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(54) **MALE SPORT AND MULTIPURPOSE ACTIVE WEAR UNDERGARMENT**

(52) **U.S. Cl. 2/78.1**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A male personal comfort sport and multipurpose underwear/undergarment that includes, as an integral part thereof, a specially configured penis and genital pouch secured to the interior of the undergarment that includes a frontal elastic opening for receiving and comfortably securing a male penis, and coincident slit-like opening on the opposite side of the pouch to allow the penis to be easily and comfortably removed through the front panel of the undergarment. The undergarment significantly reduces the possibility of crushing or otherwise injuring the penis and/or genitalia during any sudden movement of the wearer, such as vigorous exercise occurring during sports activities. The pouch also serves to isolate the genitalia from the thigh area, so that in humid conditions or conditions in which the wearer is perspiring due to physical activity, the penis and genitalia skin do not touch the wearer's thigh region. Alternatively, the inside portions of the pouch can be lined with a water-impermeable material if the undergarment is intended for use by male individuals who may be incontinent or otherwise incapable of controlling the bodily discharge of urine, particularly during aggressive physical activities.

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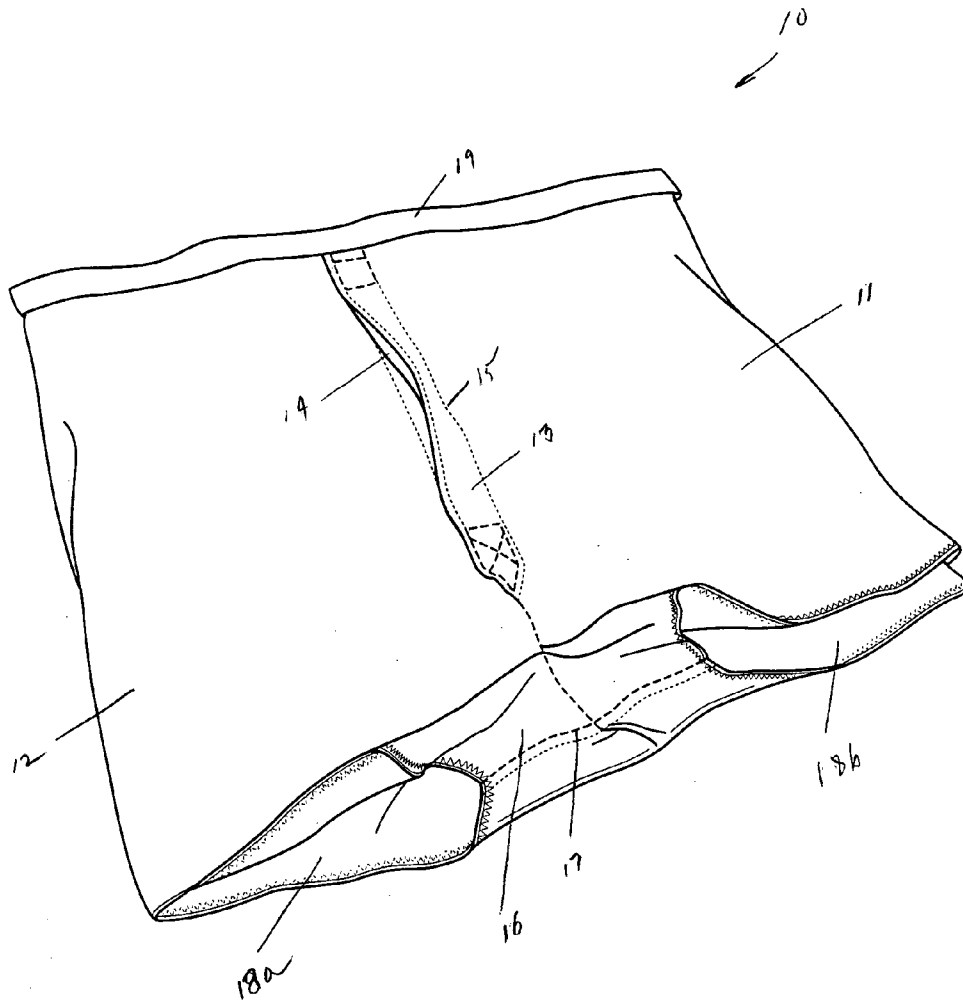
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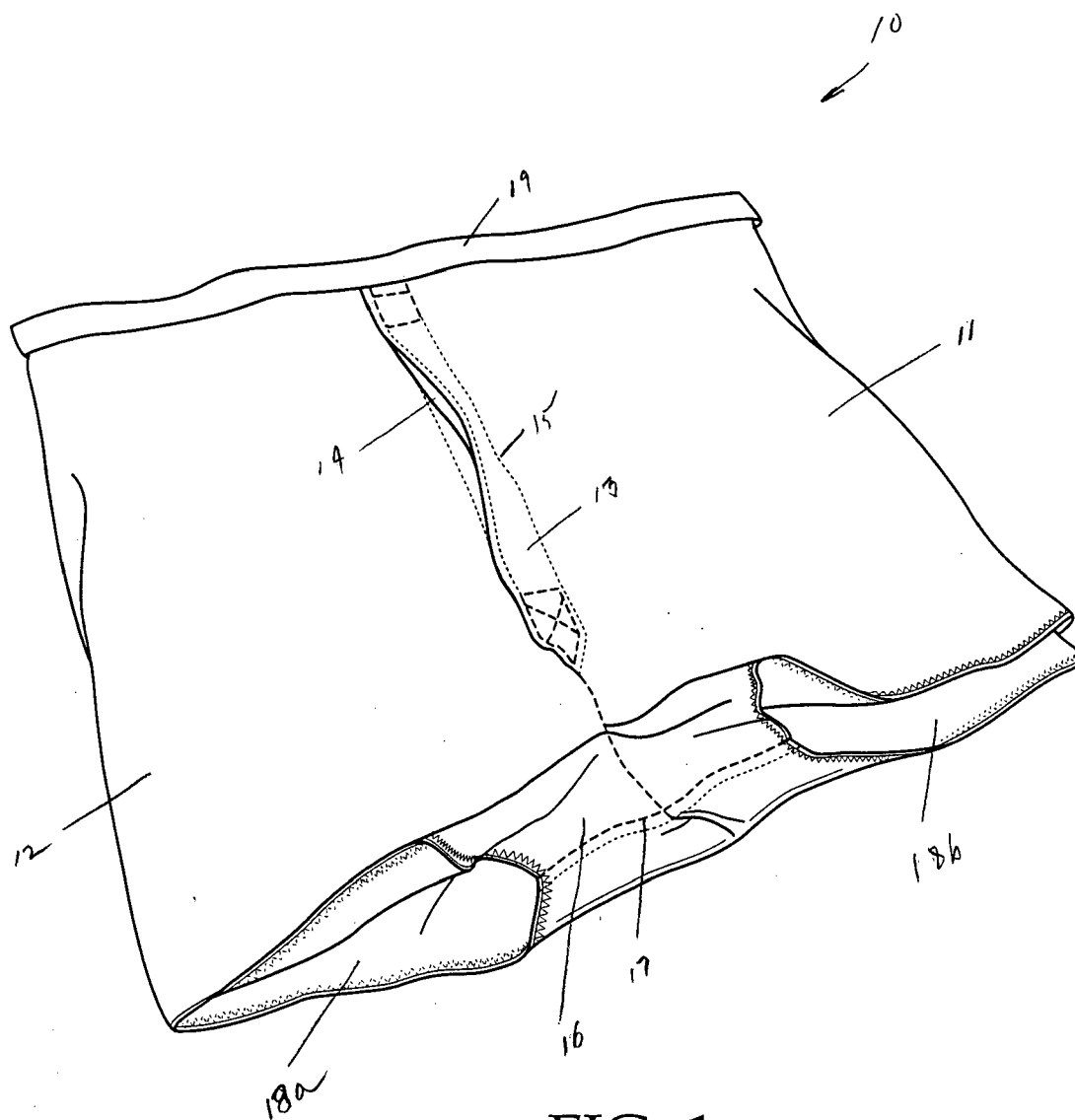


