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The present invention relates to a device for packaging and mucosal administration of active principles.

Methods exist of diffusing active principles by sublingual and/or paragingival permeation that offer numerous advantages.

Such diffusion methods enable action to be obtained much more quickly, with much smaller doses of active principles and in a much more targeted manner, thereby eliminating very many side effects. These side effects are generated in particular by the fact that medicines for oral administration are metabolized by various digestive organs prior to diffusing towards the intended targets of their active principles.

Although mucosal administration is a particularly attractive technique, it nevertheless remains associated with constraints that need to be mitigated in order to enable it to be easy for patients to use.

The active principles in solution, in particular in alcohol-based solutions, need to be packaged in single doses, said packaging also needing to be suitable for enabling mucosal, or sublingual, or paragingival administration.

A first constraint is the extremely small volume of the dose that is to be administered, of the order of 0.25 milliliters (mL) to 2 mL, to give an order of magnitude.

The solution is also fragile with respect to light and/or air, suffering from oxidation phenomena and being sensitive to evaporation phenomena. The solution may also be subject to absorption or ionization phenomena in contact with the walls of the container, thus making it necessary to use materials that are inert and particularly protective.

However, the solution, particularly when an alcohol-based solution, must conserve its degree of alcohol and constant dissolution stability for the packaged active principle(s), since these parameters are adapted for good permeation. Furthermore, the degree of alcohol is adjusted so as to conserve the active principles themselves.

It is important to conserve the initially designed degree of alcohol.

Furthermore, for certain unstable pharmacological substances, it is necessary for them to be dissolved only extemporaneously, i.e. at the time of administration, otherwise they are spoilt and thus no longer active.

An ever present constraint for such single-dose packaging is the cost of manufacture, which cost needs to be extremely small given the number of packages to be made and because each package is used on a single occasion only. It is also necessary to encourage recycling after use. Nevertheless, the packaging must comply with requirements concerning safety and asepsis, in particular while providing the looked-for practical and ergonomic features needed to guarantee that self-medication can be made easily available.

That is why the present invention provides a container for preparing and/or administering a very small volume of active principles in liquid form, the container comprising a head suitable for taking up a conservation, first position in which said head is in a distal position relative to the container, and an administration, second position in which said head is in a proximal position relative to the container, said head including a cannula with at least one flow channel, its length being adapted so that the free end of the flow channel can enable delivery by sublingual and/or paragingival permeation, while the container is being held in the hand.

The term "very small volume" is used to mean a volume for administration that lies in the range 0.1 mL to 5 mL.

5 The device is particularly suitable for preparing and administering active principles and/or antigen substances for pharmaceutical, homeopathic, and/or allergy desensitization treatments.

10 The packaging of the present invention is described below in detail in a particular, non-limiting embodiment, and with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which drawings, the various figures show:

- Figure 1: a perspective view from the side of the packaging of the present invention;
- Figure 2A: a section view of the packaging of the present invention, prior to any use, and ready for use;
- Figure 2B: a section view of the packaging of the invention after implementing various means enabling it to be used, ready for immediate therapeutic administration;
- Figure 3: packaging with a gripper and handling blade located at the bottom;
- Figure 4: a section view of variant packaging of the invention, having a plurality of compartments; and
- Figures 5A to 5C: a diagrammatic summary of the operation of a variant of the packaging of the present invention.

Figure 1 shows a container 10 that may be made of any material that prevents evaporation through its wall and that is suitable for preventing light from acting on its content.

30 Such a container may be made of any material adapted to the intended applications and packaged substances, such as glass, metal, plastics material, or an association of these materials.

35 The container is advantageously made of glass, preferably thick, opaque glass of pharmaceutical quality, presenting high strength and a section that is square, oval, rectangular, triangular, or round.

In order to make the drawings clear, the items are voluntarily not drawn to scale.

5 The container 10 includes a head 12 that is secured thereto in movable manner, being free to move at least in translation relative to said container.

