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DESCRIPTION

Background

[0001] The present invention relates to a pouch for collecting liquid excretions, such as, for example, a urostomy pouch for collecting liquid human waste, said pouch comprising a first and second wall sealed together along their periphery defining an inlet top portion and a bottom portion defining a collection chamber, an inlet opening provided in the top portion of the first wall, and an anti-reflux film provided in the top portion between said first and second walls. Document US 4,604,095 is regarded as the closest prior art.

[0002] In order to avoid content from refluxing once it has entered the pouch it is well known to provide a non-return valve in the vicinity of the inlet opening through which urine exits the stoma and enters into the pouch. An example of such arrangement is known from EP 1 749 507 A2.

[0003] Other examples of non-return valve arrangements in urine collection pouches are known from US 4,300,560.

[0004] The non-return valve arrangement comprises the provision of intermediate film portions which are attached to each other inside the pouch to form a valve arrangement which is arranged such that liquid is prevented from leaking through the valve arrangement and back towards the inlet opening. Typically, a valve flap is sealed to the first wall of the pouch and another valve flap is sealed adjacently to the second outer wall film of the pouch. The valve flaps may be sealed along their distal lower periphery and a further folded film may be attached to prevent back-flush through the valve. The valve flaps or intermediate walls are also welded to each other at a number of discrete spots linearly arranged across the pouch above the collection chamber where the liquid collects.

[0005] The anti-reflux valve arrangement in the pouch takes up a certain volume inside and thereby limits useful volume of the pouch. The urine pouches are designed as drainage bags with a drainage portion at the bottom with a drain valve close the drainage portion which compensates for the limited volume of the collection pouch.

[0006] The provision of a non-return valve film arrangement requires subassemblies during manufacture of the pouch prior to assembling the outer walls of the pouch.

Summary of invention

[0007] In accordance with one aspect of the disclosure a pouch is provided for collecting liquid excretions from the human body with an anti-reflux arrangement which is simple in manufacture. In accordance with another aspect of the disclosure a urostomy pouch is provided with increased active volume of the pouch.

[0008] The disclosure concerns a pouch for collecting liquid excretions for collecting liquid human waste, said pouch comprising a first and second wall sealed together along their periphery defining an inlet top portion and a bottom portion defining a collection chamber, an inlet opening provided in the top portion of the first wall, and an anti-reflux film provided in the top portion between said first and second walls, wherein the anti-reflux film is sealed along its lower periphery to the first wall by an anti-reflux seal across the first wall, and wherein a plurality of adhesion areas, such as spot welds, are provided above the anti-reflux seal and wherein a plurality of slits are provided in the anti-reflux film between the anti-reflux seal and the adhesion areas.

[0009] Hereby, a pouch design is provided which is simple in manufacture. According to a preferred embodiment, the anti-reflux seal being an arcuate seal which is substantially concave relative to the inlet opening and preferably essentially concentric with the inlet opening. Accordingly, the spot welds and the slits are provided in an arcuate configuration in a predetermined distance from arcuate seal. Hereby the active volume for collecting the liquid is increased since the sides of the pouch is included in the active volume due to the concave arcuate sealing of the anti-reflux device.

[0010] In a preferred embodiment, the slits are provided with a concave shape with the arcuate portion facing towards the bottom of the pouch. It is also advantageous to provide the slits in an arcuate configuration across the pouch since this allows for an inclination of the bag, e.g. if the user is sitting or lying down. When the pouch is filled to some extent, the concave arcuate shape allow for fluid to flow through more of the slits even when the bag is inclined than if the slits were provided in a straight line across the pouch.

[0011] In a preferred embodiment, a drainage portion is provided in the bottom portion of the pouch. Accordingly, the first and second walls are formed with a distal bottom portion to form the drainage portion of the pouch. The drainage portion may be provided with a drain valve which can be operated by the user to empty the pouch. Alternatively, the drainage portion may include a narrow distal portion which is provided with closure means for fold-up closure of the pouch.

[0012] In a preferred embodiment of a pouch for collecting liquid excretions according to the disclosure, a baffle member is provided in the collection chamber in the bottom portion of the pouch. This baffle member may preferably comprise a tubular member which is attached to the first and second walls respectively, preferably by a pair of attachment lines, such as heat weldings. Hereby, the liquid content in the pouch is prevented from sloshing and thereby creating discomfort for the user and the bulking out is also restricted.

[0013] It is particularly found advantageous that attachment lines are tapered having a wider mutual distance at their lowermost ends than at their uppermost ends and preferably also with an inward bend at the distal ends of the attachment lines to reduce the strains and stresses on the wall in the vicinity of the attachments and thereby preventing any disrupting tear in the pouch walls.

