
Clinical Problem

Obtaining Urine Specimens from Diapers

Pediatric Oncology Problem

There are numerous situations when non-sterile urine specimens are required for pediatric oncology patients. This poses a collection problem for nursing staff dealing with children not yet toilet trained. Urine bags can be used but can be irritating to the skin, are painful when removed, are frequently frightening to toddlers, and often do not stay in place.

Nursing Solution

Our nursing staff uses the following procedure for obtaining urine directly from a wet disposable diaper. With gloves on, tear open the layers that cover the absorbent material. Remove the plunger from a 10 cc syringe, place the absorbent material inside the syringe and replace the plunger. Compress the plunger to collect urine in a test tube or drip directly onto a dipstick.

Whom to contact for more information:

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Editorial Comment

I personally asked Sally to share this idea with JAPON, having often tried desperately myself to squeeze urine from the new, highly-absorbable diapers. Our practice mandates verification of normal urine in patients receiving intravenous Cytosan^R, for example, and this alternate method of obtaining that data has saved time and eliminated anxiety for many infants and toddlers who are unable to void into a plastic bag. Monitoring of specific gravity may be affected by the gel in "super-absorbent" disposable diapers.

Send your ideas to

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