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FOLEY CATHETER SPONGE ASSEMBLY

Abstract

A foley catheter sponge assembly includes a foley catheter that has a tube and a balloon. A sponge is provided which has a longitudinal split integrated into the sponge thereby facilitating the tube of the foley catheter to be positioned in the sponge for securing the sponge on the tube. The sponge is strategically located with respect to the balloon to rest against a female patient's urethra when the tube is inserted into the female patient's urethra. In this way the balloon is secured against the female patient's bladder wall to inhibit the balloon from floating in the female patient's bladder. A pair of adhesive pads is each positioned in the longitudinal split to adhere to the tube of the foley catheter thereby securing the sponge to the tube.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] Not Applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

[0002] Not Applicable

THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT

[0003] Not Applicable

INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC OR AS A TEXT FILE VIA THE OFFICE ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM.

[0004] Not Applicable

STATEMENT REGARDING PRIOR DISCLOSURES BY THE INVENTOR OR JOINT INVENTOR

[0005] Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

(1) Field of the Invention

[0006] The disclosure relates to foley catheter devices and more particularly pertains to a new foley catheter device for securing a balloon of a foley catheter against a female patient's bladder wall. The device includes a cylindrical sponge that has a longitudinal cut such that the cylindrical sponge can be positioned around a tube of a foley catheter. The device includes a pair of adhesive pads that are each integrated into the cylindrical sponge which adhere to the tube for securing the cylindrical sponge at a strategic location on the tube such that the cylindrical sponge rests against the female patient's urethra to secure the balloon on the female patient's bladder wall.

(2) Description of Related Art Including Information Disclosed Under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98

[0007] The prior art relates to foley catheter devices including a variety of urinary catheter devices which each at least includes a labial seal to rest against a female patient's labia for securing a catheter in place on a female patient and an external catheter device that has a disk shaped sponge which rests against a urethra of a patient and a urine catheter device that has a funnel integrated into a tube of the catheter for collecting urine that leaks from the patient's urethra. In no instance does the prior art disclose a foley catheter and a cylindrical sponge with a longitudinal cut to facilitate the cylindrical sponge to be positioned around a tube of the foley catheter which rests against a female patient's urethra to secure a balloon of the foley catheter against the female patient's bladder wall.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] An embodiment of the disclosure meets the needs presented above by generally comprising a foley catheter that has a tube and a balloon. A sponge is provided which has a longitudinal split integrated into the sponge thereby facilitating the tube of the foley catheter to be positioned in the sponge for securing the sponge on the tube. The sponge is strategically located with respect to the balloon to rest against a female patient's urethra when the tube is inserted into the female patient's urethra. In this way the balloon is secured against the female patient's bladder wall to inhibit the balloon from floating in the female patient's bladder. A pair of adhesive pads is each positioned in the longitudinal split to adhere to the tube of the foley catheter thereby securing the sponge to the tube.

[0009] There has thus been outlined, rather broadly, the more important features of the disclosure in order that the detailed description thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are additional features of the disclosure that will be described hereinafter and which will form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

[0010] The objects of the disclosure, along with the various features of novelty which characterize the disclosure, are pointed out with particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S)

[0011] The disclosure will be better understood and objects other than those set forth above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings wherein:

[0012] FIG. **1** is an exploded perspective view of a foley catheter sponge assembly according to an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0013] FIG. **2** is a top view of a sponge of an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0014] FIG. **3** is a front view of a sponge of an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0015] FIG. **4** is a cross sectional view taken along line **4**-**4** of FIG. **2** of an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0016] FIG. **5** is a perspective phantom view of a sponge of an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0017] FIG. **6** is a bottom perspective view of an embodiment of the disclosure showing a sponge being positioned around a tube of foley catheter.

[0018] FIG. **7** is a perspective in-use view of an embodiment of the disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0019] With reference now to the drawings, and in particular to FIGS. **1** through **7** thereof, a new foley catheter device embodying the principles and concepts of an embodiment of the disclosure and generally designated by the reference numeral **10** will be described.

[0020] As best illustrated in FIGS. **1** through **7**, the foley catheter sponge assembly **10** generally comprises a foley catheter **12** that has a tube **14** and a balloon **16**. A sponge **18** is provided which has a longitudinal split **19** integrated into the sponge **18** thereby facilitating the tube **14** of the foley catheter **12** to be positioned in the sponge **18** for securing the sponge **18** on the tube **14**. The sponge **18** is strategically located with respect to the balloon **16** such that the sponge **18** rests against a urethra **20** of a female patient **22** when the tube **14** is inserted into the female patient's urethra **20**. In this way the balloon **16** of the foley catheter **12** is secured against the wall **24** of the female patient's bladder **26** thereby inhibiting the balloon **16** from floating in the female patient's bladder **26**. The sponge **18** is comprised of an antimicrobial material, including but not being limited to polyurethane foam or hemp palm, such that the sponge **18** inhibits the development of a urinary tract infection in the female patient **22**. Furthermore, the sponge **18** is comprised of a fluid absorbent material to absorb urine that leaks from the female patient's urethra **20** thereby enhancing cleanliness for the female patient **22**. The female patient **22** may be an elderly woman that suffers from incontinence or a surgical patient in recovery or any other female that is required to employ a foley catheter **12**.

