

A summary on parastomal hernias

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DEFINITION: Abdominal wall hernias occur when tissue structure and function are lost at the load-bearing muscle, tendon and fascial layer (Franz, 2008). During stoma creation an opening is made to allow the intestine to be advanced to the skin and, if this defect enlarges, a parastomal hernia can develop. It is a type of incisional hernia (Pearl, 1989) and 67.8% of incisional hernias develop within 1 year of surgery (Akman, 1962). Contents of hernia sac may include omentum, small bowel, stomach or colon. (Diagrams 1,2,3,4)