[0014] In a preferred embodiment of a pouch according to the disclosure, a non-woven comfort layer is provided on outer side of the first wall. Similarly, a non-woven comfort layer is provided on outer side of the second wall. This is advantageous since the pouch hereby has a soft appearance which makes it more comfortable for the user to wear just as the non-woven layer has a noise-reducing effect so that the pouch is less noisy during use.

Brief description of the Drawings

[0015] In the following, the invention is described in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1

is body side view of a pouch according to a first embodiment of the disclosure;

Figure 2

is a horizontal cross-sectional view, taken along lines 2-2 of Figure 1, through the bottom portion of the pouch in fig. 1;

Figure 3

is a distal side view of the pouch of fig. 1;

Figure 4

is a detailed vertical cross-sectional view, taken along lines 4-4 of Figure 1, through the top section of the pouch of fig. 1;

Figure 5

is a body side view of a pouch according to a second embodiment of the disclosure; and

Figure 6

is a detailed vertical cross-sectional view, taken along lines 6-6 of Figure 5, through the top section of the pouch of fig. 5.

Detailed description

[0016] With reference to figures 1 to 4, a first embodiment of a pouch for collecting liquid excretions according to the disclosure is shown. The pouch comprises a body-side first wall 1 and a distal second wall 2 which are sealed along their periphery 3 to form the pouch. In the top section 20 of the pouch, an inlet opening 4 is provided in the first wall 1. An Intermediate anti-reflux film 5 is provided in the top section 20 between the first and second walls 1, 2. The anti-reflux film 5 may be sealed to the first wall 1 at its lower periphery 6 and to the first and second walls 1, 2 at their common periphery. The anti-reflux film 5 covers the opening 4 and the lower seal 6 is provided a certain distance from the opening 4. The lower seal 6 is preferably provided substantially concentric with the inlet opening 4, i.e. the seal 6 expands across the pouch with a concave shape. A number of adhesion areas, such as spot welds 7, are provided in a similar concave arcuate configuration across the pouch and preferably the spot welds 7 are in the same distance above the anti-reflux seal 6. Between the arcuate seal 6 and the spot welds 7 a plurality of slits 8 are provided in the anti-reflux film 5. The spot welds 7 seal the anti-reflux film 5 to at least the bodyside first wall 1 (as it is the case in the embodiment of fig. 6), but may also seal to the distal second wall 2 of the pouch as shown in fig. 4. When adhering both pouch walls 1, 2 and the anti-reflux film 5 the pouch bulging is limited when the pouch is filled with liquid.

[0017] By this construction, a collection chamber for storing the liquid content entering the pouch through the opening is provided below the anti-reflux seal 6 as well as between the anti-reflux film 5 and the second wall 2. In the lower section 30 of the pouch a baffle member 9 is provided inside the collection chamber, i.e. between the first and second walls 1, 2 (see fig. 2).

[0018] At the bottom the pouch may be terminated with a drainage valve 10 which is operable by the user for emptying the liquid collected in the pouch. In the drainage portion at the distal lower end of the pouch a reinforcing tape 14 may preferably be applied to both sides of the pouch.

[0019] The baffle member 9 may be a tubular structure made up by two sheets of film 92 which are joined together by two longitudinal weldings 93. The tubular structure may be provided with a vertical orientation. The tubular baffle member 9 is attached to the first and second walls 1, 2, respectively. These attachments may be in the form of attachment lines 91 extending in a generally axial direction. Preferably the baffle member 9 is attached to each of the pouch walls 1, 2 by two attachment lines 91 which are generally linear and non-parallel with a wider distance at the lowermost ends than at the uppermost ends. In the embodiments shown in the figures, the two attachment lines 91 on each of the walls 1 and 2 are symmetric around the longitudinal centre line of the pouch and the two pairs of attachments 91, i.e. the two attachment lines 91 joining the baffle member 9 and the first wall 1 and the two attachments 91 joining the baffle member 9 and the second wall 2 are identical in shape and position. The film 92 may be made of a laminate of different thermoplastic material with a higher melting point on the sides facing the inside of the baffle than the sides of film 92 facing the pouch walls to ensure that the welding during manufacture does not go all the way through. In a preferred embodiment, the material used for the film 92 is a laminate of polypropylene on the inside and polyethylene on the outside of the film 92. In this configuration, the polyethylene on the sides of the film 92 facing the inner sides of the pouch walls 1, 2 has a melting point of approx. 110°C whereas the polypropylene on the sides of the baffle film 92 forming the inner surfaces of the baffle member 9 has a melting point of about 130-140°C.

