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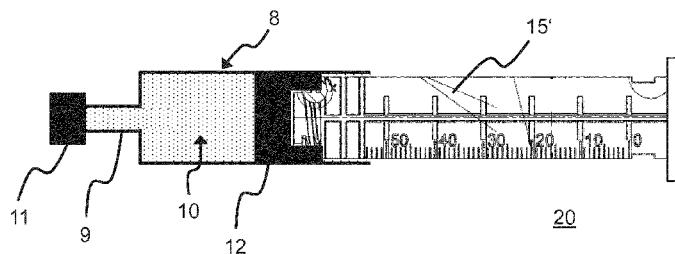
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**(54) Title: PLUNGER ROD COMPRISING AT LEAST THREE ANNULAR ELEMENTS FOR A PREFILLED SYRINGE**

**(54) Bezeichnung : KOLBENSTANGE MIT WENIGSTENS DREI RINGELEMENTEN FÜR EINE VORGEFÜLLTE SPRITZE**



**Fig. 1.b**

**(57) Abstract:** The invention relates to a plunger rod for a syringe body which is prefilled with a medical fluid and to a prefilled syringe comprising such a plunger rod. The prefilled syringe (20) comprises the following components: a syringe body (8) filled with a medical fluid (10), which has a nozzle (9) at a front side, the nozzle being closed with a cap (11), and which is closed at a rear side with a displaceable plunger (12); and a plunger rod (15', 15", 15'', 15''') that can be inserted into the syringe body (8) via the rear side, said plunger rod having a connecting portion (1) at a front side, via which the plunger rod (15', 15", 15'', 15''') can be connected to the plunger (12). According to the invention, at least three annular elements (2a, 2b, 2c), which extend at least in some sections about a longitudinal axis of the plunger rod (15', 15", 15'', 15'''), are arranged on a rear side of the connecting portion (1) on the plunger rod (15', 15", 15'', 15''') in such a manner that they are located in the syringe body when the plunger rod (15', 15", 15'', 15''') is fully connected to the plunger (12). The three annular elements support a coaxial connection of the plunger rod to the plunger positioned in the syringe. During the connection of the plunger rod to the plunger, the three annular elements allow the user a haptic and/or acoustic control whether he connects the plunger rod properly to the plunger.

**(57) Zusammenfassung:**

*[Fortsetzung auf der nächsten Seite]*

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Die Erfindung betrifft eine Kolbenstange für einen mit einer medizinischen Flüssigkeit vorgefüllten Spritzenkörper und eine vorgefüllte Spritze umfassend eine solche Kolbenstange. Die vorgefüllte Spritze (20) umfasst die folgenden Komponenten: einen mit einer medizinischen Flüssigkeit (10) befüllten Spritzenkörper (8), der an einer Vorderseite eine Düse (9) aufweist, die mit einer Kappe (11) verschlossen ist, und der an einer Rückseite mit einem verschiebbaren Kolben (12) verschlossen ist, und eine über die Rückseite in den Spritzenkörper (8) einführbare Kolbenstange (15', 15", 15'', 15'''), die an einer Vorderseite einen Verbindungsabschnitt (1) aufweist, über den die Kolbenstange (15', 15", 15'', 15''') mit dem Kolben (12) verbindbar ist, wobei an einer Rückseite des Verbindungsabschnitts (1) wenigstens drei Ringelemente (2a, 2b, 2c), die sich zumindest abschnittsweise um eine Längsachse der Kolbenstange (15', 15", 15'', 15''') erstrecken, so an der Kolbenstange (15', 15", 15'', 15''') angeordnet sind, dass sie sich, wenn die Kolbenstange (15', 15", 15'', 15''') vollständig mit dem Kolben (12) verbunden ist, in dem Spritzenkörper befinden. Die drei Ringelemente unterstützen ein koaxiales Verbinden der Kolbenstange mit dem in der Spritze positionierten Kolben. Die drei Ringelemente ermöglichen dem Anwender beim Verbinden der Kolbenstange mit dem Kolben eine haptische und/oder akustische Kontrolle, ob er die Kolbenstange ordnungsgemäß mit dem Kolben verbindet.

