

Opus Healthcare Stoma Care Literary Review

July 2021 to September 2021

Title	Publication	Date	Overview
The impact of chemotherapy on skin health in relation to stoma care	Gastrointestinal Nursing, Vol. 19, No. 6, pages 30-34.	July/ August	Article provides an overview of commonly used chemotherapy drugs, their pharmacological action and their implications for skin health in relation to stoma care. It discusses how conventional chemotherapy treatments can result in disruption of the normal repair process and inflammation, which may result in difficulties with stoma output management, more fragile peristomal skin, and neuropathy that leads to difficulty with touch, grip and sensation. These treatments can also reduce platelets and consequently increase the risks of bruising around and bleeding from the stoma. It discusses how although epidermal growth factor receptors (EGFRs) inhibitors are generally better tolerated than conventional chemotherapy, they present a high risk of dermatological side effects such as skin rash, itch, dry and cracked skin. It is suggested that adhesive removers may help to prevent skin stripping on appliance removal, limiting the potential for skin damage and increased risk of infection.
Understanding the physiology of bowel obstruction and its implications for patient assessment and management	Gastrointestinal Nursing, Vol. 19, No. 7, pages 18-24.	September	Article presents the aetiology of bowel obstruction and explores assessment techniques and intervention options, which include symptomatic, endoscopic and conservative management, as well as surgical treatment and palliative care. It discusses how the extent of surgery needed will depend on the circumstances, with both colostomies and ileostomies created to manage bowel obstruction. The author suggests that clinical nurse specialists in colorectal, stoma and palliative care all play essential roles in meeting the holistic needs of these patients. Stoma care nurses are responsible for the long-term assessment and management of a stoma and ideally perform pre-operative stoma siting, allowing the patient an opportunity to clarify the situation and voice their concerns, as well as receive support with decision-making.

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<p>Multinational survey on living with an ostomy: prevalence and impact of peristomal skin complications</p>	<p>British Journal of Nursing, Vol. 30, No. 16, pages s22-s30.</p>	<p>9 September</p>	<p>Article shares the results of The Ostomy Life Study 2019, which includes a focus on the prevalence of peristomal skin complications (PSCs), including both visual and non-visual complications. Alongside this survey, a multinational survey for stoma care nurses was also conducted, aimed at gaining an understanding of the high incidence of PSCs, causative factors, and suggested management for these skin problems. In total, 5,187 ostomates and 328 ostomy care nurses responded to the surveys. 88% of patients surveyed experienced PSCs, with 75% having no peristomal discolouration yet still experiencing sensation symptoms (pain, itching, burning) and/or observable symptoms (weeping, bleeding, ulcers). It is suggested that these non-visual signs of PSCs, are extremely difficult for health professionals to capture and are therefore under-reported. 80% of nurses considered ostomy-related issues to be the main reason for PSCs, and a correlation between PSC severity and number of nurse consultations was also demonstrated. The authors concluded that PSCs result in a financial cost and a reduced health-related quality of life.</p>
<p>Knowledge of stoma care among nurses working in acute settings: an integrated review</p>	<p>Gastrointestinal Nursing, Vol. 19, No. 7, pages 40-49.</p>	<p>September</p>	<p>A literature review identified that nurses working in an acute setting have insufficient knowledge in relation to stoma care. This included a lack of knowledge of stoma-related complications and low confidence in care provision to ostomates due to a lack of exposure. It also found that confusion exists regarding the responsibilities of nurses when stoma care is required for an inpatient. The author suggests this deficit of knowledge needs to be addressed urgently, as it is important for nurses in the acute setting to have knowledge and skills of stoma care, particularly in the absence of specialist stoma care nurses. They recommend that updates and evidence-based guidelines to support stoma care is the minimum that nurses require, and this should ideally be supported by clinical exposure to stoma care to ensure that safe and effective care is provided.</p>

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Convexity in stoma care: developing a new ASCN UK guideline on the appropriate use of convex products	British Journal of Nursing, Vol. 30, No. 16, pages s12-s20.	9 September	Article discusses convexity and the publication of a new guideline for the assessment and use of convexity by the Association of Stoma Care Nurses UK. It suggests that stoma patients experience leakage for many reasons and one possible solution to minimising leakage is the use of a convex appliance. They sit close to the stoma, pushing into the peristomal skin to increase stomal protrusion, helping to make the stoma appliance more secure, reduce leakage and minimise potential skin damage. However, the authors conclude that although there is a perception that the use of convexity is often beneficial for the patient - resulting in fewer leaks and improved quality of life - a thorough and detailed assessment should always be undertaken prior to initiating the use of convex appliances. It is suggested that this new guideline will support stoma care nurses and give them the confidence to undertake a comprehensive assessment and provide them with a rationale for the use of convex appliances.
Stoma care services during the COVID-19 pandemic	British Journal of Nursing, Vol. 30, No. 16, pages s40-s44.	9 September	Article discusses the effect of COVID-19 on colorectal cancer (CRC) provision, including CRC surgery being cancelled due to lack of intensive care beds. There have been reports of a 22% reduction in the number of people treated within 31 days of their CRC diagnosis when compared to pre-pandemic data. Similarly, there has been a reduction in the number of patients referred on the 2-week wait pathway. During the pandemic, an increase in the percentage of people receiving an end stoma formation for rectal cancer has also been noted, increasing from 24% to 65%. It is also suggested that the re-deployment of stoma nurses has put stress on the depleted stoma team to manage new and existing stoma patients. However, the author suggests that the pandemic has resulted in greater use of online communication platforms, which has led to some benefits to patients and health professionals, for example, by being more time efficient and reducing travel times.

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Follow-up practice and healthcare utilisation of colorectal cancer survivors	European Journal of Cancer Care, Vol. 30, No. 5, Article No. e13472, pages 1-11.	September	Results from a study showed substantial variation in follow-up practices for colorectal cancer (CRC) survivors. It found that follow-up overuse was practised by one-third of patients and was driven by advanced disease stage, receipt of chemotherapy, low socio-economic status, the presence of a stoma and fatigue. The study showed that CRC survivors visited their GP throughout follow-up, often for non-cancer related reasons. Long-term survivors sought less general and cancer-related medical specialist care. The authors recommend that proactive screening, adequate counselling and therapy of long-term consequences according to follow-up guidelines are important to reduce overuse, while still addressing patients' needs.
Subacute small bowel obstruction or chronic large bowel obstruction	The BMJ, Vol. 374, No. 8303, Article n877, pages 241-243.	21 August	Article reports on subacute bowel obstruction - a condition that may be missed or misdiagnosed at first presentation. After introducing a short patient case study, the article summarises the condition, why it may be missed and how it can be diagnosed/managed. The piece also includes a detailed visual summary showing the process of assessment and how to recognise overlapping signs and symptoms of the different bowel obstruction conditions.
Practice Pointer: Common intestinal stoma complaints	The BMJ, Vol. 374, Article n2310, pages 1-6.	23 September	Article which summarises the most common complaints associated with intestinal stomas that may lead patients to present to general practice. These include parastomal hernias, prolapse, stoma retractions, output issues, skin and device problems and any psychological issues related to the stoma. It provides advice on how to carry out an examination, including investigations to undertake and questions to ask the patient. The article concludes with a visual diagram showing the most common stoma complications and how to recognise them.

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	Max	10-57mm	4105-57

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	Size	Cutting Size	Sample Code
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Convex	Midi	10-34mm	2212-34
	Midi	10-44mm	2768-44
	Max	10-57mm	6548-57

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	Size	Cutting Size	Sample Code
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