(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) EP 1 913 888 B1

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention of the grant of the patent:
17.03.2010 Bulletin 2010/11

(51) Int Cl.:
A61B 17/88 *(2006.01)* ***A61F 2/46*** *(2006.01)*
B01F 11/00 *(2006.01)* ***B01F 15/02*** *(2006.01)*

(21) Application number: **08151033.1**

(22) Date of filing: **17.06.2005**

(54) Device for producing a hardenable mass.

Vorrichtung zur Herstellung einer härtbaren Masse

Dispositif de production de série durcissable

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU MC NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR

(30) Priority: **22.06.2004 SE 0401604**

(43) Date of publication of application:
23.04.2008 Bulletin 2008/17

(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
05752716.0 / 1 758 526

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EP 1 913 888 B1

Printed by Jouve, 75001 PARIS (FR)

Description

[0001] The present invention relates to a device for receiving and discharging a hardenable mass, preferably a bone substitute and/or bone reinforcing material or bone cement or a similar material, wherein said device comprises a container which is provided with a movable piston for feeding the hardenable mass out from a space of the container.

[0002] Osteoporosis is rapidly increasing, particularly in the industrialized countries. One reckons that about 50% of all women will suffer from fractures due to osteoporosis. The major part of these fractures are found on older people and lead to increased mortality, invalidity and huge social costs. Vertebroplasty is a percutaneous injection of bone cement into a vertebra in order to alleviate pain in a compression fracture caused by osteoporosis. Vertebroplasty was performed for the first time in France in 1984 and ten years later in the USA. Kyphoplasty means balloon expansion in a collapsed vertebra for, if possible, reducing the risk for further collapse of the vertebra and provide a cavity which is filled with bone cement. Kyphoplasty is regarded as experimental in Europe, but has recently been approved by the FDA for treatment of pathological fractures together with polymeric bone cements. The drawback with kyphoplasty is that this method requires general anaesthesia. Vertebroplasty however, can be performed in a surgery in fluoroscopy while administering sedatives and analgesics. Both methods give satisfactory pain relief in more than 75% of the cases. Early treatment of vertebra compression with vertebroplasty is still discussed even if satisfactory pain relief can be provided. It is recommended to wait at least six weeks before vertebroplasty is performed. While waiting, pain killing treatment is tested. Early treatment with vertebroplasty however, can be considered if there is a risk for complications causing immobilization or if the pain is severe. A principal object with vertebroplasty is except pain relief to prevent further collapse of vertebra. For identifying fractures, MR can be used besides common X-ray, said MR also showing oedema in the bone marrow and fracture gaps in the vertebra.

[0003] Vertebroplasty is performed with the patient lying on his or her stomach or on the side during intraveneous sedation and pain relief and under control by a physician. During additional local anesthesia, a needle is inserted into a mandrine in the vertebra during fluoroscopy via a transpedicular or posteolateral inlet. The needle shall be positioned in the centre line, preferably in the fore or anterior part of the vertebra. Then, injection of cement is carried through. Another needle is often necessary for symmetric filling of the vertebra. The injection of cement is carefully supervised via TV-fluoroscopy and if leakage occurs outside the limits of the vertebra, the injection is interrupted. The required volume for adequate pain relief is small, about 2-3 ml. If larger volumes are used, the risk increases that cement will leak out, as is the risk that bone marrow will spread into the circulation system during injection. The injection requires technical knowledge and training. Almost all substantial complications depend on leakage of cement to the spinal canal or through the injection site. In more than 20% there is an asymptomatic leakage of cement into paraspinal soft parts or the lumbar venous system.

Devices of the initially defined type for receiving and discharging hardenable masses for the abovementioned and similar purposes are already known from e.g. DE Gebrauchsmuster 202 16 632 U1. Prior art devices according to this publication however, are, although structurally somewhat similar, not used as the device according to the present invention, resulting in too long exposure to air of those portions of the hardenable mass which are injected into a patient.

[0004] The object of the present invention, which is defined in claim 1, is to provide a simple device permitting simple handling in connection with vertebroplasty and similar.

[0005] The significance of using a device permitting utterly simple handling during, inter alia, vertebroplasty, is of the utmost importance. Simple and safe handling regarding receipt as well as discharge of cement is important. The possibility of having prepacked systems permitting sterilization together with closed transfer to smaller syringes for improved control during injection, is obvious.

[0006] The invention will be further described below with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

fig. 1 is a longitudinal section through a device for producing a hardenable mass during a mixing step;
fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional view of a part of the device of fig. 1 and shows a mixing means interconnected with a discharge means;
fig. 3 is a section through the device of fig. 1 during a discharge step;
fig. 4 is a perspective view of a bracket forming part of the device of fig. 1;
fig. 5 is a perspective view of a discharge piston forming part of the device of fig. 1;
fig. 6 is a perspective view of a rotary-movement preventing member forming part of the device of fig. 1;
fig. 7 is a perspective view of a rotatable means forming part of the device of fig. 1;
fig. 8 is a side view of a screw mechanism for use at the device of fig. 1;
fig. 9 illustrates a part of the device of fig. 1 containing a powder component and during injection of a liquid component;
fig. 10 illustrates a device according to the invention when receiving hardenable mass from the device of fig. 1 and discharge of said mass to a distributor device connected thereto;
fig. 11 is a perspective view of the distributor device of fig. 10; and

fig. 12 illustrates the device of fig. 1 during use in connection with vertebroplasty.

[0007] The device 1 illustrated in the drawings is adapted for producing a hardenable mass 2 such as bone substitute and/or bone reinforcing material or bone cement or similar material. This mass 2 shall be fed and/or sucked out of the device 1 and comprises a mixing container 3 of e.g. cylindrical shape. The mixing container 3 defines a mixing space 4 in which at least one powder component 5 and at least one liquid component 6 are mixed to produce the hardenable mass 2.

[0008] In the mixing space 4 there is provided a piston means 7 which is adapted to be retained relative to the mixing container 3 during a mixing step and thereafter released such that it can move in the mixing space 4 relative to the mixing container 3. In order to release the piston means 7 there is provided a rotatable means 8 which in a retaining position P1 retains the piston means 7 relative to the mixing container 3 and which by rotation from the retaining position P1 to a release position P2 can be released relative to the mixing container 3, whereby the piston means 7 can move in the mixing space 4. The piston means 7 and the rotatable means 8 are preferably directly or indirectly interconnected.

[0009] The device 1 preferably but not necessarily comprises a mixing means 9 which is provided for mixing the powder and liquid components 5, 6 with each other until the hardenable mass 2 has been produced. Then, the mass 2 can be stirred with the mixing means 9 if this is appropriate or necessary. The mixing means 9 may comprise an elongated member 10, e.g. a hollow or solid rod, which extends into the mixing space 4 and which at an inner end within the mixing space 4 has a mixing disc 11 with axial holes 12 passing through said disc. At an outer end outside the mixing space 4, the elongated member 10 is provided with an operating handle 13 for operating the mixing means 9.

[0010] The mixing/stirring can be carried through in a known manner by moving the mixing means 9 back and forth in the mixing space 4 and preferably also rotating it relative to said mixing space 4.

[0011] The piston means 7 preferably has an axial hole 14 extending therethrough and by means of which the elongated member 10 of the mixing means 9 extends into the mixing space 4. The elongated member 10 cooperates with the piston means 7 through one or more sealing rings 15 or similar, such that a sealing is provided between said members. The elongated member 10 and the hole 14 of the piston means 7 are adapted to each other such that said elongated member 10 can be moved and rotated relative to the piston means 7.

[0012] At least one outer sealing 16 or similar is provided on the piston means 7 for cooperation with the inner side of the mixing container 3 such that a sealing is defined between the piston means 7 and said inner side. The outer sealing ring 16 is preferably designed such that it removes mass 2 which deposits on the inner side of the mixing container 3 when it moves in the mixing space 4.

[0013] The piston means 7 may also have an opening 17 with at least one filter 18. The opening 17 is adapted to let out gases from the mixing space 4 and the filter 18 is adapted to prevent the components 5 and/or 6 and the mixed mass 2 from forcing its way out of the mixing space 4 through the opening 17.

[0014] A rotary-movement preventing member 19 is provided on the piston means 7. This member 19 is annular and includes two axially provided hook portions 20, 21 which can be inserted into grooves 22, 23 in the piston means 7 and hooked onto two shoulders 7a, 7b thereon in a radial direction. By means of this positioning, the rotary-movement preventing member 19 is attached to the piston means 7 and can not rotate relative to said means.

