Background
Seroma formation is a common complication after breast cancer surgery and delays recovery. Excessive seroma formation puts pressure on the wound, which is painful for the patient, sets limitations on daily activities and delays further treatment. The aim of this study was to investigate whether the postoperative use of a thorax bandage reduces seroma formation in a breast cancer patient. In addition, the practical aspects of wearing the thorax bandage (duration and experience of the patient) will be described. For this study a novel 2 Layer cohesive Compression System has been used.

Material & Methods
In this report, the case of a 62 year old woman will be presented following surgery on both breasts: a modified radical mastectomy (MRM) on the right, and an axillary lymph node dissection (ALND) on the left. The selection criteria were: status after MRM and at least one seroma aspiration. After the surgery the axilla on the left became infected (after the first seroma aspiration) and the patient was hospitalized for five days of antibiotic treatment. The research design is an n=1 single subject design, where a baseline situation is followed by an intervention phase. This design is also called an A-B design with baseline measurements (A), score on the visual analog scale (VAS), the Disability of the Arm, Shoulder, and Hand Questionnaire Dutch language version (DASH-DLV), four weeks of physical therapy treatment and the use of a thorax bandage on the surgical site on the right (B). The measurements were repeated over the course of treatment and again at the conclusion.

Results
After the start of the physical therapy interventions there were no more seroma aspirations needed on the right breast. On the left, there was one aspiration of 100 ml on the infection site. The patient found the thorax bandage comfortable. “It makes me feel safe.” The pain score was measured three times and a DASH-DLV was completed. Over a period of four weeks the VAS score decreased by 26 mm and the DASH-DLV score by 16 points. Both scores are clinically relevant for the patient.