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(54) **BRIEF FOR PREGNANT WOMAN**

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(2013.01); **A41B 9/04** (2013.01)

## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a brief for pregnant woman, specifically, relates to a brief for pregnant woman that, as desired, the height and position of the top line of the front of the brief can be lowered not to press the abdomen of the pregnant woman. The brief includes at least one upper coupling member being positioned adjacent to the top line of an upper portion of the front of the brief along the top line; and at least one lower coupling member being positioned in a lower portion of the front of the brief so as to correspond to the upper coupling member, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member such that the top line of the brief is lowered to the lower portion of the front of the brief.

## Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**

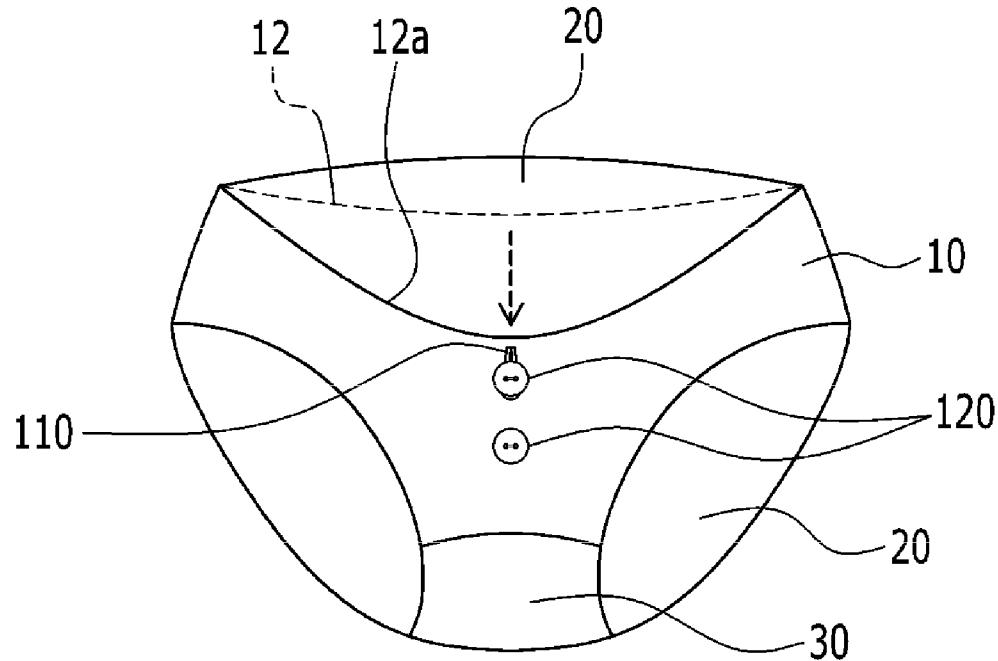
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**A41B 9/04** (2006.01)

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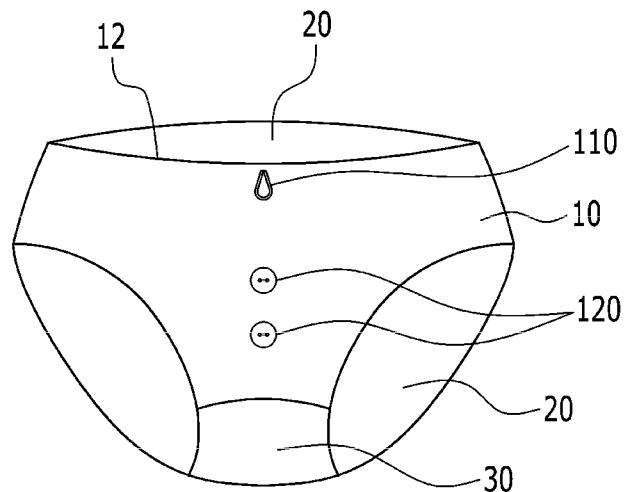


FIG. 1(a)

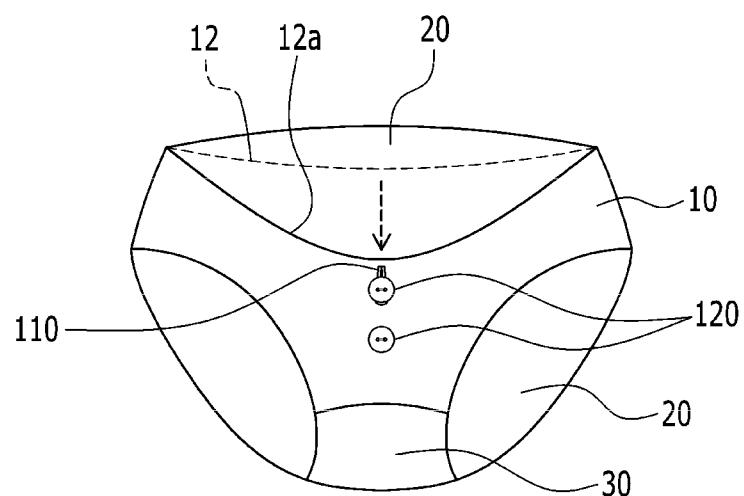


FIG. 1(b)

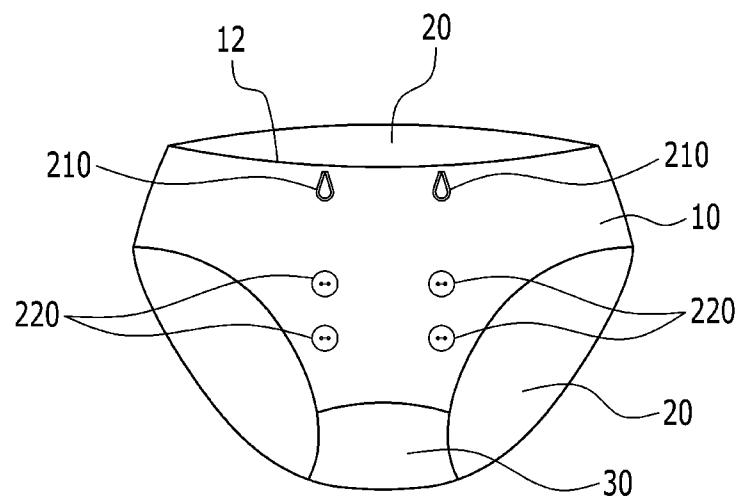


FIG. 2(a)