FIG. 1

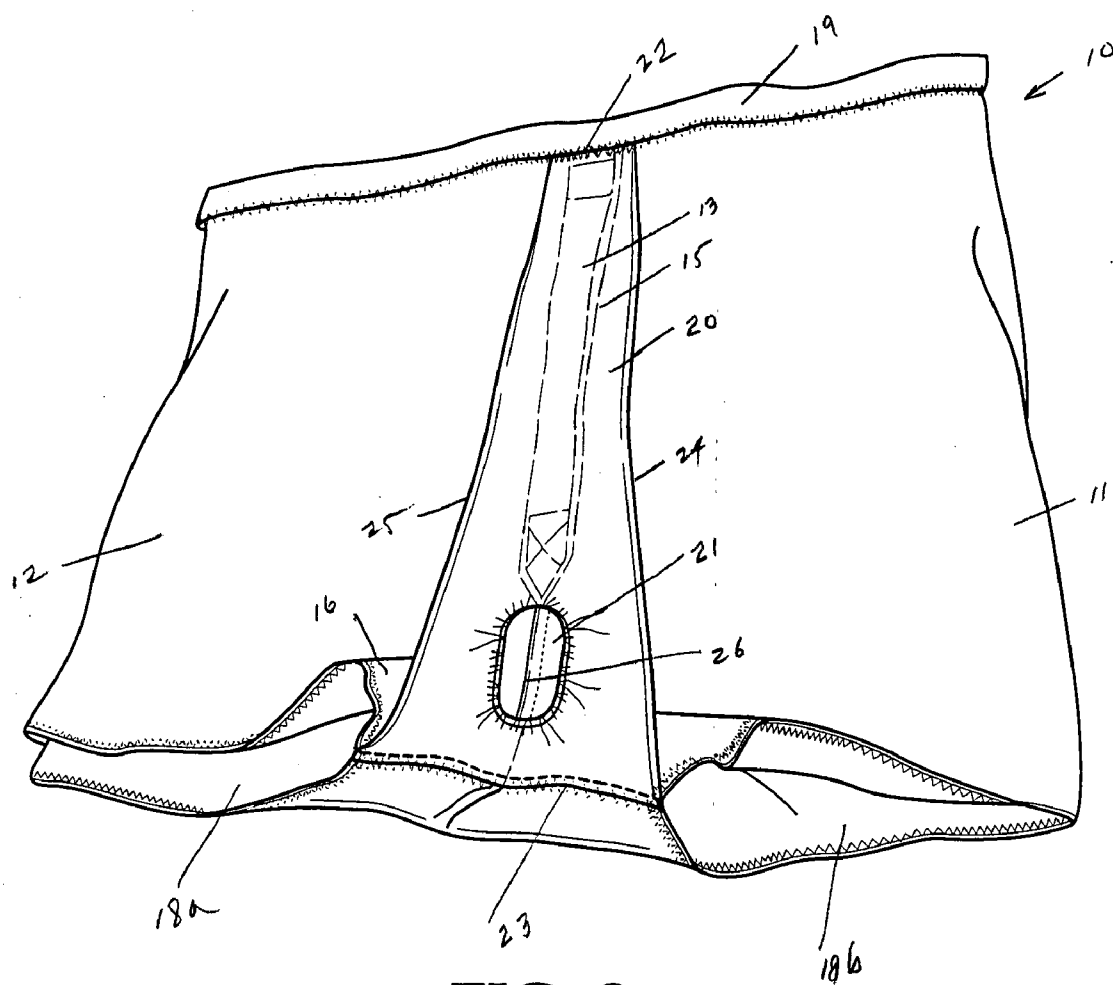


FIG. 2

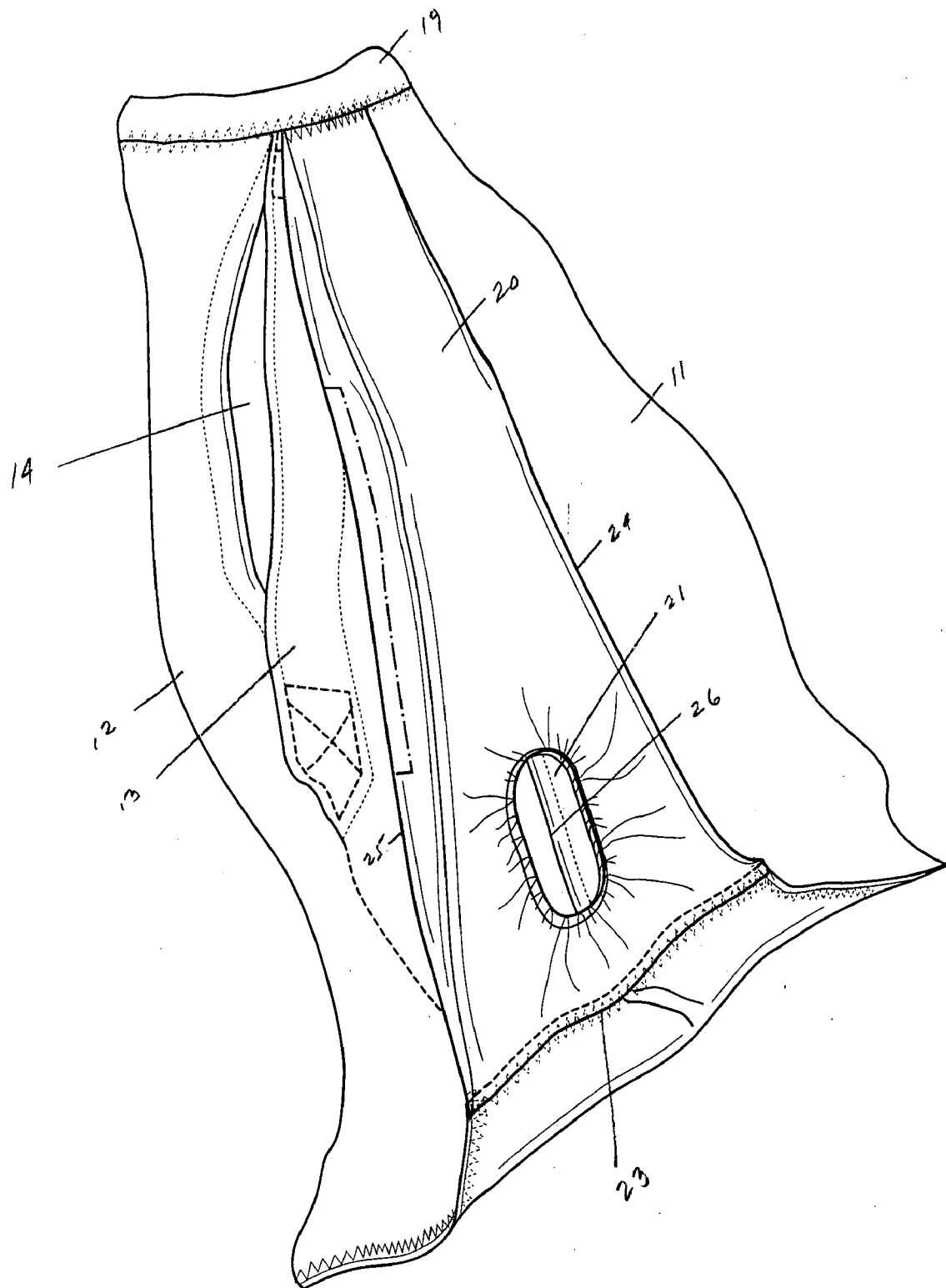


FIG. 5

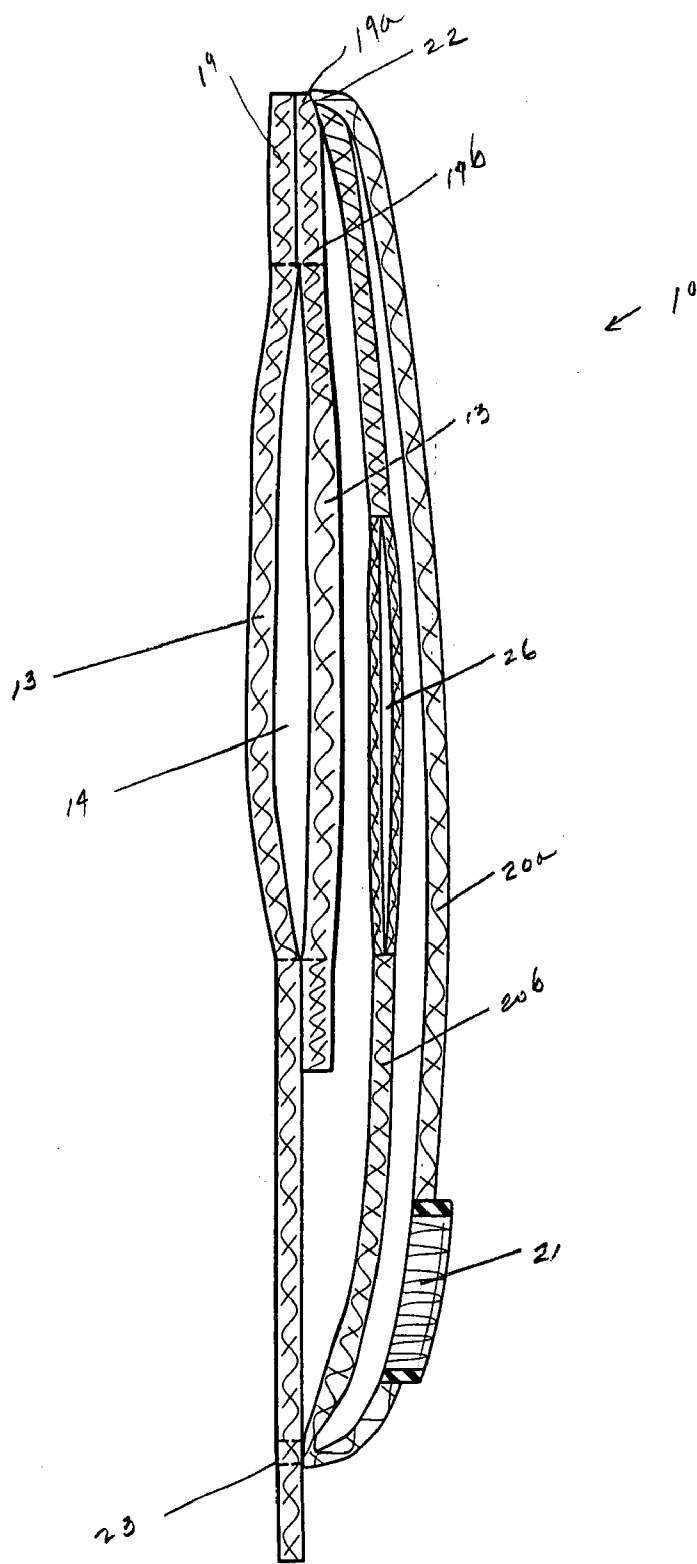


FIG. 6

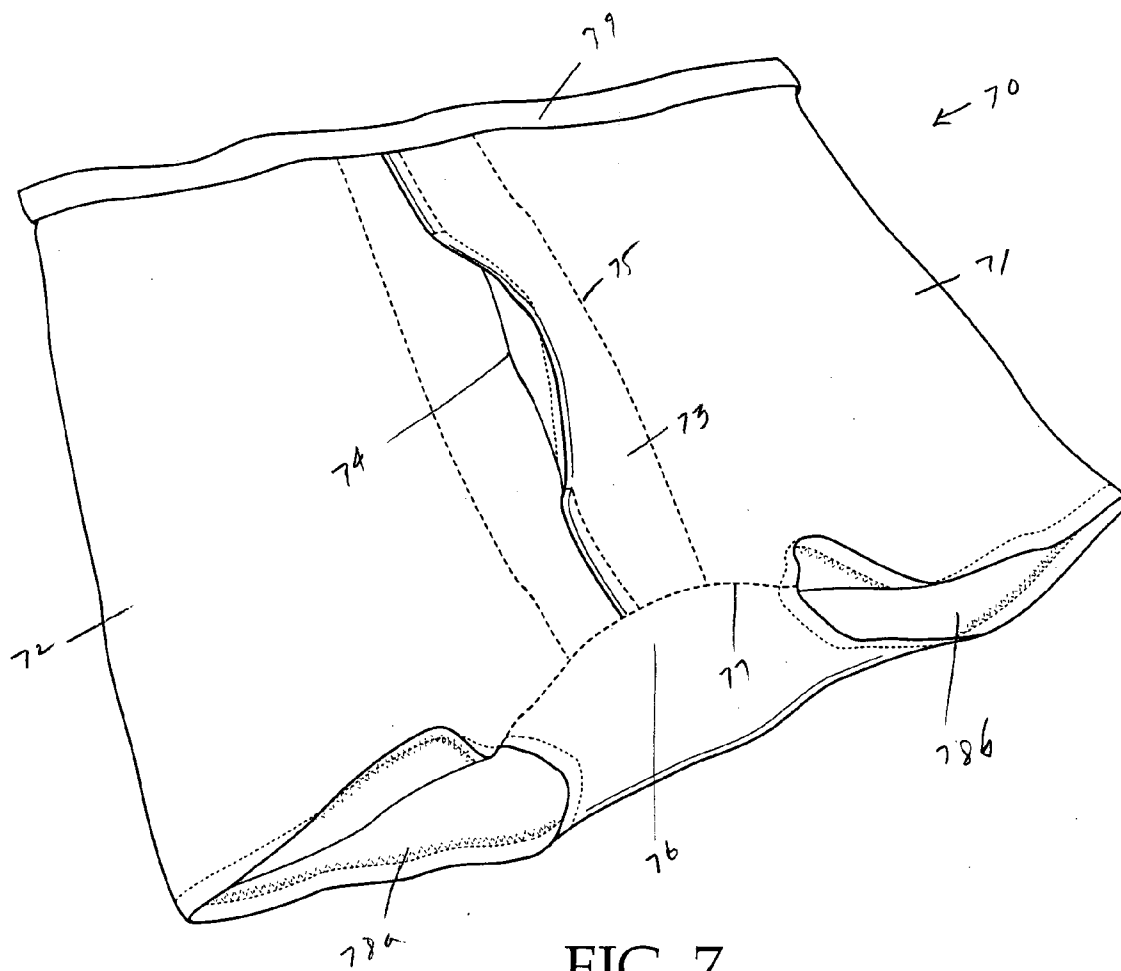


FIG. 7

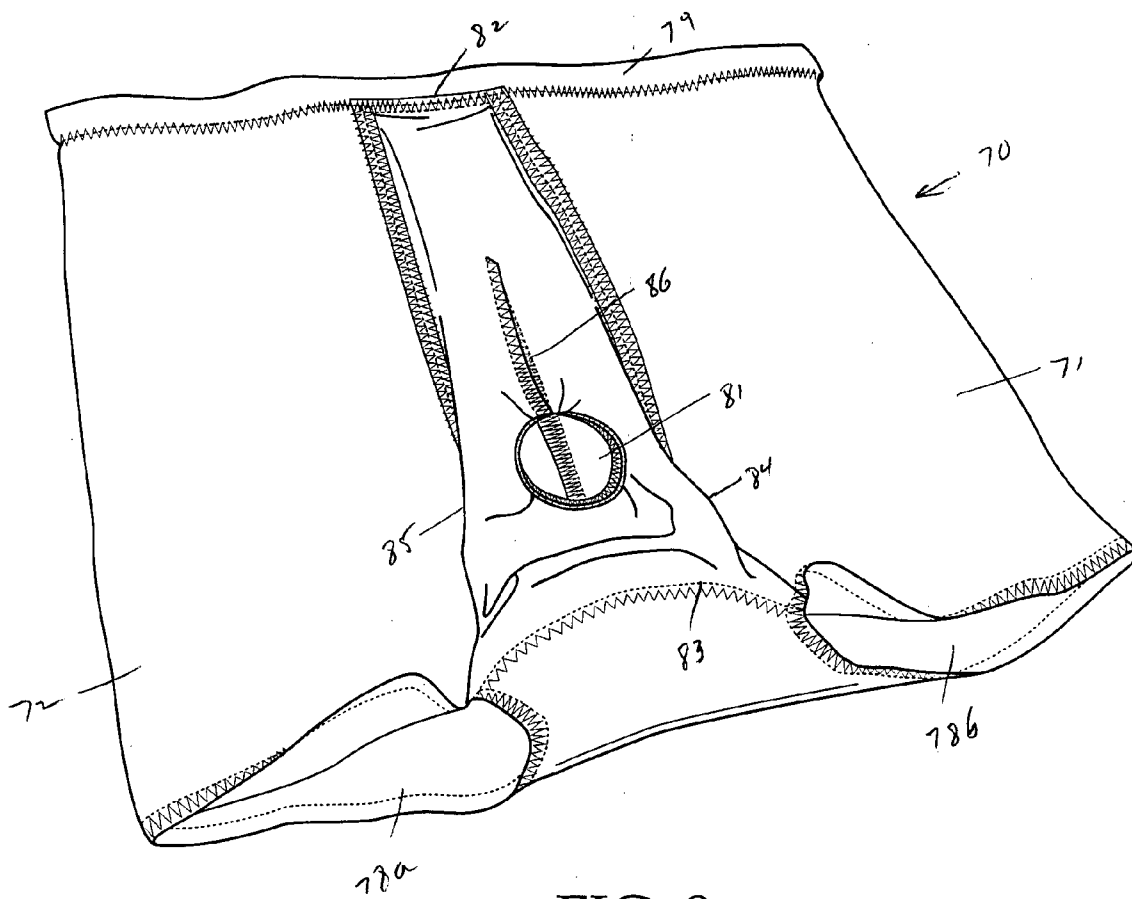


FIG. 8

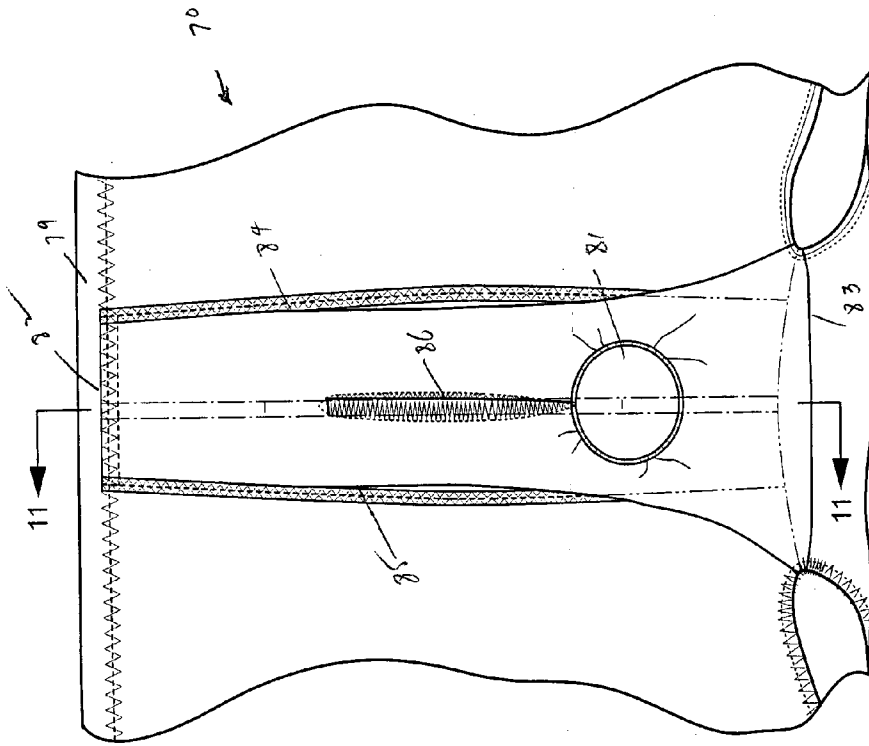


FIG. 10

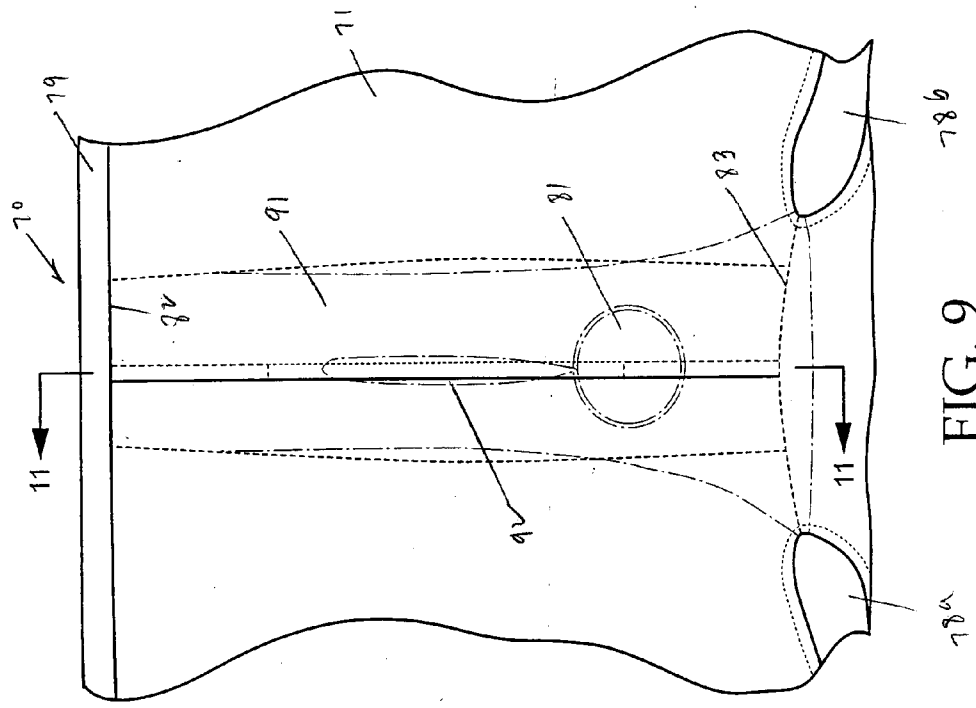


FIG. 9

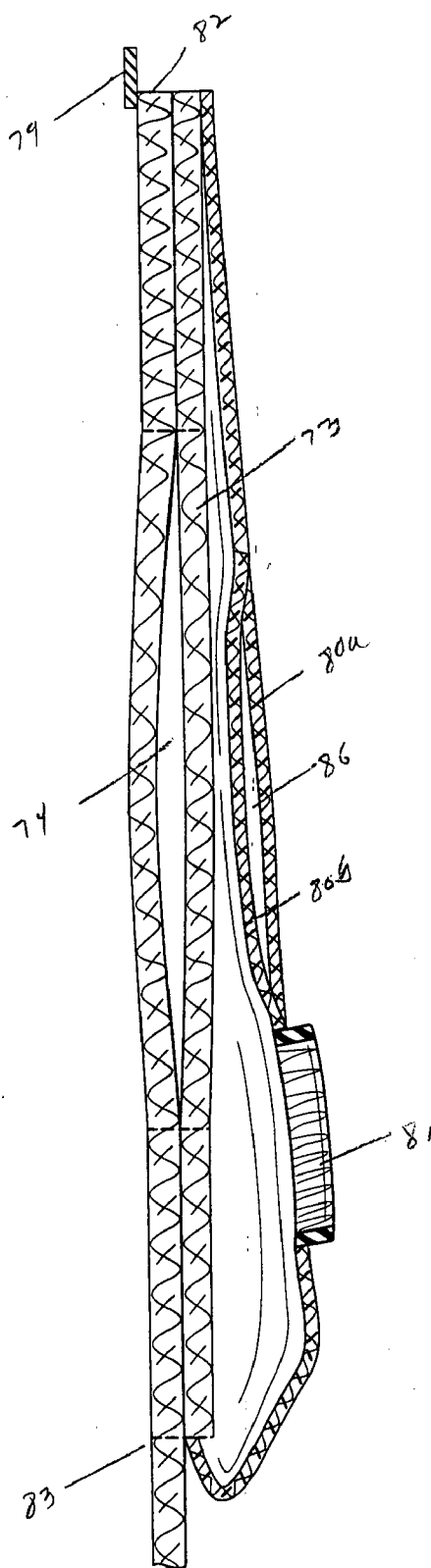


FIG. 11

MALE SPORT AND MULTIPURPOSE ACTIVE WEAR UNDERGARMENT

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to active wear garments for males, and more particularly to undergarments tailored and fitted to support and protect the male genitalia during, for example, vigorous physical activities such as sporting events. In the past, undergarments for accommodating male genitalia have been designed to satisfy various objectives such as improved sanitation, comfort and support. Generally, such undergarments are designed to isolate the entire genitalia from the body of the user by incorporating a separate fabric layer that prevents the genitalia from touching the legs. See, for example, U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,621,846; 4,345,337; 4,414,971; 4,660,551; 5,029,345; 5,070,869; and 5,283,912.