[0015] The rotary-movement preventing member 19 further includes an axially provided flange 24 which is adapted to cooperate with a bracket 25 in order to prevent rotation of the rotary--movement preventing member 19 and thus, the piston means 7, relative to the bracket 25 such that the mixing means 9 is rotated relative to the piston means 7 for mixing of the powder and liquid components 5, 6. The bracket 25 has a cylindrical member 27 with a hole 28 into which the rotatable means 8 can be inserted and through which said rotatable means can move when it is set in a release position P2. The cylindrical member 27 of the bracket 25 may have an annular snap-in portion 29 which can be threaded into one or more locking portions 30 which are located at the inner side of the mixing container 3 and which allow the bracket 25 to be attached to the mixing container 3 by a snap-in closure. Alternatively or in combination with said snap-in portion 29, the bracket 25 may have a number of radially projecting members 33, 34 which can be attached to a radially outwards directed flange 35 on the mixing container 3 by a snap-in closure such that the bracket 25 can not rotate relative to said container.

[0016] The rotatable means 8 has a through hole 8a through which the elongated member 10 of the mixing means 9 extends such that said elongated member 10 is movable relative to the rotatable means 8 and vice versa.

[0017] The rotatable means 8 has a first flange 36 or a corresponding member which in relation to the direction U extends radially outwards from the rotatable means 8 towards a discharge opening 49 through which the mass 2 shall pass out of the mixing container 3. Said first flange 36 surrounds a part of the periphery of the rotatable means 8.

[0018] The hole 28 of the bracket 25 has a second flange 31 a or a corresponding second member which relative to the direction U is directed radially into the hole 28. This second flange 31 a extends along a part of the periphery of the hole 28. A section 31 b or a corresponding third part of the hole 28 lacks said flange 31 a and is designed such that the first flange 36 of the rotatable

means 8 can pass therethrough, whereby the entire rotatable means 8 can be brought to pass through the hole 28 when the first flange 36 and the section 31 b cooperate.

[0019] When the rotatable means 8 is set in the retaining position P1 (fig. 1), then the first and second flanges 36 and 31 a cooperate and prevent the rotatable means 8 from moving relative to the bracket 25 in direction U, while the mixing means 9 can move and be brought to perform mixing movements for mixing the powder and liquid components in the mixing space 4.

[0020] The rotatable means 8 can be brought to its release position P2 (fig. 2) by rotating it 180° relative to the bracket 25 from its retaining position P1 and this rotary movement can be limited by bringing the first flange 36 thereof to engage or abut a rotary stop 32. Thereby, the first flange 36 of the rotary means 8 will be disengaged from the cooperation with the second flange 31 a of the bracket 25 and it can instead cooperate with the section 31 b of the bracket 25 such that the rotatable means 8 and thus, the piston means 7, can move and be displaced in direction U in relation thereto and thus, relative to the mixing container 3.

[0021] The piston means 7 is prevented from rotating relative to the bracket 25 by the flange 24 of the rotary-movement preventing member 19 engaging or gripping preferably into the section 31 b of the bracket 25 when the rotatable means 8 retains the piston means 7 at the bracket 25.

[0022] The rotatable means 8 cooperates preferably with a coupling device 37 which is provided to interconnect the piston means 7 and the elongated member 10 of the mixing means 9 such that the piston means 7 (and the rotatable means 8 provided thereby) can be displaced in axial direction U relative to the mixing container 3 by means of the mixing means 9 for discharge of mixed mass 2 from the mixing space 4. The coupling device 37 is located between the rotatable means 8 and the piston means 7 and it is preferably provided to be operated by the rotatable means 8 such that it connects the piston means 7 to the elongated member 10 while simultaneously the rotatable means 8 is rotated from its retaining position P1 to its release position P2. To this end, the coupling device 37 may comprise a coupling means 38, e.g. a washer, which is threaded onto the elongated member 10 and which is located between the piston means 7 and the rotatable means 8. The piston means 7 has a support member 39 which is axially directed towards the rotatable means 8 and located on one side of the elongated member 10, while there is a free space 40 on the other side of the elongated member 10. The rotatable means 8 has an axially directed bore 41, the rear parts of which are provided with a helical spring 42 or a similar resilient element and the fore parts with a pin 43 which projects out of the bore 41.

[0023] When the rotatable means 8 is set in its retaining position P1, the bore 41 with the helical spring 42 is located on the same side of the elongated member 10 and the helical spring thereby presses the coupling means 38 against the support member 39 such that said coupling means 38 is held in a neutral position P3 in which it is held against the support member 39 and permits displacement of the elongated member 10 of the mixing means 9 in opposite axial mixing directions B, whereby the powder and liquid components 5, 6 can be mixed in the mixing space 4 with the mixing means 9 while the piston means 7 is retained relative to the mixing container 3.

[0024] When the rotatable means 8 is rotated 180° to its release position P2, the bore 41 and the helical spring 42 will also move 180° relative to the support member 39 and the helical spring 42 will thereby press or push the coupling means 38 into the space 40, which means that the coupling means 38 is tilted relative to the elongated member 10 and is brought to a coupling position P4 in which the coupling means 38 is fastened to the elongated member 10. Hereby, the piston means 7 is connected to the mixing means 9 such that the piston means 7 can be displaced in the direction U by said mixing means 9.

[0025] Preferably, the coupling device 37 is designed such that it, after said interconnection of the mixing means 9 and the piston means 7, permits release of the mixing means.9 relative to the piston means 7 if said mixing means 9 is pulled in the return direction R relative to the piston means 7.

[0026] On the operating handle 13 and/or on the elongated member 10 there may be provided an outer member 45 with an open end portion 45a and such a cavity or depression 45b within the end portion 45a that said end portion will engage or abut the mixing container 3 when the mixing means 9 is displaced in axial direction towards the mixing container 3 and rotated relative to said container during mixing. Hereby, it is prevented that said rotation of the mixing means 9 is transferred to the rotatable means 8.

[0027] The bracket 25 is preferably provided to prevent the piston means 7 and the mixing means 9 from being pulled apart from the mixing container 3.

[0028] Since the rotatable means 8 can move together with the piston means 7 in the mixing space 4 of the mixing container 3, it is ensured that the device 1 will be simple and that it provides for a simple and quick handling when mixing of the powder and liquid components 5, 6 has been performed and the mixed mass 2 shall be discharged. To this end, it is only necessary to rotate the rotatable means 8 from its retaining position P1 to the release position P2, whereafter it is possible to displace the piston means 7 by means of the mixing means 9 in the direction U for discharge of the mass 2 from the mixing space 4.

[0029] As an alternative to the opening 17, at least one opening 47 can be provided in the side of the mixing container 3 adjacent the piston means 7 when said piston means is retained by the bracket 25. Since the opening 47 is located adjacent the piston means 7, it is closed

when the piston means 7 starts to move in the direction U and after further movement of the piston means 7, it will be located behind said piston means, which means that only gas and no mass 2 can be pressed out through the opening 47.

[0030] As an alternative to said openings, there may be at least one opening 48 in the side of the mixing container 3 about half the way between the piston means 7, when retained by the bracket 25, and a discharge opening 49 which is provided in the mixing container 3 for discharge of the mass 2 from said container. The opening 48 may be closable when necessary.

[0031] The abovementioned opening 17 or openings 47 or 48 permit gas to be pressed out of the mixing space 4 when e.g. the liquid component 6 is injected into said space. Since gas hereby can be pressed out, injection of the liquid component 6 is facilitated. Due to its location, the opening 48 permits gas which is entrapped in the mass 2 to be pressed out of or escape from said mass during discharge thereof.

[0032] At least one vacuum generating device can be provided to generate a vacuum in the mixing space 4 for various purposes, preferably for facilitating quick suction of the liquid component 6 to and distribution thereof in the powder component 5 and/or e.g. for sucking out toxic gases therefrom, which are generated during mixing of the powder and liquid components 5, 6. In this case, there may be no openings which let air into the mixing container 3, but said container must be sealed.

[0033] In order to generate a vacuum in the mixing space 4 for e.g. sucking out toxic gases, there may be a first vacuum generating device 50 which at a suitable location can be connected to the mixing container 3. Such a first vacuum generating device 50 is schematically illustrated in fig. 1.

[0034] For discharge, the mixing means 9 can be subjected to linear forces such that said mixing means 9 and the piston means 7 are displaced linearly relative to the mixing container 3. Alternatively, the mixing means 9 can be displaced linearly by influence from a screw device 51.

[0035] The screw device 51 e.g. includes a nut-like member 52 which has a laterally open fork--like member 52a with laterally open grooves 53 permitting sideways threading of the nut--like member 52 onto the flange 35 of the mixing container 3 such that said member 52 is stuck on the mixing container 3.