## **PLUNGER ROD COMPRISING AT LEAST THREE ANNULAR ELEMENTS FOR A PREFILLED SYRINGE**

### **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

[0001] The invention relates to a plunger rod for a syringe body prefilled with a medical fluid and to a syringe including the plunger rod and the syringe body prefilled with the medical fluid.

### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0002] Any discussion of the prior art throughout the specification should in no way be considered as an admission that such prior art is widely known or forms part of common general knowledge in the field.

[0003] WO 2014/053560 A1 discloses a syringe prefilled with a medical fluid. In one embodiment, the plunger rod and the syringe body are mounted located side by side in an over pack. To use the syringe, the plunger rod and the syringe body have first to be removed out of the over pack. The plunger rod is then screwed into the plunger closing the rear end of the syringe body. The content of the named patent application is incorporated fully into the present patent application by reference.

### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

[0004] Advantageously, the invention provides an improved plunger rod. Preferably, the inserting, in particular the screwing, of the plunger rod into the plunger is to be improved. Further preferably, leakage caused by tilting the plunger is to be avoided where possible. In addition, the guiding of the plunger rod in the syringe body is preferably to be improved, in particular when using the syringe in a syringe pump.

[0005] It is an object of the present invention to overcome or ameliorate at least one of the disadvantages of the prior art, or to provide a useful alternative.

[0006] The prefilled syringe according to the invention includes the following component parts: a syringe body which is filled with a medical fluid and comprises on a front end a nozzle, which is closed by way of a cap, and which is closed on a rear end by way of a displaceable plunger, and a plunger rod which is insertable into the syringe body via the rear end and comprises on a front end a connecting portion, by means of which the plunger rod is connectable to the displaceable plunger, wherein at least three annular elements configured to

guide the plunger rod in the syringe body, which extend at least in portions about a longitudinal axis of the plunger rod, are arranged on the plunger rod on a rear end of the connecting portion such that when the plunger rod is fully connected to the plunger, they are situated in the syringe body. The syringe, in this case, is in its initial state. I.e. the plunger has not yet been moved to eject the fluid. The at least three annular elements extend at least in portions about a longitudinal axis of the plunger rod and are arranged at a distance  $R$ , wherein  $0.5\text{mm} \leq R \leq 20\text{mm}$ .

[0007] The three annular elements support a coaxial connection between the plunger rod and the plunger. The annular elements prove advantageous, on the one hand, as they prevent tilting over the entire circumference of  $360^\circ$ . On the other hand, the three annular elements make it possible for the user, when connecting the plunger rod to the plunger, to have haptic and/or acoustic control. If, for example, the user connects the plunger rod correctly to the plunger immediately, he does not receive a haptic and/or acoustic message. If, for example, in contrast, the user tries, unintentionally, to connect the plunger rod incorrectly askew, he is able to perceive, in particular, the transition of the plunger rod from the central annular element to the rear annular element on the edge of the rear syringe body opening as a type of jump, preferably connected to a type of click. As a result, the user is able to recognize that he is trying to connect the plunger rod incorrectly to the plunger and can then correct the position of the plunger rod in a corresponding manner.

[0008] The position of the plunger in the prefilled syringe body and the position of the three annular elements on the plunger rod are matched to one another such that in a first step, when the plunger rod is placed by way of its connecting portion on the plunger, the two front rings are already arranged in the interior of the syringe body. When connecting, for example screwing-in, the plunger rod is initially guided through the two front annular elements. The rear third ring supports the guiding of the plunger rod when the plunger rod is finally, fixedly connected to the plunger.

[0009] The three annular elements are positioned in the interior of the syringe body no later than in the state in which the plunger rod is fully connected to the plunger, preferably is screwed into the plunger.

[0010] According to a first embodiment, an outside diameter of the three annular elements is identical to an inside diameter of the syringe body or is somewhat smaller than an inside diameter of the syringe body. As a result, the three annular elements can be guided on an inner side of the syringe body when connecting the plunger rod to the plunger and later when moving

the plunger for ejecting the fluid. The outside diameter of the three annular elements is preferably identical.

[0011] In a further embodiment, wing elements or ribs, which extend radially outwardly, are arranged distributed over the circumference of the plunger rods, preferably individually, between the annular elements. The wing elements preferably connect the annular elements together. The wing elements are proved to be advantageous as they enable guidance in a longer, in portions continuous manner along the longitudinal axis of the plunger rod.

