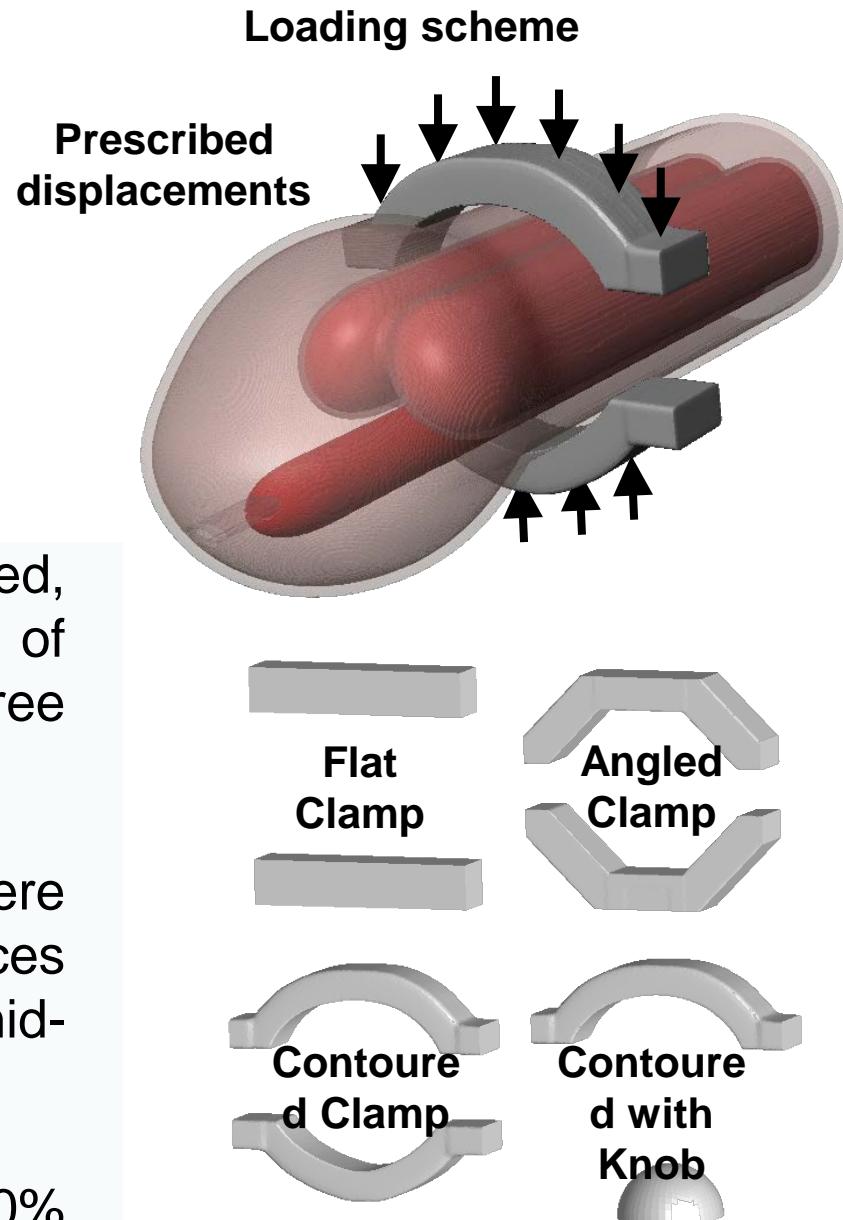
- Laser doppler
- Sebutape - inflammatory markers
- Interface pressure sensors



# Methods

Clamp geometry	Stiffness [kPa]
Flat	25, 50, 100
Angled	25, 50, 100
Contoured	25, 50, 100
Cuff-type	None
Contoured with knob	50,100
Tilt 5°	50

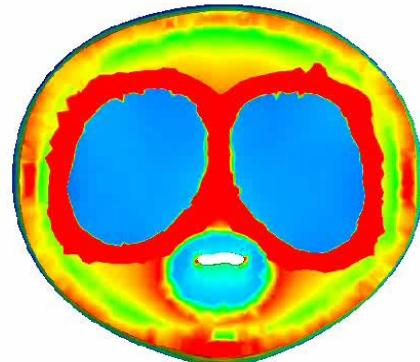
- 12 model variants were developed, representing five generic designs of incontinence clamps and three stiffnesses of interface materials
- Opposite vertical displacements were assigned to the top and bottom surfaces of every clamp to compress the mid-shaft
- Common target outcome of 50% occlusion of the urethra