[0036] The nut-like member 52 is provided with a tapped hole 54 for a screw-like member 55 with outer threads 56 which mesh with the threads in the tapped hole 54 of the nut-like member 52. The screw-like member 55 may be a pipe member with a multi-side nut 58 and the pipe member may have a longitudinal slit 57 which is open in a lateral direction and the nut may have an open side 60 such that the screw-like member 55 and the nut 58 can be threaded onto the elongated member 10 of the mixing means 9. The nut 58 is adapted to fit into a corresponding multi-side hole 59 in the outer member 45 or any other member on or of the operating handle 13.

[0037] Due to the abovementioned embodiment of the screw device 51, said device can be non--rotatably located on the mixing container 3 and since the nut 58 can be inserted into the hole 59, the screw-like member 55 may, by means of the operating handle 13, be screwed into the nut-like member 52 via e.g. the outer member 45, whereby the end portion 61 of the screw-like member 55 is brought in contact with the rotatable means 8 and can impart discharge forces in the direction U to the rotatable means 8 and through said rotatable means to the piston means 7.

[0038] The piston means 7 can be moved in the direction U either by manually pressing the operating handle 13 or rotating it and transfer the rotary movement by means of the screw device 51. If great forces are required for discharging the mass 2 from the mixing space 4, one can use a gun-like discharge device 62 or a similar device as is schematically indicated in fig. 1. The mixing container 3 is positioned therein such that a pressure means 63 can cooperate with the mixing means 9 or directly with the piston means 7 if there is no mixing means. The pressure means 63 is operated by a manually depressable trigger which can move the pressure means 63 stepwise such that said pressure means with force press the mixing means 9 and/or the piston means 7 forward in the direction U.

[0039] As is apparent from fig. 9, the mixing space 4 of the mixing container 3 may carry the powder component 5 when the device 1 is delivered. The discharge opening 49 is hereby closed by a closing device 64 which prevents the powder component 5 from falling out of the mixing space 4.

[0040] The liquid component 6 can be provided in a liquid container 65 and can be fed into the mixing space 4 for mixing therein with the powder component 5.

[0041] The liquid container 65 has a discharge end 66 and the closing device 64 can be designed such that the discharge end 66 can open the closing device 64 when it is inserted into said device for injecting the liquid component 6 into the mixing space 4 and the powder component 5 therein. To this end, the closing device 64 may comprise a valve body 64a which is normally closed and which is opened by the discharge end 66 when said end is inserted into the closing device 64 and automatically returned to closed position when the discharge end 66 is removed or withdrawn from the closing device 64.

[0042] A valve 67 can be provided to cooperate with the closing device 64 to permit gas to escape from the mixing space 4 when the liquid component 6 is injected into said space from the liquid container 65. This valve 67 can be closed and may be opened when required.

[0043] In order to vibrate the content of the mixing space 4, i.e. the powder and liquid components 5, 6 and/or the mass 2, the mixing container 3 or parts thereof may be brought in contact with a vibrating device 68 schematically illustrated in fig. 9.

[0044] As is apparent from fig. 10, the mixing container

3 can be connected to a distributor device 69 or vice versa. Several containers 70 according to the invention can be connected thereto or vice versa, such that mass 2 mixed in the mixing space 4 can be fed out or discharged from said mixing space and into the distributor device 69. The distributor device 69 distributes the mass 2 to the various containers 70 such that portions of the mass 2 are fed into inner spaces 71 in the containers 70. The inner space 71 in each container 70 is substantially smaller than the mixing space 4 of the mixing container 3, which means that one can fill the spaces 71 of a plurality of containers 70, e.g. the spaces 71 of eight containers 70, with a part volume 2a of the mass 2 from the mixing space 4.

[0045] When the spaces 71 of the respective number of containers 70 are filled with said part volume 2a of the mass 2, each container 70 can be removed from the distributor device 69 or vice versa and the part volume 2a of mass 2 in the container 70 can be fed and/or sucked out of the container 70.

[0046] The distributor device 69 preferably comprises a distributor body 72 with an axial inlet pipe 73 which can be located close to such an outlet or discharge end 74 of the mixing container 3 having the discharge opening 49. The inlet pipe 73 can be located at the discharge end 74 by screwing on or in any other suitable manner such that inner passages in the distributor body 72 communicate with the discharge opening 49. Of course, the mixing container may instead be located on the inlet pipe 73.

[0047] The distributor device 69 may also comprise a number of discharge pipes 75-82, at least two and e.g. eight pipes, which extend radially in a star-like manner from the distributor body 72 and which communicate with inner members of the distributor body 72.

[0048] Each container 70 has a front part 84 through which it can be mounted, e.g. screwed on to one of the discharge pipes 75-82 of the distributor device 69 or vice versa, such that a part volume 2a of mass 2 can be fed into the space 71. During this filling of the space 71, a piston 86 forming part of the container 70 is preferably located in a rear part 85 of the container 70. After the space 71 has been filled with the part volume 2a of mass 2, a cannula or needle 83 can be located on the front part 84. The part volume 2a of mass 2 is fed or sucked out of the space 71 of the container 70 through said cannula 83.

[0049] Each container 70 may eventually have an opening 87 which preferably is found in the rear part 85 and immediately in front of the piston 86 when said piston is situated in the rear part 85. This opening 87 allows gas in the space 71 of the container 70 to be pressed out of the space when said part volume 2a of mass 2 is fed into said space 71. Hereby, it is prevented that gas in the space 71 resists entrance of the part volume 2a of mass 2 into said space 71. The opening 87 has e.g. a diameter of 0,2-1,0 mm, preferably about 0,6 mm.

[0050] The opening 87 may alternatively be a groove (not shown) provided axially in the inner side of the container 70 and extending beyond the piston 86 when said piston is situated in the rear part 85 of the container 70.

[0051] When the required number of containers 70 have been filled with the part volume 2a of mass 2, one container 70 at the time is removed from the distributor device 69 and a cannula or needle 83 is mounted preferably on the front part 84 of the container 70 such that the part volume 2a of mass 2 can be fed or sucked out through the cannula 83 with or without support from the piston 86 until the space 71 is empty. By removing one container 70 at the time from the distributor device 69 and letting the other filled containers 70 remain mounted thereon, it is achieved that the mass 2 in the containers 70 not yet removed is not subjected to atmospheric air for an unnecessarily long time.

[0052] Since the size of the space 71 in each container 70 is known, one knows exactly how large a part volume 2a of mass 2 which is fed out of or discharged from each container 70.

[0053] For treating spongy bone 89 with mass 2, said mass 2 can be sucked into inner parts 89a of the spongy bone 89. To this end, a container 70 is connected to the spongy bone 89 by inserting the cannula 83 thereof, or a member (not shown) to which the cannula 83 can be connected, into the inner parts 89a such that the space 71 of the container 70 communicates therewith. To said inner parts 89a of the spongy bone 89 there is also connected at least one vacuum source 90 through a connection line 92 for generating a vacuum in the inner parts 89a and in the space 71 of the container 70 connected thereto such that the part volume 2a of mass 2 is sucked out of said space 71 and through the cannula 83 into the inner parts 89a of the spongy bone 89. During this suction step, the piston 86 may eventually be displaced in the direction U for supporting the suction of the part volume 2a of the mass 2 out of the space 71.

[0054] Inner parts 89a of the spongy bone 89 can be provided with mass 2 from the mixing container 3. The mixing container 3 can be provided with a cannula or needle (not shown) or similar and this cannula is inserted into the inner parts 89a. The mass 2 can thereby be sucked out of the mixing space 4 of the mixing container 3 and into the inner parts 89a by means of the vacuum source 90. Eventually, this suction of mass 2 from the mixing space 4 may be supported by a displacement of the piston means 7 in the direction U.

[0055] The spongy bone 89 may e.g. be a spongy vertebra or an osteoporosis fracture in the form of a thighbone (femoral) or knee (patellar) fracture.

[0056] Mixed mass 2 in the mixing container 3 can be used for fixation of implants, whereby one can provide the container with a discharge pipe or similar (not shown), through which the mass 2 is discharged by means of the piston means 7 into cavities in the bone in which the implant shall be fixed.