The head is suitable for taking a first position P1 for conservation in which said head 12 is in a distal position relative to the container 10, and a second position P2 for administration in which said head 12 is
10 in a proximal position relative to the container 10.

The head 12 includes a cannula 14, having at least one flow channel 16.

Its length is such that the free end of the flow channel 16 can be received in particular under the tongue
15 of the user or against the gum, while the container is being held in the hand.

In addition to the flow channel 16, the cannula 14 has at least one air intake 18, e.g. a second channel 20. The second channel 20 may be coaxial and outside the
20 first channel 16, or it may be juxtaposed therewith, for example. Air may also be taken in via the first channel, depending on its diameter, the liquid solution being an alcohol-based solution and thus having very low viscosity.

25 At its free end, the cannula 14 has a mouthpiece cover 22. The mouthpiece cover 22 is a sealed safety stopper, e.g. sealed and breakable by being twisted off in the first embodiment, or else by being pulled off or by being cut off.

30 The cannula 14 is secured to the head 12 and is advantageously made integrally with said head. The material may be suitable polymer material.

The cannula 14 includes perforation means 24 at its root.

35 The container 10 and the head 12 are fitted with means 26 for enabling said head 12 to move in translation from the distal position to the proximal position.

The container is also provided with safety locking means 28 so as to prevent any unwanted movement in translation of the head 12 relative to the container 10.

In the preferred embodiment, the means 26 for
5 movement in translation comprise an assembly of a screw thread 30 carried by the container 10, more particularly by the neck 32 of the container, and a tapping 34 of profile complementary to the screw thread of the container and carried by the head 12 so as to co-operate
10 therewith by screw fastening.

The locking means 28 comprise a removable ring 36 interposed between the head 12 in the distal position and the container 10, more particularly the shoulder 38 of said container when it has one, and as shown in the
15 embodiment of Figures 1 and 2.

The ring 36 has a C-shaped profile and is mounted elastically on the screw thread 30 carried by the container 10, thereby preventing the head 12 from moving in translation relative to the container 10.

20 In complementary manner, the opening of the neck 32 of the container 10 is provided with a sealed capsule 40 suitable for being perforated by the perforation means 24.

Advantageously, in order to ensure that all of the
25 medicinal composition in liquid form is administered, the head 12 includes total flow means 42. These flow means 42 comprise internally a conical bottom, the cannula 14 being provided not only with the perforation means 24, but also with through holes 44 located immediately
30 upstream from the bottom relative to the flow direction, and in communication with the flow channel 16. Under such circumstances, the perforation means 24 comprise solely a point.

Thus, the container 10 is filled with the medicinal
35 composition in liquid form for mucosal administration and then the container 10 is closed in leaktight manner by putting the capsule 40 in position, which capsule then

acts as a sealing membrane, particularly for an alcohol-based solution.

The ring 36 is placed on the neck around the screw thread 30, and then the head 12 is fitted on by screw
5 fastening until it comes into abutment against the ring 36.

The mouthpiece cover 22 is in place on the cannula 14, closing the flow channel 16 and the channel 20 of the air intake 18.

10 In this conservation position, the packaging is not suitable for use and it may be stored without spoiling its content and without risk of being accessible to young children.

When the user seeks to self-administer the medicinal
15 composition or to administer it to a third party, it suffices to remove the ring 36 merely by pulling it off and then to screw down the head 12.

This causes said head to move in translation, thereby causing the perforation means to tear the capsule
20 that was providing sealing, thereby enabling the liquid to flow towards the cannula when the container is turned upside-down.

Removing the mouthpiece 22 before turning the container upside-down, e.g. by twisting said mouthpiece
25 off, enables the composition to be delivered via the end of the cannula 14 positioned under the tongue or between the gum and the tongue or between the cheek and the gum, with the length of the cannula 14 being suitable for this purpose.

30 Thus, the composition is dispensed at exactly the location where it is most effective, with this applying to the entire volume contained.

It should be observed that the air intake enables the volume to be dispensed quickly, which volume, even
35 though it is small, needs to be dispensed in a very short length of time, of the order of one second, to give an order of magnitude.

