



ABSORBENT ARTICLE HAVING AN IMPROVED SURGE MANAGEMENT

ABSTRACT

A distinctive absorbent article (10) is disclosed which includes a backsheet layer (30) and an absorbent retention portion (48) which is superposed on the backsheet layer. The retention portion has a length (72) and a width (74) and has laterally opposed side edges (76, 78) and longitudinally opposed end edges (80) thereof. A surge management portion (46) is located adjacent a bodyside surface (82) of the retention portion (48). The surge management portion (46) is construed to temporarily hold received liquid and release the liquid to the retention portion (48). The surge management portion (46) has a width, opposed side edges (84, 86) and opposed end edges (88), and has a length (90) which is less than the length (72) of the retention portion (48). The end edges (88) of the surge management portion are located longitudinally inboard from the end edges (80) of the retention portion (48). A porous topsheet layer (28) is disposed in facing relation with the backsheet layer (30) to sandwich the retention portion (48) and the surge management portion (46) between the backsheet layer (30) and the topsheet layer (28). The topsheet layer (28) has marginal regions (94, 96) attached to marginal regions (98, 100) of the backsheet layer (30). The attached marginal regions of the topsheet and backsheet layers are located laterally outboard of the side edge regions (84, 86) of the surge management portion (46). A surfactant material is applied to a medial section (104) of the topsheet layer (28) to provide a greater wettability of the medial section, as compared to a remainder of the topsheet layer (28). The medial section (104) has a width (106) which is substantially not more than the width (92) of the surge management portion (46).

FIG. 1