[0021] The sponge **18** has a top surface **28** and a bottom surface **30** and an outer surface **32** extending between the top surface **28** and the bottom surface **30** and the sponge **18** is elongated between the top surface **28** and the bottom surface **30**. The outer surface **32** is continuously arcuate about a central longitudinal axis **34** of the sponge **18** such that the sponge **18** has a cylindrical shape. The sponge **18** has a cut **36** extending into the outer surface **32** and the cut **36** is elongated to extend through the top surface **28** and the bottom surface **30** such that the cut **36** defines the longitudinal split **19**. Furthermore, the cut **36** is aligned with a central longitudinal axis **34** of the sponge **18**. The cut **36** extends inwardly beyond the central longitudinal axis **34** of the sponge **18** such that the cut **36** has a depth that is greater than a radius of the sponge **18**. In this way the tube **14** of the foley catheter **12** can be aligned with the central longitudinal axis **34** of the sponge **18** when the tube **14** is inserted into the cut **36**. The cut **36** has a first bounding surface **38** and a second bounding surface **40** each extending between the top surface **28** and the bottom surface **30** of the sponge **18**. and

[0022] A pair of adhesive pads **42** is provided and each of the pair of adhesive pads **42** is positioned

in the longitudinal split **19**. In this way each of the pair of adhesive pads **42** can adhere to the tube **14** of the foley catheter **12** when the tube **14** is inserted into the longitudinal split **19** thereby securing the sponge **18** to the tube **14**. Thus, the pair of adhesive pads **42** inhibit the balloon **16** from displacing from the female patient's bladder wall **22**. In this way the sponge **18** and the pair of adhesive pads **42** enhance the comfort of the female patient as well as inhibiting urine from leaking between the balloon **16** and the female patient's bladder wall **22**.

[0023] Each of the pair of adhesive pads **42** is integrated into a respective one of the first bounding surface **38** and the second bounding surface **40** of the cut **36**. The pair of adhesive pads **42** is aligned with each other and a lower edge **44** of each of the pair of adhesive pads **42** is aligned with the bottom surface **30** of the sponge **18**. Each of the pair of adhesive pads **42** has an exposed surface **46** with respect to the respective first bounding surface **38** and the second bounding surface **40**. Additionally, the exposed surface **46** of each of the pair of adhesive pads **42** adhesively engages the tube **14** when the tube **14** is positioned in the cut **36**. Each of the adhesive pads **42** may comprise a fluid resistant and medical grade adhesive such that the adhesive pads **42** will not loosen from the tube **14** when the adhesive pads **42** are exposed to urine or other bodily fluids.

[0024] In use, the foley catheter **12** is inserted into the female patient's urethra **20** in compliance with standard medical practices such that the balloon **16** rests against the female patient's bladder wall **22**. The sponge **18** is positioned around the tube **14** such that the sponge **18** rests against the female patient's urethra **20** and the pair of adhesive pads **42** is compressed against the tube **14** to adhere to the tube **14**. In this way the sponge **18** inhibits the tube **14** from traveling further into the female patient's urethra **20** and displacing the balloon **16** from the female patient's bladder wall **22**. Furthermore, the sponge **18** absorbs any urine that leaks from the female patient's urethra **20** thereby enhancing cleanliness and comfort for the female patient. Additionally, the sponge **18** can be removed and replaced on the tube **14** at any time when the sponge **18** becomes soaked with urine or for any other reason.

[0025] With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of an embodiment enabled by the disclosure, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by an embodiment of the disclosure.

[0026] Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the disclosure. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the disclosure to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the disclosure. In this patent document, the word “comprising” is used in its non-limiting sense to mean that items following the word are included, but items not specifically mentioned are not excluded. A reference to an element by the indefinite article “a” does not exclude the possibility that more than one of the element is present, unless the context clearly requires that there be only one of the elements.

Claims

1. A foley catheter sponge assembly being positionable around a foley catheter tube at a strategic location to secure a balloon of the foley catheter against the bladder wall, said device comprising: a foley catheter having a tube and a balloon; a sponge having a longitudinal split integrated into said sponge thereby facilitating said tube of said foley catheter to be positioned in said sponge for securing said sponge on said tube, said sponge being strategically located with respect to said balloon wherein said sponge is configured to rest against a female patient's urethra when said tube is inserted into the female patient's urethra thereby securing said balloon against the female

patient's bladder wall to inhibit said balloon from floating in the female patient's bladder, said sponge being comprised of an antimicrobial material wherein said sponge is configured to inhibit the development of a urinary tract infection in the female patient, said sponge being comprised of a fluid absorbent material wherein said sponge is configured to absorb urine that leaks from the female patient's urethra thereby enhancing cleanliness for the female patient; and a pair of adhesive pads, each of said pair of adhesive pads being positioned in said longitudinal split thereby facilitating each of said pair of adhesive pads to adhere to said tube of said foley catheter when said tube is inserted into said longitudinal split thereby securing said sponge to said tube wherein said pair of adhesive pads is configured to inhibit said balloon from displacing from the female patient's bladder wall.