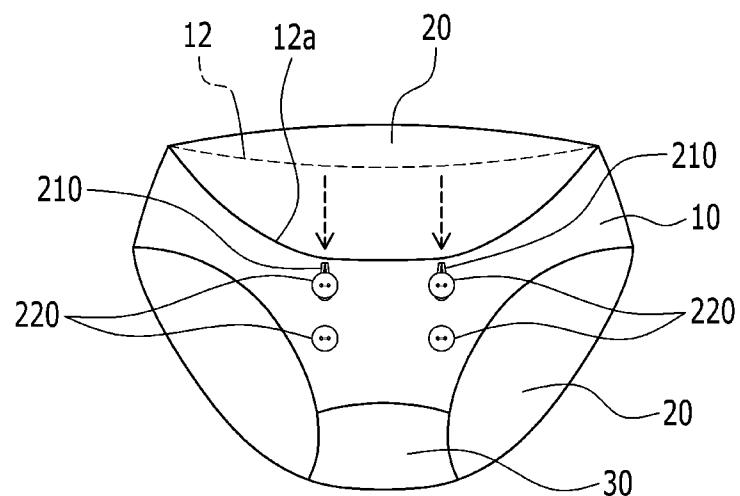


FIG. 2(b)

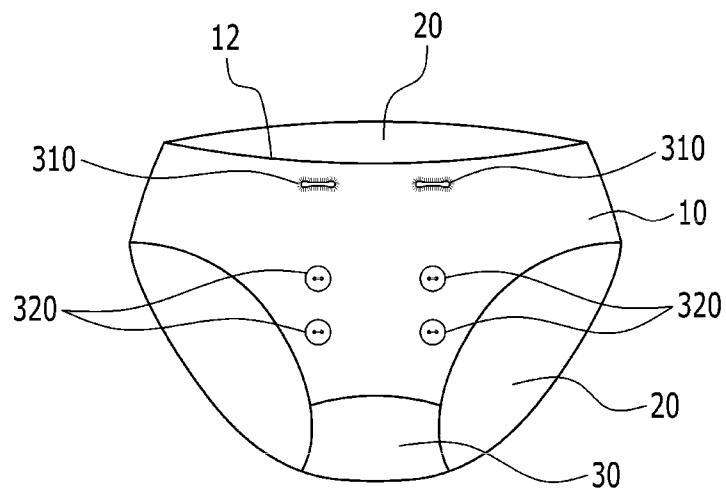


FIG. 3(a)

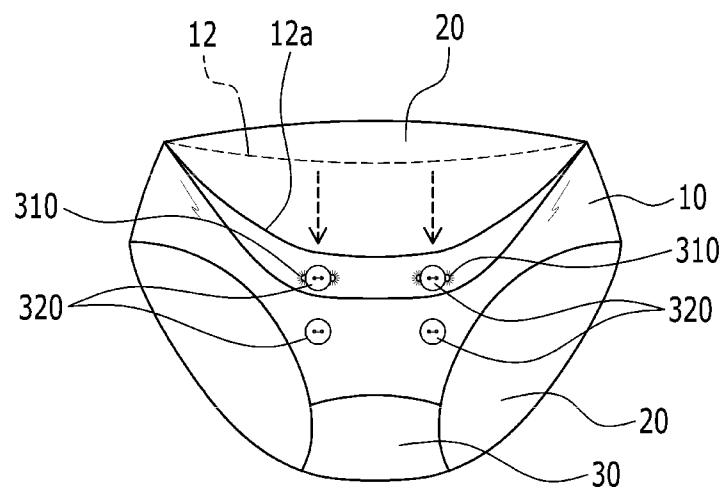


FIG. 3(b)

