

OSTOMY WAFERS INCORPORATING ADHESIVES AND FOAM LAYERS, OSTOMY DEVICES INCLUDING THE SAME, AND METHODS OF APPLYING

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims priority to, and the benefit of, U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 62/838,897 entitled “Adhesive Ostomy Devices,” which was filed on April 25, 2019. That provisional application is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0002] The present disclosure relates, generally, to ostomy devices, and, more specifically, to ostomy devices adapted for attachment to a patient.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Comfort and security may be primary concerns with regards to the attachment of ostomy devices to a person who has undergone a surgical procedure to create an opening in the body (i.e., ostomate). Attachment features incorporated into, coupled to, or otherwise adapted for use with some ostomy devices may lack a desired degree of comfort and/or conformance. Accordingly, ostomy devices that address those shortcomings remain an area of interest.

SUMMARY

[0004] The present disclosure may comprise one or more of the following features and combinations thereof.

[0005] According to one aspect of the present disclosure, an ostomy wafer may include an external layer and a foam layer. The external layer may have an external opening through which effluent flows in use of the ostomy wafer and a first adhesive that adheres to external skin around a stoma to secure the ostomy wafer to an ostomate. The foam layer may include a stoma channel through which effluent flows, a gap extending radially from the stoma channel, and a second adhesive.

[0006] According to another aspect of the present disclosure, an ostomy wafer may include an external layer, a foam layer, and a convex layer. The external layer may have an external opening through which effluent flows in use of the ostomy wafer and a first adhesive that adheres to external skin around a stoma to secure the ostomy wafer to an ostomate. The convex layer may include a second adhesive. Additionally, the ostomy wafer may include a stoma channel through which effluent flows. The foam layer or the convex layer may include a gap extending radially from the stoma channel. The size of the gap may decrease in a distal direction from the stoma channel to an outer edge of the convex layer.

[0007] In some embodiments, the convex layer may include a Stomahesive seal.

[0008] In some embodiments, a dimension of the convex layer that is parallel with a direction of effluent flow may be greater than 0.5 cm.

[0009] In some embodiments, a dimension of the convex layer that is parallel with a direction of effluent flow may be greater than 1.0 cm.

[0010] In some embodiments, a dimension of the convex layer that is parallel with a direction of effluent flow may be greater than 2.0 cm.

[0011] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may include a plurality of gaps.

[0012] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may include a plurality of gaps that are distributed over less than 10% of the radial area of the convex layer.

[0013] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may include a plurality of gaps that are distributed over more than 10% of the radial area of the convex layer.

[0014] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may include a plurality of gaps that are distributed over more than 50% of the radial area of the convex layer.

[0015] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may include a first gap and a second gap that are separated by at least 10% of the radial area of the convex layer.

[0016] In some embodiments, the convex layer may include a ridge extending radially in a direction away from the stoma channel toward an outer edge of the convex layer.

[0017] In some embodiments, the stoma channel may have a proximal opening that is positioned in a flush or retracted stoma and a distal opening, and a wall of the stoma channel may

have a first thickness at the distal opening that is less than a second thickness of the wall at the proximal opening.

[0018] In some embodiments, a width of a distal opening of the stoma channel may be greater than a width of a proximal opening of the stoma channel.

[0019] In some embodiments, the stoma channel may include a built-in structure.

[0020] In some embodiments, the stoma channel may include a built-in structure that is located on an internal surface of the stoma channel.

[0021] In some embodiments, the stoma channel may include a built-in structure that is located within a wall of the stoma channel.

[0022] In some embodiments, the external layer may include a multilayer adhesive.

[0023] In some embodiments, the external layer may include Trilam (SH/DH).

[0024] In some embodiments, at least a portion of the ostomy wafer has a profile selected from a chamfered profile, a cylindrical profile, a curved profile, and combinations thereof.

[0025] In some embodiments, at least a portion of the ostomy wafer may include an axially combined profile.

[0026] In some embodiments, at least a portion of the ostomy wafer may include a radially combined layer profile.

[0027] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may include at least two axial segments.

[0028] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may include at least two radial segments.

[0029] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may include at least two parallel segments.

[0030] In some embodiments, at least a portion of the ostomy wafer may be moldable to the shape or depth of the stoma.

[0031] In some embodiments, the portion of the ostomy wafer that is moldable to the stoma may be a portion of the convex layer or an internal layer of the ostomy wafer.

[0032] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may fit the stoma without being cut.

[0033] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may be configured for molding to both a first stoma and a second stoma, and the first stoma and the second stoma may differ in shape, size, or depth.

[0034] In some embodiments, a width of the gap may decrease in a distal direction from the stoma channel to an outer edge of the convex layer.

[0035] In some embodiments, the gap may be a complete break in the convex layer or the foam layer.

[0036] According to another aspect of the present disclosure, an ostomy device may include the ostomy wafer disclosed herein and an ostomy pouch.

[0037] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may be permanently attached to the ostomy pouch.

[0038] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer and the ostomy pouch may be provided as separate components prior to use.

[0039] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer and the ostomy pouch may be attached and subsequently separated without damage to the ostomy wafer or the ostomy pouch.

[0040] According to yet another aspect of the present disclosure, an ostomy wafer may include an external layer and foam layer coupled to the external layer. The external layer may have an opening to permit the passage of effluent therethrough and a first adhesive to adhere to external skin around a stoma of an ostomate. The ostomy wafer may include a stoma channel sized to at least partially receive the stoma, at least one groove radially spaced from the stoma channel that extends at least partially through the ostomy wafer to facilitate deformation of the ostomy wafer complementary to a shape of the stoma, and a second adhesive to further adhere to the ostomate.

[0041] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may include a convex layer coupled to the foam layer and the external layer. The stoma channel may extend through each of the foam layer and the convex layer, the at least one groove may extend at least partially through one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer, and the foam layer or the convex layer may include the second adhesive.

[0042] In some embodiments, the at least one groove may include a plurality of grooves spaced circumferentially from one another about the ostomy wafer. At least one of the plurality of grooves may extend through the ostomy wafer to a depth that is less than an entire height of the ostomy wafer. At least one of the plurality of grooves may extend through the ostomy wafer to a

depth that is equal to the entire height of the ostomy wafer. Additionally, in some embodiments, the plurality of grooves may be distributed over less than 10% of an entire radial area of the ostomy wafer. The plurality of grooves may include two sets of grooves arranged circumferentially opposite one another about the ostomy wafer. Each of the two sets of grooves may include multiple grooves that extend from a proximal end to a distal end of the ostomy wafer, and the multiple grooves may converge toward the distal end. In some embodiments still, the plurality of grooves may include six grooves that are circumferentially distributed evenly around the ostomy wafer. Each of the six grooves may extend from a proximal end toward a distal end of the ostomy wafer, and a width of each of the six grooves may decrease toward the distal end.

[0043] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may include at least one protruding ridge that extends radially away from the stoma channel toward an outermost edge of the ostomy wafer. The at least one protruding ridge may include two protruding ridges that each extend radially away from the stoma channel all the way to the outermost edge of the ostomy wafer, and the two protruding ridges may be arranged circumferentially opposite one another about the ostomy wafer. Additionally, in some embodiments, the stoma channel may have a proximal opening sized for receipt in a flush or retracted stoma and a distal opening arranged opposite the proximal opening, and a thickness of a wall of the ostomy wafer at the proximal opening may be greater than a thickness of a wall of the ostomy wafer at the distal opening. A diameter of the distal opening may be greater than a diameter of the proximal opening.

[0044] In some embodiments, the stoma channel may include a built-in structure located on an internal surface of the ostomy wafer that defines the stoma channel, and the built-in structure may include a plurality of angled fins that extend toward the stoma and are shaped to mate with the stoma. Additionally, in some embodiments, the stoma channel may include a built-in structure located interiorly of an internal surface of the ostomy wafer that defines the stoma channel.

[0045] In some embodiments, the first adhesive may be a multilayer adhesive. Additionally, in some embodiments, the external layer may include Trilam (SH/DH). In some embodiments still, the ostomy wafer may include a Stomahesive seal. In some embodiments yet still, the ostomy wafer may extend in a dimension parallel to a flow of effluent through the ostomy wafer over more than half a centimeter. Further, in some embodiments, at least a portion of the

ostomy wafer may be characterized by a profile selected from a chamfered profile, a cylindrical profile, a curved profile, an axially combined profile, a radially combined profile, and combinations thereof.

[0046] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may be constructed to conform to any one of a number of stomas of different ostomates without modification, and the second adhesive may include a moldable adhesive material. Additionally, in some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may include an internal layer that at least partially covers an exterior of the ostomy wafer that faces the ostomate, and the internal layer may include a moldable adhesive material.

[0047] According to yet another aspect of the present disclosure still, an ostomy device may include an ostomy pouch and an ostomy wafer coupled to the ostomy pouch. The ostomy wafer may include an external layer and a foam layer coupled to the external layer. The external layer may have an opening to permit the passage of effluent therethrough and a first adhesive to adhere around a stoma of an ostomate. The ostomy wafer may include a stoma channel sized to at least partially receive the stoma that extends through the foam layer, a plurality of grooves radially spaced from the stoma channel that extend at least partially through the ostomy wafer and are spaced circumferentially from one another around the ostomy wafer, and a second adhesive to further adhere to the ostomate.

[0048] In some embodiments, at least one of the plurality of grooves may extend through the ostomy wafer to a depth that is equal to the entire height of the ostomy wafer. Additionally, in some embodiments, the plurality of grooves may be distributed over less than 10% of an entire radial area of the ostomy wafer. In some embodiments still, the ostomy wafer may include at least one protruding ridge that extends radially away from the stoma channel toward an outermost edge of the ostomy wafer. In some embodiments yet still, the stoma channel may have a proximal opening sized for receipt in a flush or retracted stoma and a distal opening arranged opposite the proximal opening, and a thickness of a wall of the ostomy wafer at the proximal opening may be greater than a thickness of a wall of the ostomy wafer at the distal opening.

[0049] In some embodiments, the stoma channel may include a built-in structure located on an internal surface of the ostomy wafer that defines the stoma channel, and the built-in structure may include a plurality of angled fins that extend toward the stoma and are shaped to mate with

the stoma. Additionally, in some embodiments, the stoma channel may include a built-in structure located interiorly of an internal surface of the ostomy wafer that defines the stoma channel. In some embodiments still, the ostomy wafer may include an internal layer that at least partially covers an exterior of the ostomy wafer that faces the ostomate, and the internal layer may have a moldable adhesive material.

[0050] According to a further aspect of the present disclosure, a method of applying an ostomy wafer to an ostomate may include positioning a foam layer and a convex layer of the ostomy wafer relative to a stoma of the ostomate, pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate to mold one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer to the stoma and external skin of the ostomate surrounding the stoma, forming a seal around the stoma with one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer, adhering one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer to the ostomate with a first adhesive, contacting one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer with an external layer of the ostomy wafer, and securing the external layer to the ostomate with a second adhesive of the external layer.

[0051] In some embodiments, pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate includes deforming one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer adjacent to grooves extending at least partway through the ostomy wafer to form a shape thereof that is sized for receipt in a pocket or crease of the external skin of the ostomate. Additionally, in some embodiments, pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate may include deforming one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer adjacent to grooves extending all the way through the ostomy wafer to form a shape thereof that is sized for receipt in a pocket or crease of the external skin of the ostomate. In some embodiments still, pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate includes deforming one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer adjacent to grooves extending all the way through the ostomy wafer to accommodate a hernia adjacent to the stoma.

[0052] In some embodiments, pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate may include filling pockets or creases of the external skin of the ostomate with protruding ridges of the ostomy wafer. Additionally, in some embodiments, pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate may include positioning a stoma channel of the ostomy wafer

around the stoma and securing the stoma channel to the stoma using a plurality of angled fins formed on an internal surface of the ostomy wafer that defines the stoma channel. In some embodiments still, pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate may include positioning a stoma channel of the ostomy wafer around the stoma and securing the stoma channel to the stoma using a plurality of structures located interiorly of an internal surface of the ostomy wafer that defines the stoma channel. In some embodiments yet still, pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate may include contacting the ostomate with an internal layer of the ostomy wafer that at least partially covers the ostomy wafer and includes a third adhesive.

[0053] These and other features of the present disclosure will become more apparent from the following description of the illustrative embodiments.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0054] The invention described herein is illustrated by way of example and not by way of limitation in the accompanying figures. For simplicity and clarity of illustration, elements illustrated in the figures are not necessarily drawn to scale. For example, the dimensions of some elements may be exaggerated relative to other elements for clarity. Further, where considered appropriate, reference labels have been repeated among the figures to indicate corresponding or analogous elements.

[0055] FIG. 1 illustrates a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of an ostomy wafer having two foam layers;

[0056] FIG. 2 illustrates a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of an ostomy wafer having a foam layer and a convex layer;

[0057] FIG. 3 illustrates an exploded view of one embodiment of an ostomy wafer with two foam layers;

[0058] FIG. 4 illustrates an exploded view of one embodiment of a tapered ostomy wafer with a foam layer and a convex layer;

[0059] FIG. 5A illustrates a top perspective view of one embodiment of layered adhesive wafer with gap(s) or groove(s) that allow the wafer to fold or crease to adapt to a subject's skin topography;

- [0060] FIG. 5B illustrates a side perspective view of the ostomy wafer illustrated in FIG. 5A;
- [0061] FIG. 6A illustrates a top perspective view of one embodiment of an ostomy wafer with multiple gaps distributed around the wafer to allow deformation in multiple directions;
- [0062] FIG. 6B illustrates a side perspective view of the ostomy wafer illustrated in FIG. 6A;
- [0063] FIG. 7A illustrates a top perspective view of one embodiment of a layered adhesive wafer with twin raised sections capable of being received in creases of a subject's skin;
- [0064] FIG. 7B illustrates a side perspective view of the ostomy wafer illustrated in FIG. 7A;
- [0065] FIG. 8A illustrates a top perspective view of one embodiment of a tapered ostomy wafer having a variety of structures, shapes, and/or profiles;
- [0066] FIG. 8B illustrates a top view of the ostomy wafer illustrated in FIG. 8A;
- [0067] FIG. 9A illustrates a side view of a number of structures that may define, or be located in close proximity to, a stoma channel formed in an ostomy wafer;
- [0068] FIG. 9B illustrates a magnified view of one of the structures illustrated in FIG. 9A; and
- [0069] FIG. 10 illustrates a number of structural properties of one embodiment of a foam ostomy wafer.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0070] While the concepts of the present disclosure are susceptible to various modifications and alternative forms, specific embodiments thereof have been shown by way of example in the drawings and will be described herein in detail. It should be understood, however, that there is no intent to limit the concepts of the present disclosure to the particular forms disclosed, but on the contrary, the intention is to cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives consistent with the present disclosure and the appended claims.

[0071] References in the specification to "one embodiment," "an embodiment," "an illustrative embodiment," etc., indicate that the embodiment described may include a particular

feature, structure, or characteristic, but every embodiment may or may not necessarily include that particular feature, structure, or characteristic. Moreover, such phrases are not necessarily referring to the same embodiment. Further, when a particular feature, structure, or characteristic is described in connection with an embodiment, it is submitted that it is within the knowledge of one skilled in the art to effect such feature, structure, or characteristic in connection with other embodiments whether or not explicitly described. Additionally, it should be appreciated that items included in a list in the form of “at least one A, B, and C” can mean (A); (B); (C); (A and B); (A and C); (B and C); or (A, B, and C). Similarly, items listed in the form of “at least one of A, B, or C” can mean (A); (B); (C); (A and B); (A and C); (B and C); or (A, B, and C).