[0057] The mass 2 may consist of bone substitute and/or bone reinforcing material which primarily consist of calcium base material or ceramics which can be mixed with a hardener, e.g. water. These substances may be

selected from the group comprising calcium sulphate-α-hemihydrate, calcium sulphate-β-hemihydrate, calcium sulphate-dihydrate, calcium carbonate, α-tricalcium phosphate, hydroxyapatite, dicalcium phosphate-dihydrate, anhydrous dicalcium phosphate, tetracalcium phosphate, β-tricalcium phosphate, calcium deficient hydroxyapatite, monocalcium phosphate-monohydrate, monocalcium phosphate, calcium-pyurophosphate, precipitated hydroxyapatite, carbonaceous apatite (dahlite), octacalcium phosphate, amorphous calcium phosphate, oxyapatite, carbonato apatite and calcium aluminate.

[0058] A ceramic material may be calcium aluminate, which forms part of the product Doxa T from the company Doxa (www.doxa.se/pdf/nyhet_1.pdf).

[0059] X-ray contrast agents can be added to said ceramic bone substitute and/or bone reinforcing material, e.g. water soluble non-ionic X-ray contrast agents selected from the group comprising iohexol, ioversol, iopamidol, iotrolan, metrizamide, iodecimol, ioglucol, ioglucamide, ioglunide, iogulamide, iomeprol, iopentol, iopromide, iosarcol, iosimide, iotusal, ioxilan, iofrotal and iodecol.

[0060] Alternatively, the mass 2 can be a hardenable bone cement comprising polymer and monomer components. The polymer may be polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) and the monomer methylmethacrylate (MMA). A polymer base material can be the product Cortoss™ from the company Orthovita in the U.S.A.. For composition see www.orthovita.com/products/cortoss/oustech-specs.html. Another polymer base material can be the product SECOUR® Acrylic Resin PMMA from parallax medical inc. (www.parallax-medical.com/go/91-92b550-5642-1157-a432-d7a2b98310fe).

[0061] The mass 2 can be a bone substitute and/or bone reinforcing material and consist of a mineral and/or a ceramic in combination with polymer material.

[0062] The screw device 51 may be a device which can be connected to a mixing container 3 which is designed in another way than what is illustrated in the drawings and where the piston means 7 is located and operated in another way than what is shown in the drawings.

[0063] The distributor device 69 can be connected to a mixing container 3 or vice versa which is designed in another way than what is shown in the drawings and where the piston means 7 is mounted in another way than what is shown in the drawings.

[0064] The invention is not limited to the embodiments described above and illustrated in the drawings. As examples not described in detail, it should be mentioned that the mass 2 may be another type of mass than bone substitute and/or bone reinforcing material or bone cement or similar. The rotatable means 8 may cooperate with the piston means with other means than those shown and described; mixing may be carried through in another way than with a mixing means 9 and if there is such a means, this may be designed otherwise; the mixing container 3 may be designed in another way than what is described and illustrated; when using a screw device 51, this may be of another type than the one described and illustrated and this also refers to the distributor device 69. The piston means 7 may either be moved in the direction U by the mixing means 9 or be sucked in the same direction by the vacuum source 90, but it is also possible to move the piston means 7 by using the mixing means 9 and the vacuum source 90 simultaneously. The device 1 may be of the disposable type or used repeatedly.

Claims

1. Device for receiving and discharging a hardenable mass (2), preferably bone substitute and/or bone reinforcing material or bone cement or similar material, said device comprising a container (70) which is provided with a movable piston (86) for feeding the hardenable mass (2) out from a space (71) of the container, the container having a front part (84) and a rear part (85),
   characterized in
   that the container (70) is adapted to be filled with hardenable mass (2) through the front part (84) and **that** the container (70) has a gas outlet (87) which is entirely or partly located front of the piston (86) when said piston (86) is situated in the rear part (85) of the container to permit gas present in the space (71) of the container (70) to flow out of said space (71) through said gas outlet (87) when said space is filled with hardenable mass (2) through the front part (84) of the container (70).

2. Device according to claim 1, wherein
   the hardenable mass (2) is fed out of the space (71) of the container (70) by moving the piston (86) past the gas outlet (87), said piston (86) thereby simultaneously preventing said hardenable mass (2) from being fed out through said gas outlet (87).

3. Device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
   the gas outlet is made up of an opening (87) in the container (70) which is located in front of the piston (86) when the space (71) of the container is filled with hardenable mass (2).

4. Device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein
   the gas outlet is made up of a groove which is provided axially in the inner side of the container (70) and which extends beyond the piston (86) when the space (71) of the container is filled with hardenable mass (2).

5. Device according to claim 1, wherein
   the gas outlet (87) is provided in the rear part (85) of the container (70) and is entirely or partly located in front of the piston (86) when said piston is situated in said rear part (85) to permit gas present in the space (71) of the container (70) to flow out of said

space (71) through said gas outlet (87) when said space is filled with hardenable mass (2) through a front part (84) of the container (70).

6. Device according to claim 5, wherein
the hardenable mass (2) is fed out of the space (71) of the container (70) by moving the piston (86) from said rear part (85) of the container past the gas outlet (87) towards the front part (84) of the container, said piston (86) thereby simultaneously preventing said hardenable mass (2) from being fed out through said gas outlet (87).

7. Device according to claim 5 or 6, wherein
the gas outlet is made up of an opening (87) in the container (70) which is located in front of the piston (86) when said piston is situated in said rear part (85) of the container.

8. Device according to claim 5 or 6, wherein
the gas outlet is made up of a groove which is provided axially in the inner side of the container (70) and which extends beyond the piston (86) when said piston is situated in said rear part (85) of the container.

9. Device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the container (70) is adapted to be connected to a distributor device (69) and two or more of said container (70) can be connected to said distributor device (69), whereby hardenable mass (2) mixed of at least one powder and at least one liquid component (5, 6) in a mixing space (4) of a mixing container (3) of a device for producing the hardenable mass can be discharged to the distributor device (69) for distribution of the hardenable mass (2) through the front part to spaces (71) in the containers (70) such that each space is filled with a part volume (2a) of the hardenable mass.

10. Device according to claim 9, wherein
the front part (84) of each container (70) can be connected to the distributor device (69) such that a part volume (2a) of the mass (2) can be fed into the space (71) of the container (70), and
that a cannula or needle (83) can be located at the front part (84) after the space (71) of the container (70) has been provided with a part volume (2a) of mass (2), through which cannula (83) said part volume (2a) of mass (2) can be fed out of said space (71).

11. Device according to claim 9 or 10, wherein
one container (70) at the time can be removed from the distributor device (69) for emptying thereof, while the other containers (70) remain attached thereto.

12. Device according to any one of claims 9-11, wherein
the distributor device (69) is designed to be connected also to the mixing container (3) or vice versa and to distribute the hardenable mass (2) discharged from the mixing space (4) of the mixing container (3) to the distributor device (69), to said containers (70).

13. Device according to claim 12, wherein
the distributor device (69) comprises a distributor body (72) with an axial inlet pipe (73) which can be located at an outlet or discharge end (74) of the mixing container (3) having a discharge opening (49) or vice versa.

14. Device according to claim 13, wherein
the inlet pipe (73) can be located at the discharge end (74) such that inner passages in the distributor body (72) communicate with the discharge opening (49).

15. Device according to claim 13 or 14, wherein
the distributor device (69) also comprises a number of discharge pipes (75-82) for connection to said containers (70) or vice versa and that said discharge pipes extend radially from the distributor body (72) and communicate with inner members thereof.

16. Device according to claim 15, wherein
the distributor device (69) comprises at least two, preferably eight discharge pipes (75-82) which extend in a star-like manner from the distributor body (72).

17. Device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein
the hardenable mass (2) is fed out of the space (71) of the container (70) by means of the piston (86) with support of a vacuum source (90).

Patentansprüche

1. Vorrichtung zur Aufnahme und zum Ausstoßen einer härtbaren Masse (2), vorzugsweise eines Knochenersatzstoffes und/oder Knochenverstärkungsmaterials oder Knochenzements oder eines ähnlichen Materials, welche Vorrichtung einen Behälter (70) umfasst, welcher mit einem beweglichen Kolben (86) zum Speisen der härtbaren Masse (2) aus einem Raum (71) des Behälters versehen ist, wobei der Behälter ein Vorderteil (84) und ein Hinterteil (85) aufweist, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** der Behälter (70) dazu ausgebildet ist, durch das Vorderteil (84) mit härtbarer Masse (2) gefüllt zu werden, und dass der Behälter (70) einen Gasaustritt (87) aufweist, welcher vor dem Kolben (86) ganz oder teilweise angeordnet ist, wenn sich der Kolben (86) im Hinterteil (85) des Behälters befindet, um zu ermöglichen, dass im Raum (71) des Behälters (70) be-

findliches Gas aus dem Raum (71) durch den Gasaustritt (87) strömen kann, wenn der Raum (71) durch das Vorderteil (84) des Behälters (70) mit härtbarer Masse (2) gefüllt wird.

2. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, wobei durch Bewegen des Kolbens (86) an dem Gasaustritt (87) vorbei die härtbare Masse (2) aus dem Raum (71) des Behälters (70) gespeist wird, wodurch der Kolben (86) gleichzeitig verhindert, dass die härtbare Masse (2) durch den Gasaustritt (87) ausgespeist wird.

3. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, wobei der Gasaustritt durch eine Öffnung (87) im Behälter (70) gebildet ist, welche beim Füllen des Raums (71) des Behälters mit härtbarer Masse (2) vor dem Kolben (86) angeordnet ist.

4. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1 oder 2, wobei der Gasaustritt durch einen axial an der Innenseite des Behälters (70) vorgesehenen Schlitz gebildet ist, welcher sich beim Füllern des Raums (71) des Behälters mit härtbarer Masse (2) über den Kolben (86) hinaus erstreckt.

5. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, wobei der Gasaustritt (87) im Hinterteil (85) des Behälters (70) vorgesehen ist und vor dem Kolben (86) ganz oder teilweise angeordnet ist, wenn sich der Kolben im Hinterteil (85) befindet, um zu ermöglichen, dass im Raum (71) des Behälters (70) befindliches Gas beim Füllen des Raums mit härtbarer Masse (2) durch ein Vorderteil (84) des Behälters (70) aus dem Raum (71) durch den Gasaustritt (87) strömen kann.

6. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 5, wobei durch Bewegen des Kolbens (86) von dem Hinterteil (85) des Behälters an dem Gasaustritt (87) vorbei auf das Vorderteil (84) des Behälters zu die härtbare Masse (2) aus dem Raum (71) des Behälters (70) gespeist wird, wodurch der Kolben (86) gleichzeitig verhindert, dass die härtbare Masse (2) durch den Gasaustritt (87) ausgespeist wird.

7. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 5 oder 6, wobei der Gasaustritt durch eine Öffnung (87) im Behälter (70) gebildet ist, welche vor dem Kolben (86) angeordnet ist, wenn sich der Kolben im Hinterteil (85) des Behälters befindet.

8. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 5 oder 6, wobei der Gasaustritt durch einen axial an der Innenseite des Behälters (70) vorgesehenen Schlitz gebildet ist, welcher sich über den Kolben (86) hinaus erstreckt, wenn sich der Kolben (86) im Hinterteil (85) des Behälters befindet.

9. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorgehenden Ansprüche, wobei der Behälter (70) mit einer Verteilervorrichtung (69) verbindbar ausgebildet ist, und zwei oder mehrere der Behälter (70) mit der Verteilervorrichtung (69) verbindbar sind, wobei härtbare Masse (2), welche aus mindestens einem Pulver und mindestens einem flüssigen Bestandteil (5, 6) in einem Mischraum (4) eines Mischbehälters (3) einer Vorrichtung zur Herstellung der härtbaren Masse vermischt ist, in die Verteilervorrichtung (69) zum Verteilen der härtbaren Masse (2) durch das Vorderteil in Räume (71) in den Behältern (70) derart ausgestoßen werden kann, dass jeder Raum mit einem Teilvolumen (2a) der härtbaren Masse gefüllt wird.

10. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 9, wobei das Vorderteil (84) von jeweils einem Behälter (70) mit der Verteilervorrichtung (69) derart verbindbar ist, dass sich ein Teilvolumen (2a) der Masse (2) in den Raum (71) des Behälters (70) speisen lässt, und dass nach dem Bestücken des Raums (71) des Behälters (70) mit einem Teilvolumen (2a) von Masse (2) eine Kanüle oder Nadel (83) am Vorderteil (84) angeordnet werden kann, durch welche Kanüle (83) sich das Teilvolumen (2a) von Masse (2) aus dem Raum speisen lässt.

11. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 9 oder 10, wobei ein Behälter (70) zur Zeit aus der Verteilervorrichtung (69) zu dessen Entleerung entfernt werden kann, während die übrigen Behälter (70) mit dieser verbunden bleiben.

12. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 9 bis 11, wobei die Verteilervorrichtung (69) auch mit dem Mischbehälter (3) oder umgekehrt verbindbar und zum Verteilen der vom Mischraum (4) des Mischbehälters (3) in die Verteilervorrichtung (69) ausgestoßenen härtbaren Masse (2) in die Behälter (70) ausgestaltet ist.

13. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 12, wobei die Verteilervorrichtung (69) einen Verteilerkörper (72) mit einem axialen Einlassrohr (73) umfasst, welches an einem Austritt oder Ausstoßende (74) des eine Ausstoßöffnung (49) aufweisenden Mischbehälters (3) angeordnet werden kann, oder umgekehrt.

14. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 13, wobei das Einlassrohr (73) am Ausstoßende (74) derart angeordnet werden kann, dass innere Durchlässe im Verteilerkörper (72) mit der Ausstoßöffnung (49) in Kommunikationsverbindung stehen.

15. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 13 oder 14, wobei die Verteilervorrichtung (69) auch eine Anzahl von Ausstoßrohren (75-82) zur Verbindung mit den Behältern (70) oder umgekehrt umfasst, und dass sich die Ausstoßrohre radial vom Verteilerkörper (72) er-

strecken und mit inneren Elementen davon in Kommunikationsverbindung stehen.

16. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 15, wobei die Verteilervorrichtung (69) mindestens zwei, vorzugsweise acht Ausstoßrohre (75-82) umfasst, welche sich vom Verteilerkörper (72) aus in einer sternartigen Weise erstrecken.

17. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorgehenden Ansprüche, wobei die härtbare masse (2) mittels des Kolbens (86) anhand einer Vakuumquelle (90) aus dem Raum (71) des Behälters (70) gespeist wird.

Revendications

1. Dispositif pour recevoir et décharger une composition durcissable (2), de préférence un substitut osseux et/ou un matériau de renforcement des os ou un ciment osseux ou un matériau similaire, ledit dispositif comprenant un récipient (70) pourvu d'un piston mobile (86) pour alimenter la composition durcissable (2) depuis un espace (71) du récipient, le récipient ayant une partie avant (84) et une partie arrière (85),
caractérisé en ce
que le récipient (70) est adapté pour être rempli de la composition durcissable (2) à travers la partie avant (84) et que le récipient (70) a une sortie de gaz (87) qui est entièrement ou partiellement située devant le piston (86) lorsque ledit piston (86) est situé dans la partie arrière (85) du récipient pour permettre au gaz présent dans l'espace (71) du récipient (70) de s'écouler hors dudit espace (71) à travers ladite sortie de gaz (87) lorsque ledit espace est rempli de la composition durcissable (2) à travers la partie avant (84) du récipient (70).

2. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la composition durcissable (2) est alimentée hors de l'espace (71) du récipient (70) en déplaçant le piston (86) au-delà de la sortie de gaz (87), ledit piston (86) empêchant simultanément de ce fait que ladite composition durcissable (2) ne soit déchargée du récipient à travers ladite sortie de gaz (87).

3. Dispositif selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel la sortie de gaz est constituée d'une ouverture (87) dans le récipient (70), qui est située devant le piston (86) lorsque l'espace (71) du récipient est rempli de composition durcissable (2).

4. Dispositif selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel la sortie de gaz est constituée d'une gorge qui est prévue axialement dans le côté interne du récipient (70) et qui s'étend au-delà du piston (86) lorsque l'espace (71) du récipient est rempli de composition durcissable (2).

5. Dispositif selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la sortie de gaz (87) est prévue dans la partie arrière (85) du récipient (70) et est entièrement ou partiellement située devant le piston (86) lorsque ledit piston est situé dans ladite partie arrière (85) afin de permettre au gaz présent dans l'espace (71) du récipient (70) de s'écouler hors dudit espace (71) à travers ladite sortie de gaz (87) lorsque ledit espace est rempli de composition durcissable (2) à travers une partie avant (84) du récipient (70).

6. Dispositif selon la revendication 5, dans lequel la composition durcissable (2) est alimentée hors de l'espace (71) du récipient (70) en déplaçant le piston (86) depuis ladite partie arrière (85) du récipient devant la sortie de gaz (87) vers la partie avant (84) du récipient, ledit piston (86) empêchant ainsi simultanément ladite composition durcissable (2) d'être déchargée du récipient à travers ladite sortie de gaz (87).

7. Dispositif selon la revendication 5 ou 6, dans lequel la sortie de gaz est constituée d'une ouverture (87) dans le récipient (70) qui est située devant le piston (86) lorsque ledit piston est situé dans ladite partie arrière (85) du récipient.