[0012] In one design, at least four wing elements are arranged preferably at an angle of 90° with respect to one another, in particular individually, between the annular elements. Guidance that is as coaxial as possible is to be supported as a result. The wing elements preferably comprise an outside diameter which is identical to the inside diameter of the syringe body or is somewhat smaller than the inside diameter of the syringe body. In a first embodiment, the wing elements comprise a diameter which is identical to the outside diameter of the annular elements. The guidance of the plunger rod is improved even more as a result. In a second embodiment, the wing elements comprise an outside diameter which is smaller than an outside diameter of the annular elements. The haptic and/or acoustic control is improved as a result when the plunger rod is connected to the plunger and/or when the plunger rod is inserted into the syringe body. In one design, the outside diameter of the wing elements is reduced in relation to the outside diameter of the annular elements by between 1 mm and 10 mm, preferably by between 4 mm and 8 mm.

[0013] The prefilled syringe can be provided, for example, in an over pack. If, for example, the medical fluid is oxygen-sensitive and the syringe body is not sufficiently oxygen-impermeable, the syringe can be packaged in an oxygen-impermeable over pack, for example in a blister. The plunger rod can already be premounted, for example, on the plunger. However, it can also not be premounted and be located next to the syringe body in the over pack. Consequently, within the field of the invention is also an over pack having an interior in which the afore-described syringe according to the invention is enclosed.

[0014] In addition, within the field of the invention is also the plunger rod, in particular for a or for the aforementioned prefilled syringe. The plunger rod includes a front-end connecting portion, by means of which the plunger rod is connectable to the plunger. In this case, at least three annular elements, which extend at least in portions about a longitudinal axis of the plunger rod, are arranged on a rear end of the connecting portion. The three annular elements, preferably individually, are arranged at a distance R with respect to one another, where 0.5 mm

$\leq R \leq 20$  mm, in a preferred manner  $1 \leq R \leq 10$  mm and particularly preferred  $2 \leq R \leq 8$  mm. The annular elements have, for example, a thickness of approximately between 0.5 mm and approximately 5 mm, preferably between approximately 1 mm and approximately 3 mm. The plunger rod has a diameter D where  $8 \leq D \leq 30$  mm and/or a length L where  $80 \leq L \leq 150$  mm.

[0015] In addition, a syringe is also claimed, including a syringe body, a plunger and the afore-described plunger rod, wherein the plunger is positionable in the syringe body in such a manner and the three annular elements are arranged on the plunger rod in such a manner that, when the plunger rod is fully connected to the plunger, they are situated in the syringe body. The syringe body is preferably pre-filled with a medical fluid.

[0016] The pre-filled syringe can have, for example, a holding volume of between 5 ml and 100 ml. The medical fluid can be or include, for example, a fluid for enteral and/or parenteral nutrition and/or for infusion. The medical fluid can be provided by a solution and/or by an emulsion. The medical fluid can also include medical substances. According to one embodiment, the medical fluid is or includes the medicinal fluid Propofol, in particular a Propofol emulsion. Propofol is described by the chemical name 2,6-diisopropylphenol (IUPAC).

[0017] The syringe body can be molded from plastics material, which includes one of the following polymers: cyclo-olefin copolymer, cyclo-olefin polymer or crystal clear polymer. Such a plastics material container is resistant to solvents. In particular, such a plastics material container can be used to store Propofol which acts as a solvent. The outer sides of the plunger and/or the inner side of the syringe body are preferably coated at least in portions with a lubricant, preferably are siliconized.

[0018] According to one embodiment, the plastics material plunger rod is molded from plastics material which preferably includes one of the following polymers: cyclo-olefin copolymer, cyclo-olefin polymer or crystal clear polymer, or it is molded from polypropylene.

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

[0019] The invention is described in detail below by way of exemplary embodiments in connection with the drawings, in which:

[0020] fig. 1.a shows a side view of a plunger rod according to a first embodiment of the invention;

[0021] fig. 1.b shows a side view of a prefilled syringe according to the invention with the plunger rod from figure 1.a;

[0022] fig. 2.a shows a side view of a plunger rod according to a second embodiment of the invention;

[0023] fig. 2.b shows a side view of a prefilled syringe according to the invention with the plunger rod from figure 2.a;

[0024] fig. 2.c shows a perspective view of the plunger rod according to the second embodiment of the invention from figure 2.a;

[0025] fig. 3 shows a perspective view of a plunger rod according to a third embodiment of the invention and

[0026] fig. 4 shows a perspective view of a plunger rod according to a fourth embodiment of the invention.