[0072] In the drawings, some structural or method features may be shown in specific arrangements and/or orderings. However, it should be appreciated that such specific arrangements and/or orderings may not be required. Rather, in some embodiments, such features may be arranged in a different manner and/or order than shown in the illustrative figures. Additionally, the inclusion of a structural or method feature in a particular figure is not meant to imply that such feature is required in all embodiments and, in some embodiments, may not be included or may be combined with other features.

[0073] A number of features described below may be illustrated in the drawings in phantom. Depiction of certain features in phantom is intended to convey that those features may be hidden or present in one or more embodiments, while not necessarily present in other embodiments. Additionally, in the one or more embodiments in which those features may be present, illustration of the features in phantom is intended to convey that the features may have location(s) and/or position(s) different from the locations(s) and/or position(s) shown.

[0074] The present disclosure provides ostomy wafers incorporating one or more foam layers and ostomy devices and/or systems including the ostomy wafers. In some embodiments, the designs, built-in structures, and moldable materials and/or technologies of the ostomy wafers of the present disclosure provide increased comfort, peace of mind, and quality of life to patients. The devices (e.g., ostomy wafers) and methods associated therewith are directed to providing an improved fit to patients (e.g., ostomates) through molding to irregular skin contours and folds, in addition to mating with stomas and peristomal skin surrounding stomas. By molding to irregular

skin contours and folds in peristomal regions, at least in some embodiments, the ostomy wafers of the present disclosure provide an efficient and reliable seal/barrier against effluent leakage.

[0075] The ostomy wafers of the present disclosure may be adjusted to fit a variety of stomal and/or peristomal skin shapes, contours, conditions, and/or sizes. As such, at least in some embodiments, the production or use of the devices disclosed herein does not require body scanning and personal customization. Instead, the devices disclosed herein are adapted for use with many subjects having different stomal and peristomal topographies.

Certain Terminologies

[0076] Unless defined otherwise, all technical and scientific terms used herein are intended to have, or otherwise employ, the same meaning as would be commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which the subject matter of the present disclosure belongs. It should be appreciated that the foregoing general description and the following examples are exemplary and explanatory only and not restrictive of any subject matter claimed. The use of a singular form herein includes a plural form unless specifically stated otherwise. More specifically, as used in the specification and the appended claims, the singular forms "a," "an" and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. The use of "or" in the present disclosure means "and/or" unless stated otherwise. Furthermore, use of the terms "comprising" and "including" as well as other forms (e.g., "comprise," "comprises," "include," and "includes") is not intended to be limiting.

[0077] As used herein, ranges and amounts may be expressed as "about" a particular value or range. The term "about" may also include the exact amount. For example, the expression "about 5 μ L" means "about 5 μ L" and also "5 μ L." Generally, the term "about" includes an amount that would be expected to be within experimental error. More specifically, the term "about" includes values that are within 10% less than to 10% greater than the specified value. In one example, the expression "about 50%" means "between 45% and 55%." In another example, the expression "about 30" means "between 27 and 33."

[0078] As used herein, the terms "individual(s)," "subject(s)," and "patient(s)" refer to any mammal. In some embodiments, the mammal may be a human. Of course, it should be appreciated that in other embodiments, the mammal may be a non-human.

[0079] For the purposes of the present disclosure, the term "stoma" refers to an opening in the body. Generally, the stoma is a surgical opening in the torso of the body. In some instances, the term "stoma" may also refer to internal tissue, organs, or portions thereof that are exposed by the opening. By way of non-limiting example, internal tissue and/or organs may be selected from the colon, ileum, small intestine, large intestine, jejunum, and duodenum, and combinations thereof. The internal tissue may be an end or a loop of a small or large intestine, for example.

[0080] Unless specified otherwise, the term "flush/retracted skin" as used herein refers to any skin surrounding the stoma or opening, whether it be external skin, peristomal skin, or a combination thereof. For the purposes of the present disclosure, the term "external skin" refers to skin that is near the stoma but generally not in contact with internal tissues or effluent. As used herein, the term "peristomal skin" refers to skin that is in contact with internal tissues and/or effluent or skin that is likely to contact effluent.

[0081] As used herein, the term "ostomate" refers to a subject that may have use of the ostomy wafers of the present disclosure. While the term "ostomate" typically refers to a subject with a surgical opening, as used herein, the term "ostomate" may refer to a subject who has a stoma, regardless of whether the stoma was created by surgery or other means.

[0082] The term "ostomy wafer" may be used interchangeably herein with the terms "adapter," "wafer," or "layered adhesive wafer." Generally, the term "wafer" refers collectively to at least an external layer and a convex layer of the ostomy wafer. Unless otherwise specified, those terms may be used interchangeably. The term "effluent" refers to any internal fluid(s) produced by an ostomate that may be secreted from the stoma or that may exit the stoma.

[0083] As used herein, the term "moldable" refers to an elastic, deformable, and/or resilient property, which provides the capability to conform to a stoma and/or form a seal against a stoma. The moldable materials/features of various embodiments disclosed herein may be distinguishable from stretchable and flexible materials, the latter of which may not truly conform to the stoma such that the stretchable and flexible materials may not form a seal against a stoma as contemplated by the present disclosure.

[0084] The term "moldable" as used herein may encompass the properties and/or characteristics of malleability and ductility. The shape change of a moldable material in use thereof may be controlled by an external resistive element to cause conformance to a complementary feature. In stoma device/system applications, such moldability may be a highly desirable property to facilitate fitting of devices to the skin and stoma to form better seals and thereby resist leaks.

[0085] As used herein, the term "flexible" refers to the elastic deformation of a structure under an external force. Upon removal of the external force, it should be appreciated that the structure will substantially return to its original (previous) geometry. Measurement of flexibility may be quantified in linear displacement (e.g., μm , mm, cm, m, etc.) and expressed with regards to original length/diameter and/or flexed length/diameter. In some embodiments, the second moment of area may influence the deformation experienced by the body, such as the moment associated with the deflection of cantilevered beams, for example.

[0086] At least in some embodiments, a device that is moldable may also have the property of flexibility. Flexibility is desirable in ostomy systems to allow contact between a device and the skin/mucosal membranes to be maintained to resist or minimize gaps which may lead to leakage. In use of ostomy devices, flexion of skin/mucosal membranes may occur depending on ostomate activity and/or effluent passage. Rigid devices generally are not able to continually adapt to, and conform to, the skin/mucosal membranes during flexion thereof. However, flexible devices are generally capable of continually adapting to, and conforming to, the skin/mucosal membranes during such flexion.

[0087] As used herein, the term "stretchable" refers to the plastic or elastic deformation of a structure due to an applied force that results in an increase in at least one dimension (e.g., length, width, height, etc.) thereof. The cross-sectional area of the structure may influence the deformation experienced by the structure. In one example, the length change of a bar under tensile loading may be influenced by the cross-sectional area and/or shape of the bar. Measurement of such deformation may be in linear displacement (e.g., μm , mm, cm, m, etc.), at least in some embodiments. Stretchable materials may facilitate relatively easy placement over the stoma and maintenance of the stoma seal when the shape of the stoma changes. It should be appreciated that

a brittle material generally would not be able to deform without failure (e.g., development of fractures and/or cracks).

[0088] The devices and/or systems of the present disclosure may include at least one element that is stretchable, flexible, moldable, and/or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, the devices and/or systems disclosed herein may be characterized as stretchable, flexible, moldable, and/or a combination thereof.

[0089] It should be appreciated that the section headings contained herein are employed for organization purposes only. As such, the section headings should not be construed as limiting the subject matter described.

Ostomy Wafers

[0090] Ostomy wafers incorporating one or more foam layers and ostomy devices and/or systems including the ostomy wafers are disclosed herein. The ostomy wafers of the present disclosure are designed to adapt or conform to the stoma and surrounding skin, thereby providing an effective barrier against effluent that may leak onto an ostomate's skin, at least in some embodiments. The ostomy wafers disclosed herein minimize leakage to resist skin irritation and breakdown in such a manner that an ostomate may feel more confident in his or her ability to manage his or her stoma. Consequently, when compared to the use and application of other devices, a patient may use and apply the ostomy wafers of the present disclosure with confidence of a lower likelihood of embarrassing leakage, infection, and leakage-related skin damage. Additionally, due at least in part to the moldability, designs, and features thereof, the ostomy wafers of the present disclosure may minimize application time for an array of users. In some embodiments, "all in one" deformation of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may avoid use of a combination of products, such as pastes and seals, for example, thereby easing (e.g., reducing user training times and user learning curves) the application and removal of the ostomy wafers compared to other configurations. This may be desirable for ostomates because application and removal of ostomy skin barrier products can be a time-consuming process.

[0091] Generally, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least one foam layer (e.g., the foam layers 140, 142 in FIG. 1, the foam layer 240 in FIG. 2, the foam layers 340, 342 in

FIG. 3, and the foam layer 440 in FIG. 4). Additionally, ostomy wafers disclosed herein generally include an external layer (e.g., the external layers 110, 210, 310, 410 in respective FIGS. 1-4). In some embodiments, the ostomy wafers may include an internal layer (e.g., the internal layer 130, 230, 330, 430 in corresponding FIGS. 1-4). Of course, it should be appreciated that in some embodiments, the internal layer may be omitted.

[0092] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include a convex layer and/or disc (e.g., the convex layer 420 in FIG. 4). Additionally, in some embodiments, the ostomy wafer (e.g., the convex layer thereof) may have a greater degree of convexity and/or tapering than in other embodiments. For example, illustrative ostomy wafers 200 and 400 shown in FIGS. 2 and 4, respectively, have a greater degree of convexity and tapering than the wafers 100, 300. In some situations, the convex layer of the ostomy wafer may contact the base of the ileum or the perimeter of the stoma to lessen the likelihood of effluent seeping underneath the ostomy wafer. In any case, the ostomy wafers depicted in FIGS. 1-4 may be especially advantageous for flush and retracted stomas. It should be appreciated that any of the layers of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may form or contribute to an effective sealing barrier.

[0093] At least a portion of each ostomy wafer of the present disclosure is moldable, malleable, and/or adaptable to provide conformity to the stoma or the surrounding peristomal skin. Conformity to the surrounding peristomal skin generally promotes or provides an effective barrier against effluent leakage. In some embodiments, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include one or more compliant layers that are able to conform to unique surface features of an individual. In some examples, the ostomy wafers include a moldable adhesive material, such as Durahesive, Stomahesive, Modified Stomahesive, Duoderm, or a combination thereof, for instance.

[0094] Due at least in part to the moldability thereof, the ostomy wafers of the present disclosure generally do not require irreversible physical modification to achieve an appropriate and effective fit for a particular user or patient. In some embodiments, the ostomy wafers may be capable of molding to an individual via multiple mechanisms without the requirement of being cut or torn to accommodate stoma size/shape. The moldable adhesive and/or sealing

functions of the ostomy wafer may occur at the skin-wafer interface, the stoma-wafer interface, or a combination thereof.

[0095] Generally, foam layers of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein are not moldable. Rather, foam layers contemplated by the present disclosure are generally pliable, flexible, and compressible. Foam layers may be used to at least partially fill cavities or channels in and/or around the stoma. Upon release, and subsequent to being compressed by a user into the cavity or channel, the foam layers may rebound or spring back while remaining deformed to the shape of the cavity or channel, thereby promoting a customized seal, at least in some embodiments.

[0096] The ostomy wafers of the present disclosure may be conformable to individuals in several different ways. In one respect, as mentioned above, ostomy wafers disclosed herein, or at least portions thereof, may be moldable or compliant to allow the wafer to deform to unique body contours. In addition to the one or more compliant layers thereof, any of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include features, such as ridges, gaps, grooves, profiles, segments, stoma channel built-in structures, and combinations thereof, for example, that further facilitate deformation to unique body contours and provide an effective and comfortable barrier.

[0097] A barrier may be established between the stoma and the ostomy wafer that is initiated by the application of pressure to the wafer (i.e., to cause molding of the wafer to the surrounding skin areas) and thereby to the surrounding skin areas, which may cause, or otherwise be associated with, the protrusion of flush or retracted stomas. Thereafter, the barrier may be enhanced through the controlled structural deformation of the ostomy wafer via features such as gaps, ridges and stoma channel built-in structures, for example. Those features may be used as desired at locations where they are most helpful to establish and/or enhance an effective barrier, and to the degree appropriate for the individual and the particular stoma.

[0098] In some embodiments, the feature(s) employed to achieve controlled structural deformation of the ostomy wafers may have shapes different from a typical convex form. In some embodiments, those features may allow the ostomy wafers to be tailored to produce different stress distributions within the structure and alter pressure distributions on the user's skin. In embodiments in which greater pressure at the abdomen wall may be desirable for a given application force, that tailoring may be beneficial. Additionally, in some embodiments, that tailoring may permit physically

impaired individuals to achieve desirable degrees of ostomy wafer management and ostomy wafer conformity for limited levels of application force.

Gaps and Grooves

[0099] The ostomy wafer 500 shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B includes one or more grooves 510 formed in at least one layer thereof. As used herein, the term "groove" generally refers to a depression or crease in the wafer/layer having a depth less than the height or thickness of the wafer/layer itself. The ostomy wafer 600 shown in FIGS. 6A and 6B includes one or more gaps 610 formed in the wafer 600 or at least one layer thereof. For the purposes of the present disclosure, the term "gap" generally refers to a break in the wafer/layer having a depth equal to the wafer/layer itself. Of course, it should be appreciated that in some embodiments, the terms "gap" and "groove" may be substantially equivalent and/or interchangeable as references to any break, channel, depression, cutout, notch, or the like formed in any ostomy wafer disclosed herein. The presence of gaps or grooves may define areas of the wafer/layer therebetween that are referred to herein as segments. Gaps or grooves advantageously allow for hinged deformation of the ostomy wafer and facilitate conformity of the ostomy wafer to an ostomate's stoma and surrounding skin. Gaps or grooves may be present in any layer of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein (e.g., a foam layer, a convex layer, an internal layer, or an additional layer). In some embodiments, a gap may be formed in the foam layer and/or the convex layer of an ostomy wafer, but the internal layer of the wafer may not include a gap such that it may form a more effective seal against effluent.

[00100] In some embodiments, one or more gaps formed in the wafer/layer may be relatively small (e.g., see the gaps 610 in FIGS. 6A and 6B). In other embodiments, one or more gaps formed in the wafer/layer may be relatively large (e.g., see the gap 810 of the wafer 800 shown in FIGS. 8A and 8B). Larger gaps may be sized to accommodate a hernia or any suitable protrusion or irregular form. In some embodiments, the gap(s) of the wafer may be small such that at least one segment or portion that defines the gap(s) is more conformable than other segments or portions of the wafer in order to accommodate a hernia, for example.

[00101] Gaps and grooves of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may advantageously provide low stiffness regions that allow for deformation to occur without impingement of other

regions of the wafer. In some embodiments, the gaps or grooves may allow for deformation of the wafer such that a portion of the ostomy wafer receives, is filled with, or otherwise accommodates an abdominal area with an atypical shape, such as an area with a large body crease or a hernia, for example.