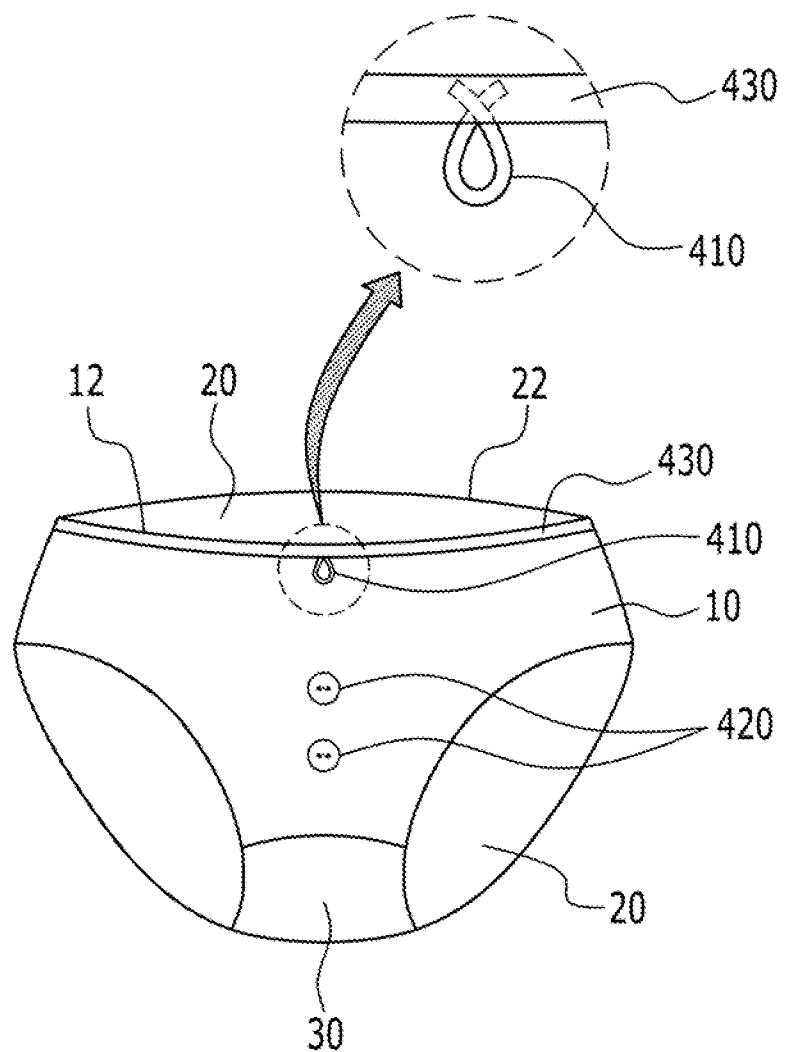


FIG. 4

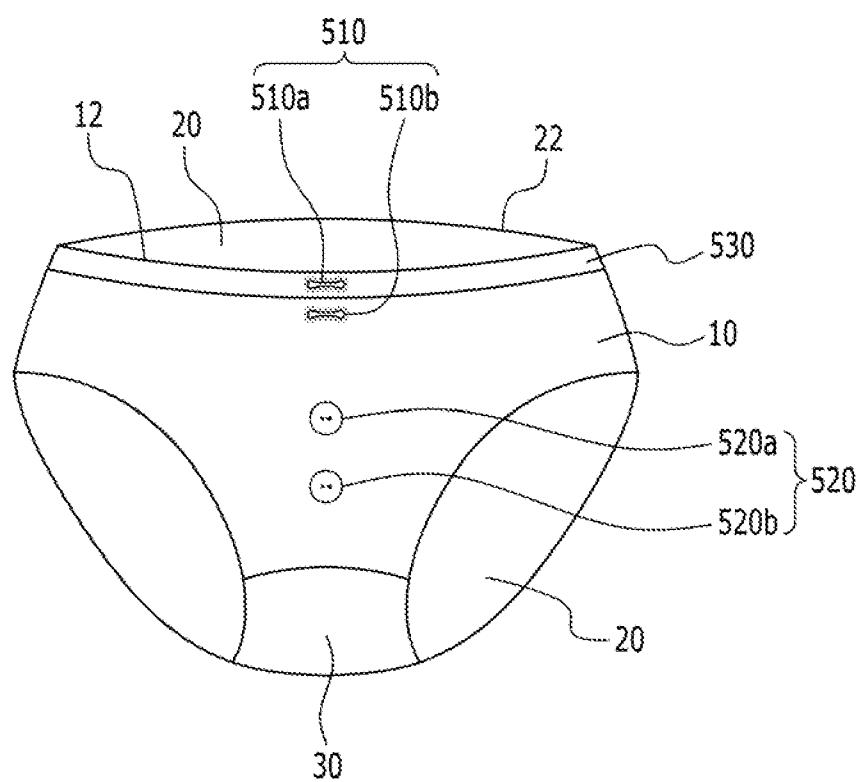


FIG. 5

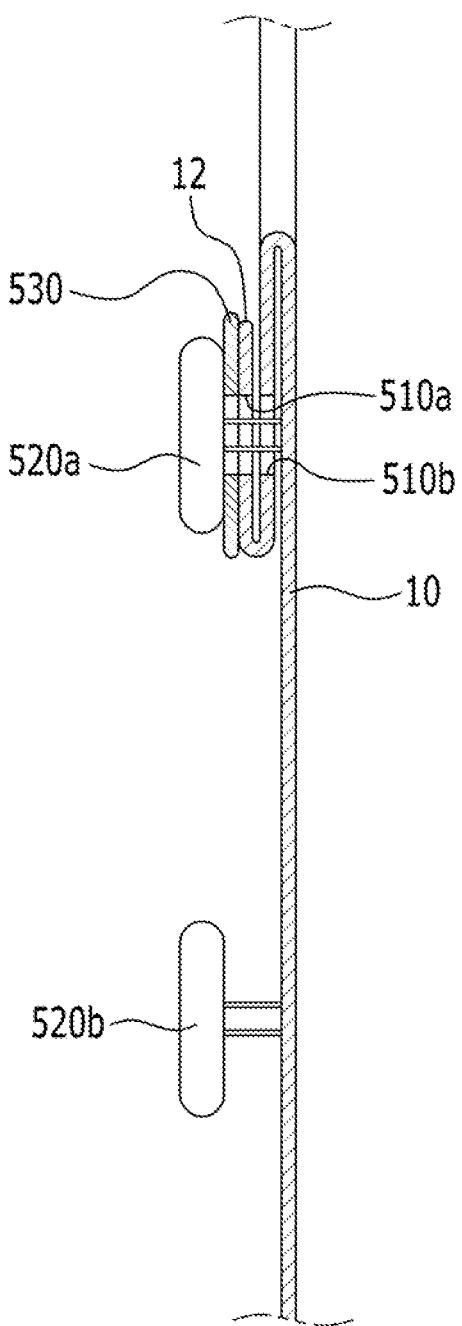


FIG. 6

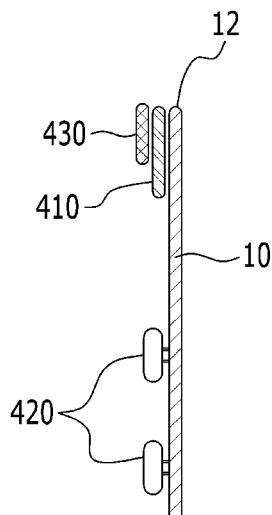


FIG. 7(a)

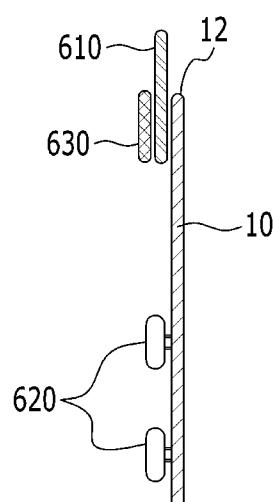


FIG. 7(b)

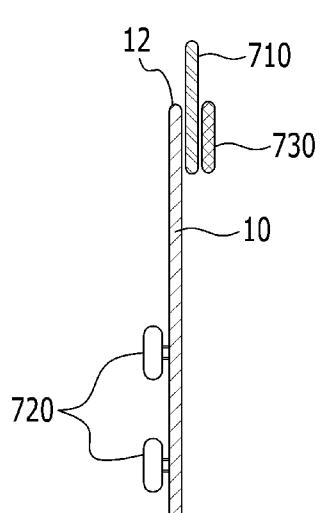


FIG. 7(c)

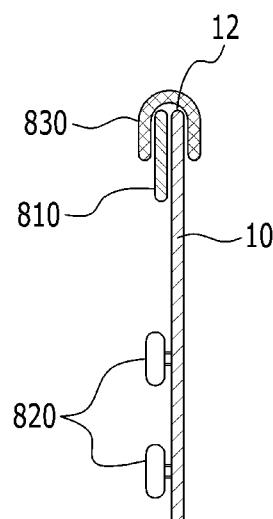


FIG. 7(d)

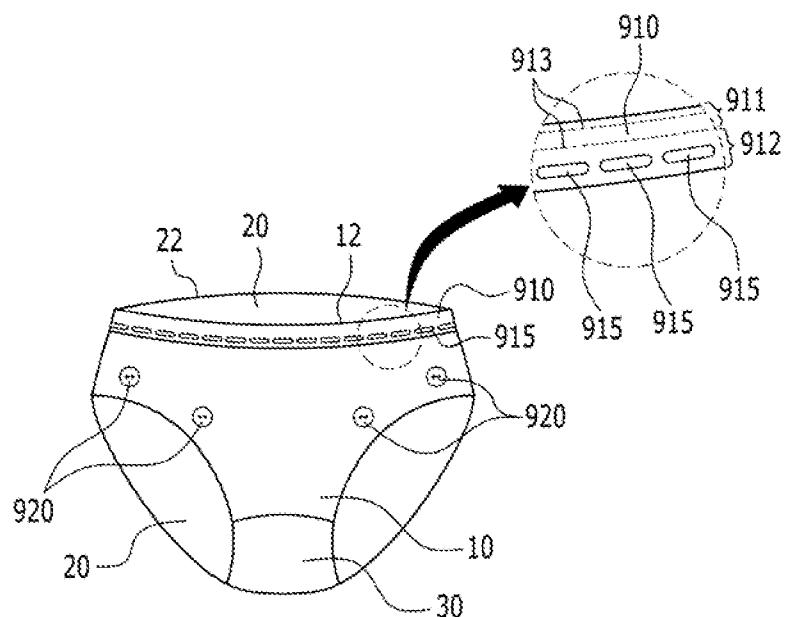


FIG. 8(a)