[0027] Fig. 1.a shows a plunger rod 15' according to a first embodiment of the invention. The plunger rod 15' has a substantially cross-shaped cross section and is formed by the two legs 3. Stabilizing elements 7 are mounted along the longitudinal axis. The rear end of the plunger rod 15' is closed off by a flange 4 with a larger diameter. The notches 5 provided on the rear end enable the plunger rod 15' (as a component part of the syringe 20) to be operated in a syringe pump. The plunger rod 15' is designed for operation in a syringe 20 with a holding volume of between approximately 50 ml and 70 ml. A graduation 6 to 50 ml is provided on the plunger rod 15'. The plunger rod 15' has a diameter D where  $25 \text{ mm} \leq D \leq 30 \text{ mm}$  and/or a length L where  $100 \text{ mm} \leq L \leq 150 \text{ mm}$ .

[0028] The front end of the plunger rod 15' is provided by a connecting portion 1, by means of which the plunger rod 15' is connected to a plunger 12, not shown here, (see figure 1.b in this respect). The connecting portion 1 is provided here, as an example, by a screw thread. Three annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c connect to the rear end of the connecting portion 1. As a result, when the plunger rod 15" is screwed into the plunger 12, it is possible, in particular, for the user to have haptic and/or acoustic control. The annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c preferably extend over the entire circumference of the plunger 15'. The front annular element 2a additionally forms the stop when the plunger rod 15' is screwed into the plunger 12. The three annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c are preferably arranged equidistantly with respect to one another.

In one embodiment, the three annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c are arranged individually at a distance R of between 2 mm and 8 mm with respect to one another. The annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c have for example, a thickness of approximately between 0.5 mm and approximately 5 mm, preferably of approximately between 1 mm and approximately 3 mm.

[0029] The cross-shaped cross section of the plunger rod 15' is also continued between the three annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c. Ignoring the flange 4 and the connecting portion 1, the diameter D of the plunger rod is identical or substantially identical along the longitudinal axis. As a result, so-called wing elements 3a, 3b or ribs are formed between the three annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c. The front, here four, wing elements 3a connect the front ring 2a to the central ring 2b. The rear, here four, wing elements 3b connect the central ring 2b to the rear ring 2b. The annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c and the wing elements 3a, 3b enable the plunger rod 15' to be guided into the syringe body 8 in as coaxial a manner as possible and, as a result, enable the plunger rod 15' to be screwed into the plunger 12 in as coaxial a manner as possible (see figure 1.b in this respect). Placing the plunger rod 15' on the plunger 12 at an angle, leading to possible tilting of the plunger 12 and finally possibly to resultant leakage can be reduced or even avoided as a result.

[0030] Figure 1.b illustrates the use of the plunger rod 15' from figure 1.a in a prefilled syringe 20. The syringe 20 includes a syringe body 8 with a nozzle 9 arranged on the front end of the syringe body 8, a cap 11 closing the nozzle 9, a plunger 12 which is arranged in the syringe body 8 and closes the interior of the syringe body 8 in a fluid-tight manner, and the plunger rod 15' from figure 1a which is connected to the plunger 12 by means of its connecting portion 1. The connection between the plunger 12 and the plunger rod 15' is provided here by means of a screw connection. A thread, which is, however, not shown in the figure, is also provided in a corresponding manner in the interior of the plunger 12.

[0031] The outside diameter D or  $D_F$  of the plunger rod 15' and/or of the annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c and/or of the wing elements 3a, 3b can be identical to the inside diameter of the syringe body 8. In order to make it easier for the plunger rod 15' to move in the syringe body 8, the outside diameter D or  $D_F$  of the plunger rod 15' and/or of the annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c and/or of the wing elements 3a, 3b is, in particular, smaller than the inside diameter of the syringe body 8. The outside diameter D or  $D_F$  is preferably reduced in relation to the inside diameter of the syringe body 8 by approximately between 0.5 mm and 5 mm.