For this purpose, the inside diameter of the flow channel 16 needs to be relatively large, of the order of 2 millimeters for the above-mentioned quantities, lying in the range 0.25 mL to 2 mL. This proportionally large diameter can enable air to flow back therealong in order to facilitate fast flow.

When using a container of the thick glass bottle type, it is possible to make use of a special arrangement.

10 Either the neck carries a screw thread 30 formed together with the container, or else the neck is smooth. With a smooth neck, the movement means include a ferrule that is fastened directly in fixed manner on said neck of the container, e.g. by crimping, said ferrule having the screw thread 30 needed for co-operating with the tapping 15 34 in the head 12.

Under such circumstances, the glass container is filled with the composition and then the capsule is applied. Thereafter, the ferrule is fitted on the neck 20 and is crimped, and then the ring 36 is positioned, and then the head 12 is in turn put into place.

For utilization, the user acts in exactly the same manner as described above.

As described above, the dimensions of the bottle are 25 shown exaggerated in order to reveal details of its structure, but it should be understood that a container having a content of 0.25 mL to 2 mL is extremely small and difficult to handle.

Thus, the present invention proposes an improvement 30 to the container, which improvement consists in adding a gripper blade 46 that is advantageously located at the bottom portion of the body of the container 10.

The gripper blade 46 enables a firm grip to be obtained between two fingers, in spite of the small size 35 of the container, thus enabling the user to turn the head 12.

Similarly, the head 12 may include gripper means 48 on its peripheral outside surface, such as fins 50, as shown in the drawings.

The user can thus act by applying torque between the
5 container 10 and the head 12.

It should also be observed that the gripper blade 46 also presents an advantage in handling after the head has been turned relative to the container and after the mouthpiece cover has been removed, by making it easy to
10 handle the container when preparing it for use by positioning the cannula 14 in the desired location.

In a variant, the ring 36 may be a plastics collar suitable for being torn off or uncrimped. In order to make these operations of removing the collar easier, an
15 external grippable pull tab may be added to the collar.

Similarly, prior to putting the capsule into place, filling may be performed under an inert gas atmosphere in order to preserve the content.

In another variant of the invention as shown in
20 Figure 4, the container 10 has at least two compartments 52, each compartment being separated by a leaktight capsule 54.

Each compartment contains at least an active principle, an excipient, an antigen substance, and/or a
25 solvent.

The device also has perforation means 24 suitable for tearing the capsules 40 and/or 54, said means preferably being located at the root of the cannula 14 and/or in contiguity with the compartments 52 so as to be
30 capable of causing the substances to be mixed together in a determined order.

When the user desires to administer the medicinal composition, the user pulls off the ring 36 and then screws down the head 12. This causes said head to move
35 in translation, thereby causing the perforation means to tear the capsule(s) 40 and/or 54, thus enabling the substances contained in each of the compartments 52 to

mix so as to obtain a liquid that flows towards the cannula when the container is turned upside-down.

The head 12 may also contain an active principle, an excipient, an antigen substance, and/or a solvent, e.g.

5 in the cannula 14. The head 12 may also present a plurality of compartments separated by a capsule 66.

The substance contained in the head 12 may be in the form of a powder, a tablet, a lyophilized tablet, a liquid microcapsule, etc. When the head moves in
10 translation, the perforation means tear the capsule(s) 40 and/or 54 and/or 66 enabling the substances contained in the head 12, in particular in the cannula 14, and in each of the compartments 52 to mix together. Similarly, if the substance contained in the head 12 is encapsulated,
15 the perforation means tear the membrane encapsulating said substance prior to perforating the capsules 40 and/or 54 and/or 66.