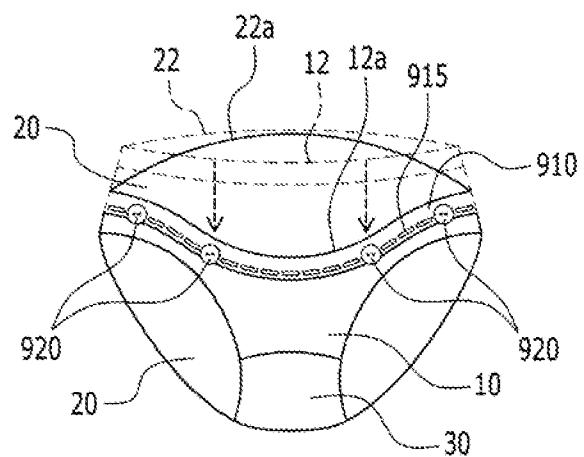
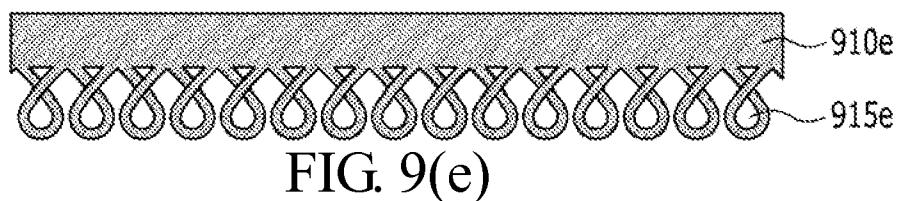
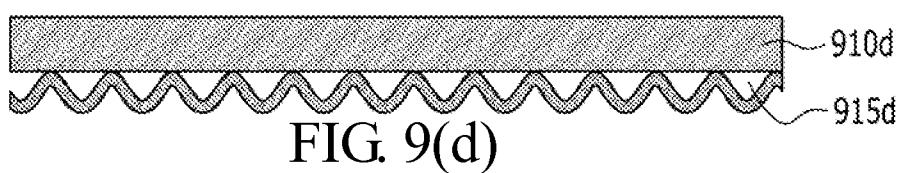
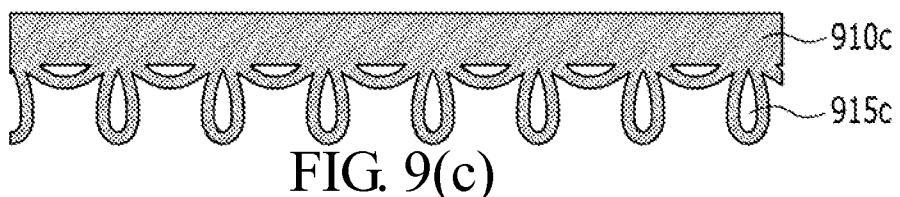
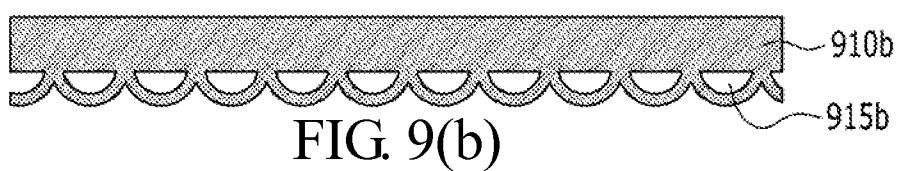
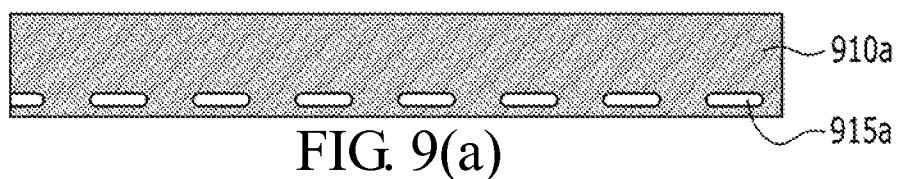


FIG. 8(b)



## BRIEF FOR PREGNANT WOMAN

### BACKGROUND

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a brief for pregnant woman, specifically, relates to a brief for pregnant woman that, as desired, the height and position of the top line of the front of the brief can be lowered not to press the abdomen of pregnant woman.

[0003] 2. Background of the Related Art

[0004] In general, a brief for pregnant woman is designed such that the top line of the front of the brief is positioned on the abdomen of the pregnant woman, sometimes to cover the abdomen of the pregnant woman entirely.

[0005] Even though a good elastic material is used for the brief, the top line of the brief positioned on the abdomen presses the abdomen causing the pregnant woman to feel heavy and indigestion. Because most of pregnant women gain weight of 10-20 kg during pregnancy and become sensitive when due is about to come, they may feel pain however the pressing is small. Furthermore, the pain of the pregnant woman may influence on psychological state of the fetus.

[0006] Therefore, it has been requested that a brief for pregnant woman which can provide comfortable room to the fetus be developed by keeping the abdomen of the pregnant woman comfortable as much as possible.

### SUMMARY

[0007] Some embodiments of the present invention are intended to resolve the above problems. The followings are some of the objects of the present invention.

[0008] One object of the present invention is to provide a brief for pregnant woman that, as desired, the height and position of the top line of the front of the brief can be lowered not to press the abdomen of the pregnant woman as the abdomen of the pregnant woman distends with pregnancy period.

[0009] Another object of the present invention is to provide a brief for pregnant woman that the height and position of the top line of the front of the brief can be lowered not to press the abdomen of a pregnant woman who has a big build and abdomen, by lowering a left and a right portion of the top line which are located from the center point of the top line by a predetermined length.

[0010] Still another object of the present invention is to provide a brief for pregnant woman that increases manufacturing efficiency and reduces the manufacturing cost by using a simple configuration in which the top line of the front of the brief pressing the abdomen can be lowered easily by a desired height at a desired position.

[0011] Still another object of the present invention is to provide a brief for pregnant woman that does not require a support fixture to adjust the position of the top line of the front of the brief, and thus thereby helping the pregnant woman feel a cool wearing sensation even in summer season.

[0012] Still another object of the present invention is to provide a brief for pregnant woman that can be wearable as a regular brief after pregnancy period, by adjusting the position of the top line of the front of the brief.