[00102] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include at least one partial gap, meaning that portions of the wafer/layer on either side of the partial gap are connected at least at one point along the gap. In some cases, the portions of the wafer/layer on either side of the partial gap are connected at the outermost edge of the wafer/layer, thereby creating a hinge point or hinge region at the site of connection. Additionally, in some cases, the portions of the wafer/layer on either side of the partial gap are connected only at the outermost edge of the wafer/layer (e.g., see the outermost edge 612 shown in FIGS. 6A and 6B).

[00103] In some embodiments, the portions of the wafer/layer that define one or more gaps may be held together by a supporting base plate, collar, flange, or the like. In such embodiments, the portions may not be directly connected to each other (e.g., if the gap(s) are complete break(s) in the wafer/layer) but may instead be directly connected to the base plate, collar, flange, or the like. One or more complete breaks may provide maximum flexibility while securement of the portions to one another via the base plate, collar, flange, or the like may facilitate alignment of the wafer with the stoma. Provision of a base plate, collar, flange, or the like to hold the portions together may also streamline manufacturing. In some embodiments, gaps may be located proximal to the stoma channel (e.g., see the location of gaps 610 relative to the stoma channel 614). Additionally, in some embodiments, gaps may have a first width (e.g., see width W1 in FIGS. 6A and 6B) proximal to the stoma channel and second width (e.g., see width W2 in FIGS. 6A and 6B) proximal to the outermost, distal edge of the wafer that is less than the first width.

[00104] In some embodiments, each gap may be characterized by a width or an arc in a dimension perpendicular to a radial direction of the gap (e.g., an axial dimension of the wafer). In such embodiments, the arcs of the gaps may range from about 0.1 mm to about 100 mm. In one respect, the arcs of the gaps may range from about 0.1 mm to about 10 mm. In another respect, the arcs of the gaps may range from about 10 mm to about 100 mm. Additionally, in such embodiments, the arcs of the gaps may be greater at the outer edge of the ostomy wafer

than the arcs of the gaps nearest the stoma channel. In one example, the arcs of the gaps at the outer edge may be as great as 100 mm, and the arcs of the gaps closest to the stoma channel may be as small as 0.1 mm. In other embodiments, however, the arcs of the gaps may be smaller at the outer edge of the ostomy wafer than the arcs of the gaps nearest the stoma channel. In one example, the arcs of the gaps at the outer edge of the ostomy wafer may be as small as 0.1 mm, and the arcs of the gaps closest to the stoma channel may be as great as 10 mm.

[00105] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of gaps or grooves. In one example, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include at least one gap and at least one groove. In another example, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a combination of a plurality of gaps and a plurality of grooves.

[00106] Generally, gaps and grooves impart a greater degree of flexibility to the ostomy wafers of the present disclosure than configurations of ostomy wafers incorporating other features. Numerous gaps or grooves (e.g., more than about five gaps or grooves) may be ideal for an ostomate who is active and requires functionality of the ostomy device across a wide range of motion and activity. In contrast, fewer gaps or grooves (e.g., about five or less gaps or grooves) may be more suitable for an ostomate who requires more support in the ostomy device and is less active. For example, an ostomate having folds of fat/skin surrounding the stoma may require more support in the device while still requiring some flexibility imparted by a few gaps or grooves.

[00107] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least one gap or groove. In one example, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include at least two gaps or grooves. In another example, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include at least three gaps or grooves. In yet another example, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include at least four gaps or grooves. In yet another example still, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include at least five gaps or grooves. Further, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include at least six gaps or grooves, at least in some embodiments. Further still, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include at least eight gaps or grooves, at least in some embodiments. Finally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include at least ten gaps or grooves.

[00108] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between one gap or groove and one hundred gaps or grooves. In one example, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between one gap or groove and fifty gaps or grooves. In another example, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between one gap or groove and twenty gaps or grooves. In yet another example, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between one gap or groove and ten gaps or grooves. In yet another example still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between two gaps or grooves and one hundred gaps or grooves. Further, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between two gaps or grooves and fifty gaps or grooves, at least in some embodiments. Further still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between two gaps or grooves and twenty gaps or grooves, at least in some embodiments. Additionally, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between two gaps or grooves and ten gaps or grooves, at least in some embodiments. In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between five gaps or grooves and one hundred gaps or grooves. Furthermore, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between five gaps or grooves and fifty gaps or grooves. Further still, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between five gaps or grooves and twenty gaps or grooves. Finally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between five gaps or grooves and ten gaps or grooves.

[00109] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of gaps and/or grooves that are evenly distributed over the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include a plurality of gaps and/or grooves that are focused in one or more locations and unevenly distributed over the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. For the purposes of the present disclosure, the term "radial area" refers to the area of the body-contacting surface of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00110] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of gaps and/or grooves that are distributed over less than 5% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of gaps and/or grooves that are distributed over less than 10% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein

include a plurality of gaps and/or grooves that are distributed over less than 15% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of gaps and/or grooves that are distributed over less than 20% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Finally, in some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of gaps and/or grooves that are distributed over less than 25% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00111] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include a plurality of gaps and/or grooves that are distributed over less than 30% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include a plurality of gaps and/or grooves that are distributed over less than 35% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include a plurality of gaps and/or grooves that are distributed over less than 40% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments still, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include a plurality of gaps and/or grooves that are distributed over less than 45% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include a plurality of gaps and/or grooves that are distributed over less than 50% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Finally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include a plurality of gaps and/or grooves that are distributed over less than 55% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00112] In some embodiments, the plurality of gaps and/or grooves of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein are distributed over more than 10% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Additionally, in some embodiments, the plurality of gaps and/or grooves of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein are distributed over more than 20% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments, the plurality of gaps and/or grooves of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein are distributed over more than 30% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments still, the plurality of gaps and/or grooves are distributed over more than 40% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments yet still, the plurality of gaps and/or grooves

of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein are distributed over more than 50% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Furthermore, in some embodiments, the plurality of gaps and/or grooves of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein are distributed over more than 60% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Finally, in some embodiments, the plurality of gaps and/or grooves of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein are distributed over more than 70% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00113] In some embodiments, one or more ostomy wafers disclosed herein, or the convex layer(s) of the one or more ostomy wafers, include a first gap or groove and a second gap or groove. In one example, the first gap/groove and the second gap/groove may be separated by at least 1% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In another example, the first gap/groove and the second gap/groove may be separated by at least 2% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In yet another example, the first gap/groove and the second gap/groove may be separated by at least 3% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In yet another example still, the first gap/groove and the second gap/groove may be separated by at least 4% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments, the first gap/groove and the second gap/groove may be separated by at least 5% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments still, the first gap/groove and the second gap/groove may be separated by at least 10% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Finally, in some embodiments, the first gap/groove and the second gap/groove may be separated by at least 15% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00114] In some embodiments, the first gap/groove and the second gap/groove of one or more ostomy wafers of the present disclosure may be separated by at least 20% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Additionally, in some embodiments, the first gap/groove and the second gap/groove may be separated by at least 25% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments still, the first gap/groove and the second gap/groove may be separated by at least 30% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments yet still, the first gap/groove and the second gap/groove may be separated by at least 35% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

Further, in some embodiments, the first gap/groove and the second gap/groove may be separated by at least 40% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments still, the first gap/groove and the second gap/groove may be separated by at least 45% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Finally, in some embodiments, the first gap/groove and the second gap/groove may be separated by at least 50% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00115] In some embodiments, a gap or groove formed in one or more of the ostomy wafers of the present disclosure has a width from about 0.01 mm to about 1 cm. Additionally, in some embodiments, the gap or groove has a width from about 0.1 mm to about 500 mm. In some embodiments still, the gap or groove has a width from about 0.2 mm to about 250 mm. In some embodiments yet still, the gap or groove has a width from about 0.5 mm to about 100 mm. Further, in some embodiments, the gap or groove has a width from about 1 mm to about 50 mm. Further, in some embodiments still, the gap or groove has a single width along its length. In other embodiments, however, the gap or groove width varies along its length.

Ridges

[00116] As shown in FIGS. 7A and 7B, one or more ostomy wafers 700 include at least one ridge 710 formed in one or more layers thereof. In some embodiments, the ridge is integral with the foam layer(s). In other embodiments, however, the ridge may not be integral with the foam layer(s). In one example, the ridge may be a separate component that is attachable to, and detachable from, the ostomy wafer. In another example, the ridge may be formed from another layer of the ostomy wafer separate from the foam layer(s). In some embodiments still, the ridge may be integral with the foam layer and formed from foam. In some embodiments yet still, the ridge may be integral with the foam layer and not formed from foam. Finally, in some embodiments, the ridge may be separate from the foam layer and deform the foam layer.

[00117] As contemplated herein, ridges such as the ridge 710 generally protrude from the ostomy wafer (e.g., the ostomy wafer 700) toward the body-facing side of the ostomy wafer so as to be received in and/or fill creases or folds in a patient's skin topography. It should be appreciated that ridges disclosed herein may extend in virtually any desired direction along the

ostomy wafer surface or a layer thereof. In some embodiments, the ridge 710 extends radially from the stoma channel (e.g., the stoma channel 714) all the way to the outer edge (e.g., the outer edge 712) of the convex layer. Additionally, in some embodiments, the ridge extends partway from the stoma channel toward the outer edge of the convex layer. In one example, the ridge is curved. In another example, the ridge is straight or planar. In some embodiments, the ridge is rigid. In other embodiments, however, the ridge is flexible. In such embodiments, the ridge may have a flexibility similar to cartilage. Further, in some embodiments, the ridge may include foam.

[00118] In some embodiments, the at least one ridge of the one of more ostomy wafers of the present disclosure has a single height along its length. In other embodiments, however, the ridge height varies along its length. In one example, the ridge has a height from about 0.2 cm to about 5 cm. In another example, the ridge has a height from about 0.2 cm to about 4.5 cm. In yet another example, the ridge has a height from about 0.2 cm to about 4 cm. In yet another example still, the ridge has a height from about 0.2 cm to about 3.5 cm. Finally, in another example, the ridge has a height from about 0.2 cm to about 3 cm.

[00119] In another example, the at least one ridge of the one of more ostomy wafers of the present disclosure has a height from about 0.5 cm to about 4.5 cm. In yet another example, the ridge has a height from about 0.5 cm to about 4 cm. In yet another example still, the ridge has a height from about 0.5 cm to about 3.5 cm. Finally, in another example, the ridge has a height from about 0.5 cm to about 3 cm.

[00120] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least one ridge. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least two ridges. In some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least three ridges. In some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least four ridges. Further, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least five ridges. Further, in some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least six ridges. Further, in some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least eight ridges. Finally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least ten ridges.

[00121] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between one ridge and one hundred ridges. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between one ridge and fifty ridges. In some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between one ridge and twenty ridges. In some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between one ridge and ten ridges.

[00122] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between two ridges and one hundred ridges. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between two ridges and fifty ridges. In some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between two ridges and twenty ridges. In some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between two ridges and ten ridges.

[00123] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between five ridges and one hundred ridges. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between five ridges and fifty ridges. In some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between five ridges and twenty ridges. In some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between five ridges and ten ridges.

[00124] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of ridges that are evenly distributed over the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In other embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of ridges that are focused in a first location and unevenly distributed over the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. For the purposes of the present disclosure, the term "radial area" refers to the area of the body-contacting surface of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00125] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include a plurality of ridges that are distributed over less than 5% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include a plurality of ridges that are distributed over less than 10% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments still, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include a plurality of ridges that are distributed over less than 15% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include a plurality of ridges that are distributed over less than 20% of the radial area

of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Finally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include a plurality of ridges that are distributed over less than 26% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00126] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of ridges that are distributed over less than 30% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of ridges that are distributed over less than 35% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of ridges that are distributed over less than 40% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of ridges that are distributed over less than 45% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of ridges that are distributed over less than 50% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Finally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of ridges that are distributed over less than 55% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00127] In some embodiments, the plurality of ridges of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein are distributed over more than 10% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Additionally, in some embodiments, the plurality of ridges are distributed over more than 20% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments still, the plurality of ridges are distributed over more than 30% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments yet still, the plurality of ridges are distributed over more than 40% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments, the plurality of ridges are distributed over more than 50% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments yet still, the plurality of ridges are distributed over more than 60% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Finally, in some embodiments, the plurality of ridges are distributed over more than 70% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00128] In some embodiments, one or more ostomy wafers disclosed herein, or the convex layer(s) of the one or more ostomy wafers, include a first ridge and a second ridge. In one example,

the first ridge and the second ridge may be separated by at least 1% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In another example, the first ridge and the second ridge may be separated by at least 2% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In yet another example, the first ridge and the second ridge may be separated by at least 3% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In yet another example still, the first ridge and the second ridge may be separated by at least 4% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Additionally, in some embodiments, the first ridge and the second ridge may be separated by at least 5% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments still, the first ridge and the second ridge may be separated by at least 10% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments yet still, the first ridge and the second ridge may be separated by at least 15% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00129] In some embodiments, the first ridge and the second ridge of the one or more ostomy wafers disclosed herein may be separated by at least 20% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Additionally, in some embodiments, the first ridge and the second ridge may be separated by at least 25% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments still, the first ridge and the second ridge may be separated by at least 30% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments yet still, the first ridge and the second ridge may be separated by at least 35% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments, the first ridge and the second ridge may be separated by at least 40% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments still, the first ridge and the second ridge may be separated by at least 45% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Finally, in some embodiments, the first ridge and the second ridge may be separated by at least 50% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

Profiles

[00130] In the illustrative embodiment, one or more layers of the ostomy wafers of the present disclosure may have a variety of profiles and/or geometric forms. As shown in FIGS. 8A, an ostomy wafer 800 may include at least one layer having one of the following profiles, or a

combination thereof: (i) a chamfered profile 802 (e.g., the chamfered profile 802a or 802b); (ii) a cylindrical or annular profile 804 (e.g., having a rectangular cross-section 804a); (iii) a curved profile 806 (e.g., the convex profile 806a or the concave profile 806b); and (iv) a profile 808 in which multiple features or profiles are combined in an axial direction indicated by arrow A (e.g., the stepped or axially combined layer profile 808a). Additionally, as shown in FIG. 8B, an ostomy wafer 800 may include at least one layer having one of the following profiles, or a combination thereof: (a) a profile 822 in which multiple features or profiles are combined in a radial direction indicated by arrow R; (b) a profile 824 characterized by a single arc and/or crescent; and (c) a profile 826 characterized by a combination of arcs and/or crescents.

[00131] Chamfered profiles (e.g., the chamfered profiles 802a, 802b) may provide a continuous profile to promote a gradual pressure increase over the ostomy wafer between the stoma and the outer edge of the wafer during application of the wafer to the patient. Due to that gradual pressure increase, substantially no abrupt transitions or pressure increases occur between high and low pressure areas, and consequently, users may be less likely to experience impingement during activities when ostomy wafers having chamfered profiles are applied to the users. Such wafers may therefore be associated with lower peak stresses, a greater range of mobility, and a more comfortable range of user motion than ostomy wafers having other profiles.

