

# An Association Between Peristomal Skin Condition and Life Satisfaction in New Ostomates

Michael Riemer, MS, Thomas Nichols, MS, MBA  
Hollister Incorporated, Libertyville, Illinois, USA

## Introduction

Factors associated with improved life satisfaction following ostomy surgery are of interest to WOC Nurses. This study identifies an association between peristomal skin condition and life satisfaction in new ostomates.

## Methodology

### *Data source:*

Ostomy Comprehensive Health and Life Assessment  
( $N=2989$ )

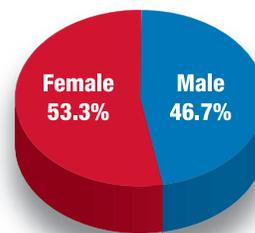
Subset ( $n=805$ ) includes:

- Single colostomy, ileostomy, or urostomy stoma
- Eighteen years of age or older
- In first 24 months following ostomy surgery

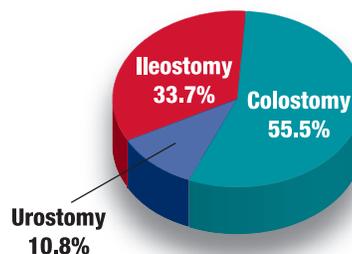
## Profile

The sample includes 805 people in the first 24 months following ostomy surgery. At the time the assessment was completed, participants were between the ages of 18 and 90 and reported a median of 12 months since surgery. An overview of other characteristics is shown in the accompanying graphs.

**Gender**

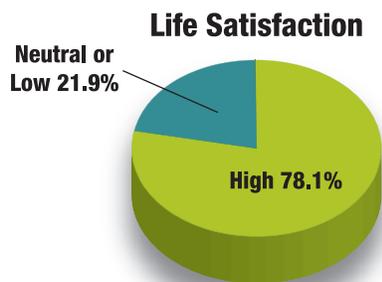


**Stoma Type**



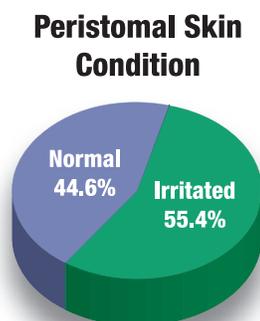
## Life Satisfaction

Life satisfaction is expressed as a binary measure (*High* versus *Neutral or Low*) that is based on a six-item scale. The scale contains self-assessments of satisfaction with social, family, financial, and leisure aspects of life; an overall assessment of contentment, and an assessment of the stoma's effect on the person's life. The scale has been validated and checked for internal reliability (Cronbach's alpha=0.8390). Scale reliability within this subset of the data has also been assessed (Cronbach's alpha=0.8261).



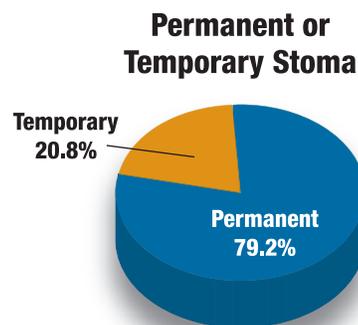
## Peristomal Skin Condition

Participants were asked to report the current condition of their peristomal skin. Those reporting that the skin was normal and healthy were classified as *Normal*; those who reported any level of irritation, inflammation or infection were classified as *Irritated*.



## Permanent or Temporary Stoma

Participants reported whether their stoma was permanent or temporary.