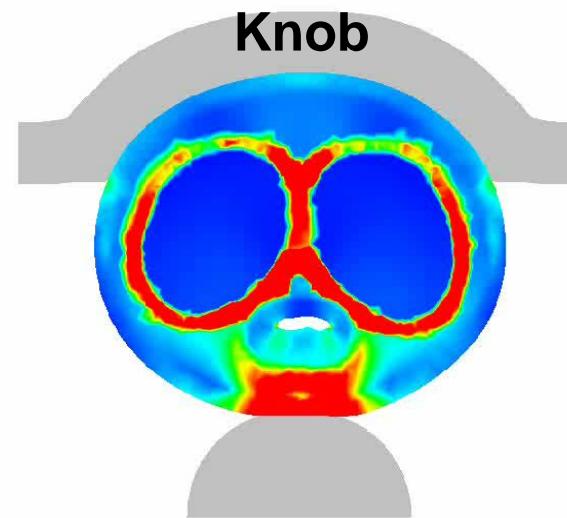
# Results

## Effective Stress Distributions

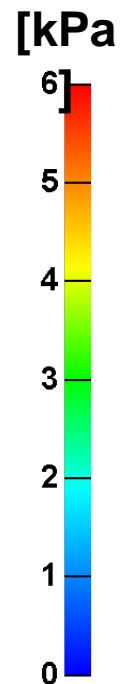
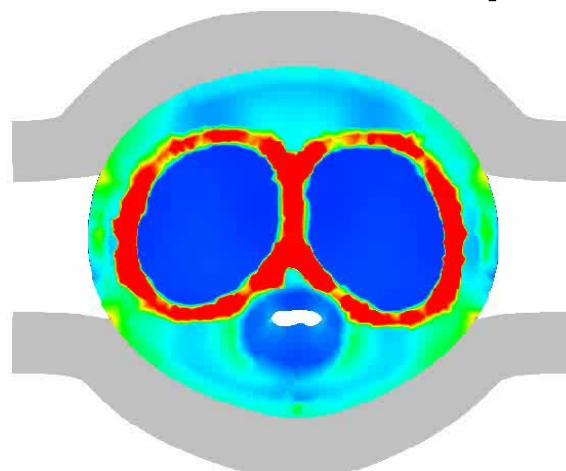
Cuff-Type Clamp



Contoured with Knob



Contoured Clamp





# Female devices

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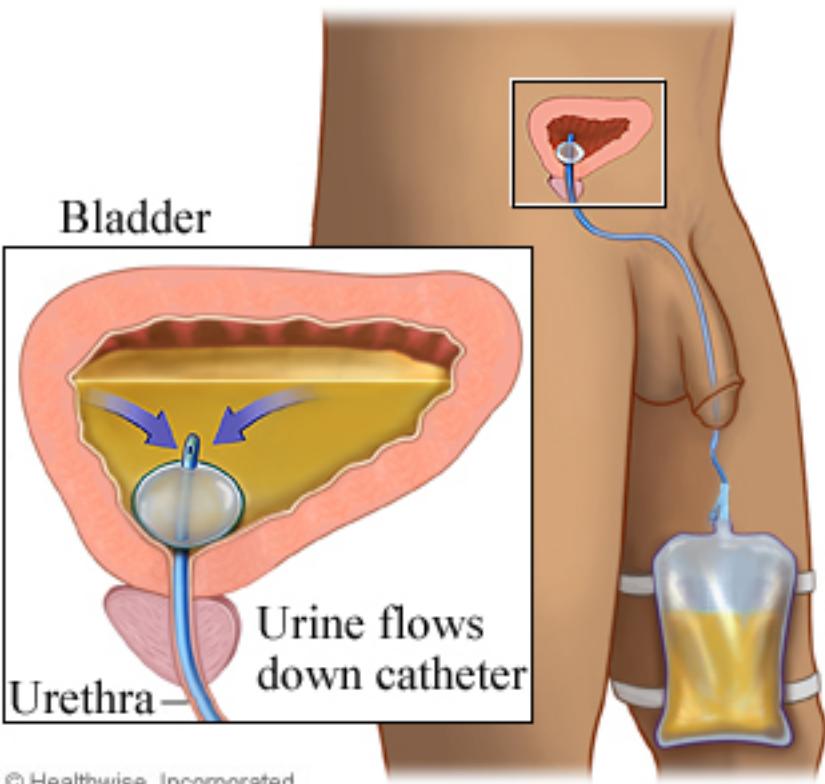