8. Dispositif selon la revendication 5 ou 6, dans lequel la sortie de gaz est constituée d'une gorge qui est prévue axialement dans le côté interne du récipient (70) et qui s'étend au-delà du piston (86) lorsque ledit piston est situé dans ladite partie arrière (85) du récipient.

9. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel le récipient (70) est prévu pour être connecté à un dispositif distributeur (69) et deux ou plusieurs récipients (70) peuvent être connectés audit dispositif distributeur (69), la composition durcissable (2) mélangée constituée d'au moins une poudre et d'au moins un constituant liquide (5,6) dans un espace de mélange (4) d'un récipient de mélange (3) d'un dispositif pour produire la composition durcissable pouvant être déchargée dans le dispositif distributeur (69) en vue de la distribution de la composition durcissable (2) à travers la partie avant jusque dans des espaces (71) dans les récipients (70) de telle sorte que chaque espace soit rempli d'un volume partiel (2a) de la composition durcissable.

10. Dispositif selon la revendication 9, dans lequel la partie avant (84) de chaque récipient (70) peut être connectée au dispositif distributeur (69) de telle sorte qu'un volume partiel (2a) de la composition (2) puisse être alimenté dans l'espace (71) du récipient (70),

et
une canule ou une aiguille (83) peut être située au niveau de la partie avant (84) après que l'espace (71) du récipient (70) a été pourvu d'un volume partiel (2a) de composition (2), à travers laquelle canule (83) ledit volume partiel (2a) de composition (2) peut être alimenté hors dudit espace (71).

11. Dispositif selon la revendication 9 ou 10, dans lequel un récipient (70) à la fois peut être retiré du dispositif distributeur (69) pour le vider, tandis que les autres récipients (70) restent attachés à celui-ci.

12. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications 9 à 11, dans lequel le dispositif distributeur (69) est conçu pour être connecté aussi au récipient de mélange (3) ou vice versa, et pour distribuer la composition durcissable (2) déchargée de l'espace de mélange (4) du récipient de mélange (3) dans le dispositif distributeur (69), jusqu'auxdits récipients (70).

13. Dispositif selon la revendication 12, dans lequel le dispositif distributeur (69) comprend un corps de distributeur (72) avec un tube d'entrée axial (73) qui peut être situé à une extrémité de sortie ou de décharge (74) du récipient de mélange (3) ayant une ouverture de décharge (49) ou vice versa.

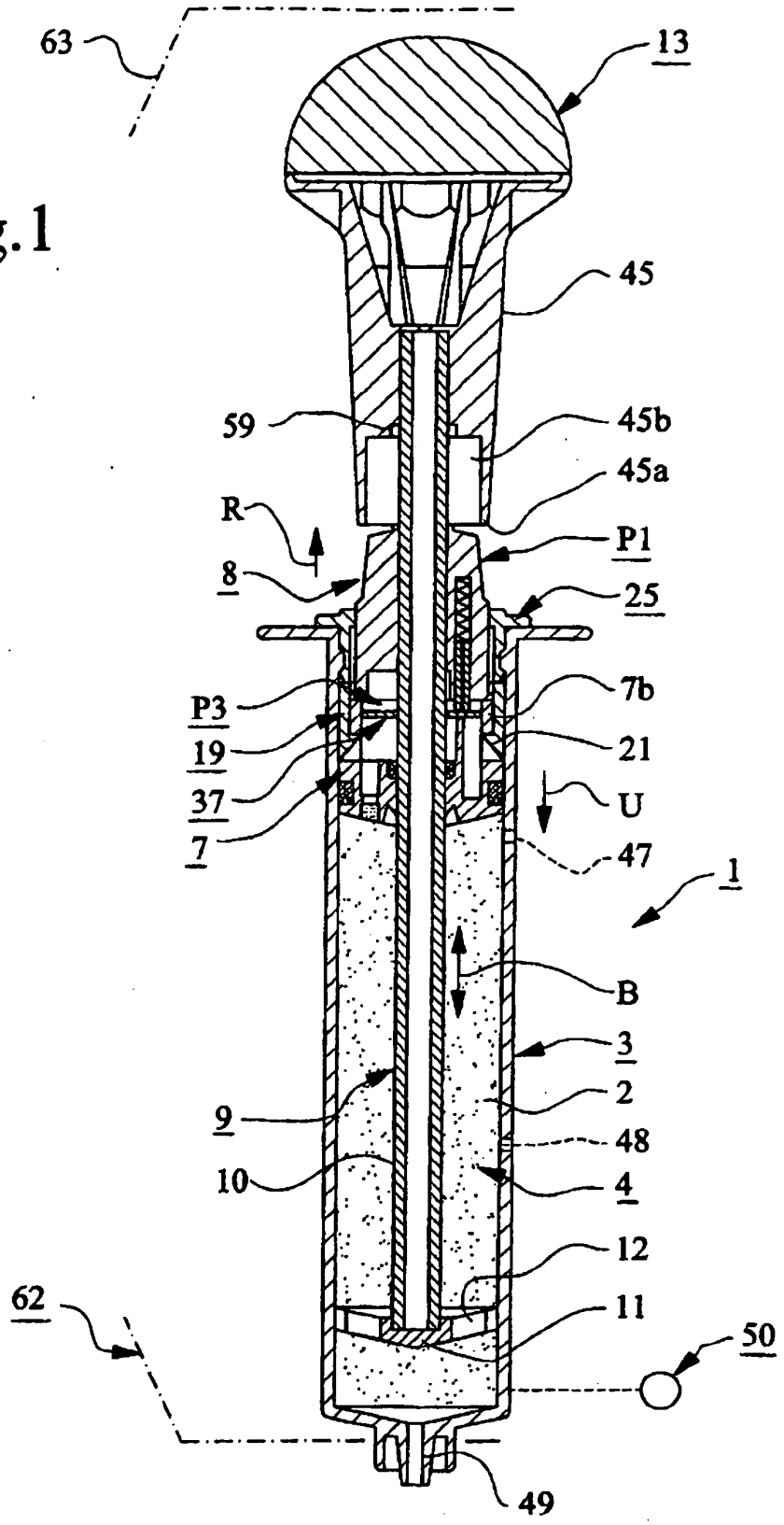
14. Dispositif selon la revendication 13, dans lequel le tube d'entrée (73) peut être situé au niveau de l'extrémité de décharge (74) de telle sorte que des passages internes dans le corps du distributeur (72) communiquent avec l'ouverture de décharge (49).

15. Dispositif selon la revendication 13 ou 14, dans lequel le dispositif distributeur (69) comprend également un certain nombre de tubes de décharge (75-82) pour la connexion auxdits récipients (70) ou vice versa, et en ce que lesdits tubes de décharge s'étendent radialement depuis le corps de distributeur (72) et communiquent avec des organes internes de celui-ci.

16. Dispositif selon la revendication 15, dans lequel le dispositif distributeur (69) comprend au moins deux, et de préférence huit tubes de décharge (75-82) qui s'étendent suivant un motif en étoile depuis le corps de distributeur (72).

17. Dispositif selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel la composition durcissable (2) est alimentée hors de l'espace (71) du récipient (70) au moyen du piston (86) avec l'assistance d'une source de vide (90).