[0032] The prefilled syringe 20 can be filled, for example, via its initially open rear end and then can be closed by way of the plunger 12. The plunger rod 15' can then be connected to the

plunger 12 at a later point in time, for example shortly before the application. However, the plunger 12 can also, for example, be inserted into the syringe body 8 with the plunger rod 15' already screwed into the plunger 12.

[0033] The position of the plunger 12 in the prefilled syringe body 8 and the position of the three annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c on the plunger rod 15' are preferably matched to one another in such a manner that in a first step, when the plunger rod 15' is placed on the plunger 12 by way of its connecting portion 1, the two front rings 2a, 2b are already arranged in the interior of the syringe body 8 and are preferably guided by the inner side of the syringe body 8. When being screwed in, the plunger rod 15' is initially guided by the two front annular elements 2a, 2b and the front wing elements 3a and then also by the rear wing elements 3b in the syringe body 8. The rear third ring 2c supports the guiding of the plunger rod 15' in the final, fixed connection between the plunger rod 15' and the plunger 12. The three rings 2a, 2b, 2c are positioned in the interior of the syringe body 8 no later than in the state in which the plunger rod 15' is fully connected to the plunger 12, preferably is screwed into the plunger 12. The annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c prove to be advantageous as they prevent tilting over the entire circumference of 360°. The wing elements 3a, 3b prove to be advantageous as they enable longer guidance along the longitudinal axis of the plunger rod 15'. The present invention joins said advantages together.

[0034] Figures 2.a to 2.c show a plunger rod 15" according to a second embodiment of the invention. Only the differences to the plunger rod 15' from figure 1.a are explained below. For all the other components, reference is made to the preceding description concerning figure 1.a. The plunger rod 15" does not have a graduation. In contrast to the embodiment shown in figure 1.a, the wing elements 3a, 3b, which connect the three annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c together, do not have the identical outside diameter as the three annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c. The outside diameter  $D_F$  of the wing elements 3a, 3b is smaller than the outside diameter  $D$  of the three annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c. The outside diameter  $D_F$  of the wing elements 3a, 3b is preferably reduced by approximately between 4 mm and 8 mm in relation to the outside diameter  $D$  of the annular elements 2a, 2b, 2c. In the present case, there are precisely three annular elements which are located in the front region of the plunger rod 15'.

[0035] As a result, when screwing the plunger rod 15" into the plunger 12, it is possible, in particular, for the user to have haptic and/or acoustic control. If the user screws the plunger rod 15" correctly into the plunger 12 immediately, he does not receive a haptic and/or acoustic message. If, in contrast, the user tries, unintentionally, to screw the plunger rod 15" into the plunger 12 incorrectly askew, he is able to perceive, in particular, the transition of the plunger

rod 15" from the central annular element 2b to the rear annular element 2c on the edge 14 in the rear syringe body opening (see figure 2.b in this respect) as a type of jump, preferably connected to a type of click. As a result, the user is able to recognize that he is trying to connect the plunger rod 15" incorrectly to the plunger 12 and then he can correct the position of the plunger rod 15" in a corresponding manner.

[0036] In addition, figure 3 shows a plunger rod 15"" according to a third embodiment of the invention. The design of said plunger rod 15"" corresponds substantially to the design of the plunger rod 15" from figures 2.a to 2.c. The present plunger rod 15"" simply comprises different dimensions as it is designed for a syringe 20 with a holding volume of between approximately 20 ml and 30 ml. The plunger rod 15"" has a diameter D where  $13 \text{ mm} \leq D \leq 23 \text{ mm}$  and/or a length L where  $100 \text{ mm} \leq L \leq 150 \text{ mm}$ . The distance R between the annular elements here is also  $2 \text{ mm} \leq R \leq 8 \text{ mm}$ .

[0037] Finally, figure 4 shows a plunger rod 15"" according to a fourth embodiment of the invention. The design of said plunger rod 15"" corresponds substantially to the design of the plunger rods 15" and 15"" from figures 2.a to 2.c and 3. The present plunger rod 15"" simply comprises different dimensions as it is designed for a syringe 20 with a holding volume of between approximately 10 ml and 15 ml. The plunger rod 15"" has a diameter D where  $8 \text{ mm} \leq D \leq 18 \text{ mm}$  and/or a length L where  $80 \text{ mm} \leq L \leq 110 \text{ mm}$ . The distance R between the annular elements here is  $2 \text{ mm} \leq R \leq 8 \text{ mm}$ . In addition, no stabilizing elements 7 are provided on the plunger rod 15"".

