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(54) Title: ABSORBENT ARTICLE WITH IMPROVED COMBINATION OF SKIN FEEL AND FLUID HANDLING

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to absorbent articles such as sanitary napkins, panty liners, diapers, adult incontinence pads and briefs, and the like having an improved combination of skin feel and fluid handling properties, such as fluid acquisition and retention. This improved combination is provided by structures where the absorbent core has a high capillary pressure which helps the core to rapidly acquire bodily fluids deposited on the body surface of the absorbent article and to retain such fluids after they have been acquired. Absorbent gelling materials with reduced gel blocking are a preferred core component that aids in fluid retention by providing an osmotic fluid retention mechanism. The topsheets of the present invention cooperate with the core by being both fluid permeable and providing a barrier to rewet of acquired fluids. The topsheet also has a multiplicity of fibrils that create the body surface of the absorbent article. These fibrils are disposed at a density and have dimensions and mechanical properties such that the body surface has a soft, velutinous body feel.