The substance contained in the head 12 may also be in the form of a liquid contained in the cannula 14 of
20 the head 12, as shown in Figure 5. The cannula 14 then includes a top portion 56 containing the liquid sealed by a leakproof capsule 62, and a bottom portion 58, which portions are separated by a screw thread 60. Initial turning of the head 12 on the screw thread 30 causes the
25 portion 28 to tear the capsule 40 that was sealing the container 10. Further turning causes the portion 58 to come into abutment against the screw thread 30. The cannula 14 then turns on the second screw thread 60, thereby tearing the capsule 62 that was sealing the
30 cannula. The liquid in the head 12 is thus released and the substances that were previously separated can mix together.

These forms of container of the invention with at least two compartments 52 and/or a head 12 containing one
35 or more substances, are particularly adapted to active principles and substances that are not stable in solution. This applies in particular to lipophilic

active principles that, although perfectly soluble in water and alcohol solutions, present unstable behavior with the risk of becoming denatured and of forming undesirable compounds.

5 The container of the invention enables the active principle to be protected, i.e. the excipient and/or antigen substance in the form of a powder, a lyophilized tablet, a tablet, a liquid microcapsule, etc., and to achieve extemporaneous dissolution in a solvent
10 immediately prior to administration. With certain complex components that spoil one another, it is thus possible to prepare a device having a plurality of separate compartments enabling these various poorly compatible substances to be assembled together in
15 succession immediately before being administered, with this being done in a determined order.

 The container of the invention may be used for preparing and/or administering active principles and/or antigen substances for purposes of pharmaceutical,
20 homeopathic, and/or allergy desensitization treatments, in particular by passing via a mucous membrane.

PATENTKRAV

1. Enkeltdosisindretning til emballering, præparering og indgivelse via mundslimhinden af et volumen af en alkoholisk opløsning, som indeholder i det mindste ét lipofilt aktivstof, 5 omfattende en beholder (10), et hovedstykke (12), som kan indtage en første opbevaringsposition P1, i hvilken hovedstykket (12) befinder sig distalt i forhold til beholderen (10), og en anden indgivelsesposition P2, i hvilken hovedstykket (12) befinder sig proksimalt i forhold til beholderen (10), hvilket hovedstykke (12) omfatter en kanylen (14) med i det mindste én strømningskanal (16), idet længden er tilpasset 10 således, at den frie ende af strømningskanalen (16) muliggør en afgivelse via sublingual og/eller paragingival permeation, når beholderen holdes i hånden, hvilken indretning omfatter i det mindste to kamre (52; 56), som er adskilt af et tæt låg (40; 54; 62), idet hvert kammer (52; 56) indeholder i det mindste et aktivstof og/eller en excipiens og/eller en antigen substans og/eller et opløsningsmiddel, hvilken indretning omfatter organer 15 (24) til at perforere låget eller lågene (40; 54; 62), idet perforeringsorganerne (24) er anbragt således ved den nederste del af kanylen (14), at der opnås en fastlagt rækkefølge af blanding af de i kamrene indeholdte substanser, idet volumen af beholderen ligger imellem 0,25 ml og 2 ml, **kendetegnet ved, at** kanylen (14) før betjening indeholder et aktivstof, en antigen substans, en excipiens og/eller et 20 opløsningsmiddel.
2. Indretning ifølge krav 1, som omfatter bevægelsesorganer (26) til at bevæge hovedet (12) translatorisk, hvilke organer omfatter et arrangement af et skruegevind (30), som er båret af beholderen (10) et gevind (34) med et profil, som er komplementær til 25 skruegevindet på beholderen, og som er båret af hovedet (12), til at samvirke ved skruebevægelse.
3. Indretning ifølge krav 1 eller 2, som omfatter sikkerhedslåseorganer (28) til at forhindre enhver uønsket translatorisk bevægelse af hovedet (12) i forhold til beholderen 30 (10).
4. Indretning ifølge krav 3, hvor låseorganerne (28) omfatter en aftagelig ring (36), som er placeret imellem hovedet (12) i den distale position og beholderen (10).
- 35 5. Indretning ifølge ethvert af de foregående krav, hvor kanylen (14) er forsynet med et mundstykkedæksel (22) til sikkerhedsformål, som kan brækkes af.