[00132] Cylindrical profiles (e.g., the cylindrical profile 804) may provide a stepped or plateaued pressure profile with regions of high pressure and low pressure on the user's skin. If a user has a complex stomal environment (e.g., hernias, damaged skin, post-operative scars, etc.) and needs to limit or avoid pressure on a certain area, the stepped or plateaued pressure profile associated with the cylindrical profile may facilitate accurate and/or precise application of high pressure to specific areas of the stomal environment with limited application of high pressure to other areas.

[00133] Curved profiles (e.g., the convex profile 806a and the concave profile 806b) may provide a continuous profile to promote a gradual pressure increase over the ostomy wafer between the stoma and the outer edge of the wafer during application of the wafer to the patient. As a result, curved profiles may reliably provide comfort to the patient wearing the ostomy wafer. Additionally, because substantially no abrupt transitions or pressure increases occur

between high and low pressure areas when ostomy wafers having curved profiles are applied to users, users may be less likely to experience impingement during activities. Furthermore, curved profiles may provide altered or adjusted pressure distributions to accommodate gross topographical features, such as skin folds, for example. Finally, since curved profiles may facilitate greater pressure application to the stoma and/or locations adjacent thereto, curved profiles may be particularly suited to retracted stomas and/or complex peristomal environments.

[00134] Profiles in which one or more features or profiles are combined in the axial direction A (e.g., the axially combined layer profile 808a) may alter the locations where stepped pressure transitions occur on the subject. The use of wafers having axially combined profiles may avoid application of textured materials and/or edges of ostomy wafers to areas with complex environments (e.g., hernias, damaged skin, scars, etc.). The use of wafers having axially combined profiles may avoid application of excessive pressure to areas containing hernias, damaged skin, or scars. The use of wafers having axially combined profiles may allow smooth pressure transition to accommodate complex environments.

[00135] Profiles in which one or more features or profiles are combined in the radial direction R (e.g., the radially combined layer profile 822) may include one or more compliant regions to facilitate recovery of short term damage to a patient's skin or to a stoma. In some embodiments, the compliant region may be a region proximal to the stoma channel (e.g., the region 830 proximal to the stoma channel 814). In other embodiments, however, the compliant region may be a region proximal to the outermost edge of the ostomy wafer (e.g., the outer edge 812). The compliant region may be more flexible, stretchable, moldable, softer, and/or thinner than a less compliant region of the ostomy wafer, at least in some embodiments. In some embodiments, a segment or region of a radially combined layer profile of an ostomy wafer may be less compliant than a more compliant region of the ostomy wafer, thereby providing greater pressure to the skin and/or stoma to cause an inverted stoma to protrude.

[00136] Any portions of the profiles or combinations thereof may include a foam material. Of course, in some embodiments, portions of the profiles or combinations thereof may not include a foam material. Additionally, in some embodiments, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a combination of profiles. In one example, at least a portion of the ostomy wafer includes a profile

in which one or more features or profiles are combined in the axial direction. In another example, at least a portion of the ostomy wafer includes a profile in which one or more features or profiles are combined in the radial direction. Profiles disclosed herein may be formed by one or more foam layers, one or more convex layers, one or more internal layers, one or more additional layers, or a combination thereof.

[00137] Profiles in which one or more features or profiles are combined in the radial direction R (e.g., the radially combined layer profile 822) may result in, or otherwise be associated with, multiple segments of the wafer having different profiles such that the device may be referred to as a segmented device. Segmented devices may allow for variable deformations (e.g., different parts of the device can deform and adapt to different areas of the patient) in use thereof. In some embodiments, radially combined layer profiles may be associated with at least two segments that have different profiles. Additionally, in some embodiments, radially combined layer profiles may be associated with at least three segments that have different profiles. In some embodiments still, radially combined layer profiles may be associated with at least four segments that have different profiles. In some embodiments yet still, radially combined layer profiles may be associated with at least ten segments that have different profiles.

[00138] Profiles in which one or more features or profiles are combined in the radial direction R (e.g., the radially combined layer profile 822) may allow the ostomy wafer to provide support (or malleability) depending on the particular user. In some embodiments, the segmented devices may be customized to the skin topography of the stoma and the surrounding skin of a particular user. Such customization may provide improved comfort and/or facilitate establishment of a seal between the patient and the device to resist leakage. In some embodiments, segmented devices may also allow for "all in one" deformation, as opposed to the use of a combination of products, such as adhesive solutions (e.g., pastes, glues, seals), for example. Additionally, in some embodiments, segmented devices may substantially negate the use of adhesive solutions or substantially diminish the need for adhesive solutions. As a result, the segmented devices may be easier to apply (and remove) than those used with

adhesive solutions. Significantly, avoidance of adhesive solutions may reduce user training times and learning curves.

[00139] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a combination of profiles. At least a portion of one or more ostomy wafers of the present disclosure includes an axially combined layer profile (e.g., the axially combined layer profile 808). In addition to the axially combined layer profile, at least a portion of one or more ostomy wafers of the present disclosure includes a radially combined layer profile (e.g., the radially combined layer profile 822).

[00140] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein have continuous profiles. In one example, layers of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein have discrete profiles. Continuous profiles may be described in the form of polynomials which include, but are not limited to, $y = mx + C$ and $y = mx^n + C$, where m and n are positive or negative values ranging from -10 to +10. In some embodiments, discrete profiles may have a ratio no greater than 5:1 (proximal end: distal end) at each step. As such, ostomy wafers having discrete profiles may easily conform to an individual's unique contours.

Segments

[00141] The ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include a plurality of segments (e.g., at least two segments) that possess different properties, materials, designs, or structures. The plurality of segments allow for various deformations of the ostomy wafers. As a result, the plurality of segments allow the ostomy wafers to provide support and/or malleability depending on the requirements of the user. In some embodiments, the segments are relatively seamless without any distinguishable structure or feature separating the segments. In other embodiments, however, the segments are separated from another by features such as the gaps, grooves, and ridges described herein, for example. Additionally, in some embodiments, the segments include features such as the gaps, grooves, and ridges described herein, for instance.

[00142] In some embodiments, the plurality of segments include at least two axial segments that are stacked in the axial direction A. In some embodiments, axial segments may be likened to stacked rings. Additionally, in some embodiments, the plurality of

segments include at least two radial segments that are concentric with one another. In some embodiments, radial segments may be likened to rings in a pond. In some embodiments still, the plurality of segments include at least two parallel segments that radiate outward from the center of the ostomy wafer. In some embodiments, the parallel segments may be likened to petals of a flower.

[00143] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least two segments. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least three segments. In some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least four segments. In some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least five segments. Further, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least six segments. Further, in some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least eight segments. Finally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least ten segments.

[00144] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between two segments and one hundred segments. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between two segments and fifty segments. In some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between two segments and twenty segments. In some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between two segments and ten segments.

[00145] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between three segments and one hundred segments. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between three segments and fifty segments. In some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between three segments and twenty segments. In some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between three segments and ten segments.

[00146] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between five segments and one hundred segments. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between five segments and fifty segments. In some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between five segments and twenty segments. In some

embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include between five segments and ten segments.

[00147] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of segments that are evenly distributed over the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In other embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of segments that are focused in a first location and unevenly distributed over the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. For the purposes of the present disclosure, the term "radial area" refers to the area of the body-contacting surface of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00148] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of segments that are distributed over less than 5% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of segments that are distributed over less than 10% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of segments that are distributed over less than 15% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of segments that are distributed over less than 20% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Finally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of segments that are distributed over less than 26% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00149] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of segments that are distributed over less than 30% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of segments that are distributed over less than 35% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of segments that are distributed over less than 40% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of segments that are distributed over less than 45% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of segments that are distributed over less than 50% of the radial area of the ostomy

wafer or a layer thereof. Finally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a plurality of segments that are distributed over less than 55% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00150] In some embodiments, the plurality of segments of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein are distributed over more than 10% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Additionally, in some embodiments, the plurality of segments are distributed over more than 20% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments still, the plurality of segments are distributed over more than 30% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments yet still, the plurality of segments are distributed over more than 40% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments, the plurality of segments are distributed over more than 50% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments still, the plurality of segments are distributed over more than 60% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Finally, in some embodiments, the plurality of segments are distributed over more than 70% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00151] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafers of the present disclosure (or the convex layers thereof) include a first segment and a second segment. In one example, the first segment and the second segment may be separated by at least 1% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In another example, the first segment and the second segment may be separated by at least 2% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In yet another example, the first segment and the second segment may be separated by at least 3% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In yet another example still, the first segment and the second segment may be separated by at least 4% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in another example, the first segment and the second segment may be separated by at least 5% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in yet another example, the first segment and the second segment may be separated by at least 10% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in yet another example still, the first segment and the second segment may be separated by at least 15% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

[00152] In some embodiments, the first segment and the second segment of the ostomy wafers of the present disclosure may be separated by at least 20% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Additionally, in some embodiments, the first segment and the second segment may be separated by at least 25% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments still, the first segment and the second segment may be separated by at least 30% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments yet still, the first segment and the second segment may be separated by at least 35% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments, the first segment and the second segment may be separated by at least 40% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Further, in some embodiments still, the first segment and second segment may be separated by at least 45% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. Finally, in some embodiments, the first segment and the second segment may be separated by at least 50% of the radial area of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof.

Stoma Channel Built-In Structures

[00153] In some embodiments, the stoma channel (e.g., the annular opening in the wafer) has at least one built-in structure (e.g., any one or more of the features 910, 930, 950) to enhance the seal established between the ostomy wafer and the stoma. It should be appreciated that the stoma channel built-in structures contemplated herein are generally designed for use with a stoma and are capable of receiving, and/or coming into contact with, internal tissue that may be positioned in the stoma channel when the ostomy wafer is pushed against the stoma. As such, features (e.g., macro and micro shapes) of one or more walls that define the stoma channel of each ostomy wafer of the present disclosure provide a customized seal around an individual's stoma. Such customization makes the seal more effective and increases leakage resistance. Additionally, such customization provides greater comfort to the particular user. Furthermore, in some embodiments, the built-in structures of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein facilitate quick and simple application (and removal) of the ostomy wafers, thereby reducing user application time, training time, and learning curves. In one example, built-in structures disclosed herein are macroscopic. In another example, built-in structures disclosed herein are microscopic. In yet another example, ostomy wafers disclosed

herein include a combination of microscopic and macroscopic built-in structures. In any case, it should be appreciated that ostomy wafers of the present disclosure may include stoma built-in structures in a foam layer, a convex layer, or a combination thereof.

[00154] In the illustrative embodiments, the built-in structures 910 shown in FIG. 9A are embodied as, or otherwise include, angled and/or tapered surfaces 912, 914. In some embodiments, the surfaces 912, 914 may define, or otherwise incorporate, one or more angled fins 932 defining notches 934 therebetween, which are depicted in FIG. 9A and which may be embodied as, or otherwise included in, the built-in structures 930. In any case, in some embodiments, each angled fin 932 and/or each notch 934 may have a height H (shown in FIG. 9B) of about 0.01 mm to about 10 mm. The height H may be the dimension perpendicular to a length L of the stoma channel. As shown in FIG. 9B, each angled fin 932 may have a width W1 measured with respect to a horizontal line 940 that is from 0.01 mm to 10 mm and a width W2 measured with respect to the line 940 that is from 0.01 mm to 20 mm. Additionally, as shown in FIG. 9B, each angled fin 932 may extend at an angle A relative to the line 940 that is from 0° to 60° and at an angle B relative to the line 940 that is from and angle B is 0-90°.

[00155] In some embodiments, built-in structures disclosed herein may define spring-like or accordion-like structures (e.g., the built-in structures 930, 950). Additionally, in some embodiments, built-in structures disclosed herein may allow the ostomy wafer to clamp onto a protruding stoma. In some embodiments still, built-in structures disclosed herein may prevent the ostomy wafer from dislodging from the stoma. In some embodiments yet still, built-in structures disclosed herein may have a spring/rebound property that controls deformation with a predetermined or reference rebound force. It should be appreciated that the built-in structures contemplated by the present disclosure may prevent, or substantially resist, a stoma from slipping out or pulling out of the stoma channel. Additionally, the built-in structures disclosed herein may provide frictional interference between the stoma channel and the stoma, thereby facilitating securement of the ostomy wafer to the stoma.

[00156] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include built-in structures (e.g., the structures 930) located on the inner wall(s) defining the stoma channel. Additionally, in some embodiments, the built-in structures disclosed located on the inner

surface of the stoma channel are tapered (e.g., the structures 910) or jagged (e.g., the structures 930), which prevent or resist detachment of the ostomy wafer from the protruding stoma. In some embodiments still, the built-in structures disclosed herein provide internal structures (e.g., the built-in structures 950 within the stoma channel wall(s) 952) that provide deformation and malleability without gripping and/or directly contacting the stoma.

[00157] In some embodiments, built-in structures disclosed herein may be described as pliable, flexible, semi-rigid, or a combination thereof. In other embodiments, however, built-in structures disclosed herein may be rigid or inflexible.

[00158] The ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include stoma channels of various shapes. In one example, the stoma channel is cylindrical. In another example, the stoma channel is tapered or funnel-shaped. In yet another example, the stoma channel has a smooth, continuous, or uninterrupted inner surface. In another example yet still, the stoma channel has a jagged or stepped inner surface.

[00159] In some embodiments, the stoma channel of the ostomy wafer and areas adjacent thereto may include moldable adhesive technologies. Those adhering features may reduce the number of steps typically required to seal an ostomy wafer to the skin and the stoma of a particular patient. For example, no scissors may be required to cut/tailor the stoma channel to the skin and the stoma of the patient, and there may be no need for additional pastes or adhesives to fill in the contours/built-in structures of the ostomy wafer. Therefore, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may offer easier and simpler application (and removal) for nurses and patients.

Wafer Layers

[00160] The ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include at least one wafer layer, and, in some embodiments, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein include multiple wafer layers. Layers may range in height from about 0.5 mm to about 8 mm, at least in some embodiments. Additionally, in some embodiments, layers may range in height from about 0.5 mm to about 5 mm, or from about 0.5 mm to about 3 mm. In some embodiments still, the density of the foam layer(s) of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may range from about 70 kg/m² to 150 kg/m². Typically, devices with more layers will have a lower Young's Modulus.

[00161] Ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include one or more layers of a soft compliant material (e.g., foam). In one embodiment, the soft compliant material may be embodied as, or otherwise include, ConvaTec's Aquacel foam. Generally, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include at least one foam layer. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers of the present disclosure may include a plurality of foam layers. In one example, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include two foam layers. In another example, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include three foam layers. In yet another example, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include four foam layers. In yet another example still, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include five foam layers. Further, in another example, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include between one foam layer and ten foam layers. Further, in in another example still, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include between two foam layers and ten foam layers. Finally, in another example, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include between three foam layers and ten foam layers.

[00162] Multiple foam layers may provide the ostomy wafer with increased pliability or flexibility relative to a wafer with a single foam layer. In some embodiments, the foam layer may include an open cell structured foam, a closed cell structured foam, memory foam, liquid foam, a specialty foam (e.g., anti-static foam, breathable foam, hydrophilic foam), or a combination thereof.

[00163] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include an external layer and/or a convex layer. Any one of the foam, convex, and external layers may function as an adhesive and/or an effective barrier against effluent leakage. In some embodiments, the foam layer thickness ranges from about 1 mm to about 100 mm. Additionally, in some embodiments, the foam layer thickness ranges from about 5 mm to about 50 mm.

