

ABSORBENT ARTICLE



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ABSTRACT

The present invention is directed to a disposable absorbent article, and particularly a sanitary napkin, having a flexure-resistant deformation element, the deformation element having a body facing surface which has a convex upward configuration when the sanitary napkin is worn. Primarily without relying on lateral compressive forces of the wearer's labia, the deformation element of the present invention relies on the lateral compressive forces of the wearer's thighs in order to form or maintain a convex upward configuration when the sanitary napkin is worn. In a preferred embodiment, the deformation element has a flexure means, and particularly a longitudinally extending flexure hinge, for inducing the body facing surface of the deformation element to have a convex upward configuration when the sanitary napkin is worn. In an alternatively preferred embodiment, the deformation element has a central region having a "W" shaped cross-section wherein the body facing surface of the deformation element having the convex upward configuration is located in the central region, generally symmetrically between the longitudinal side edges of the napkin. In another alternatively preferred embodiment, the deformation element has a cup-shaped front region and a back region having a convex upward configured body facing surface. The deformation element may be a moldable substance such as a foam, it may be reformable and/or it may be resilient.

Figure 1



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