Fig.1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45a
R
P1
8
25
7b
P3
21
19
U
37
47
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B
3
2
9
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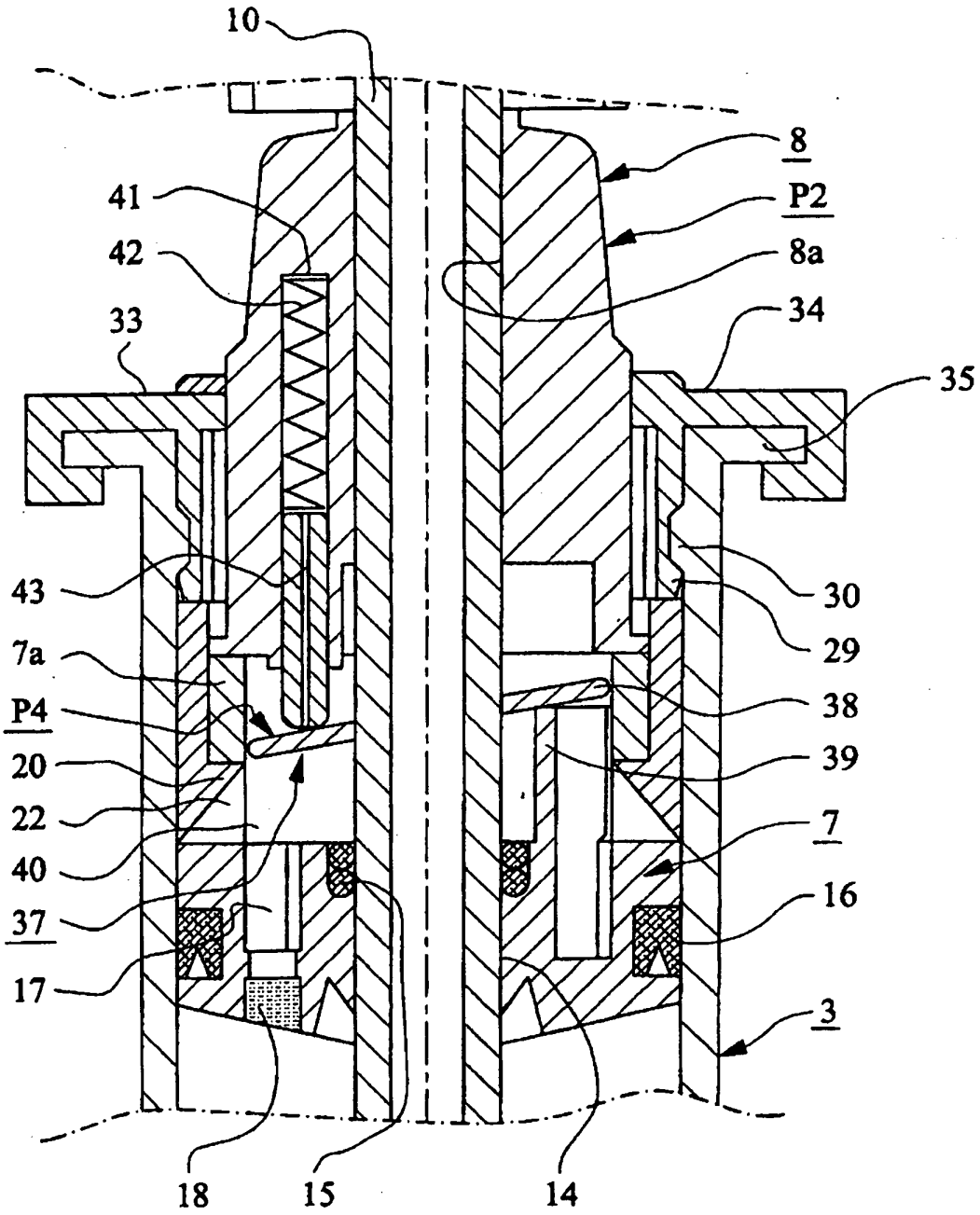
10
4
12
11
62
50
49

Fig.2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P4
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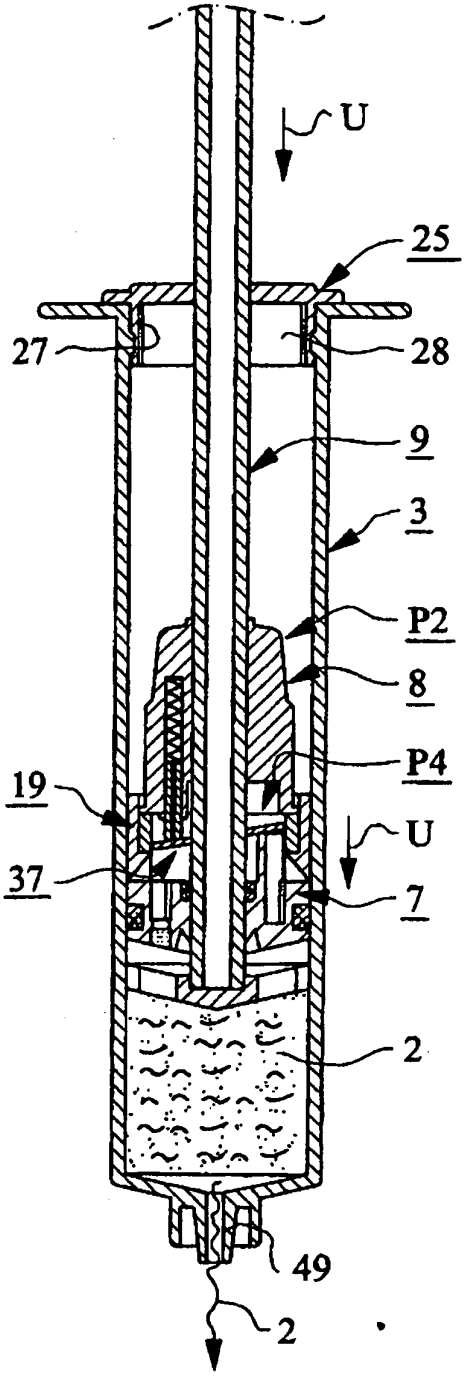
14