[0020] In fig. 4, a schematic cross-section view of the non-return valve arrangement of the pouch of figs. 1-3 is shown. The pouch may be attached to the user via coupling means, such as an adhesive wafer 41 which is welded or otherwise fixed to the pouch by the seal 43. The pouch is made up by the bodyside wall 1 and the distal side wall 2 where between an anti-reflux film 5 is arranged in the area around the opening 4. On the outer surfaces of the first wall 1 and the second wall 2, non-woven layers 11, 12, respectively, may be provided for the provision of a comfortable pouch with a soft exterior and which reduces noise from the pouch when the user moves. The comfort layer may be sealed to the first wall 1 around the opening 4 by an annular seal 13. The layers of film, i.e. the exterior comfort layers 11, 12, the first and second walls 1, 2 and the intermediate anti-reflux film 5 are joined together at discrete spot welds 7. The position of the arcuate seal 6 of the anti-reflux film 5 to the first wall 1 relative to the spot welds 7 is also shown in fig. 4.

[0021] Liquid excretions enter into the pouch through the opening 4 and into inlet chamber defined by the first wall 1 and the anti-reflux film 5 in the upper section of the pouch. The liquid will then flow between the wall 1 and the anti-reflux film 5 and pass the spot welds 7 towards the anti-reflux seal 6. Here, the liquid will pass through the slits 8 (see fig. 1) whereby the liquid enters the collection chamber defined in the lower section of the pouch between the first and second walls 1, 2 and in the upper section of the pouch between the anti-reflux film 5 and second wall 2.

[0022] With reference to figures 5 and 6 a second embodiment of a pouch according to the disclosure is shown. The pouch is similar in its design as in the previously described embodiment, i.e. with a body-side first wall 1 and a distal second wall 2 which are sealed along their periphery 3 to form the pouch. In the top section of the pouch, an inlet opening 4 is provided in the first wall 1. An intermediate anti-reflux film 5 may be provided in the top section between the first and second walls 1, 2. The anti-reflux film 5 may be sealed to the first wall 1 at its lower periphery 6 and to the first and second walls 1, 2 at their common periphery. The anti-reflux film 5 covers the opening 4 and the lower seal 6 is provided a certain distance from the opening 4. The lower seal 6 is preferably provided substantially concentric with the inlet opening 4, i.e. the seal 6 expands across the pouch with a concave shape. A number of spot welds 7 are provided in a similar concave arcuate configuration across the pouch and preferably the spot welds 7 are in the same distance above the anti-reflux seal 6. Between the arcuate seal 6 and the spot welds 7 a plurality of slits 8 are provided in the anti-reflux film 5. The spot welds 7 seal the anti-reflux film 5 to the bodyside first wall 1. This is advantageous since the amount of active volume in the collection chamber is increased. However, since this may involve the risk that the pouch bulges when being filled with liquid whereby the pouch may become more visible on the user, the peripheral seal 3 may be provided with inwardly protruding widened heat seal portions 31 to ensure a relative flat configuration of the pouch when being filled during use. The pouch may in this embodiment be attached to the user via mechanical coupling means, such as a coupling ring 42, which is welded or otherwise fixed to the pouch by the seal 43.

[0023] The slits 8 in both the shown embodiments are provided with an arcuate profile concave relative to the top of the pouch. Hereby, the slits 8 are opened by fluid flowing from the opening 4 towards the lower section 30 of the pouch. However, liquid

already present in the collection chamber in the lower section 30 will prevent the slits 8 from opening whereby the non-return valve effect is achieved.

[0024] It is also advantageous to provide the slits 8 in an arcuate configuration across the pouch since this allows for an inclination of the pouch, e.g. if the user is sitting or lying down. When the pouch is filled to some extent, the concave arcuate configuration allows for fluid to flow through more of the slits 8 even when the bag is inclined than if the slits 8 were provided in a straight line across the pouch. Thus, the useful volume when the pouch is inclined is increased.

[0025] In relation to the description above of the present disclosure and in the following claims terms like top, bottom, horizontal, vertical and the like are used to describe the construction of the pouch for collecting liquid excretions. These terms are merely to be understood as relative terms and used in order to facilitate the explanation of the pouch construction. Accordingly, it is realised the pouch can be oriented in different directions without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the claims and that the directional terms are merely to be understood in a relative context.

