

Comment on “Cling film for mobile phones to prevent cross-infection during the COVID-19 pandemic”



To the Editor: We read with great interest the article by Sethy et al¹ providing an easy solution for the safe use of mobile phones in the clinics during the coronavirus disease 19 (COVID-19) pandemic. We have used the same solution since the beginning of the outbreak in our center, and yet, we believe some shortcomings of the proposed method need to be mentioned.

First, we have noticed that only a single layer of cling film is easily ripped during the routine use of mobile phones and might be difficult to replace in clinical settings. We tried increasing the number of film layers for better durability; however, this resulted in significant impairment not only in image quality but also in audio quality, which is essential for effective in-hospital communication. Also, considering the increased use of remote consultations and video conferencing software during the pandemic, overheating of the mobile phone and a

decrease in performance might occur because the cling film leaves no space for airflow around the device.

Another critical point is that repeated and frequent use of a nonrecyclable plastic material might increase the plastic pollution in nature, another possible collateral damage of COVID-19 similar to the risks associated with abundant use of disinfectants.²

To overcome these issues, we propose the use of waterproof mobile phone pouches. In addition to allowing the efficient use of the touch screen and camera and being suitable for disinfection with alcohol-based solutions, it has several advantages over the cling film (Fig 1, A and B). Owing to its more durable material, it provides a better waterproofing with longer duration. Unlike the cling film, the waterproof pouches leave a space that allows air flow and prohibits overheating (Fig 1, C). Also, because daily replacement is not required, it might be more economic and ecologically friendly in the mid-to long-term. Moreover, in case of necessity, it is much easier and less time-consuming to unlock the pouch and reuse it than unwrapping and replacing the cling film.

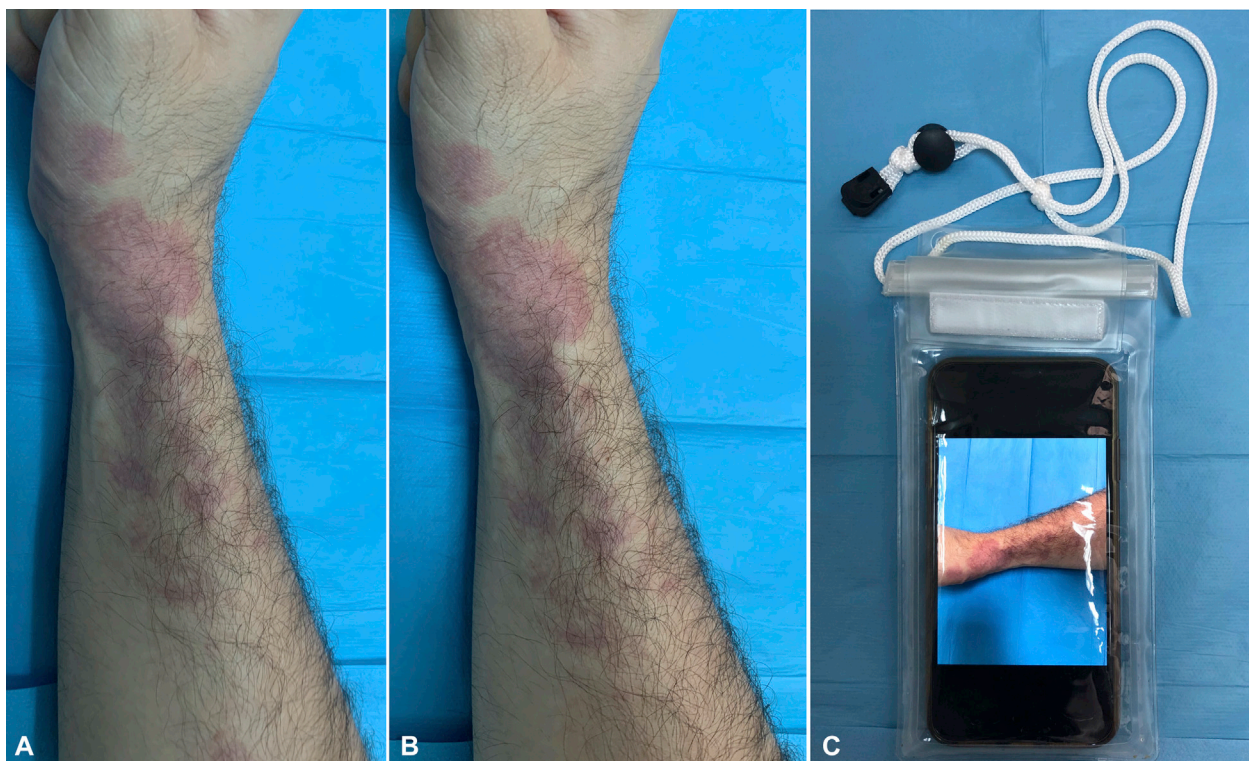


Fig 1. Clinical photographs taken with the same mobile phone (A) with and (B) without the waterproof pouch. (C) When the mobile phone is in the waterproof pouch, there is space around the device that permits airflow.

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