Fig.3



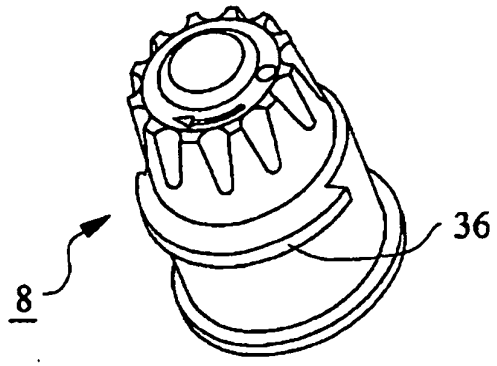


Fig.7

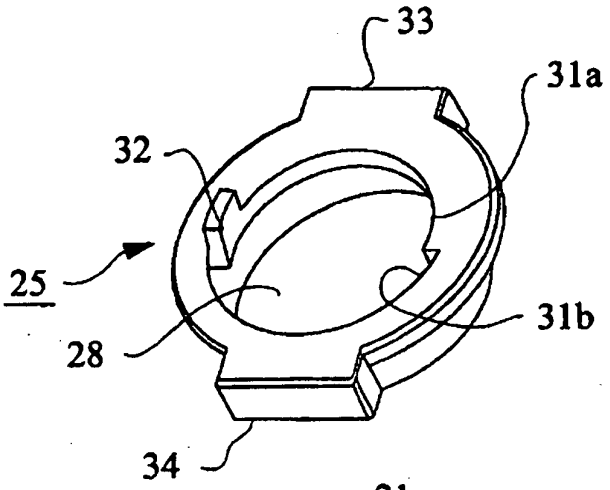


Fig.4

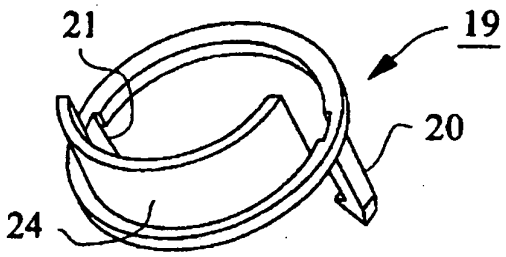


Fig.6

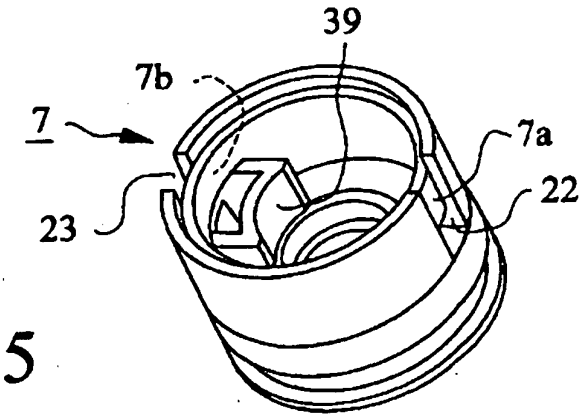


Fig.5

Fig.8

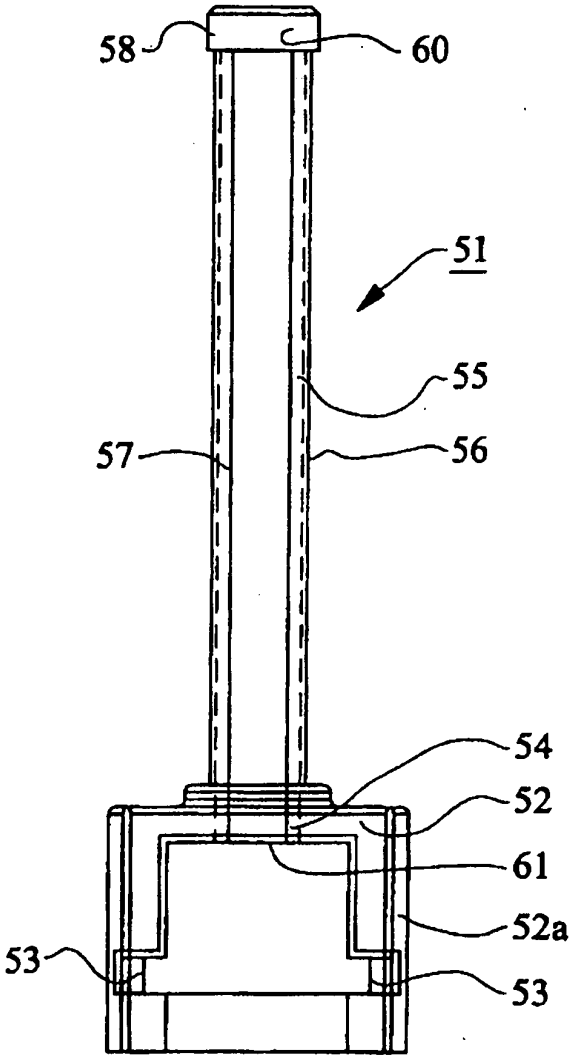


Fig.9

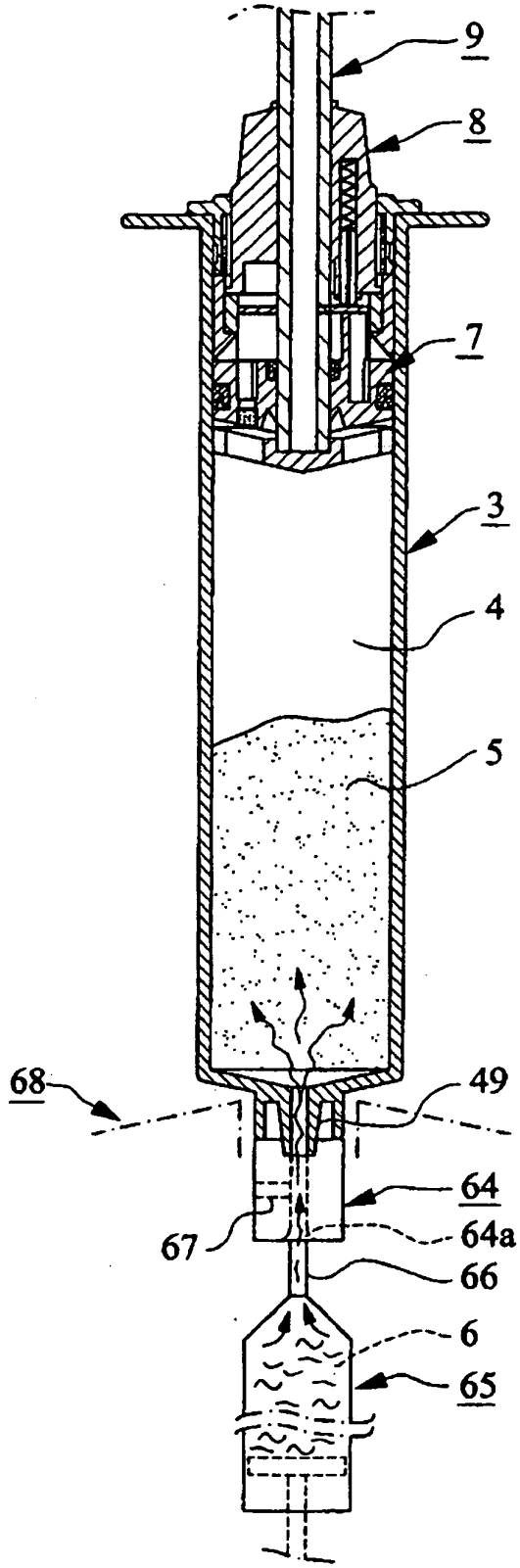


Fig.10

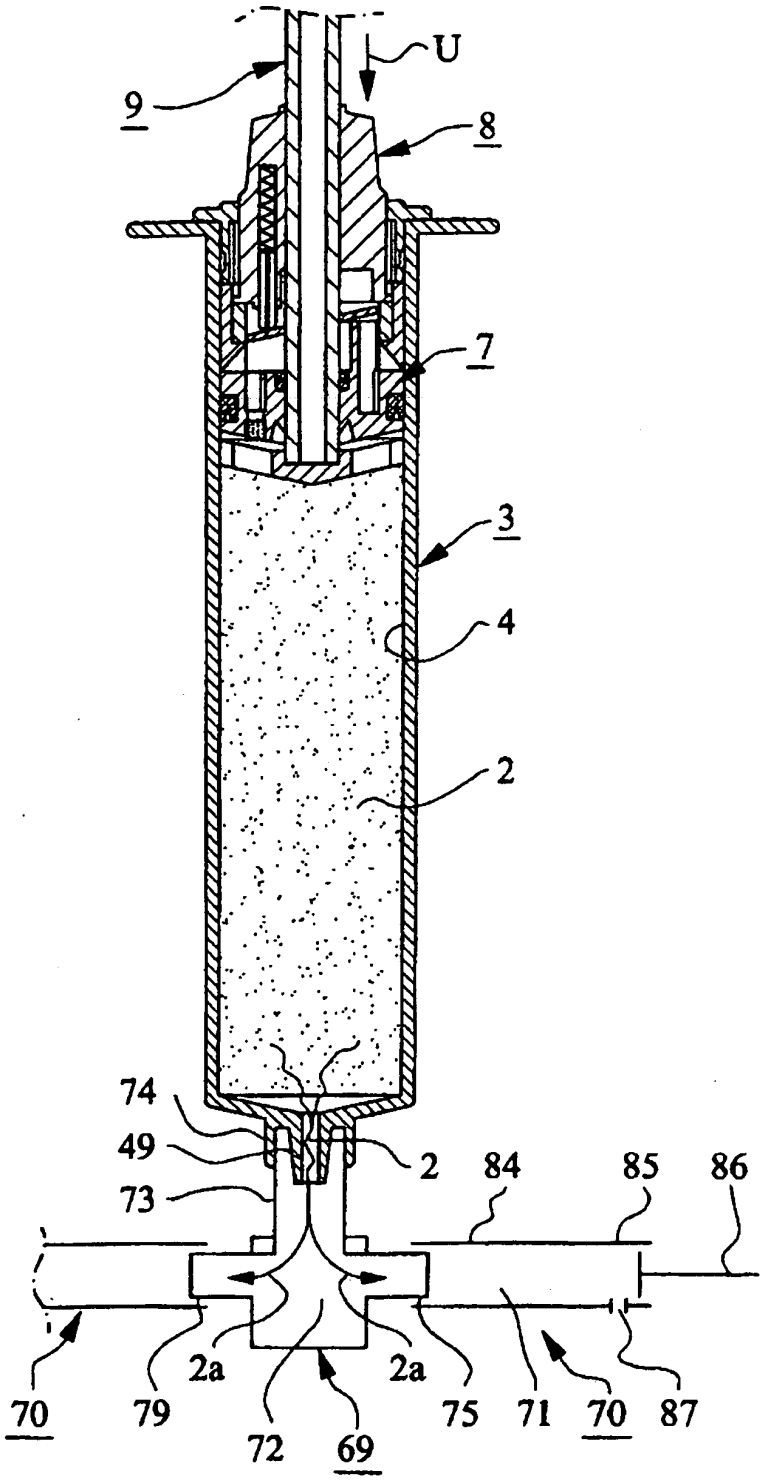


Fig.11

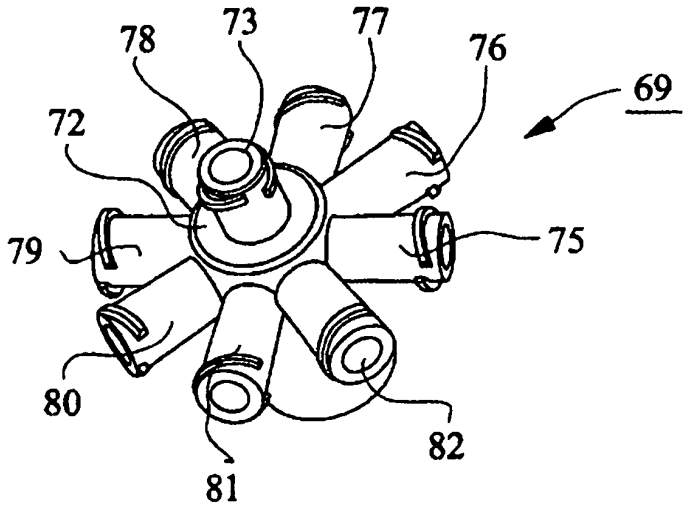


Fig.12