[0002] A popular and well-known style of men's underwear consists of a snug fitting garment that normally comprises woven cotton woven forming stretchable, band-like sections for circling and resiliently engaging waist and upper leg portions of a wearer's lower torso. Typically, they provide a pocket-shaped section adapted to snugly engage the wearer's genitals forwardly of the crotch and hold them against the body. The pocket or bulge-shaped garment section usually includes a pair of abutting, selectively separable, panel sections that cooperate to provide a front-opening fly that affords manual access to the wearer's penis.

[0003] Another well-known commercialized style of men's undergarments sold under the trademark Jockey® include shorts formed of woven, cotton-like material and constructed to provide an elastic waistband for the garment and stretchable or elastic bands or other body-encircling parts secured to lower edge portions that surround the leg openings. Other similar known male undergarments assist in shaping, forming, and lifting the male genitalia. For example, U.S. Pat. No. 5,133,093 issued to Tsuchiya discloses an undergarment that includes an insert provided to shape the formation of the swell at the front of the garment. U.S. Pat. No. 5,237,706 issued to Nalbandian similarly discloses a male garment with a scrotal pouch designed to enable the user to displace the male genitalia from the normal position below the truck of the body to a more prominent position.

[0004] Only a relatively few known undergarment configurations provide the comfort, support and genital protection necessary during vigorous physical activity or even when the wearer bends at the waist such as when entering and exiting a motor vehicle. Nor do the current designs fully satisfy the needs of men suffering from medical ailments such as kidney, bowel, bladder or prostrate disorders.

[0005] Accordingly, a need remains for a male garment that is comfortable and easy to wear and yet will provide improved protection during active use, particularly sports activities. The present invention thus provides a new and improved form of construction of a man's underwear garment with distinct advantages over the prior art constructions described above.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The present invention provides a new male personal comfort sport and multipurpose underwear/undergarment that includes, as an integral part thereof, a specially

configured penis and genital pouch secured to the interior of the undergarment. The integral pouch includes a frontal elastic opening for receiving and comfortably securing a male penis when the undergarment is worn, as well as a coincident slit-like opening on the opposite side of the pouch to allow the penis