



The evolution of flange extenders in ostomy care

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Introduction

Flange extenders form an integral part of the ostomy pouching system for many patients, providing additional security during wear and in particular during demanding and high-level activities. Security of a pouch without the use of flange extenders can be insufficient for some patients, in particular if they are predisposed to peristomal skin complications, leakage or irregular skin folds, which can compromise conformability and attachment of the flange to the skin. The evolution of flange extenders has recently seen the development of novel and highly differentiating offerings with significant functional advantages over existing products.

The Evolution of Flange Extenders

The first ever flange extender, HydroFrame®, was launched in 2003 and created a new accessory category within ostomy. While this hydrocolloid-based product remains the flange extender of choice for a large number of ostomates around the world today, there have since been several developments in this area; these include extenders utilising alternative hydrocolloid formulations as well as silicone-based products, each taking different dimensional forms and lending to an array of different properties.



HydroFrame®, the first ever flange extender introduced in 2003 by Welland Medical

UltraFrame® is one of the most recent and notably novel flange extenders, exhibiting an ultra-thin, highly conformable and transparent polyurethane-based film with a skin-friendly acrylic-based adhesive. This innovative water-resistant flange extender is **over 140 times thinner** than traditional extenders, and is **over twice as conformable** and **over 3 times as breathable** as leading film dressing materials. These properties lend to it providing a uniquely high level of conformability, comfort and security both around the skin and around the edges of the flange.



UltraFrame®, the thinnest, most conformable flange extender available in the market



Maintenance of skin health is another major consideration in the selection of an appropriate flange extender. UltraFrame® exhibits properties that lend to it maintaining two key skin barrier measurements, namely: skin hydration levels and trans-epidermal water loss (TEWL), minimising any compromise in skin health and contributing towards patient comfort during wear. The unique properties of UltraFrame® provide high levels of security and confidence for the patient while wearing their ostomy pouch device and additionally, the transparent material provides unparalleled discretion.



Jack, 23, Ironman competitor, Denmark uses UltraFrame® flange extenders.

The primary functional property of a flange extender is to provide additional security to the pouch system, in particular during high-level activities where the flange extender must perform under more challenging conditions. This security can be closely correlated to a number of material properties including conformability, material thickness, adhesion and integrity, as well as the material's ability to maintain skin barrier properties.

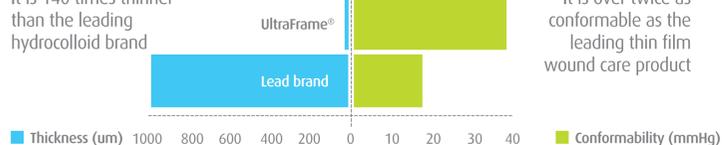
03 Ultra-Thin

It is 140 times thinner than the leading hydrocolloid brand



04 Conformable

It is over twice as conformable as the leading thin film wound care product



Conclusion

Patients now have a range of flange extender products available to them, comprising of different materials, adhesive formulations and forms, each addressing their varied needs. UltraFrame® provides the most advanced leap in flange extender innovation to date and is currently the world's thinnest, most discreet and conformable extender available to patients.

For more information scan here



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