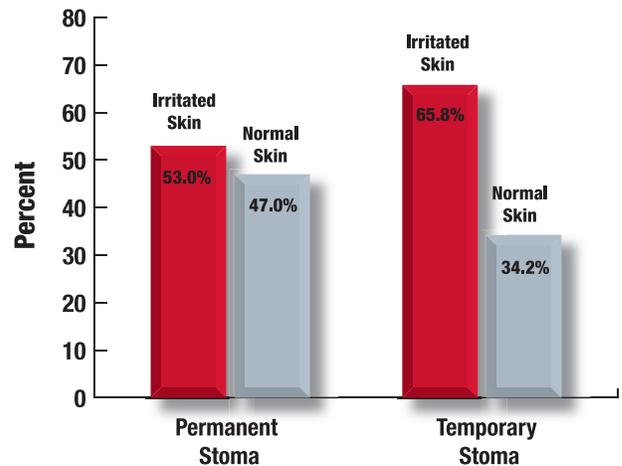
## Results

Data collected were analyzed using SAS v9.1.3. All interval estimates reported (CI) were calculated at 95% confidence. Logistic regression models were constructed to identify predictors of life satisfaction and skin condition, while allowing factors other than those of primary interest to the study to be accounted for, and possible interactions to be investigated. One model of life satisfaction suggests that both skin condition (Wald chi-square=19.03, df=1, p<.0001) and permanent or temporary stoma (Wald chi-square=8.25, df=1, p=0.004) are both statistically significant predictors of life satisfaction. A separate model suggests that permanent or temporary stoma (Wald chi-square=5.25, df=1, p=0.02), number of months after surgery (Wald chi-square=4.22, df=1, p=0.04), and type of stoma (Wald chi-square=6.58, df=2, p=0.04) are significant predictors of skin condition.

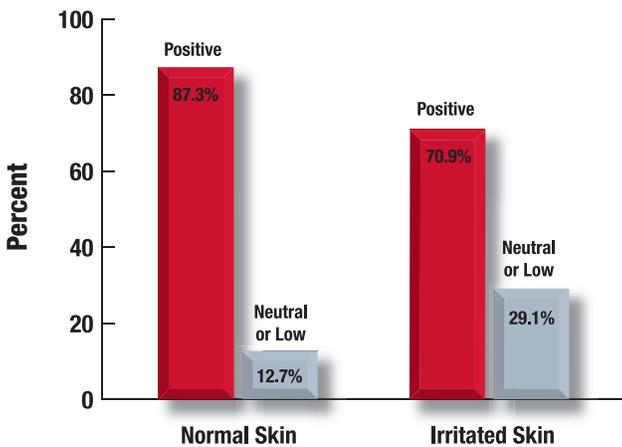
## Conclusions

The conclusions of this study are based on the proportions and odds ratios observed in the data, not those predicted by the models described above. The data suggest that a significant positive association between peristomal skin condition and life satisfaction within the first 24 months of ostomy surgery (Odds Ratio=2.82, CI=1.87 to 4.25). This result implies that increased attention to peristomal skin issues may contribute to improved life satisfaction for new ostomates. Additionally, the significant decrease in the odds of reporting normal peristomal skin (Odds Ratio=0.59, CI=0.40 to 0.85) or positive life satisfaction (Odds Ratio=0.52, CI=0.34 to 0.79) for those with temporary stomas could motivate a prospective study of the adaptive mechanism that enables the new ostomate to accept the stoma and its care as a part of life.

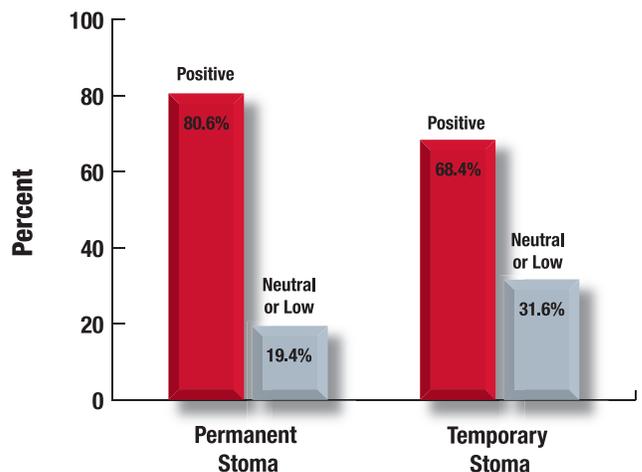
### Peristomal Skin Condition by Permanent or Temporary Stoma



### Life Satisfaction by Peristomal Skin Condition



### Life Satisfaction by Permanent or Temporary Stoma



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