[0038] It is clear to the person skilled in the art that the described embodiments are to be understood as examples. The invention is not limited to said embodiments but can be varied in many different ways without departing from the essence of the invention. Features of individual embodiments and the features named in the general part of the description can be combined with one another both individually and together.

**CLAIMS**

1. A prefilled syringe including:  
a syringe body which is filled with a medical fluid and comprises on a front end a nozzle, which is closed by way of a cap, and is closed on a rear end by way of a displaceable plunger,  
a plunger rod which is insertable into the syringe body via the rear end and comprises on a front end a connecting portion, by means of which the plunger rod is connectable to the displaceable plunger, wherein at least three annular elements configured to guide the plunger rod in the syringe body, which extend at least in portions about a longitudinal axis of the plunger rod, are arranged on the plunger rod on a rear end of the connecting portion such that when the plunger rod is fully connected to the plunger, the at least three annular elements are situated in the syringe body; wherein the at least three annular elements extend at least in portions about a longitudinal axis of the plunger rod and are arranged at a distance  $R$ , wherein  $0.5\text{mm} \leq R \leq 20\text{mm}$ .
2. The prefilled syringe as claimed in claim 1, wherein a position of the plunger in the prefilled syringe body and the position of the at least three annular elements on the plunger rod are matched to one another such that in a first step, when the plunger rod is placed by way of its connecting portion on the plunger, two of the at least three annular elements are arranged in the interior of the syringe body.
3. The prefilled syringe as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein an outside diameter ( $D$ ) of the at least three annular elements and an inside diameter of the syringe body are selected to enable the at least three annular elements to engage the syringe body to permit guiding the plunger rod in the syringe body.
4. The prefilled syringe as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein an outside diameter ( $D$ ) of the at least three annular elements is identical.
5. The prefilled syringe as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein wing elements, which extend radially outwardly and connect the at least three annular elements together, are arranged distributed over a circumference of the plunger rod.
6. The prefilled syringe as claimed in claim 5, wherein at least four wing elements are arranged to form angles therebetween, each angle being  $90^\circ$ , wherein the at least four wing elements are arranged between two of the at least three annular elements.
7. The prefilled syringe as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6, wherein the wing elements are individually arranged between the at least three annular elements.

8. The prefilled syringe as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein an outside diameter ( $D_F$ ) of the wing elements is selected to enable the wing elements to engage the syringe body.
9. The prefilled syringe as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 8, wherein an outside diameter ( $D_F$ ) of the wing elements is substantially the same as an outside diameter ( $D$ ) of the at least three annular elements.
10. The prefilled syringe as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 8, wherein an outside diameter ( $D_F$ ) of the wing elements is smaller than an outside diameter ( $D$ ) of the at least three annular elements.
11. The prefilled syringe as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 8, wherein an outside diameter ( $D_F$ ) of the wing elements is less than an outside diameter ( $D$ ) of the at least three annular elements by between 1 mm and 10 mm.
12. The prefilled syringe as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 8, wherein an outside diameter ( $D_F$ ) of the wing elements is less than an outside diameter ( $D$ ) of the at least three annular elements by between 4 mm and 8 mm.
13. The prefilled syringe as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the plunger rod is premounted on the plunger.
14. The prefilled syringe as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the plunger rod is located next to the syringe body in an oxygen-impermeable, over pack.
15. A pre-filled syringe as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, the pre-filled syringe including a plunger positionable in the syringe body and the at least three annular elements are arranged on the plunger rod such that, when the plunger rod is fully connected to the plunger, the at least three annular elements are situated in the syringe body.
16. An oxygen-impermeable over pack having an interior in which the syringe as claimed in any one of the preceding claims is hermetically enclosed.
17. A plunger rod for a prefilled syringe as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, including a front-end connecting portion, by means of which the plunger rod is connectable to a plunger, wherein
  - at least three annular elements extend at least in portions about a longitudinal axis of the plunger rod and are arranged at a distance  $R$  with respect to one another, wherein  $1\text{mm} \leq R \leq 10\text{mm}$ .