[00164] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include an external layer. In such embodiments, the external layer is typically the outermost (i.e., distal to the individual or user) layer of the ostomy wafer, and typically, the external layer does not extend into the stoma or internally beyond the stoma when applied to the user. In some embodiments, the external layer includes a single layer. In other embodiments, however, the external layer includes a multilayer construction (e.g., multiple layers of material or a multi-laminate construction). In one example,

the external layer includes a material selected from, but not limited to, hydrocolloid adhesives (such as Stomahesive, Durahesive, Modified Stomahesive, Stomahesive Seal, Duoderm, or Coloplasts Brava strips, for example), silicone, acrylics, cyanoacrylate (such as Liquiband, for example), rubbers, foams, cellulose, polyurethanes, polyethylenes, polyvinyl chlorides, ethylenevinyl acetates, polypropylenes, polytetrafluorethylenes, and polyisobutylenes. In some embodiments, the external layer may include Trilam (SH/DH) that has a Stomahesive seal or a Durahesive seal.

[00165] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a convex layer. The convex layer may be relatively cylindrical, funnel-shaped, and/or bowl-shaped, with a rim (e.g., the rims 116, 216, 316, 416 shown in respective FIGS. 1-4) that is in contact with the external layer. The opening (e.g., the openings 118, 218, 318, 418) of the convex layer through which effluent flows is generally positioned at/near the base of the bowl, opposite the mouth/rim. It should be appreciated that the convex layer should have appropriate dimensions for positioning into, around, or against a flush or retracted stoma. In one example, with regards to a flush stoma, the opening of the convex layer may be sized to fit around internal tissue such that the convex exterior rim of the "bowl" contacts the peristomal skin around the internal tissue and minimally extends beyond the surface of the skin surrounding the stoma. In the example of a retracted stoma, the convex layer may have a relatively shallow bowl depth and be wide enough to leave little or no space between the peristomal skin and the exterior rim and/or sides of the convex layer.

[00166] In some embodiments, the depth of the convex layer bowl may be between about half of a centimeter and about ten centimeters. Additionally, in some embodiments, the width of the bowl may be between about two centimeters and about ten centimeters. The convex layer, as well as additional components of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein, may be manufactured by use of compression molds that apply heat for adhesive molding, at least in some embodiments. In one example, the total volume of the bowl may range from 20,000 mm³ to 800,000 mm³. In another example, the total volume of the bowl may range from 20,000 mm³ to 100,000 mm³.

[00167] In some embodiments, convex layers disclosed herein are relatively funnel-shaped (e.g., the convex layer 420 in FIG. 4) instead of being relatively bowl-shaped. Funnel-shaped convex layers may be formed or sculpted from an adhesive material, at least in some embodiments. Additionally, in some embodiments, the adhesive material may be a moldable adhesive. In some embodiments still, the funnel-shaped convex layer may be formed or sculpted from a rigid or semi-rigid material. Non-limiting examples of rigid or semi-rigid materials include hydrocolloid adhesives (e.g., Stomahesive, Durahesive, Modified Stomahesive, Stomahesive Seal, Duoderm, or Coloplasts Brava strips), silicone, acrylics, cyanoacrylate (e.g., Liquiband), rubbers, foams, cellulose, polyurethanes, polyethylenes, polyvinyl chlorides, ethylenevinyl acetates, polypropylenes, polytetrafluorethylenes, and polyisobutylenes. In other embodiments, the funnel-shaped convex layer may not have an adhesive property. In such embodiments, the convex layer may be used with an internal layer that has an adhesive property to form a seal against the stoma. The internal layer or funnel-shaped convex layer may be able to absorb effluent as well, at least in some embodiments.

[00168] In some embodiments, convex layers of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein are constructed to provide convexity, support, and flexibility. In one example, the convex layer is made from ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA), a material which may be "rubber-like" in softness and flexibility, among other properties. The convex layer may include, but is not limited to, one or more rigid or semi-rigid plastics, such as polypropylene, polystyrene, or polyethylene (polyethylene-vinyl acetate), for example. In some embodiments, a foam layer disclosed herein may reduce the rigidity of the convex layer or convex layer support materials. The thickness of convex layers disclosed herein may range from about 22 mm (7/8") to about 45 mm (1 3/4") in size to increase suitability for use with retracted stomas, at least in some embodiments.

[00169] In some embodiments, the convex layer includes a skin barrier. The skin barrier may comprise a ring formed from, or in the form of, a mold. The mold may be flexible or pliable, at least in some embodiments. The convex layer and/or skin barrier may include an adhesive that is embodied as, or otherwise includes, a stoma adhesive. The stoma adhesive may provide a barrier or seal against effluent to ensure a single-directional flow through the opening of the convex layer (see the effluent flow arrows in FIGS. 1 and 2). Thus, the convex

layer may be used alone with a pouch and provide adherence to the subject, as well as an effective barrier against leakage. In one embodiment, the skin barrier is a moldable adhesive that is breathable and/or moisture-absorbing. By way of non-limiting example, the skin barrier may be selected from Stomahesive Seal (ConvaTec), Brava Moldable adhesive Ring (Coloplast), Eakin Cohesive Seal (ConvaTec), Adapt Barrier Ring (Hollister), SecuPlast Mouldable Seal (Salts), and Siltac (Trio).

[00170] The skin barriers contemplated by the present disclosure are adapted to fill in and/or be received in cavities/folds in the intact skin around the stoma to protect the underlying skin from contact with bodily fluids. In some embodiments, the skin barriers may be made from pectin-based, hydrocolloid-type ingredients, mineral oils, plasticisers, tackifiers, and elastomers, with varying compositions. In some embodiments, the convex layer may include a single layer. Additionally, in some embodiments, the convex layer includes a multi-layer or multi-laminate material and/or multiple layers of material. The convex layer may include a material selected from one or more of the following: Eakin Cohesive Seal (ConvaTec), Brava Mouldable Ring (Coloplast), Dansac Seal (Dansac), Adapt Barrier Ring (Hollister), SecuPlast Mouldable Seal (Salts), and Siltac (Trio). The convex layer may comprise a material selected from Stomahesive seal, at least in some embodiments. Additionally, in some embodiments, the convex layer may include a thermoformed adhesive made from a resin (e.g., Exxon Escorene).

[00171] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein include an internal layer that at least partially covers (ranging from about 30% to about 100%) the convex exterior surface of the convex layer and includes a stoma adhesive on a stoma-facing side of the internal layer. As such, the internal layer may adhere to flush or retracted skin of the flush or retracted stoma, thereby securing the ostomy wafer to the ostomate. The internal layer may include a material selected from one or more of the following: Eakin Cohesive Seal (ConvaTec), Brava Moldable Rings (Coloplast), Adapt Barrier Rings (Hollister) Dansac Seal (Dansac), SecuPlast Moldable Seal (Salts), and Siltac (Trio). The internal layer may include Stomahesive seal and/or Stomahesive paste, at least in some embodiments.

[00172] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein include one or more additional layers having adhesive, at least in some embodiment. In other embodiments, the one or more additional layers may not include adhesive. The one or more additional layers may include a material selected from adhesive, laminate, foam, gel, rubber, fabric, plastic, and combinations thereof. Other ingredients may include, but are not limited to, Sodium Carboxymethylcellulose, Thixcin, Gelatin, and Pectin, for example.

[00173] The one or more additional layers may contribute to the flexibility or moldable adhesive character of the ostomy wafer. The one or more additional layers may also allow the ostomy wafer to have properties tailored to the needs of a particular patient demographic. As a non-limiting example, these may include thickness variations (from about 0.5 mm to about 40 mm), shape variations (such as circular, polygonal, or crescent shapes, for example), profile variations (constant profile or wedge profile), or surface features (such as ridges, channels, or valleys, for example).

[00174] The additional layers may be continuous or discontinuous around the periphery of the ostomy wafer. It should be appreciated that the ostomy wafers, devices, and methods disclosed herein generally avoid the use of rigid, hard materials to form the convex exterior of the convex layer. Accordingly, the ostomy wafers, devices, and methods disclosed herein provide malleability and flexibility while at the same time delivering a secure seal to resist leakage.

Layered Foam Wafers

[00175] As shown in FIG. 1, the ostomy wafer 100 may include two layers of foam 140, 142 that are formed entirely from soft compliant material, at least in some embodiments. Consequently, the ostomy wafer 100 may be more pliable than configurations incorporating convex discs, as well as the ostomy wafer 200 depicted in FIG. 2. The internal layer 130 is embodied is, or otherwise includes, an adhesive inner layer that sticks to the peristomal skin. The external layer 110 is embodied as, or otherwise includes, an adhesive external layer that sticks to the surrounding skin around the stoma.

[00176] In some embodiments, layers of the devices disclosed herein, including the foam layers, may be arranged such that they confer anisotropic properties to the wafer and/or the ostomy

device. Generally, the ostomy wafers of the present disclosure include an external layer having a body-contacting side that has a skin adhesive to adhere the external layer to external skin around the flush or retracted stoma to secure the wafer to an ostomate. Additionally, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a foam layer. The external layer and the foam layer include concentric openings through which effluent flows.

[00177] The ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include an internal layer, at least in some embodiments, and the foam layer may be positioned between the external layer and the internal layer. The internal layer may include a stoma adhesive on a stoma-facing side of the internal layer that adheres to peristomal skin to further secure the ostomy wafer to the ostomate. The internal layer may also be moldable or include a moldable adhesive or moldable material. In some embodiments, the ostomy devices disclosed herein may be referred to as "layered foam wafers."

[00178] Ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include a plurality of foam layers, at least in some embodiments. Ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include two foam layers, three foam layers, four foam layers, five foam layers, or more. In one example, ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include a first foam layer and a second foam layer. The first foam layer and the second foam layer may have a first gross diameter and a second gross diameter, respectively. The first gross diameter and the second gross diameter may be the same, at least in some embodiments. In other embodiments, the first gross diameter and the second gross diameter may be different from one another.

[00179] The first foam layer and the second foam layer may have a first thickness and a second thickness, respectively. The first thickness and the second thickness may be the same, at least in some embodiments. In other embodiments, the first thickness and the second thickness may be different. The first foam layer and the second foam layer may have a first porosity and a second porosity, respectively. The first porosity and the second porosity may be the same or the first porosity and the second porosity may be different.

[00180] The first foam layer and the second foam layer may have a first pliability/flexibility and a second pliability/flexibility, respectively. The first pliability/flexibility and the second pliability/flexibility may be the same. The first pliability/flexibility and the second pliability/flexibility may be different, at least in some

embodiments. In some embodiments, the first foam layer and the second foam layer may consist of identical compositions. In other embodiments, the first foam layer and the second foam layer may consist of different compositions. The multi-layered system of the devices disclosed herein allows for different degrees of convexity, pliability and moldability.

[00181] A foam layer of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may have a flexural modulus of about 0.01 GPa to about 2 GPa, at least in some embodiments. In one example, the foam layer may have a flexural modulus of about 0.01 GPa to about 0.1 GPa. In another example, the foam layer may have a flexural modulus of about 0.1 GPa to about 1 GPa. In yet another example, the foam layer may have a flexural modulus of about 1 GPa to about 2 GPa. In yet another example still, the foam layer may have a flexural modulus of about 0.1 GPa to about 2 GPa.

[00182] In some embodiments, a foam layer of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may have a density of about 45 kg/m^3 – 300 kg/m^3 . In one example, a foam layer of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may have a density of about 45 kg/m^3 – 90 kg/m^3 . In another example, a foam layer of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may have a density of about 90 kg/m^3 – 120 kg/m^3 . In yet another example, a foam layer of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may have a density of about 120 kg/m^3 – 150 kg/m^3 . In yet another example still, a foam layer of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may have a density of about 150 kg/m^3 – 180 kg/m^3 . Further, in another example, a foam layer of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may have a density of about 180 kg/m^3 – 210 kg/m^3 . Further, in yet another example, a foam layer of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may have a density of about 210 kg/m^3 – 240 kg/m^3 . Further, in yet another example still, a foam layer of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may have a density of about 240 kg/m^3 – 270 kg/m^3 . Finally, in another example, a foam layer of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may have a density of about 270 kg/m^3 – 300 kg/m^3 .

Convex Foam Wafers

[00183] As exemplified in FIG. 2, the ostomy wafer 200 includes the foam layer 240. In some embodiments, the foam layer 240 may provide a rebounding aspect when compressed against or into gaps/contours of the patient's abdomen. Additionally, in some embodiments, the foam layer 240 may provide pliability that is not attained by other configurations (e.g., configurations incorporating convex discs). The internal layer 230 is embodied as, or

otherwise include, an internal adhesive layer that sticks to the peristomal skin. The external layer 210 is embodied as, or otherwise includes, an external adhesive layer that sticks to the surrounding skin around the stoma.

[00184] In some embodiments, the foam layer may be coextensive with one or more dimensions of the internal or external layer. In other embodiments, however, the foam layer may not be coextensive with one or more dimensions of the internal or external layer. The internal layer may at least partially cover the convex exterior of the convex disc or layer 220. In some embodiments, the internal layer may include a stoma adhesive on a stoma-facing or body-facing side of the internal layer that adheres the internal layer to flush or retracted skin of the flush or retracted stoma, thereby securing the ostomy wafer to the peristomal skin surface. In some embodiments, the convex disc 220 may be used as an underlying support to provide structure to the wafer.

[00185] Generally, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein are adapted for use with a flush or retracted stoma. The ostomy wafers of the present disclosure generally include an external layer having a body-contacting side with a skin adhesive to adhere to external skin around the flush or retracted stoma to secure the moldable adapter to an ostomate, a foam layer, and a convex layer sized for positioning in the flush or retracted stoma. The layers include concentric openings through which effluent flows, at least in some embodiments. The deformability of the one or more foam layer(s) may contribute to the pliability of the convex layer and the ostomy wafer. It should be appreciated that the overall deformation of the wafer may be a product of the convex layer deformation and the foam layer deformation (e.g., like springs attached in series).

[00186] Generally, the foam layer is positioned between the external layer and the convex layer. Of course, it should be appreciated that the foam layer may have another suitable arrangement relative to the external layer and the convex layer. Additionally, other layer arrangements for ostomy wafers disclosed herein include, but are not limited to, the following: external-convex-foam layer arrangements, external-foam-convex layer arrangements, external-foam-convex-foam layer arrangements, and convex-foam-foam-external arrangements. In some embodiments, layer arrangements disclosed herein may be advantageous in one or more respects, such as by placing the less rigid component (e.g., the

foam layer) on the body-side so that the less rigid component may initially conform to the body contours and provide a seal, for example. In some arrangements, deformation distance and force subsequent to the initial application of the ostomy wafer may increase, and the more rigid convex layer may be used to apply a reaction force that will put pressure on the skin surrounding the stoma and cause inverted or flush stomas to protrude.

[00187] In some embodiments, foam layers disclosed herein may provide pliability to the ostomy wafer that is not provided by the convex layer alone. The foam layer may be bound by an internal adhesive layer, at least in some embodiments. Additionally, in some embodiments, there may be a congruent fit between the internal layer and the foam layer that is equivalent to an engineering interference fit. The foam layer thickness may impact the overall structure deformation, at least in some embodiments.

