

Hydrocolloid Dressing for Nipple Positioning After Nipple- or Skin-Sparing Mastectomy

Researchers at the University of South Florida have developed a hydrocolloid dressing that is placed over the breast after a mastectomy for improved circulation and aesthetic success with optimal nipple positioning.

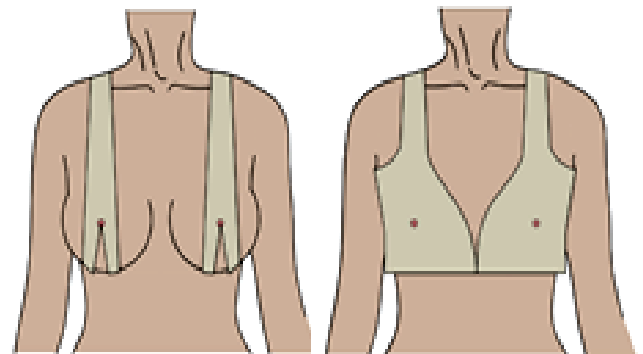
Nipple-sparing mastectomies (NSM) are a recently developed but widely utilized technique that can produce aesthetically pleasing reconstruction results after mastectomy. Key components of this technique are maintenance of nipple-areolar complex and mastectomy skin flap viability, as well as proper nipple position and symmetry. Unfortunately, nipple malposition is a common complication of NSM. Lack of attention to certain details during surgery can lead to difficult-to-correct nipple asymmetries. Further, nipple malpositioning was significantly correlated with factors including larger pre-operative sternal notch to nipple distance, and post-operative ischemia. Accordingly, what is needed is an apparatus and method for resolving incorrect nipple position and necrotic complications following NSM or skin-sparing mastectomies (SSM).

USF researchers have developed a method of elevating and positioning the nipple/nipple-areolar complex of a patient after unilateral or bilateral NSM or SSM. The method utilizes a hydrocolloid dressing placed over the patient's breasts which allows the afflicted breast skin and tissue to heal safely, thus permitting the patient's nipple to be positioned in the desired location. The inverted V design of the hydrocolloid bra can be used for more precise control over nipple positioning. This device reduces the need for intraoperative fill and acellular dermal matrix (ADM) post-surgery, therefore reducing the chances of necrotic complications.

ADVANTAGES:

- Symmetric post-operative nipple positioning
- Decreased neurotic complications
- Improved circulation after surgery
- Eliminates need for intraoperative fill and ADM

A Safe and Efficient Way to Achieve Precise Nipple Placement



An Illustrated Depiction of the Hydrocolloid Bra

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