[0013] A brief for pregnant woman according to an embodiment of the present invention comprises: at least one upper coupling member being positioned adjacent to the top line of an upper portion of the front of the brief along the top

line; and at least one lower coupling member being positioned in a lower portion of the front of the brief so as to correspond to the upper coupling member, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member such that the top line of the brief is lowered to the lower portion of the front of the brief.

[0014] It is desirable that the lower coupling member comprise a plurality of couplings being positioned in a vertical direction, each coupling being configured to correspond to the upper coupling member.

[0015] It is desirable that the upper coupling member comprise a loop or a button and the lower coupling member comprise a button or a loop, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the loop and the button together.

[0016] It is desirable that the upper coupling member comprise a loop or a hook and the lower coupling member comprise a hook or a loop, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the loop and the hook together.

[0017] It is desirable that the upper coupling member comprise a button or a button-hole and the lower coupling member comprise a button-hole or a button, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the button and the button-hole together.

[0018] It is desirable that the upper coupling member comprise a male snap fastener or a female snap fastener and the lower coupling member comprise a female snap fastener or a male snap fastener, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the male snap fastener and the female snap fastener together.

[0019] It is desirable that the upper coupling member comprise a male Velcro strap with hooks or a female Velcro strap with loops and the lower coupling member comprise a female Velcro strap with loops or a male Velcro strap with hooks, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the male Velcro strap with hooks and the female Velcro strap with loops together.

[0020] A brief for pregnant woman according to another embodiment of the present invention comprises: at least one upper coupling member being positioned adjacent to the top line of an upper portion of the front of the brief along the top line; at least one lower coupling member being positioned in a lower portion of the front of the brief so as to correspond to the upper coupling member; and a band member being attached to the top line of the front and the rear of the brief, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member such that the top line of the brief is lowered to the lower portion of the front of the brief.

[0021] It is desirable that the upper coupling member comprise a loop fixed between the band member and the front of the brief and the lower coupling member comprise a button, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the loop and the button together.

[0022] It is desirable that the upper coupling member comprise a loop fixed between the band member and the front of the brief and the lower coupling member comprise a hook, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the loop and the hook together.

[0023] It is desirable that the upper coupling member comprise a couple of button-holes arranged in a vertical direction, each button-hole being formed in the band member and the

front of the brief, respectively, and the lower coupling member comprise a button, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the one of the button-holes and the button together.

[0024] It is desirable that the band member be attached to an exterior surface of the front of the brief and the hook be projected into a lower direction.

[0025] It is desirable that the band member be attached to the exterior or inner surface of the front of the brief and the hook be projected into an upper direction.

[0026] It is desirable that the band member be attached to the exterior and inner surface of the front of the brief surrounding the top line of the front of the brief and the hook be projected into a lower direction.

[0027] A brief for pregnant woman according to another embodiment of the present invention comprises: an upper coupling member being formed as a band and positioned at the top line of an upper portion of the front of the brief along the top line; and at least one lower coupling member being positioned below the upper coupling member, an upper portion or a lower portion of the upper coupling member being attached to the front of the brief, at least one hole being formed at the lower portion or the upper portion of the upper coupling member, the lower coupling member being configured to couple to the at least one hole such that the top line of the brief is lowered to a lower portion of the front of the brief.

[0028] It is desirable that the upper coupling member be further positioned at the top line of the rear of the brief along the top line.

[0029] It is desirable that the lower coupling member comprise a button, a hook, or a decoration member with coupling function.

[0030] A brief for pregnant woman according to embodiments of the present invention has the following advantages.

[0031] First, the height of the top line of the front of the brief pressing the abdomen can be lowered as desired according to the body type as the abdomen of pregnant women distends with the period of pregnancy.

[0032] Second, the position of the top line of the front of the brief can be lowered not to press the abdomen of a pregnant woman who has a big build and abdomen, by lowering a left and a right portion of the top line which are located from the center point of the top line by a predetermined length.

[0033] Third, a brief for pregnancy woman according to an embodiment increases manufacturing efficiency and reduces the manufacturing cost by using a simple configuration in which the top line of the front of the brief pressing the abdomen can be lowered easily by a desired height at a desired position.

[0034] Fourth, a brief for pregnancy woman according to an embodiment does not require a support fixture to adjust the height of the top line of the front of the brief, and thus thereby helping the pregnant woman feel a cool wearing sensation even in summer season.

[0035] Fifth, a brief for pregnancy woman according to an embodiment can be wearable as a regular brief after pregnancy period, by adjusting the height of the top line of the front of the brief.

[0036] The advantages of the present invention are not limited to the advantages described above. The advantages of the present invention include the advantages which can be derived obviously by those having ordinary skill in the art from the description below. Even though the title of the

present invention is a brief for pregnant woman, it does not necessarily exclude people who is not pregnant.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0037] FIGS. 1(a) and 1(b) are front views of a brief for pregnant woman according to a first embodiment.

[0038] FIGS. 2(a) and 2(b) are front views of a brief for pregnant woman according to a second embodiment.

[0039] FIGS. 3(a) and 3(b) are front views of a brief for pregnant woman according to a fourth embodiment.

[0040] FIG. 4 is a front view of a brief for pregnant woman according to a seventh embodiment.

[0041] FIG. 5 is a front view of a brief for pregnant woman according to an eighth embodiment.

[0042] FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of a brief for pregnant woman according to the eighth embodiment.

[0043] FIGS. 7(a)-7(d) are cross-sectional views of a brief for pregnant woman according to seventh, ninth, tenth, and eleventh embodiments.

[0044] FIGS. 8(a) and 8(b) are front views of a brief for pregnant woman according to a twelfth embodiment.

[0045] FIGS. 9(a)-9(e) are front views of illustrating some variations of the upper coupling members of a brief for pregnant woman according to the twelfth embodiment.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0046] A brief for pregnant woman according to the present invention can be varied diversely and has several embodiments. Particular embodiments are illustrated in figures and will be described in detail. The present invention, however, is not limited to the particular embodiments but includes all modifications, variations, and equivalents that are falling within the scope of the present invention.

[0047] FIG. 1(a) is a front view of a brief for pregnant woman according to a first embodiment. A brief for pregnant woman according to the first embodiment comprises a front 10, a rear 20, a crotch portion 30, an upper coupling member 110, and a lower coupling member 120.

[0048] The upper coupling member 110 is positioned adjacent to the top line 12 of an upper portion of the front 10 of the brief. In the first embodiment, the upper coupling member 110 is attached to a center portion of the top line 12 of the front 10. In the first embodiment, the upper coupling member 110 comprises a loop and is denoted as the loop 110 for convenience. The loop 110 can be various forms and made of various materials. For example, the loop 110 can be a form of strap and thread, fabric, piping, band, plastic, metal, or decorative ring can be utilized. Elastic material can also be utilized.