# Female urinals

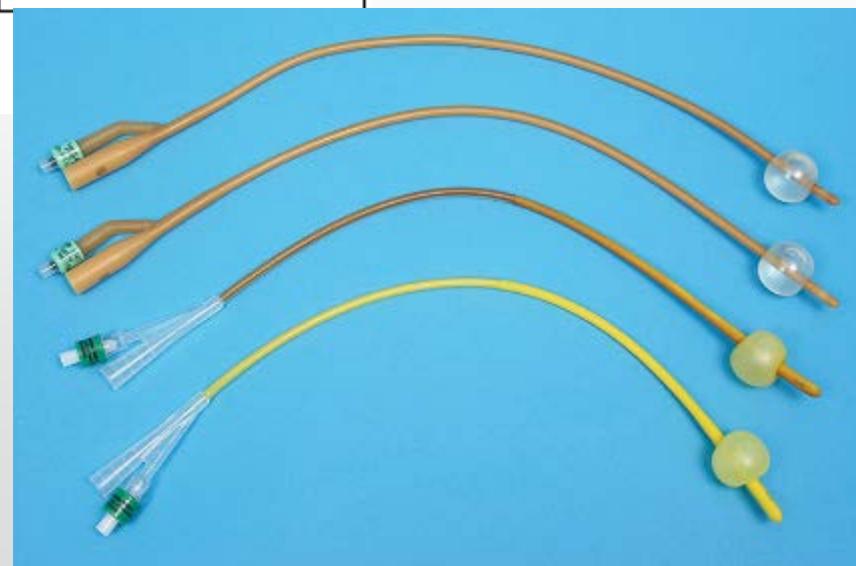
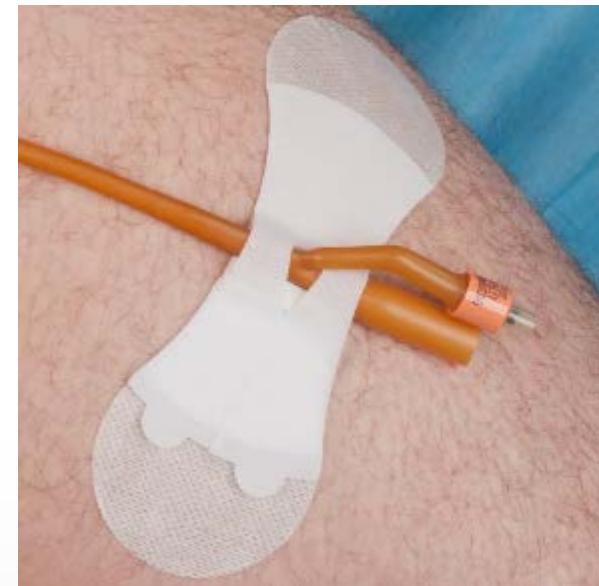
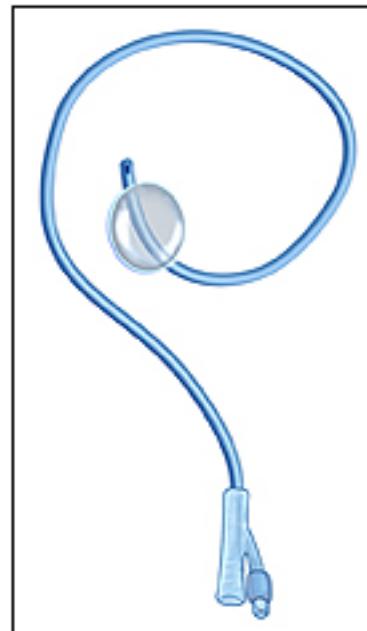
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# Urethral catheters



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# Faecal collectors

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