to be easily and comfortably removed through the front of the undergarment. The underwear/undergarment according to the invention also provides a structure that allows the male scrotum to remain outside the integral pouch for increased comfort and to allow the genitals to remain at a lower temperature when the undergarment is being worn, particularly during vigorous physical activity.

[0007] The personal comfort sport and multipurpose underwear/undergarment according to the present invention significantly reduces the possibility of crushing or otherwise injuring the penis and/or genitalia during any sudden movement of the wearer. The integral pouch also serves to isolate the genitalia from the thigh area during normal use. Thus, in humid conditions or conditions in which the wearer is perspiring due to physical activity, the penis and scrotum do not touch the wearer's thigh region which often causes discomfort with known prior art undergarments, including conventional products designed to protect against impact to the genitalia. The present invention also protects and secures the penis and scrotum in a more comfortable manner than prior art undergarment designs when the user is sitting or engaging in bending movements of the middle torso. An alternative embodiment of the invention has additional benefits for males who may be incontinent or who suffer from other medical ailments.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] FIG. 1 is a frontal perspective view of a first embodiment of the personal comfort sport and multipurpose undergarment in accordance with the invention;

[0009] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the undergarment of FIG. 1 depicted in manner to illustrate the undergarment structure turned inside out;

[0010] FIG. 3 is a partial front elevation view of the undergarment depicted in FIG. 1;

[0011] FIG. 4 is a partial front elevation view of the undergarment depicted in FIG. 2 turned inside out;

[0012] FIG. 5 is a partial perspective view of the undergarment depicted in FIG. 2, again turned inside out;

[0013] FIG. 6 is a cross sectional view of the undergarment of FIG. 1 taken along the line 6-6 as shown in FIGS. 3 and 4;

[0014] FIG. 7 is a frontal perspective view of a second embodiment of the multipurpose undergarment in accordance with the present invention;

[0015] FIG. 8 is a perspective view of the undergarment of FIG. 7 depicted in manner to illustrate the undergarment turned inside out;

[0016] FIG. 9 is a partial front elevation view of the undergarment depicted in FIG. 7;

[0017] FIG. 10 is a partial front elevation view of the undergarment depicted in FIG. 2 turned inside out; and