[0049] The lower coupling member 120 is positioned in a lower portion of the front 10 to correspond to the loop 110. In the first embodiment, the lower coupling member 120 comprises a button and is denoted as the button 120 for convenience. In the first embodiment, the term "correspond to" means that the button 120 is positioned to couple to the loop 110 together as a pair and a vertically lower location below the loop 110 is desirable for the corresponding position. This interpretation of the term applies to other embodiments.

[0050] The button 120 is positioned to correspond to the loop 110 and two buttons may be positioned in a vertical direction. According to the size of the abdomen of pregnant woman, one of the buttons 120 is selected and coupled to the loop 110 so that the height of the top line 12 of the front 10 can

be adjusted appropriately. In the first embodiment, two buttons are used, but one button or three buttons may be used. Furthermore, a button and a loop may be used as the upper coupling member and the lower coupling member, respectively.

[0051] When the button 120 is coupled to the loop 110, as illustrated in FIG. 1(b), the top line 12 of the front 10 becomes a new top line 12a, lowering the top line 12 of the front 10. This helps alleviate the pressing on the abdomen of pregnant woman and make the pregnant woman comfortable. Furthermore, the manufacturing efficiency is increased and the manufacturing cost is reduced by adjusting the position of the top line 12 of the front 10 easily using a simple configuration like the embodiment.

[0052] FIG. 2(a) is a front view of a brief for pregnant woman according to a second embodiment. In the second embodiment, the brief for pregnant woman includes a front 10, a rear 20, and a crotch portion 30 as in the first embodiment.

[0053] In the second embodiment, the upper coupling member 210 comprises loops, and is denoted as the loops 210 for convenience. The loops 210 are positioned adjacent to the top line 12 of the front 10 and two loops are used in the second embodiment. Each of the two loops 210 is positioned in a left portion and in a right portion which are located from the center of the top line 12 of the front 10 by a predetermined length, respectively. The loops 210 can be various forms and made of various materials. For example, the loops 210 can be a form of strap and thread, fabric, piping, band, plastic, metal, or decorative ring can be utilized. Elastic material can also be utilized.

[0054] The lower coupling member 220 is positioned in a lower portion of the front 10 to correspond to the loops 210. In the second embodiment, the lower coupling member 220 comprises buttons and is denoted as the buttons 220 for convenience. The buttons 220 are positioned to correspond to the loops 210 and two buttons are positioned in a vertical direction for each loop. According to the size of the abdomen of pregnant woman, one of the buttons 220 is selected and coupled to the loops 210 so that the position of the top line 12 of the front 10 can be adjusted appropriately. In the second embodiment, two buttons are used for each loop, but one button or three buttons may be used. Furthermore, a button and a loop may be used as the upper coupling member and the lower coupling member, respectively.

[0055] When the buttons 220 are coupled to the loop 210, as illustrated in FIG. 2(b), the top line 12 of the front 10 becomes a new top line 12a, lowering the top line 12 of the front 10. This helps alleviate the pressing on the abdomen of pregnant woman and make the pregnant woman comfortable. Furthermore, even a pregnant woman who has a big build and abdomen can avoid the pressing on the abdomen effectively, since the left portion and the right portion of the top line 12 of the front 10 are lowered to a lower part of the front.

[0056] In the second embodiment, it is illustrated that one loop 210 is positioned in the left portion of the top line and the other loop 210 is positioned in the right portion of the top line. However, two or more loops 210 may be positioned in each left and right portion along the top line 12 of the front 10.

[0057] In the first and second embodiment described above, the upper coupling member comprises loops and the lower coupling member comprises buttons. As will be described below, a coupling configuration applied in third to sixth

embodiments can be applied to the configuration of the upper coupling member and the lower coupling member of the first and second embodiments.

[0058] In a third embodiment, it may have a configuration that the upper coupling member comprises a loop and the lower coupling member comprises a hook, or vice versa. The loop and the hook can be made of plastic or metal material and a decorative ring can be utilized to enhance an esthetic sense of the brief.

[0059] In a fourth embodiment, it may have a configuration that the upper coupling member comprises a button hole and the lower coupling member comprises a button. FIGS. 3(a) and (b) illustrate the fourth embodiment of the present invention. In the fourth embodiment, the upper coupling member 310 is denoted as the button hole 310 and the lower coupling member 320 is denoted as the button 320 for convenience.

[0060] In the fourth embodiment, the top line 12 of the front 10 is turned inside out once, as illustrated in FIG. 3(b), in order to couple the button hole 310 to the button 320.

[0061] FIG. 3(a) illustrates that the upper coupling member comprises button holes and the lower coupling member comprises buttons. But the upper coupling member may comprise button and the lower coupling member may comprise button holes. In this case, the top line 12 of the front 10 is also turned inside out once, as illustrated in FIG. 3(b), in order to couple the buttons to the button holes.

[0062] In a fifth embodiment, the upper coupling member comprises a male snap fastener and the lower coupling member comprises a female snap fastener, or vice versa. Snap fastener is also called as popper. The top line 12 of the front 10 is also turned inside out once, as illustrated in FIG. 3(b), in order to couple the male snap fastener to the female snap fastener.

[0063] In a sixth embodiment, the upper coupling member comprises a male Velcro strap with hooks and the lower coupling member comprises a female Velcro strap with loops, or vice versa. The top line 12 of the front 10 is also turned inside out once, as illustrated in FIG. 3(b), in order to couple the male Velcro strap with hooks to the female Velcro strap with loops.

[0064] FIG. 4 is a front view of a brief for pregnant woman according to a seventh embodiment. The brief for pregnant woman according to the seventh embodiment comprises a front 10, a rear 20, a crotch portion 30, an upper coupling member 410, and a lower coupling member 420.

[0065] The seventh embodiment illustrates the connection among a band member 430, the front 10, and the upper coupling member 410 in detail. The band member 430 is attached to an exterior surface of the front 10 in the seventh embodiment, and the band member 430 is attached along the top line 12 of the front 10 and the top line 22 of the rear 20. Elastic materials are desirable for the band member 430, but non-elastic material may be used. It is desirable that the band member 430 be attached to the front 10 and the rear 20 with stitching.

[0066] In the seventh embodiment, the upper coupling member 410 comprise a loop, and is denoted as the loop 410 for convenience. The loop 410 is fixed between the band member 430 and the exterior surface of the front 10 and is projected into a lower direction. It is desirable that the loop 410 be fixed with stitching at the same time when the band member 430 is stitched to the front, and thus thereby fixing the loop 410 to the front 10 firmly. Various materials can be used for the loop 410. For example, the loop 410 can be a form

of strap and thread, fabric, piping, or band can be utilized. Elastic material can also be utilized.