[00188] In some embodiments, the convex layer or the stoma channel thereof may include positive or negative surface features to direct deformation of the foam layer. In one example, the surface features may be embodied as, or otherwise include, the built-in structures 910, 930, 950 shown in FIG. 9. Of course, in other embodiments, other suitable features may be incorporated into the convex layer or the stoma channel thereof.

[00189] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a flange. Additionally, in some embodiments, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a flange, which may be a feature that allows coupling to a complementary component. In some embodiments still, the flange may extend radially outward from the rest of the ostomy wafer or a layer thereof. In some embodiments yet still, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include an extension to the adhesive layer (e.g., a collar) which attaches to the skin. The collar may be made of fabric, at least in some embodiments. A flange or tab may extend radially outward from the ostomy wafer at a single location, whereas a collar may extend radially outward from the ostomy wafer around the outer perimeter of the device.

[00190] The flange or collar may be attached to the external layer and/or the convex layer. In some embodiments, the flange or collar may include additional adhesive for further securing the ostomy wafer to the ostomate and/or sealing the ostomy wafer to the ostomate to resist leakage. Common substances, devices, and/or methods may be employed to securely mate and seal a flange

to a stoma, such as applying an adhesive substance (e.g., a paste) around the stoma, at the base of the ileum, and/or at the opening of the ostomy wafer/baseplate as filler for skin folds, uneven skin surfaces, and scars, for example. Other methods may involve using silicone gel to fill uneven skin surfaces, applying the gel directly around the stoma, and applying a wafer/baseplate directly onto the gel. According to such methods, the gel may cure underneath the wafer/baseplate during normal wear time. Non-limiting examples of pastes include ConvaTec's Stomahesive paste, Adapt Paste (Hollister), Brava Paste (Coloplast), Securiti-T Stoma Paste (Genairex), MicroHesive Stoma Paste (Cymed), and Osto Stoma Paste (Montreal Osto). Gels include, but are not limited to, Silicone Gel (Trio), and Osto Paste (Stoma-Tech). Additionally, in some embodiments, ingredients of the pastes/gels may include, but are not limited to, Sodium Carboxymethylcellulose, Thixcin, Gelatin, and Pectin.

Ostomy Wafer Properties

[00191] The ostomy wafers of the present disclosure have various physical properties. In some embodiments, various regions or segments of ostomy wafers disclosed herein possess varying physical properties. Furthermore, ostomy wafers disclosed herein, and portions thereof, may have various rheological properties. In some embodiments, the rheological properties of ostomy wafers disclosed herein may be supported or enhanced by any one of the layers, structures, or features described herein. Additionally, in some embodiments, layers, structures, or features of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein provide structural rigidity, and thereby establish boundary conditions of the wafers.

[00192] The gross diameters of the wafers contemplated by the present disclosure range up to about 200 mm, and the heights of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein range from about 3 mm to about 30 mm. In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein range in average size from about 10 mm to about 100 mm in diameter. The ostomy wafers disclosed herein may function to direct viscous internal fluid flow, at least in some embodiments. The ostomy wafers of the present disclosure may facilitate the use of dynamic fluid viscosities as low as about $0.28 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Pa/s}^1$, and as high as about $1 \times 10^8 \text{ Pa/s}^1$.

[00193] The total height of ostomy wafers disclosed herein is more than about 5 mm, more than about 10 mm, or more than about 20 mm, at least in some embodiments.

Additionally, in some embodiments, the wafers may have total heights of about 3 mm to about 30 mm. In some embodiments still, the wafers may have total heights of no more than about 50 mm. In some embodiments yet still, the outer diameter of the wafers may range from about 5 mm to about 150 mm. Further, in some embodiments, the outer diameter may range from about 10 mm to about 100 mm. Further, in some embodiments still, the outer diameters may range from about 20 mm to about 200 mm. Further, in some embodiments yet still, the outer diameters may range from about 100 mm to about 200 mm. Finally, in some embodiments, a wafer with an outer diameter greater than 200 mm may be particularly desirable.

[00194] The ostomy wafers of the present disclosure may include a foam layer that provides a rebounding aspect when pressed against a subject's stoma such that the wafer is compressed into the gaps/contours of the patient's abdomen. The level of rebound may range from about 0.25 mm to about 4 mm, from about 0.1 mm to about 10 mm, or from about 1 mm to 5 mm, at least in some embodiments.

[00195] Ostomy wafers of the present disclosure, or portions thereof, may have a stiffness that ranges from about 0.1 N/mm to about 300 N/mm, at least in some embodiments. Additionally, in some embodiments, the wafers disclosed herein may have a stiffness that ranges from about 0.15 N/mm to about 200 N/mm. Finally, in some embodiments, the wafers disclosed herein may have a stiffness that ranges from about 0.5 N/mm to about 150 N/mm.

[00196] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein include a foam layer and a convex layer that may have a greater structural rigidity than the foam layer. In some embodiments, the convex layer may have a structural rigidity between about 1 N/mm and about 50 N/mm. Additionally, in some embodiments, the convex layer may have a structural rigidity greater than about 5 N/mm, but not greater than 5000 N/mm. There may be a slight decrease in rigidity due to inclusion of the foam layer. In one example, the foam layer may have a structural rigidity between about 1 N/mm and about 40 N/mm. In another example, the foam layer may have a structural rigidity greater than about 1 N/mm, but not greater than 5000 N/m. There may be a decrease in the structural rigidity relative to the convex support due to the softness and flexibility of the foam layer.

[00197] Ostomy wafers of the present disclosure, or portions thereof, may securely fill and/or seal voids (e.g., creases, folds, or pockets) in the skin of the subject. In some embodiments, each void may be greater than about 0.01 mm³, about 0.02 mm³, about 0.05 mm³, or about 0.1 mm³. In other embodiments, each void may be greater than about 0.02 mm³.

[00198] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein, and portions thereof, include at least one material having a tensile strength of about 0.1 N.cm⁻² to about 20 N.cm⁻². Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein, and portions thereof, include at least one material having a tensile strength of about 0.5 N.cm⁻² to about 15 N.cm⁻². In some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein, and portions thereof, include at least one material with a tensile strength of about 1 N.cm⁻² to about 10 N.cm⁻².

[00199] In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein, and portions thereof, have a maximum elongation property of up to 100%. Additionally, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein, and portions thereof, have a maximum elongation property of up to 200%. In some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein, and portions thereof, have a maximum elongation property of up to 300%. In some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein, and portions thereof, have a maximum elongation property of up to 400%. Further, in some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein, and portions thereof, have a maximum elongation property of up to 500%. Further, in some embodiments still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein, and portions thereof, have a maximum elongation property of up to 800%. Further, in some embodiments yet still, ostomy wafers disclosed herein, and portions thereof, have a maximum elongation property of up to 1000%.

[00200] The gross structural deformation of ostomy wafers disclosed herein range from about 2 mm to about 30 mm, at least in some embodiments. Properties of each layer, or of multiple layers, may confer anisotropic properties to the ostomy wafers disclosed herein. The ostomy wafer may be said to be anisotropic in that its structural and material properties may vary along its principal axes, which are designated in FIG. 10 as 1002 (e.g., the “Medial-Lateral” axis), 1004 (e.g., the “Superior-Inferior” axis), and 1006 (e.g., the “Proximal-Distal” Axis). Thus, the wafers may have different physical properties in different directions. In one example, the wafer may compress to a different degree along two different axes. Varying

physical properties in different directions may be particularly advantageous for people with skin folds requiring different properties in different directions to facilitate conformance of the ostomy wafer to the patient and resist leakage. Varying physical properties in different directions may also be advantageous for individuals who require a greater range of motion and desire more force/rigidity in one direction relative to another direction, for example.

[00201] In a non-limiting example, the subject may have one or more rolls of body fat that obscure or at partially prevent a view of the stoma and/or manipulation thereof. In this scenario, it may be advantageous to have a device with greater stiffness in one direction (e.g., the superior-inferior direction) to help raise body rolls. In some embodiments, stiffness in the superior-inferior direction may therefore be greater than stiffness in the medial-lateral direction and stiffness in the proximal-distal direction.

[00202] In another non-limiting example, the subject may be active or athletic. In some situations, the subject may perform repetitive or prolonged bending activities (such as cycling, for example). Therefore, the subject may require a device which is flexible in the superior inferior direction to minimize impingement. In some embodiments, the stiffness in the superior-inferior direction may be less than stiffness in the medial-lateral direction and stiffness in the proximal-distal direction.

[00203] In yet another non-limiting example, the subject may suffer leakage along a body crease located at the 3-9 positions (e.g., analogizing the annular device to a clock). That subject may require high moldability and/or conformance in the proximal-distal direction to aid in "filling" any gaps that cause the leakage. In some embodiments, the stiffness in the proximal-distal direction may be less than stiffness in the superior-inferior direction and less than stiffness in the medial-lateral direction.

[00204] The anisotropic property of any one of the axes (i.e., the axes 1002, 1004, 1006) may range from 100% (i.e., equivalent properties) to 25% of another axis, which may apply for both viscoelastic and time independent properties. The anisotropic properties may be achieved through, or otherwise attributed to, material properties (such as Young's modulus and Poisson's ratio, for example) and shape factors (such as thickness or second moment of area, for example) which result in varying structural properties (e.g., varying stiffness along

the axes 1002, 1004, 1006). In some embodiments, two of the three principal axes may have equivalent properties. It should be appreciated that anisotropy may be applicable for the entire ostomy wafer as a whole and also for the layers thereof. In some embodiments, a smaller diameter of the foam layer, compared to the internal or external layer, for example, may contribute to the anisotropic properties of the ostomy wafer.

[00205] In some embodiments, the convex layers of the ostomy wafers of the present disclosure may have a tapered or graduated shape. Additionally, in some embodiments, the convex layer may have a cylindrical shape or cylindrical characteristic. In other embodiments still, the convex layer may have a proximal end or proximal opening that is positioned in the flush or retracted stoma and a distal end or distal opening that extends away from, and is positioned outside of, the stoma. Regardless, the convex layer may have a threshold thickness that is about 30 mm, about 40 mm, about 45 mm, about 50 mm, about 55 mm, or about 60 mm, at least in some embodiments. In one embodiment, the threshold thickness may be about 45 mm. It should be appreciated that the thickness of the wall of the convex layer may be greater at the proximal end or proximal opening compared with the thickness of the wall at the distal end or the distal opening. The ratio of the distal: proximal may range from 1:1 (e.g., cylinder form) up to 1:0.01 (e.g., tapered form). Thus, the distal end or distal opening of the convex layer may be sized to conform easily to an individual's unique contours.

As exemplified in FIG. 2, the convex layer (e.g., the layer 220) of ostomy wafers disclosed herein may be tapered upward to provide an effective seal around the base of the ileum or the perimeter of the stoma, at least in some embodiments. Due to the smaller thickness of the convex layer toward the top/distal end) (i.e., as compared to the thickness of the convex layer toward the bottom/proximal end), the convex layer may have improved malleability, which may enhance conformance to each individual's unique characteristics. Additionally, in some embodiments, a stomal taper may allow an interference fit to be achieved for many different stomal sizes from a single manufactured profile. For a given application force, the taper may increase the stress experienced by the ostomy wafer material and the pressure exerted on the tissue surrounding the stoma by the ostomy wafer. Consequently, the ostomy wafer may conform to the user with greater ease and improve the protrusion of an inverted or flush stoma,

which may be particularly useful for debilitated patients. In some embodiments, ostomy wafers disclosed herein may begin deformation with application forces as low as about 0.1 N, about 0.2 N, about 0.5 N, or about 1 N.

Adhesives

[00206] The illustrative ostomy wafers of the present disclosure generally include adhesives or adhesive layers. As used herein, the term "adhesive" refers to layers, fabrics, strips, laminates, barriers, gels, pastes, hydrocolloids, glues, or the like that may be used to promote adherence of the ostomy wafer to the ostomate and/or promote a seal between the ostomy wafer and the ostomate to resist undesirable leakage of effluent. The adhesive may include a sealing substance that promotes a seal between the ostomy wafer and the stoma/ostomate, at least in some embodiments. It should be appreciated, however, that in some embodiments, inclusion of an adhesive in the ostomy wafer may be unnecessary. In some embodiments, kits and/or methods contemplated by the present disclosure may include an adhesive or involve the use of an adhesive, and the adhesive (e.g., an adhesive paste) may be applied to the ostomy wafer to effectively eliminate gaps between the stoma and the ostomy wafer in use of the ostomy wafer.

[00207] In some embodiments, the convex layers of the ostomy wafers and methods disclosed herein may include a stoma adhesive that adheres the convex layer to the flush or retracted skin of the flush or retracted stoma to provide additional means for securing and/or sealing the ostomy wafer to the ostomate. Additionally, in other embodiments, the width of the distal opening may be greater than the width of the proximal opening. In such embodiments, the width disparity between the distal opening and the proximal opening may facilitate application of the wafer to a particular patient (e.g., due to the greater aperture size of the proximal opening to locate over the stoma), which may be particularly advantageous to visually impaired or dexterity impaired patients.

[00208] Adhesives may also be used to promote adherence of an ostomy pouch to the ostomy wafer. The adhesives disclosed herein may provide adhesion for a variety of skin conditions, as well as security and comfort for the patient. In some embodiments, to ensure the skin barrier adheres to moist/dry skin, hydrocolloids may be used. Additionally, in some

embodiments, the adhesives, such as barriers, seals, strips, laminates, or fabrics, for example, may include a release liner designed for removal prior to use. In other embodiments, however, the adhesives may not include a release liner. In such embodiments, the adhesive quality of the adhesive may be present only when the adhesive makes contact with a liquid, gel, effluent, skin, heat, or a combination thereof.

[00209] The adhesives may have an adhering, sealing, or molding quality that is activated and/or promoted by heat and/or contact with effluent. By way of non-limiting example, sealing materials of the adhesives may include Eakin Cohesive Seal (ConvaTec), Brava Mouldable Rings (Coloplast), Dansac Seal (Dansac), Adapt Barrier Rings (Hollister), SecuPlast Mouldable Seal (Salts), and Siltac (Trio). Sealing pastes contemplated by the present disclosure include, but are not limited to, Stomahesive Paste (ConvaTec), Adapt Paste (Hollister), Brava Paste (Coloplast), Securiti-T Stoma Paste (Genairex), MicroHesive Stoma Paste (Cymed), and Osto Stoma Paste (Montreal Osto). By way of non-limiting example, gel sealants contemplated herein include Silicone Gel (Trio) and Osto Paste (Stoma-Tech). Other ingredients of the adhesives may include, but are not limited to, Polyisobutylene, Gelatin, Pectin, Thixcin, Sodium Carboxymethylcellulose (Sodium CMC), and Hydroxyethyl Cellulose, at least in some embodiments.

[00210] In an exemplary embodiment, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may include ConvaTec Moldable adhesive Technology (CMT), which improves the fit between skin barriers and stomas. In one example, Durahesive technology used in CMT may help to protect the skin from caustic effluent. Durahesive technology combines the ingredients used in stomahesive technology in a different ratio to produce a moisture-absorbing adhesive. In some embodiments, the inclusion of Durahesive technology in convex wafers may ensure easy one-piece removal (i.e., due to higher cohesive strength) that is gentle on the surrounding skin. Durahesive polymers may swell within an elastic matrix to create a seal around the stoma site. Durahesive polymers may swell or "turtleneck" in response to coming in contact with liquid effluent to improve the seal around the stoma. The expansion and contraction around the stoma in use of such polymers may provide a barrier that remains snug and secure during period of wear. It should be appreciated that ensuring a good seal around the stoma minimizes the risk

of effluent leaking under the skin barrier, and that reducing such leakage resists the development of peristomal skin complications.