2. The assembly according to claim 1, wherein: said sponge has a top surface and a bottom surface and an outer surface extending between said top surface and said bottom surface; said sponge is elongated between said top surface and said bottom surface; said outer surface is continuously arcuate about said central longitudinal axis of said sponge such that said sponge has a cylindrical shape; said sponge has a cut extending into said outer surface; said cut being elongated to extend through said top surface and said bottom surface such that said cut defines said longitudinal split; and said cut is aligned with a central longitudinal axis of said sponge.

3. The assembly according to claim 2, wherein said cut extends inwardly beyond said central longitudinal axis of said sponge such that said cut has a depth being greater than a radius of said sponge thereby facilitating said tube of said foley catheter to be aligned with said central longitudinal axis of said sponge when said tube is inserted into said cut.

4. The assembly according to claim 2, wherein: said cut has a first bounding surface and a second bounding surface each extending between said top surface and said bottom surface of said sponge; and each of said pair of adhesive pads is integrated into a respective one of said first bounding surface and said second bounding surface of said cut; and said pair of adhesive pads is aligned with each other.

5. The assembly according to claim 4, wherein: a lower edge of each of said pair of adhesive pads is aligned with said bottom surface of said sponge; each of said pair of adhesive pads has an exposed surface with respect to said respective first bounding surface and said second bounding surface; and said exposed surface of each of said pair of adhesive pads adhesively engages said tube when said tube is positioned in said cut.

6. A foley catheter sponge assembly being positionable around a foley catheter tube at a strategic location to secure a balloon of the foley catheter against the bladder wall, said device comprising: a foley catheter having a tube and a balloon; a sponge having a longitudinal split integrated into said sponge thereby facilitating said tube of said foley catheter to be positioned in said sponge for securing said sponge on said tube, said sponge being strategically located with respect to said balloon wherein said sponge is configured to rest against a female patient's urethra when said tube is inserted into the female patient's urethra thereby securing said balloon against the female patient's bladder wall to inhibit said balloon from floating in the female patient's bladder, said sponge being comprised of an antimicrobial material wherein said sponge is configured to inhibit the development of a urinary tract infection in the female patient, said sponge being comprised of a fluid absorbent material wherein said sponge is configured to absorb urine that leaks from the female patient's urethra thereby enhancing cleanliness for the female patient, said sponge having a top surface and a bottom surface and an outer surface extending between said top surface and said bottom surface, said sponge being elongated between said top surface and said bottom surface, said outer surface being continuously arcuate about said central longitudinal axis of said sponge such that said sponge has a cylindrical shape, said sponge having a cut extending into said outer surface, said cut being elongated to extend through said top surface and said bottom surface such that said cut defines said longitudinal split, said cut being aligned with a central longitudinal axis of said sponge, said cut extending inwardly beyond said central longitudinal axis of said sponge such that

said cut has a depth being greater than a radius of said sponge thereby facilitating said tube of said foley catheter to be aligned with said central longitudinal axis of said sponge when said tube is inserted into said cut, said cut having a first bounding surface and a second bounding surface each extending between said top surface and said bottom surface of said sponge; and a pair of adhesive pads, each of said pair of adhesive pads being positioned in said longitudinal split thereby facilitating each of said pair of adhesive pads to adhere to said tube of said foley catheter when said tube is inserted into said longitudinal split thereby securing said sponge to said tube wherein said pair of adhesive pads is configured to inhibit said balloon from displacing from the female patient's bladder wall, each of said pair of adhesive pads being integrated into a respective one of said first bounding surface and said second bounding surface of said cut, said pair of adhesive pads being aligned with each other, a lower edge of each of said pair of adhesive pads being aligned with said bottom surface of said sponge, each of said pair of adhesive pads having an exposed surface with respect to said respective first bounding surface and said second bounding surface, said exposed surface of each of said pair of adhesive pads adhesively engaging said tube when said tube is positioned in said cut.

7. A method of securing a foley catheter in a female patient, the steps of the method comprising: inserting a foley catheter into a female patient's urethra in a manner that complies with standard medical practices; positioning a sponge around a tube of said foley catheter, said sponge having a cut which extends through an outer surface of said sponge and is elongated to extend through each of a top surface and a bottom surface of said sponge, said cut insertably receiving said tube of said foley catheter such that said sponge extends along a substantial length of said tube; positioning said sponge at a point along said tube such that said sponge rests against the female patient's urethra thereby securing a balloon of said foley catheter against a wall of the female patient's bladder thereby inhibiting said balloon from floating in the female patient's bladder; and compressing a pair of adhesive pads against said tube, each of said pair of adhesive pads being positioned in said cut in said sponge against said tube such that said pair of adhesive pads adhesively engages said tube thereby securing said sponge on said tube.