6. Indretning ifølge ethvert af de foregående krav, som omfatter en hals (32), idet åbningen i halsen er forsynet med et lækagetæt dæksel (40).
- 5 7. Indretning ifølge ethvert af de foregående krav, som omfatter en gribeplade (46) placeret ved bunddelen af kroppen af beholderen (10) for at muliggøre at denne gribes sikkert imellem to fingre.
8. Indretning ifølge ethvert af de foregående krav, hvor hovedet (12) omfatter gribe-
10 organer (48) på dettes perifere udvendige overflade.
9. Indretning ifølge ethvert af de foregående krav, hvor beholderen er egnet til at indgive aktivstoffer og/eller antigene substanser, med henblik på farmaceutisk, homøopatisk behandling og/eller desensibilisering af allergi.

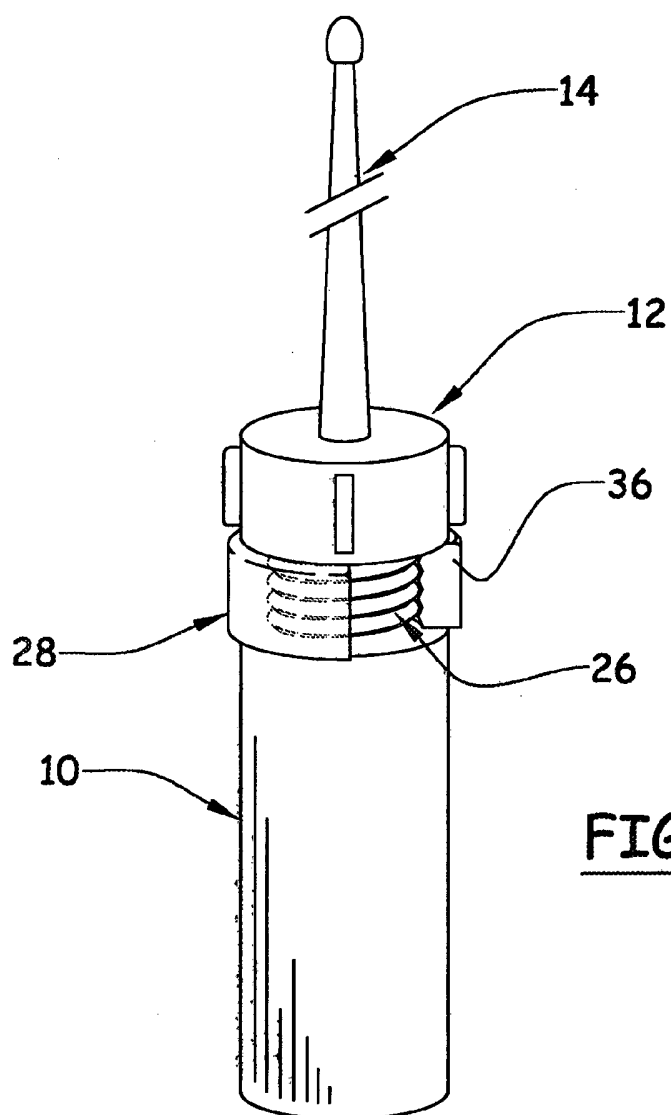


FIG.1

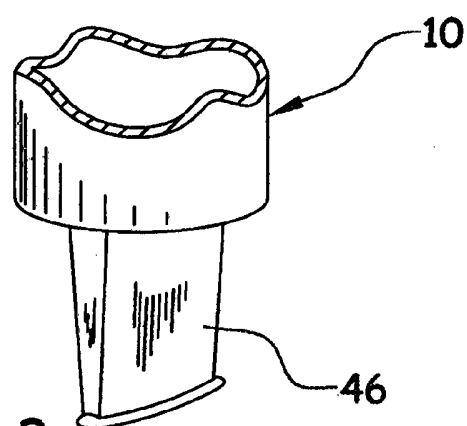


FIG.3

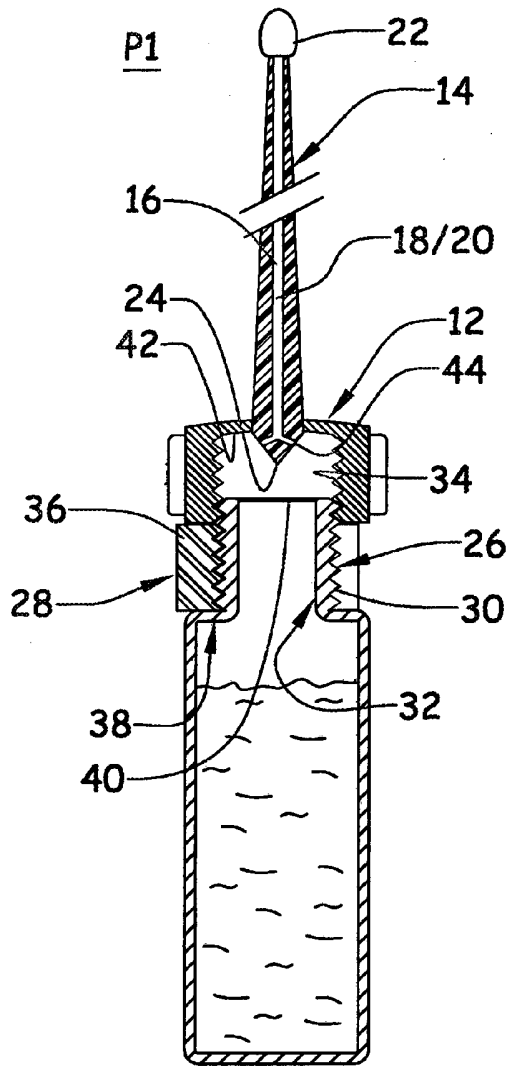


FIG.2A

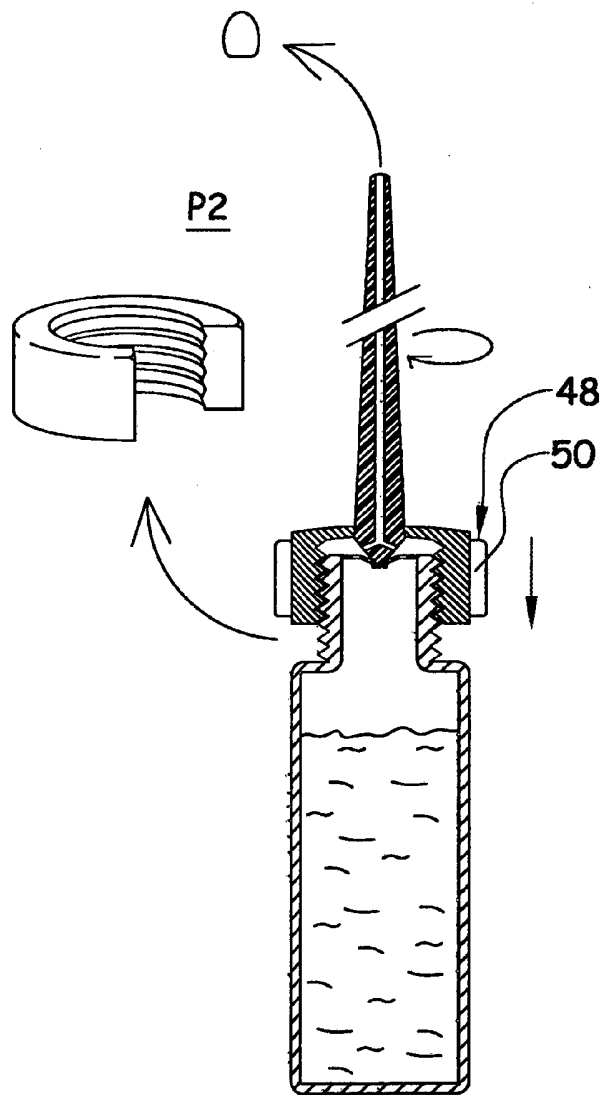


FIG.2B