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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Patent documents cited in the description

- [US4604095A \[0001\]](#)
- [EP1749507A2 \[0002\]](#)
- [US4300560A \[0003\]](#)

PATENTKRAV

1. Pose til opsamling af flydende ekskretioner til opsamling af flydende humant affald, hvilken pose omfatter

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en første og anden væg (1, 2), der er forseglet til hinanden langs deres periferi (3), der definerer en øvre indgangsdel (20) og en bunddel (30), der definerer et opsamlingskammer,

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en indgangsåbning (4), der er tilvejebragt i den øvre del af den første væg (1), og
en antirefluxfilm (5), der er tilvejebragt i den øvre del mellem den første og anden væg (1, 2),

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kendetegnet ved, at
antirefluxfilmen (5) er forseglet langs dens nedre periferi til den første væg ved hjælp af en antirefluxforsegling (6) tværs over den første væg (1), og hvor en flerhed af fastklæbningsområder (7) er tilvejebragt over antirefluxforseglingen (6),

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og hvor en flerhed af spalter (8) er tilvejebragt i antirefluxfilmen (5) mellem antirefluxforseglingen (6) og fastklæbningsområderne (7).
2. Pose til opsamling af flydende ekskretioner ifølge krav 1, hvor antirefluxforseglingen (6) er en bueformet forsegling, der i alt væsentligt er konkav i forhold til
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åbningen og fortrinsvis i alt væsentligt koncentrisk med indgangsåbningen (4).
3. Pose til opsamling af flydende ekskretioner ifølge krav 1 eller 2, hvor fastklæbningsområderne (7) er tilvejebragt i en bueformet konfiguration.
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4. Pose til opsamling af flydende ekskretioner ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav, hvor spalterne (8) er forsynet med en konkav form med den bueformede del vendende mod bunden af posen.
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5. Pose til opsamling af flydende ekskretioner ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav, hvor en dræningsdel (10) er tilvejebragt i posens bunddel (30).

6. Pose til opsamling af flydende ekskretioner ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav, hvor et bafflelement (9) er tilvejebragt i opsamlingskammeret i posens bunddel (30).
- 5 7. Pose til opsamling af flydende ekskretioner ifølge krav 1, hvor bafflelementet (9) omfatter et rørformet element, der er fastgjort til henholdsvis den første og anden væg (1, 2) ved hjælp af et par fastgørelseslinjer (91).
- 10 8. Pose til opsamling af flydende ekskretioner ifølge krav 7, hvor fastgørelseslinjerne (91) er varmesvejsninger.
9. Pose til opsamling af flydende ekskretioner ifølge krav 7 eller 8, hvor fastgørelseslinjerne (91) tilspidser med en større afstand mellem sig ved deres nederste ender end ved deres øverste ender.
- 15 10. Pose til opsamling af flydende ekskretioner ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 7 til 9, hvor det rørformede bafflelement (9) er fremstillet af to lag (92) termoplastisk film, der er forseglet sammen.
- 20 11. Pose til opsamling af flydende ekskretioner ifølge krav 10, hvor de to lag (92) termoplastisk film af det rørformede bafflelement (9) er et laminat af forskellige materialer, såsom polypropylen på indersiden af det rørformede bafflelement (9) og polyethylen på ydersiden af bafflelementet (9), hvorved bafflelagene (92) har et lavere smeltepunkt på de sider, der vender ind mod posens vægge (1, 2), end smeltepunktet for de sider, der vender ind mod hinanden.
- 25 12. Pose til opsamling af flydende ekskretioner ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav, hvor fastklæbningsområderne er punktsvejsninger (7).
- 30 13. Fremgangsmåde til fremstilling af en pose til opsamling af flydende ekskretioner ifølge et hvilket som helst af de foregående krav, hvilken fremgangsmåde omfatter følgende trin:
 - tilvejebringelse af en første væg (1) af posen,

tilvejebringelse af en antirefluxfilm (5) og forsegling af filmen (5) til den første væg (1) i det mindste langs en bueformet nedre sektion på en sådan måde, at antirefluxfilmen (5) dækker den øvre del (20) indbefattende den første vægs (1) indgangsåbning (4),

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tilvejebringelse af en anden væg (2), der i alt væsentligt er overensstemmende i form, og

10 forsegling af den anden væg (2) langs dens periferi til den første væg (1) på en sådan måde, at antirefluxfilmen (5) indlægges mellem den første og anden væg (1, 2).

14. Fremgangsmåde ifølge krav 13, hvor antirefluxfilmen (5) er forsynet med spalter (8) med en konkav form i forhold til åbningen af posen med den bueformede del vendende mod bunden af posen.

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15. Fremgangsmåde ifølge krav 13 eller 14, hvorved fastklæbningsområder (7) er tilvejebragt i en bueformet profil mellem spalterne (8) og den bueformede forsegling (6) til sammenklæbning af i det mindste antirefluxfilmen (5) og den 20 første væg (1).

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16. Fremgangsmåde ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 13 til 15, hvor posen er forsynet med en dræningsdel med en dræningsventil (10) i den distale ende deraf.

17. Fremgangsmåde ifølge et hvilket som helst af kravene 13 til 16, hvor et ikke-vævet komfortlag (12) tilvejebringes på den ydre side af den anden væg (2) før eller samtidigt med forsegling af den anden væg (2) til den første væg (1) og til 30 antirefluxfilmen (5).

DRAWINGS