[00211] The ostomy wafers disclosed herein, and components thereof, may include an adhesive selected from various adhesives, such as, but not limited to, Stomahesive/Durahesive, Trilaminate, and Stomahesive Seal, for example. The formulation of the adhesives may be altered to deliver a desired attribute to the user (e.g. comfort, flexibility, size, breathability, etc.), at least in some embodiments. To improve the elasticity of the adhesive, an additive (e.g., styrene-isoprene-styrene (SIS) rubber, isobutylene) may be utilized. In some embodiments, oils may be added to enhance pliability and tack.

[00212] The adhesives disclosed herein may include a mucoadhesive. The mucoadhesive may be particularly helpful to maintain sufficient adhesion under wet conditions, among other conditions. In some embodiments, the mucoadhesive of the present disclosure includes a polymer having functional groups selected to provide adhesion to the skin and the stoma. In one example, the functional groups are selected from a group consisting of thiols, acids and their salts, iminothiolanes, thioalkylamidines, catechols, amino acids, dihydroxy substituted aromatic groups, and combinations thereof. Additionally, in one example, the polymer is a biocompatible polymer made from natural or synthetic polymer selected from a group consisting of polyacrylates, polyalkylmethacrylates, polyphenylmethacrylate, polyanhydrides, styrenic block copolymers, polyamides, polyesters, polyvinyl ethers, polyvinyl esters, sulfonated polymers, polyolefins, silicones, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyvinylacetate and its copolymers, polyvinyl alcohol, polyurethanes, polyethers, copolymers of maleic anhydride, polysaccharides, polypeptides, gelatin, alginates, gums, starch, chitosan, pectin, and combinations thereof. Further, in some embodiments, the mucoadhesive may contain other components such as hydrophobic polymers, hydrophilic polymers, amphiphilic polymers, tackifiers, resins, plasticizers, hydrocolloids, inorganic and organic particulate fillers, antioxidants, stabilisers, organic and inorganic pigments, lubricious additives, and combinations thereof.

[00213] The adhesives may include a pressure sensitive adhesive having one or more amphiphilic copolymers of polydimethylsiloxane, at least in some embodiments. In such

embodiments, the copolymer may be prepared using a polydimethylsiloxane or polymethylhydrogensiloxane macroinitiator and at least one reactive hydrophilic or amphiphilic monomer, oligomer, macromere, or combinations thereof. In some embodiments, the reactive hydrophilic or amphiphilic monomer may be selected from a group consisting of N-vinyl caprolactams, vinyl esters, vinyl ethers, unsaturated acids or anhydrides and their salts, acrylates, methacrylates, acrylamides, methacrylamides, N-alkyl acrylamides, cyanate esters, hydroxy-alkyl acrylamides, glycidyl esters, glycidyl ethers, allyl monomers, and combinations thereof.

Ostomy Devices

[00214] Ostomy devices of the present disclosure include an ostomy pouch and any one of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein. In some embodiments, the ostomy device may include one or more coupling components (e.g., the components 302, 402 shown in FIGS. 3 and 4) configured for interaction with the ostomy pouch and/or the ostomy wafer to operatively couple the ostomy pouch and the ostomy wafer in use thereof.

[00215] The ostomy wafers of the present disclosure may include one or more coupling components to couple or adhere the ostomy wafer to an ostomy pouch. The coupling component(s) may be attached to any ostomy wafer disclosed herein. In some embodiments, the coupling component(s) may be included in the ostomy wafer or any layer thereof. In any case, it should be appreciated that the coupling component(s) are adapted to mechanically connect the ostomy wafer to the ostomy pouch, such as via adhesion by an adhesive layer applied to, coupled to, or otherwise incorporated into, the ostomy wafer and/or the ostomy pouch, or by interaction with one or more additional components. Of course, in other embodiments, the ostomy wafer may not include coupling component(s). In such embodiments, the ostomy wafer may contact the pouch directly or may contact a coupling feature of the pouch.

[00216] In some embodiments, the coupling component(s) may include, be embodied as, or otherwise provide, a limited motion connection between the ostomy wafer and the ostomy pouch that permits relative displacement between substantially the entire ostomy wafer and the entrance aperture of the ostomy pouch. In such embodiments, the limited motion connection may guide relative displacement between the wafer and the pouch along a limited motion locus. More specifically, in some embodiments, the limited motion

connection may guide movement of the wafer relative to the pouch (or vice versa) between an operative position and an access position. In the operative position, the ostomy wafer may be superposed around the entrance aperture of the ostomy pouch. Additionally, in the operative position, an adaptable region of the ostomy wafer may be shrouded by the ostomy pouch on the non-body-facing side and the wafer and pouch may be fixed to one another with a fixation coupling. In the access position, access is provided to the adaptable region from the non-body-facing side.

[00217] The coupling component(s) contemplated herein may guide alignment of, or movement between, the ostomy wafer and the ostomy pouch to the operative position, thereby facilitating use for some users, such as elderly, non-dexterous, or visually impaired persons, for example. At the same time, the limited motion connection may permit relative displacement of substantially the entire ostomy wafer with respect to the entrance aperture as discussed above, thereby facilitating conformance of the ostomy wafer to the size and/or shape of the user's stoma, at least in some embodiments. In some embodiments, the limited motion connection may include an articulating link that defines the limited motion locus.

[00218] In some embodiments, the ostomy device may be provided as a one-piece component to enhance access thereto and avoid complications such as wholly or partly immovable ostomy wafers, for example. The ostomy wafer may be permanently attached to the ostomy pouch directly or indirectly via the coupling component(s) (which may be permanently attached to the ostomy pouch). For the purposes of the present disclosure, the term "permanently attached" (or like phrases) means that the pieces may be attached with sufficient force that separation of the pieces results in breakage or damage complicating reattachment without additional equipment. Of course, it should be apparent from the teachings of the present disclosure that the ability to displace the ostomy wafer relative to the entrance aperture of the ostomy pouch may permit easier adaptation of the ostomy wafer (e.g., by forming, cutting, or shaping the stomal aperture, or by fitting and/or shaping a separate sealing member at the stomal aperture) to the ostomy pouch.

[00219] In some embodiments, the ostomy device may be a two-piece ostomy device. The components of the two-piece device may be aligned without significantly reducing access to the ostomy wafer to facilitate adaption of the ostomy wafer to the size and/or shape

of stoma. Additionally, the components may be positioned relative to one another without detracting from the ability to position the body-fitment component on the body before fixing the other component in the operative position with respect to the body fitment component. In some embodiments, the limited motion connection and the coupling component(s) may include releasable coupling portions.

Uses

[00220] While the devices (ostomy wafers and ostomy devices) disclosed herein are especially advantageous for the management of flush or retracted stomas, the devices disclosed herein may be used for protruding stomas as well. Generally, a protruding stoma is characterized by internal tissue (e.g., ileum) protruding from a surgical opening beyond the surface of surrounding external skin. Although a flush stoma may be described as having protruding internal tissue, the protruding tissue is surrounded by, and typically does not protrude beyond, the surrounding skin such that the distal end of the protruding internal tissue is flush with surrounding external and/or peristomal skin. A retracted stoma may be characterized by an absence of protruding internal tissue. In the case of a retracted stoma, the internal tissue does not protrude beyond the perimeter of the stoma or the skin surrounding the stoma.

[00221] The devices disclosed herein are adapted for use with a gastrointestinal stoma, at least in some embodiments. Additionally, in some embodiments, the devices disclosed herein may be used for managing a stoma created by an esophagostomy, a gastrostomy, a cholecystostomy, a choledochostomy, a cecostomy, a colostomy, a duodenostomy, an ileostomy, a jejunostomy, an appendicostomy, a tracheostomy, a urostomy, a nephrostomy, an ureterostomy, or a vesicostomy. In some embodiments still, the devices disclosed herein may be used with additional devices including, but not limited to, a shunt, a catheter, a plug, or a fecal management system.

[00222] In the case of a flush stoma, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein (e.g., the convex layers thereof) may be pressed into or against the stoma so that the internal tissue passes through the opening of the convex layer. In those embodiments, the opening of the convex layer may surround the internal tissue and the peristomal skin at least partially surrounds or buries the convex layer.

[00223] In the case of a retracted stoma, the convex layer of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may be pressed into or against the stoma such that the convex layer is at least partially surrounded by, or buried in, the peristomal skin without the opening of the convex layer surrounding any internal tissue. Such positioning may provide a rebounding aspect to cause compression of the ostomy wafer (e.g., the convex layer) into gaps/contours in the patient's abdomen, at least in some embodiments.

[00224] In some embodiments, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein include an external layer having a body-contacting side and a convex layer that contacts or is in communication with the external layer and is sized to be positioned in a flush or retracted stoma. The external layer and the convex layer include concentric openings through which effluent flows in use of the ostomy wafer. In some embodiments, the ostomy wafers disclosed herein may be embodied as, or otherwise include, "layered adhesive wafers." The moldable convex layers of the layered adhesive wafers disclosed herein may be more pliable than other configurations of convex discs. The body-contacting side of the external layer may include a skin adhesive that adheres the external layer to external and/or peristomal skin around and/or adjacent to the flush or retracted stoma to secure the ostomy wafer to an individual or ostomate.

[00225] The ostomy wafers of the present disclosure may be used in combination with an ostomy pouch to manage a flush or retracted stoma as indicated above. In some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may be used with a plug that at least partially fills the stoma channel. Additionally, in some embodiments, the ostomy wafer may be used with an adhesive substance that promotes adherence of the ostomy wafer to the ostomate. The ostomy wafers disclosed herein may be used with heat for molding the ostomy wafer and/or promoting the adherent property of the additional adhesive, at least in some embodiments. In one example, at least a portion of the heat may be body heat produced by the user/ostomate. In another example, at least a portion of the heat may be externally provided heat.

Kits

[00226] The present disclosure contemplates kits that include any one of the ostomy wafers disclosed herein. In addition, the kits may include one or more components such as an ostomy pouch, an adhesive seal, an adhesive barrier, an adhesive strip, an adhesive fabric, an adhesive

paste, and combinations thereof, for example. In some embodiments, the kits may include an adhesive selected from Adapt Paste (Hollister), Brava Paste (Coloplast), Securiti-T Stoma Paste (Genairex), MicroHesive Stoma Paste (Cymed), and Osto Stoma Paste (Montreal Osto). Additionally, in some embodiments, the kits may include gels such as Silicone Gel (Trio) or Osto Paste (Stoma-Tech), for example.

EXAMPLES

[00227] The examples and embodiments described herein are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to limit the scope of the claims. It should be appreciated that various modifications or changes apparent to persons skilled in the art are within the spirit and purview of this application and scope of the appended claims.

Example 1: Application of an ostomy wafer with foam layers

[00228] An ostomate with a flush or protruding stoma ensures that his/her hands and the skin surrounding the stoma are clean, dry, and free from any solvent or oily substances before applying the ostomy wafer. The ostomy wafer has two foam layers (e.g., the layers 140, 142) that are sandwiched by an external layer (e.g., the external layer 110) and an internal layer (e.g., the internal layer 130). The external layer has adhesive on its body-facing side that promotes adherence of the wafer to the external skin surrounding the peristomal skin. The internal layer is a skin barrier made of a moldable adhesive that promotes adherence of the wafer to the peristomal skin and provides an effective barrier.

[00229] The internal layer is moldable to the stoma opening (i.e., the shape and size thereof) without needing scissors to adapt (e.g., to cut, tear, etc.) the ostomy wafer. The first release liner is removed from the skin barrier and the opening of the skin barrier is centered over the stoma. The skin barrier is then applied against the skin around the stoma for 30 seconds while allowing the barrier to adapt/mold to the environment. When compressed against the abdomen, the moldable adhesive conforms to the contours of the ostomate to provide an effective, comfortable seal around the stoma. Furthermore, when compressed against the abdomen, the foam layers compress into skin contours and provide a secure fit with rebound. Thereafter, a second release liner is removed from the body-facing side of the external layer to reveal a skin adhesive. The body-facing side of the external layer is then also pressed to the skin surrounding the stoma to further secure the ostomy wafer to the ostomate. The ostomy wafer additionally includes a coupling component that is connected to an ostomy pouch. After use, the ostomy wafer is gently peeled from the body. Any residue can be removed from the skin by rolling and peeling, or by using Sensi-Care or Niltac Sting Free Adhesive Remover.

Example 2: Application of an ostomy wafer with a foam layer and a convex layer

[00230] An ostomate with a flush or retracted stoma ensures that his/her hands and the skin surrounding the stoma are clean, dry, and free from any solvent or oily substances before applying the ostomy wafer. The ostomy wafer has a foam layer (e.g., the layer 240) that is sandwiched between a convex layer (e.g., the layer 220) and an external layer (e.g., the external layer 210). The external layer has adhesive on its body-facing side that promotes adherence of the wafer to the external skin surrounding the peristomal skin. The convex layer is a skin barrier made of a moldable adhesive that promotes adherence of the wafer to the peristomal skin and provides an effective barrier.

[00231] The convex layer is moldable to the stoma opening (i.e., the shape and size thereof) without needing scissors to adapt (e.g., to cut, tear, etc.) the ostomy wafer. The first release liner is removed from the skin barrier and the opening of the skin barrier is centered over the stoma. The skin barrier is then applied against the skin around the stoma for 30 seconds while allowing the barrier to adapt/mold to the environment. When compressed against the abdomen, the moldable adhesive conforms to the contours of the ostomate to provide an effective, comfortable seal around the stoma. Furthermore, when compressed against the abdomen, the foam layer compresses into skin contours and provides a secure fit with rebound. Thereafter, a second release liner is removed from the body-facing side of the external layer to reveal a skin adhesive. The body-facing side of the external layer is then also pressed to the skin surrounding the stoma to further secure the ostomy wafer to the ostomate. The ostomy wafer additionally includes a coupling component that is connected to an ostomy pouch. After use, the ostomy wafer is gently peeled from the body. Any residue can be removed from the skin by rolling and peeling, or by using Sensi-Care or Niltac Sting Free Adhesive Remover.

Example 3: Applying an ostomy wafer with gaps or grooves

[00232] An ostomate with a flush stoma (e.g., where the stoma entrance is relatively buried in a skin fold or crease) ensures that his/her hands and the skin surrounding the stoma are clean, dry, and free from any solvent or oily substances before applying the ostomy wafer. The ostomy wafer has a foam layer sandwiched between an external layer and a convex layer.

The convex layer is a skin barrier made of a moldable adhesive. The ostomy wafer has at least one gap or groove in the ostomy wafer.

[00233] The ostomate folds or bends the skin barrier to deform the ostomy wafer, which defines a pointed region or tented region sized for receipt in a pocket or crease of the ostomate's skin or within a skin fold of the ostomate. Optionally, the ostomate, with aid from another person as needed, may push or lift skin burying or concealing the stoma away from the stoma to access the stoma in preparation for applying the ostomy wafer. The ostomate or other subject then applies the pointed or tented region to the revealed stoma and molds the skin barrier to the stoma opening (i.e., to the shape and size thereof) without using scissors to adapt the ostomy wafer to the stoma.