[0018] FIG. 11 is a cross sectional view of the undergarment of FIG. 7 taken along the line 11-11 as shown in FIGS. 9 and 10.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0019] As noted above, the undergarment for securing male genitalia (penis and scrotum) according to the present invention includes a specially configured pouch secured (typically by stitching) to an interior portion of the underwear/undergarment. Nominally, the pouch forms an enclosure with front and rear openings for the penis as described above and is generally trapezoidal in configuration. In order to ensure maximum comfort and temperature compatibility for the user, the pouch consists of a soft cloth-like material that allows air to circulate into and through the pouch. As an alternative, the pouch can be lined on the inside with a water-impermeable material (such as thin Latex®) if the undergarment is intended for use by male individuals who may be incontinent or otherwise incapable of controlling the bodily discharge of urine, particularly during aggressive physical activities such as sports. In either embodiment, the longer, bottom edge of the pouch and corresponding shorter top edge nominally are secured via stitching to the lower and upper interior portions of the undergarment as described below to substantially enclose the penis during normal use while allowing for the genitals (scrotum) to be positioned outside the pouch.

[0020] In one exemplary embodiment, the bottom edge of the pouch extends substantially across the entire lower portion of the undergarment defining the juncture between the two undergarment leg openings. In like manner, the top section of the pouch comprising the smaller of the two ends of a trapezoidal configuration can be secured to the top part of the undergarment, typically the interior of the top elastic band. The frontal elastic opening for receiving the male penis as described above normally will be positioned a few inches above the lower pouch horizontal seam. The slit-like opening on the opposite side of the pouch allows the penis to be removed through the front of the pouch and nominally is positioned a few inches above the top of the elastic opening.

[0021] In an alternative embodiment of the invention, the substantially trapezoidal pouch can be formed by securing the lower and upper edge portions of the undergarment in the manner described above. However, unlike the first embodiment, the pouch is formed by securing the two longitudinal side edges to the front portion of the undergarment itself, thereby making the pouch an integral part of the front panel and eliminating the need for a separate slit opening in the pouch. This alternative embodiment includes an elastic opening for the penis on one side thereof as described above, as well as a longitudinal slit on the opposite side that also serves as the front opening in the undergarment itself.

[0022] With particular reference to FIG. 1, an exemplary embodiment of the male personal comfort sport and multi-purpose underwear/undergarment according to the invention is shown generally at 10. The undergarment includes front leg portions 11 and 12 with corresponding leg openings 18a and 18b and is shown with a conventional front opening 13 or "fly" secured by stitching to the front panel as shown at 15. A front longitudinal slit opening for the undergarment is shown at 14 and is generally coincident with a longitudinal opening in the front of the specially configured pouch.

[0023] In one embodiment, the top edge of the pouch can be secured to the interior of the undergarment via the elastic waste band (shown generally at 19) and the bottom edge can be secured along the bottom portion 16 of the undergarment as shown at 17. Thus, in this embodiment, the pouch extends the entire distance between the top edge at the elastic waste band 19 to the lower undergarment pouch seam at 17. However, the pouch could be formed at other positions along the top and bottom sections of the undergarment, depending on the size and body type of the wearer.

[0024] In FIGS. 2 and 5, the undergarment has been turned inside out in order to better illustrate the general configuration and features of the pouch as secured to the inside panels of the undergarment. Once secured into position, the pouch forms a substantially trapezoidal enclosure for the penis and genitals as described above. The enclosure is defined by the top and bottom ends stitched to the undergarment along the lines at 22 and 23, respectively, with the longer, longitudinal pouch edges shown at 24 and 25. The stitched bottom edge 23 of the pouch extends substantially across the entire lower portion of the undergarment that defines the juncture between the two leg openings 18a and 18b. In like manner, the top section of the stitched pouch at 22, i.e., the smaller of the two ends of the substantially trapezoidal configuration, is secured to the top part of the undergarment along the lower edge of elastic band 19. The frontal elastic opening for receiving the male penis is shown at 21 and is substantially circular in configuration and positioned only a short distance above the lower pouch seam as shown. The slit-like opening 26 on the opposite side of the pouch allows the penis to be removed through the front of the pouch, with the slit nominally positioned slightly above the top of the elastic opening 21. FIG. 5 also shows the relative location of the opening 14 in the front panel of the undergarment itself (see also FIG. 1).

[0025] FIG. 3 is a partial front elevation view of the undergarment 10 depicted in FIG. 1 while FIG. 4 is a similar partial elevation with the undergarment shown turned inside out for purposes of illustrating the configuration and relative position of the pouch attached to and integral with the front portion. The pouch is attached generally as shown at 20 and thus coincident with front flap 31 covering the openings in both the pouch and undergarment, with the edge of the front flap shown at 32. FIG. 4 likewise illustrates the relative position of longitudinal edges 24 and 25. The pouch is shown secured to the undergarment along the bottom edge (seam 23) and along at the top at edge (seam 22) along the lower edge of elastic band 19. FIG. 4 also shows the generally circular elastic opening for pouch 21 and the relative position of longitudinal slit 26 on the opposite side of the pouch.

[0026] The cross sectional view shown in FIG. 6 is taken along line 6-6 in FIGS. 3 and 4 and shows the genital pouch according to the invention as nominally attached to and made and integral part of undergarment 10. As noted above, the pouch comprises front and back portions or panels, shown as 20a and 20b, respectively, in FIG. 6 with the top and bottom ends of the pouch being secured to undergarment 10 along the lines at 22 and 23, respectively, to form a substantially trapezoidal shape and a secure enclosure for the penis. The shorter, top end of the pouch can be secured as shown to the top of elastic band at 19a, or alternatively to the bottom edge of the elastic band as described above along a line at 19b. The frontal elastic opening for receiving

the male penis is shown at **21** with the slit-like opening **26** on the opposite side of pouch **20** positioned slightly above the top of the elastic opening **21**. FIG. **6** also shows the relative location of the opening **14** in the front panel **13**.

[0027] The pouch depicted in FIG. **6** can be formed from any soft cloth-like fabric that allows air to circulate into and through the pouch. Alternatively, the entire inside portions of the pouch, including front and back portions **20a** and **20b**, can be lined with a water-impermeable material if the undergarment is intended for use by male individuals who may be incontinent or who otherwise are incapable of controlling the bodily discharge of urine, particularly during aggressive physical activities such as sports.

