

A Small Thing with a Big Impact – a Bag Brings Autonomy to the Patients

R. Brunner Bacçalà, R. Willener, Department of Urology, University Hospital of Bern Switzerland

Introduction:

After Ileal bladder and other big operations patients have to be mobilised three times a day. These patients have eight or more drainages with the following consequences:

- Total patient dependency on nurses
- Limitation on the movements especially when walking
- Unsightly appearance
- Large work for the nurses: Emptying all bags, fixing them on the nightshirt, fixing them after the mobilisation on the bed
- Risks of damaging the bags and the sheets during the manipulations

Aims:

To give patients:

- Most possible independency and increase in mobility
- More aesthetic appearance and intimacy
- Less work for nurses

Method:

- A patient gave the starting idea by using plastic bag for his drainages
- We created a special bag and asked a company for financial sponsoring

Before, without bag



After, with bag



Conclusions:

- The bag can be carried on the infusion stand as well as on the body
- Patients feel more self-assured and free when they move
- The substantial increase in mobility has a prophylactic impact
- The feeling to be dependent on somebody is less
- The intimacy is more likely without hindrance
- The aesthetic has a positive effect for patients and the visitors
- Because patients are more independent there is less work for nurses, without quality decrease