[00234] The first release liner is removed from the skin barrier. Thereafter, the opening of the skin barrier is centered over the stoma. The skin barrier is then applied against the skin around the stoma for 30 seconds while allowing the barrier to adapt/mold to the environment. When compressed against the abdomen, the moldable adhesive conforms to the contours of the ostomate to provide an effective, comfortable seal around the stoma. Furthermore, when compressed against the abdomen, the foam layer compresses into skin contours and provides a secure fit with rebound. A second release liner is removed from the body-facing side of the external layer to reveal a skin adhesive. The body-facing side of the external layer is then pressed to the skin surrounding the stoma to further secure the ostomy wafer to the ostomate. The ostomy wafer additionally includes a coupling component that is connected to an ostomy pouch. Skin that was lifted or pushed away from the buried stoma is rested over the ostomy wafer. After use, the ostomy wafer is gently peeled from the body. Any residue can be removed from the skin by rolling and peeling, or by using Sensi-Care or Niltac Sting Free Adhesive Remover.

Example 4: Applying an ostomy wafer with ridges

[00235] An ostomate with a recessed or flush stoma (e.g., that is accessible without moving skin away from the stoma) has creases in peristomal skin and surrounding skin on either side of the stoma parallel with their waistline. The ostomate ensures his/her hands and the skin surrounding the stoma are clean, dry, and free from any solvent or oily substances before applying

the ostomy wafer. The ostomy wafer has a foam layer sandwiched between an external layer and a convex layer. The convex layer includes a funnel-shaped skin barrier made of a moldable adhesive. The convex layer also has twin ridges (e.g., see the ridges 710 shown in FIG. 7) that have a greater rigidity than the skin barrier.

[00236] The skin barrier is molded to the stoma opening (i.e., the shape and size thereof) without using scissors to adapt the ostomy wafer to the stoma. The first release liner is removed from the skin barrier. The opening of the skin barrier is centered over the stoma and the ridges are aligned with the creases in the skin. The skin barrier is applied against the skin around the stoma for 30 seconds while allowing the barrier to adapt/mold to the environment such that the ridges fill the skin creases. When compressed against the abdomen, the moldable adhesive conforms to the contours of the ostomate to provide an effective, comfortable seal around the stoma. Furthermore, when compressed against the abdomen, the foam layer compresses into skin contours and provides a secure fit with rebound. A second release liner is removed from the body-facing side of the external layer to reveal a skin adhesive. The body-facing side of the external layer is then also pressed to the skin surrounding the stoma to further secure the ostomy wafer to the ostomate. The ostomy wafer additionally includes a coupling component that is connected to an ostomy pouch. After use, the ostomy wafer is gently peeled from the body. Any residue can be removed from the skin by rolling and peeling, or by using Sensi-Care or Niltac Sting Free Adhesive Remover.

Example 5: Applying an ostomy wafer with stoma channel built-in structures

[00237] An ostomate with a protruding stoma ensures his/her hands and the skin surrounding the stoma are clean, dry, and free from any solvent or oily substances before applying the ostomy wafer. The ostomy wafer has a foam layer sandwiched between an external layer and a convex layer. The convex layer includes a skin barrier that is made of a moldable adhesive. The convex layer has a stoma channel that is partially made of the moldable adhesive. The stoma channel is lined with angled fins which are directed toward the ostomate during use. The angled fins are made of a material similar to the moldable adhesive that gives them more rigidity than the moldable adhesive and allows them to at least partially retain their structure during molding of the convex layer.

[00238] The skin barrier is molded to the stoma opening (i.e., the shape and size thereof) without using scissors to adapt the ostomy wafer to the stoma. The first release liner is removed from the skin barrier. The opening of the skin barrier is centered over the stoma. The skin barrier is applied against the skin around the stoma for 30 seconds while allowing the barrier to adapt/mold to the environment. When compressed against the abdomen, the moldable adhesive conforms to the contours of the ostomate to provide an effective, comfortable seal around the stoma. Furthermore, when compressed against the abdomen, the foam layer compresses into skin contours and provides a secure fit with rebound. A second release liner is removed from the body-facing side of the external layer to reveal a skin adhesive. The body-facing side of the external layer is then also pressed to the skin surrounding the stoma to further secure the ostomy wafer to the ostomate. The ostomy wafer additionally includes a coupling component that is connected to an ostomy pouch. The ostomate gives the resulting ostomy device a slight tug to ensure the stoma channel is secured to the protruding stoma via the angled fins. After use, the ostomy wafer is gently peeled from the body. Any residue can be removed from the skin by rolling and peeling, or by using Sensi-Care or Niltac Sting Free Adhesive Remover.

Example 6: Applying an ostomy wafer with segments

[00239] An ostomate having a stoma with a nearby hernia ensures his/her hands and the skin surrounding the stoma are clean, dry, and free from any solvent or oily substances before applying the ostomy wafer. The ostomy wafer has a foam layer sandwiched between an external layer and a convex layer. The convex layer includes a skin barrier made of a moldable adhesive. The ostomy wafer has multiple gaps in the ostomy wafer (e.g., refer to the gaps 610 shown in FIG. 6).

[00240] The ostomate folds and bends the skin barrier between the several gaps to deform the ostomy wafer in a particular location to accommodate the nearby hernia. The skin barrier is molded to the stoma opening (i.e., the shape and size thereof), as well as the hernia, without using scissors to adapt the ostomy system. The first release liner is removed from the skin barrier. The opening of the skin barrier is centered over the stoma. The skin barrier is applied against the skin around the stoma for 30 seconds while allowing the barrier to adapt/mold to

the environment. When compressed against the abdomen, the moldable adhesive conforms to the contours of the ostomate to provide an effective, comfortable seal around the stoma. Furthermore, when compressed against the abdomen, the foam layer compresses into skin contours and provides a secure fit with rebound. A second release liner is removed from the body-facing side of the external layer to reveal a skin adhesive. The body-facing side of the external layer is then also pressed to the skin surrounding the stoma to further secure the ostomy wafer to the ostomate. The ostomy wafer additionally comprises a coupling component that is connected to an ostomy pouch. After use, the ostomy wafer is gently peeled from the body. Any residue can be removed from the skin by rolling and peeling, or by using Sensi-Care or Niltac Sting Free Adhesive Remover.

Example 7: Optimizing Fit and Dimension

[00241] The ostomy wafers disclosed herein may fit appropriately to each user. To ensure an appropriate fit, testing the coverage around the abdomen is important. The comfort of the user should be considered and evaluated before user trials. Comfort may be assessed with Ink testing and/or Flex testing (e.g., Zwick U.T.M). Testing leakage is also important. Minimal leakage is desired and can be tested by ISO 8670-2.

Flex Testing (TD-0409)

[00242] A Zwick Tensile testing machine and an appropriate load cell (for the sample to be tested) are provided. The stanchions of the test fixture are adjusted to the appropriate size for the wafer being tested. Before testing the wafer, the release liner is removed and the sample is placed centrally. The Flex Test Blade is lowered and a force is applied to flex the wafer by 8 mm for 0.1 seconds.

[00243] While the disclosure has been illustrated and described in detail in the foregoing drawings and description, the same is to be considered as exemplary and not restrictive in character, it being understood that only illustrative embodiments thereof have been shown and described and that all changes and modifications that come within the spirit of the disclosure are desired to be protected.

CLAIMS:

1. An ostomy wafer comprising:
an external layer having an opening to permit the passage of effluent therethrough and a first adhesive to adhere to external skin around a stoma of an ostomate; and
a foam layer coupled to the external layer,
wherein the ostomy wafer includes a stoma channel sized to at least partially receive the stoma that extends through the foam layer, at least one groove radially spaced from the stoma channel that extends at least partially through the ostomy wafer to facilitate deformation of the ostomy wafer complementary to a shape of the stoma, and a second adhesive to further adhere to the ostomate.
2. The ostomy wafer of claim 1, further comprising a convex layer coupled to the foam layer and the external layer.
3. The ostomy wafer of claim 2, wherein the stoma channel extends through each of the foam layer and the convex layer, wherein the at least one groove extends at least partially through one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer, and wherein the foam layer or the convex layer includes the second adhesive.
4. The ostomy wafer of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove includes a plurality of grooves spaced circumferentially from one another about the ostomy wafer.
5. The ostomy wafer of claim 4, wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves extends through the ostomy wafer to a depth that is less than an entire height of the ostomy wafer.
6. The ostomy wafer of claim 5, wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves extends through the ostomy wafer to a depth that is equal to the entire height of the ostomy wafer.

7. The ostomy wafer of claim 4, wherein the plurality of grooves are distributed over less than 10% of an entire radial area of the ostomy wafer.

8. The ostomy wafer of claim 7, wherein the plurality of grooves include two sets of grooves that are arranged circumferentially opposite one another about the ostomy wafer.

9. The ostomy wafer of claim 8, wherein each of the two sets of grooves includes multiple grooves that extend from a proximal end to a distal end of the ostomy wafer, and wherein the multiple grooves converge toward the distal end.

10. The ostomy wafer of claim 4, wherein the plurality of grooves include six grooves that are circumferentially distributed evenly around the ostomy wafer.

11. The ostomy wafer of claim 10, wherein each of the six grooves extends from a proximal end toward a distal end of the ostomy wafer, and wherein a width of each of the six grooves decreases toward the distal end.

12. The ostomy wafer of claim 1, wherein the ostomy wafer includes at least one protruding ridge that extends radially away from the stoma channel toward an outermost edge of the ostomy wafer.

13. The ostomy wafer of claim 12, wherein the at least one protruding ridge includes two protruding ridges that each extend radially away from the stoma channel all the way to the outermost edge of the ostomy wafer, and wherein the two protruding ridges are arranged circumferentially opposite one another about the ostomy wafer.

14. The ostomy wafer of claim 1, wherein the stoma channel has a proximal opening sized for receipt in a flush or retracted stoma and a distal opening arranged opposite the proximal opening, and wherein a thickness of a wall of the ostomy wafer at the proximal opening is greater than a thickness of a wall of the ostomy wafer at the distal opening.

15. The ostomy wafer of claim 14, wherein a diameter of the distal opening is greater than a diameter of the proximal opening.

16. The ostomy wafer of claim 1, wherein the stoma channel includes a built-in structure located on an internal surface of the ostomy wafer that defines the stoma channel, and wherein the built-in structure includes a plurality of angled fins that extend toward the stoma and are shaped to mate with the stoma.

17. The ostomy wafer of claim 1, wherein the stoma channel includes a built-in structure located interiorly of an internal surface of the ostomy wafer that defines the stoma channel.

18. The ostomy wafer of claim 1, wherein the first adhesive is a multilayer adhesive.

19. The ostomy wafer of claim 1, wherein the external layer includes Trilam (SH/DH).

20. The ostomy wafer of claim 1, wherein the ostomy wafer includes a Stomahesive seal.

21. The ostomy wafer of claim 1, wherein the ostomy wafer extends in a dimension parallel to a flow of effluent through the ostomy wafer over more than half a centimeter.

22. The ostomy wafer of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the ostomy wafer is characterized by a profile selected from a chamfered profile, a cylindrical profile, a curved profile, an axially combined profile, a radially combined profile, and combinations thereof.

23. The ostomy wafer of claim 1, wherein the ostomy wafer is constructed to conform to any one of a number of stomas of different ostomates without modification, and wherein the second adhesive includes a moldable adhesive material.

24. The ostomy wafer of claim 1, further comprising an internal layer that at least partially covers an exterior of the ostomy wafer that faces the ostomate, wherein the internal layer includes a moldable adhesive material.

25. An ostomy device comprising:

an ostomy pouch; and

an ostomy wafer coupled to the ostomy pouch, the ostomy wafer including:

an external layer having an opening to permit the passage of effluent therethrough and a first adhesive to adhere around a stoma of an ostomate, and

a foam layer coupled to the external layer,

wherein the ostomy wafer includes a stoma channel sized to at least partially receive the stoma that extends through the foam layer, a plurality of grooves radially spaced from the stoma channel that extend at least partially through the ostomy wafer and are spaced circumferentially from one another about the ostomy wafer, and a second adhesive to further adhere to the ostomate.

26. The ostomy device of claim 25, wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves extends through the ostomy wafer to a depth that is equal to the entire height of the ostomy wafer.

27. The ostomy device of claim 25, wherein the plurality of grooves are distributed over less than 10% of an entire radial area of the ostomy wafer.

28. The ostomy device of claim 25, wherein the ostomy wafer includes at least one protruding ridge that extends radially away from the stoma channel toward an outermost edge of the ostomy wafer.

29. The ostomy device of claim 25, wherein the stoma channel has a proximal opening sized for receipt in a flush or retracted stoma and a distal opening arranged opposite the proximal opening, and wherein a thickness of a wall of the ostomy wafer at the proximal opening is greater than a thickness of a wall of the ostomy wafer at the distal opening.

30. The ostomy device of claim 25, wherein the stoma channel includes a built-in structure located on an internal surface of the ostomy wafer that defines the stoma channel, and wherein the built-in structure includes a plurality of angled fins that extend toward the stoma and are shaped to mate with the stoma.

31. The ostomy device of claim 25, wherein the stoma channel includes a built-in structure located interiorly of an internal surface of the ostomy wafer that defines the stoma channel.

32. The ostomy device of claim 25, wherein the ostomy wafer includes an internal layer that at least partially covers an exterior of the ostomy wafer that faces the ostomate, and wherein the internal layer has a moldable adhesive material.

33. A method of applying an ostomy wafer to an ostomate, the method comprising:
positioning a foam layer and a convex layer of the ostomy wafer relative to a stoma of the ostomate;
pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate to mold one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer to the stoma and external skin of the ostomate surrounding the stoma;
forming a seal around the stoma with one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer;
adhering one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer to the ostomate with a first adhesive;
contacting one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer with an external layer of the ostomy wafer; and
securing the external layer to the ostomate with a second adhesive.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate includes deforming one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer adjacent to grooves extending at least partway through the ostomy wafer to form a shape thereof that is sized for receipt in a pocket or crease of the external skin of the ostomate.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate includes deforming one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer adjacent to grooves extending all the way through the ostomy wafer to form a shape thereof that is sized for receipt in a pocket or crease of the external skin of the ostomate.

36. The method of claim 33, wherein pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate includes deforming one or more of the foam layer and the convex layer adjacent to grooves extending all the way through the ostomy wafer to accommodate a hernia adjacent to the stoma.

37. The method of claim 33, wherein pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate includes filling pockets or creases of the external skin of the ostomate with protruding ridges of the ostomy wafer.

38. The method of claim 33, wherein pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate includes positioning a stoma channel of the ostomy wafer around the stoma and securing the stoma channel to the stoma using a plurality of angled fins formed on an internal surface of the ostomy wafer that defines the stoma channel.

39. The method of claim 33, wherein pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate includes positioning a stoma channel of the ostomy wafer around the stoma and securing the stoma channel to the stoma using a plurality of structures located interiorly of an internal surface of the ostomy wafer that defines the stoma channel.

40. The method of claim 33, wherein pressing the foam layer and the convex layer against the ostomate includes contacting the ostomate with an internal layer of the ostomy wafer that at least partially covers the ostomy wafer and includes a third adhesive.