



A Gown for U Project - level 1 isolation gown for emergency use

Design files for a low cost, rapidly producible, one-size-fits-all level 1 isolation gown.

Technology No. 2020-357



Applications

- Level 1 medical gown: Minimal risk. To be used during basic care, standard isolation, cover gown for visitors, or in a standard medical unit

Overview

The ongoing pandemic of SARS-CoV-2 resulting in COVID-19 has created severe shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) including medical gowns. Healthcare workers have dealt with this shortage by overusing gowns, and by creating DIY poncho-style gowns not made out of FDA approved materials - all of which pose safety issues.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota have designed a low cost, rapidly producible, and one-size-fits-all isolation gown using a commercially available, FDA certified 2 mil virgin polyethylene film. It is shown to be impervious to fluids and to provide a barrier to infectious waste as defined for a level 1 gown. While similar in overall configuration to commercially

available disposable gowns, these gowns feature

- stress relief cutouts,
- diagonal perforation of the neck and shoulder section for rapid gown removal,
- pulling tabs for easier bonding of the sleeves by the fabricator,
- miniature binding tabs between ties and the body of the gown to keep them from entangling and possibly tearing, and
- ergonomically designed thumb holes based on material choice, so as to prevent tearing, and fulfill the one-size-fits-all requirement.

Donning: The gown is placed over the head, and arms are inserted into sleeves. Side straps allow for tying the gown in front or back to secure around the waist, and thumb holes allow for drawing the gown sleeves into disposable hospital gloves, creating a seal between the glove and the gown. Gown covers the lower neck, anterior chest, abdomen, waist and lower extremities to about knee level. It is a one-size-fits all design. **Doffing:** The gown is removed by simply pulling it forward, tearing perforations from the neck to the back, thereby eliminating the need to pull the gown over the head to remove it.

Phase of Development

TRL: 8-9

Gown in production. Design files available for download.

Ready for Download

The design files are now available for download at no cost upon execution of the license agreement (provided on the right column of this page).

Co-Creators

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