[0028] FIG. **7** shows is a frontal perspective view of a second, alternative embodiment of the multipurpose undergarment in accordance with the invention. In this embodiment, the undergarment shown generally at **70** again includes front leg portions **71** and **72** with corresponding leg openings **78a** and **78b** and includes a conventional front opening (fly) **73** secured by stitching to the front panel as shown at **75**. A front longitudinal slit opening for the specially configured pouch secured to the inside of the undergarment is shown at **74** and, in this embodiment, forms the longitudinal opening for the front panel of the undergarment itself. In that respect, the pouch is formed by using the front panel of the undergarment to form the genital enclosure. See also FIG. **11**.

[0029] Not unlike the embodiment depicted in FIG. **1**, the top edge of the pouch as shown in FIG. **7** can be secured to the interior of the undergarment along the elastic waste band (shown generally at **79**). The bottom edge can likewise be secured along the bottom portion **76** of the undergarment as shown along line **77**. Thus, the substantially trapezoidal pouch extends for the entire distance between the top edge at the elastic waste band **79** to the lower undergarment pouch seam at **77**. Again, however, it could be formed at other positions along the top and bottom sections of the undergarment, depending on the size and body type of the wearer.

[0030] FIG. **8** is a perspective view of the alternative embodiment of the undergarment in FIG. **7** depicted to illustrate the undergarment turned inside out. After being secured into position, the pouch forms a substantially trapezoidal enclosure for the penis and genitals as described above and defined by the top and bottom ends stitched to the undergarment along the lines at **82** and **83**, respectively, with the longer, longitudinal pouch edges shown at **84** and **85**. The bottom edge **83** of the pouch extends substantially across the entire lower portion of the undergarment **70** defining the juncture between the two leg openings **78a** and **78b**.

[0031] In like manner, the top edge of the pouch at **82**, i.e., the smaller of the two ends of the substantially trapezoidal configuration, is secured to the top part of the undergarment along the lower edge of elastic band **79**. The frontal elastic opening for receiving the male penis is shown at **81**, substantially circular in configuration and positioned only a short distance above the lower pouch seam **83** as shown. In this embodiment, the slit-like opening **86** on the pouch is positioned on the same side as the elastic opening **81** and thus different from the position depicted in the embodiment of FIGS. **1** through **6**. As in the earlier embodiment, however, longitudinal opening **86** allows the penis to be removed through the front the pouch and is positioned slightly above the top of the elastic opening **81**.

[0032] FIG. **8** also illustrates how the pouch in this particular embodiment utilizes the front portion of the undergarment itself to form the completed enclosure. Thus, in that respect, the pouch is completely integral with and part of the front panel of undergarment **70**.

[0033] FIG. **9** is a partial front elevation view of undergarment **70** as depicted in FIG. **7**; FIG. **10** is a similar partial elevation, but with the undergarment shown turned inside out for purposes of illustrating the configuration and relative position of the pouch as attached to the undergarment front panel. Again, the pouch will be positioned generally as shown at **70** and thus coincident with the front fly portion **91** having a front flap to cover the opening in both the pouch and undergarment, with the edge of the front flap shown at **92**. FIG. **9** likewise illustrates the relative position of the pouch with longitudinal edges **84** and **85**. The pouch is shown secured to the undergarment along the bottom edge (seam) **83** and along at the top edge (seam **82**) of elastic band **79**. FIG. **10** also shows the generally circular elastic opening for pouch **81** and the relative position of longitudinal slit **86** in the pouch.

[0034] The cross sectional view shown in FIG. **11** is taken along line **11-11** in FIGS. **9** and **10** and shows the pouch according to the invention as nominally attached to and made part of undergarment **70**. As noted above, the pouch comprises front and back portions **20a** and **20b**, respectively, with the top and bottom ends of the pouch being secured to undergarment **70** along the lines at **82** and **83**, respectively to form a substantially trapezoidal shape and a secure enclosure for the penis. The shorter, top end of the pouch can be secured as shown to the top of elastic band **79**. The frontal elastic opening for receiving the male penis is shown at **81** with the slit-like opening **86** on the opposite side of the pouch positioned slightly above the top of elastic opening **81**. FIG. **11** also shows the relative location of the opening **84** in the front panel **83** of the undergarment.

[0035] The pouch depicted in FIG. **11** can be formed from any soft cloth-like fabric that allows air to circulate into and through the pouch. Alternatively, the entire inside portions of the pouch, including front and back panels **80a** and **80b**, can be lined with a water-impermeable material if the undergarment is intended for use by male individuals who may be incontinent or otherwise incapable of controlling the bodily discharge of urine, particularly during aggressive physical activities such as sports.

[0036] While the invention has been described in connection with what is presently considered to be the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the invention is not to be limited to the disclosed embodiment, but on the contrary, is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

1. A male undergarment comprising,
 - a front fabric portion sufficient in size to cover male genitalia and having an opening therein sufficient to allow for displacement of male genitalia outside said undergarment;
 - a rear fabric portion secured along two opposing edges corresponding to the edges of said front fabric portion and configured to define a pair of leg openings in said undergarment at the lower end thereof and a single large trunk opening at the top of said undergarment; and

an integral fabric pouch specially configured to enclose and protect said genitalia, said pouch being disposed inside said undergarment and secured at the top thereof to said front fabric portion and at the bottom to said rear fabric portion, said integral fabric pouch including at least one elastic opening in the front sized for receiving a male penis when the undergarment is being worn and a second opening sufficient in size to allow the penis to be removed through said front fabric portion.

2. The male undergarment according to claim 1, wherein the configuration of said integral fabric pouch is trapezoidal.

3. The male undergarment according to claim 1, wherein the bottom edge of said integral fabric pouch extends substantially across the entire lower portion of said undergarment between said leg openings.

4. The male undergarment according to claim 1, wherein said second opening in said fabric pouch comprises a slit-like configuration disposed substantially on the opposite side of said first opening.

5. The male undergarment according to claim 1, further comprising a water impermeable liner material secured to inside surface portions of said integral fabric pouch.

6. The male undergarment according to claim 1, wherein said integral fabric pouch is sized to allow the penis to be positioned inside said fabric pouch and genitalia to be positioned outside said pouch during normal use.

7. The male undergarment according to claim 1, wherein said integral fabric pouch is formed by securing two longitudinal edges directly to said front portion of said undergarment.

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