[0067] The lower coupling member 420 is positioned in a lower portion of the front 10 to correspond to the loop 410. In the seventh embodiment, the lower coupling member 420 comprises buttons and is denoted as the buttons 420 for convenience. The buttons 420 are positioned to correspond to the loop 410 and two buttons are positioned in a vertical direction. According to the size of the abdomen of pregnant woman, one of the buttons 220 is selected and coupled to the loops 210 so that the position of the top line 12 of the front 10 can be adjusted as desired. In the seventh embodiment, two buttons are used for illustration purpose, but one button or three buttons arranged in a vertical direction may be used. Furthermore, as in the second embodiment, loops and the buttons may be positioned in a left portion and a right portion of the front. As in the third embodiment, the lower coupling member may comprise a hook. The hook can be made of plastic or metal material and a decorative ring can be utilized to enhance an esthetic sense of the brief.

[0068] When one of the buttons 420 is coupled to the loop 410, the top line 12 of the front 10 is lowered to a lower position. This helps alleviate the pressing by the brief on the abdomen of pregnant woman.

[0069] FIG. 5 is a front view of a brief for pregnant woman according to an eighth embodiment.

[0070] The brief for pregnant woman according to the eighth embodiment comprises a front 10, a rear 20, a crotch portion 30, an upper coupling member 510, and a lower coupling member 520.

[0071] FIG. 5 illustrates a band member 530 attached to an exterior surface of the front 10 and the rear 20, but the band member 530 may be attached to an inner surface of the front 10 and the rear 20 or may be formed to surround the top line of the front 10 and the rear 20.

[0072] The band member 530 is attached to the exterior surface of the front 10, and is attached along the top line 12 of the front 10 and the top line 22 of the rear 20. Elastic materials are desirable for the band member 530, but non-elastic material may be used. It is desirable that the band member 530 be attached to the front 10 and the rear 20 with stitching.

[0073] In the eighth embodiment, the upper coupling member 410 comprises two button holes, and is denoted as the button holes 510 for convenience. The button holes 410 comprise an upper button hole 510a and a lower button hole 510b. It is desirable that the upper button hole 510a be formed in the band member 530 and the lower button hole 510b be formed in the front 10 at a lower position below the upper button hole 510a.

[0074] The lower coupling member 520 is positioned in a lower portion of the front 10 to correspond to the button holes 510. In the eighth embodiment, the lower coupling member 520 comprises buttons and is denoted as the buttons 520 for convenience. The buttons 520 are positioned to correspond to the button holes 510 and an upper button 520a and a lower button 520b are positioned in a vertical direction. According to the size of the abdomen of pregnant woman, one of the buttons 520 is selected and coupled to the button holes 510 so that the position of the top line 12 of the front 10 can be adjusted as desired. When one of the buttons 520 is coupled to one of the button holes 510, the top line 12 of the front 10 is lowered to a lower position. This helps alleviate the pressing by the brief on the abdomen of pregnant woman and make the pregnant woman comfortable.

[0075] FIG. 6 illustrates a coupling configuration of a brief for pregnant woman according to an eighth embodiment. In the eighth embodiment, an upper button hole 510a or a lower button hole 510b may be coupled to an upper button 520a or a lower button 520b, as in the fourth embodiment illustrated in FIG. 3(b), by lowering the top line 12 of the front 10. Also, as illustrated in FIG. 6, one of the buttons, the upper button 520a in here, may be coupled to the lower button hole 510b and the upper button hole 510a in turn by folding an upper portion of the front 10 twice, and thus thereby coupling one of the buttons 520 to the button holes 510 firmly.

[0076] In the eighth embodiment, two buttons are used for illustration purpose, but one button or three buttons arranged in a vertical direction may be used. Furthermore, as in the second embodiment, the button holes 510 and the buttons 520 may be positioned in a left portion and a right portion of the front.

[0077] FIGS. 7(a)-7(d) illustrate detailed variations of coupling configuration between a loop and a band member of a brief for pregnant woman.

[0078] FIG. 7(a) illustrates a cross-sectional view of a brief for pregnant woman according to the seventh embodiment. The band member 430 is attached to an upper portion of the exterior surface of the front 10 along the top line 12 of the front 10 and may be further attached along the top line of the rear. The loop 410 is fixed between the band member 430 and the exterior surface of the front 10 and is projected into a lower direction.

[0079] FIG. 7(b) illustrates a cross-sectional view of a brief for pregnant woman according to the ninth embodiment. The band member 630 is attached to an upper portion of the exterior surface of the front 10 along the top line 12 of the front 10 and may be further attached along the top line of the rear. The loop 610 is fixed between the band member 630 and the exterior surface of the front 10 and is projected into an upper direction. The loop 610 is coupled to the button 620 by folding the upper portion of the front 10 in a lower direction.

[0080] FIG. 7(c) illustrates a cross-sectional view of a brief for pregnant woman according to the tenth embodiment. The band member 730 is attached to an upper portion of the inner surface of the front 10 along the top line 12 of the front 10 and may be further attached along the top line of the rear. The loop 710 is fixed between the band member 730 and the inner surface of the front 10 and is projected into an upper direction. The loop 710 is coupled to the button 720 by folding the upper portion of the front 10 in a lower direction.

[0081] FIG. 7(d) illustrates a cross-sectional view of a brief for pregnant woman according to the eleventh embodiment. The band member 830 surrounds the top line 12 of the front 10 and is attached to an inner surface and exterior surface of the front 10 along the top line 12 of the front 10 and may be further attached along the top line of the rear. The loop 810 is fixed between the band member 830 and the exterior surface of the front 10 and is projected into a lower direction.

[0082] FIGS. 8(a) and 8(b) are front views of a brief for pregnant woman according to a twelfth embodiment. The brief for pregnant woman according to the twelfth embodiment comprises a front 10, a rear 20, a crotch portion 30, an upper coupling member 910, and a lower coupling member 920.

[0083] The upper coupling member 910 is a form of band. It is desirable that the upper coupling member 910 be attached to the top line 12 of the front 10 along the top line 12. The

upper coupling member **910** may be further attached to the top line **22** of the rear **20** along the top line **22** of the rear **20**.

[0084] An upper portion **911** of the upper coupling member **910** may be attached to an exterior surface or inner surface of the front **10** with stitching and may also be attached by an adhesive. The upper portion **911** of the upper coupling member **910**, as illustrated in FIG. 8(a), is attached to the front **10** of the brief with stitches **913**, but a lower portion **912** of the upper coupling member **910** is not attached to the front **10** of the brief. A plurality of holes **915** are formed in the lower portion **912** of the upper coupling member **910**. As illustrated in FIG. 8(a), it is desirable that the plurality of holes **915** be arranged in a row along the top line **12**. Elastic materials are desirable for the upper coupling member **910**, but non-elastic material may be used.

[0085] As a variation of the upper coupling member **910**, the lower portion **912** of the upper coupling member **910** may be attached to the exterior surface or inner surface of the front **10** of the brief. In this case, the upper portion **911** of the upper coupling member **910** is not attached to the front **10** of the brief. The upper portion **911** of the upper coupling member **910** is projected into an upper direction beyond the top line **12** of the brief and a plurality of holes **915** are formed in the upper portion **911**. It is desirable that the plurality of holes **915** be arranged in a row along the top line **12**.

[0086] The lower coupling member **920** is attached to the front **10** of the brief and may be further attached to a portion of the rear **20** abutting to the front **10**. The lower coupling member **920** is positioned in a lower portion of the front below the upper coupling member **910**. It is desirable that the lower coupling member **920** comprise buttons, hooks or decoration members with coupling function and is denoted as the buttons **920** for convenience. A plurality of buttons **920**, as illustrated in FIG. 8(a), are positioned in a lower portion below the upper coupling member **910** and may be arranged in a left portion and in a right portion along the top line **12** or arranged in a vertical direction. The position of the top line **12** of the front **10** can be adjusted according to the size of the abdomen of pregnant woman, by selecting appropriate buttons and coupling them to the holes **915** of the upper coupling member **910**.

[0087] When the buttons **920** are coupled to the holes **915**, as illustrated in FIG. 8(b), the top line **12** of the front **10** becomes a new top line **12a**, lowering the top line **12** of the front **10** to a lower portion of the abdomen of pregnant woman and thus thereby alleviating the pressing on the abdomen and making the pregnant woman comfortable. Furthermore, the manufacturing efficiency is increased and the manufacturing cost is reduced by adjusting the position of the top line **12** of the front **10** easily using a simple configuration like the embodiment. The top line **22** of the rear **20** can also be adjusted to a new top line **22a** according to the position of the buttons **920**.

[0088] FIGS. 9(a)-9(e) are front views illustrating some variations of the upper coupling member of a brief for pregnant woman according to the twelfth embodiment. FIGS. 9(a)-9(e) illustrate various forms of the upper coupling member **910a-910e** and holes **915a-915e** and their functions are as described above. The upper coupling member of the brief for pregnant woman according to the twelfth embodiment is not limited to the forms and configurations illustrated and may be changed further to various forms and configurations. Moreover, elastic materials are desirable for the upper coupling member, but non-elastic material may be used.

#### REFERENCE NUMERALS

- [0089] **10**: front
- [0090] **12**: top line of the front
- [0091] **20**: rear
- [0092] **22**: top line of the rear
- [0093] **30**: crotch portion
- [0094] **110, 210, 310, 410, 510, 610, 710, 810, 910**: upper coupling member
- [0095] **120, 220, 320, 420, 520, 620, 720, 820, 920**: lower coupling member
- [0096] **430, 530, 630, 730, 830**: band member
- [0097] **911**: upper portion of upper coupling member
- [0098] **912**: lower portion of upper coupling member
- [0099] **913**: stitches
- [0100] **915**: holes

1. A brief for pregnant woman comprising:  
at least one upper coupling member being positioned adjacent to a top line of an upper portion of a front of the brief along the top line; and  
at least one lower coupling member being positioned in a lower portion of the front of the brief so as to correspond to the upper coupling member,  
the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member such that the top line of the brief is lowered to the lower portion of the front of the brief.

2. The brief for pregnant woman of claim 1, wherein the lower coupling member comprises a plurality of couplings being positioned in a vertical direction, each coupling being configured to correspond to the upper coupling member.

3. The brief for pregnant woman of claim 1, wherein the upper coupling member comprises a loop or a button and the lower coupling member comprises a button or a loop, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the loop and the button together.

4. The brief for pregnant woman of claim 1, wherein the upper coupling member comprises a loop or a hook and the lower coupling member comprises a hook or a loop, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the loop and the hook together.

5. The brief for pregnant woman of claim 1, wherein the upper coupling member comprises a button or a button-hole and the lower coupling member comprises a button-hole or a button, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the button and the button-hole together.

6. The brief for pregnant woman of claim 1, wherein the upper coupling member comprises a male snap fastener or a female snap fastener and the lower coupling member comprises a female snap fastener or a male snap fastener, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the male snap fastener and the female snap fastener together.

7. The brief for pregnant woman of claim 1, wherein the upper coupling member comprises a male Velcro strap with hooks or a female Velcro strap with loops and the lower coupling member comprises a female Velcro strap with loops or a male Velcro strap with hooks, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the male Velcro strap with hooks and the female Velcro strap with loops together.

**8.** A brief for pregnant woman comprising:  
at least one upper coupling member being positioned adjacent to a top line of an upper portion of a front of the brief along the top line;  
at least one lower coupling member being positioned in a lower portion of the front of the brief so as to correspond to the upper coupling member; and  
a band member being attached to the top line of the front and the rear of the brief,  
the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member such that the top line of the brief is lowered to the lower portion of the front of the brief.

**9.** The brief for pregnant woman of claim **8**, wherein the upper coupling member comprises a loop fixed between the band member and the front of the brief and the lower coupling member comprises a button, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the loop and the button together.

**10.** The brief for pregnant woman of claim **8**, wherein the upper coupling member comprises a loop fixed between the band member and the front of the brief and the lower coupling member comprises a hook, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the loop and the hook together.

**11.** The brief for pregnant woman of claim **8**, wherein the upper coupling member comprises a couple of button-holes arranged in a vertical direction, each button-hole being formed in the band member and the front of the brief, respectively, and the lower coupling member comprises a button, the upper coupling member being configured to couple to the lower coupling member by coupling the one of the button-holes and the button together.

**12.** The brief for pregnant woman of claim **10**, wherein the band member is attached to an exterior surface of the front of the brief and the loop is projected into a lower direction.

**13.** The brief for pregnant woman of claim **10**, wherein the band member is attached to an exterior or inner surface of the front of the brief and the loop is projected into an upper direction.

**14.** The brief for pregnant woman of claim **10**, wherein the band member is attached to an exterior and inner surface of the front of the brief surrounding the top line of the front of the brief and the loop is projected into a lower direction.

**15.** The brief for pregnant woman of claim **1**, wherein the upper coupling member is formed as a band, an upper portion or a lower portion of the upper coupling member being attached to the front of the brief, at least one hole being formed at the lower portion or the upper portion of the upper coupling member, the lower coupling member being configured to couple to the at least one hole such that the top line of the brief is lowered to a lower portion of the front of the brief.

**16.** The brief for pregnant woman of claim **15**, wherein the upper coupling member is further positioned at a top line of a rear of the brief along the top line.

**17.** The brief for pregnant woman of claim **15**, wherein the lower coupling member comprises a button, a hook, or a decoration member with coupling function.

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