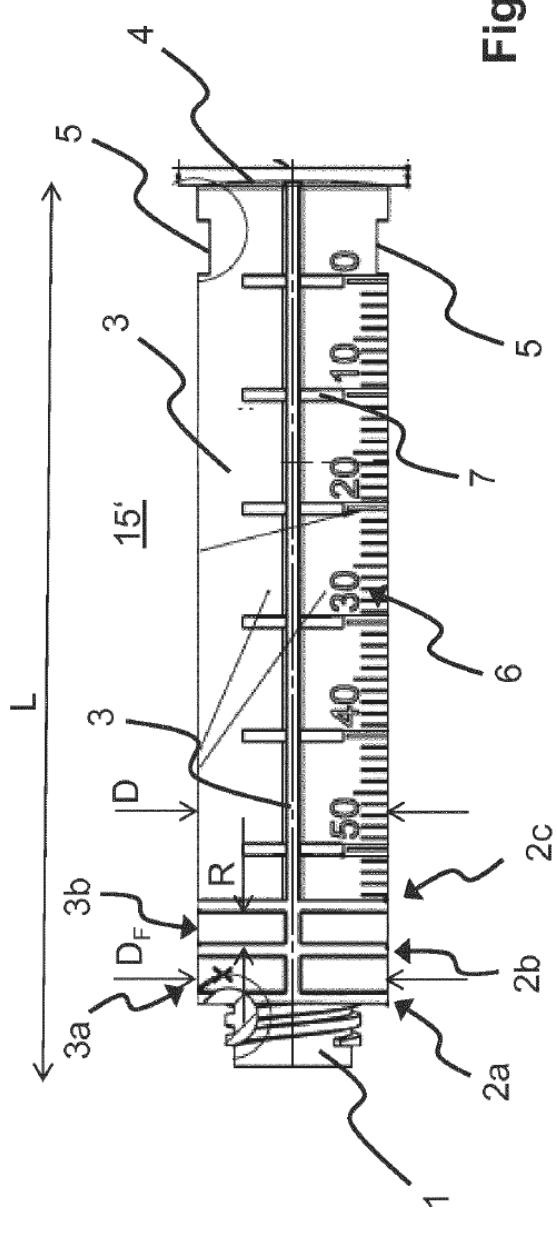


Fig. 1.a

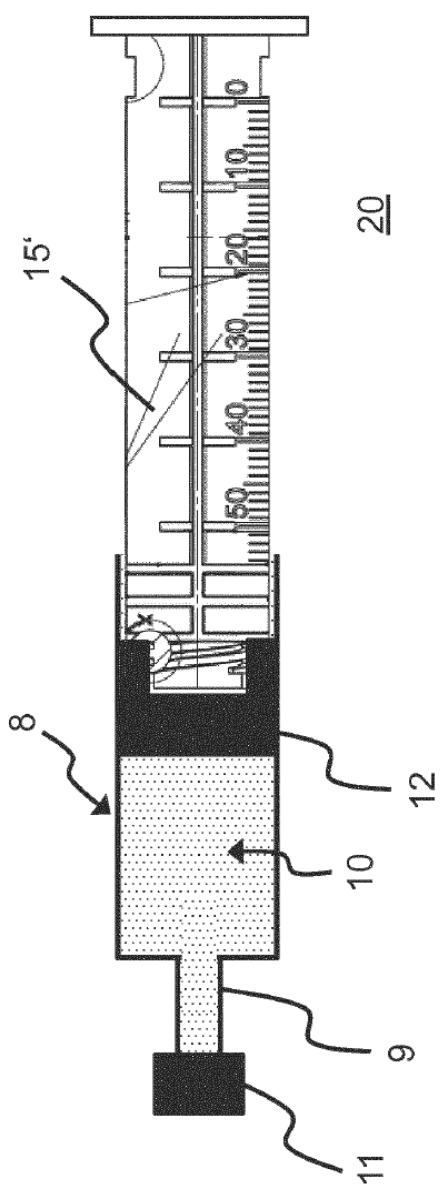


Fig. 1.b

Fig. 2.a

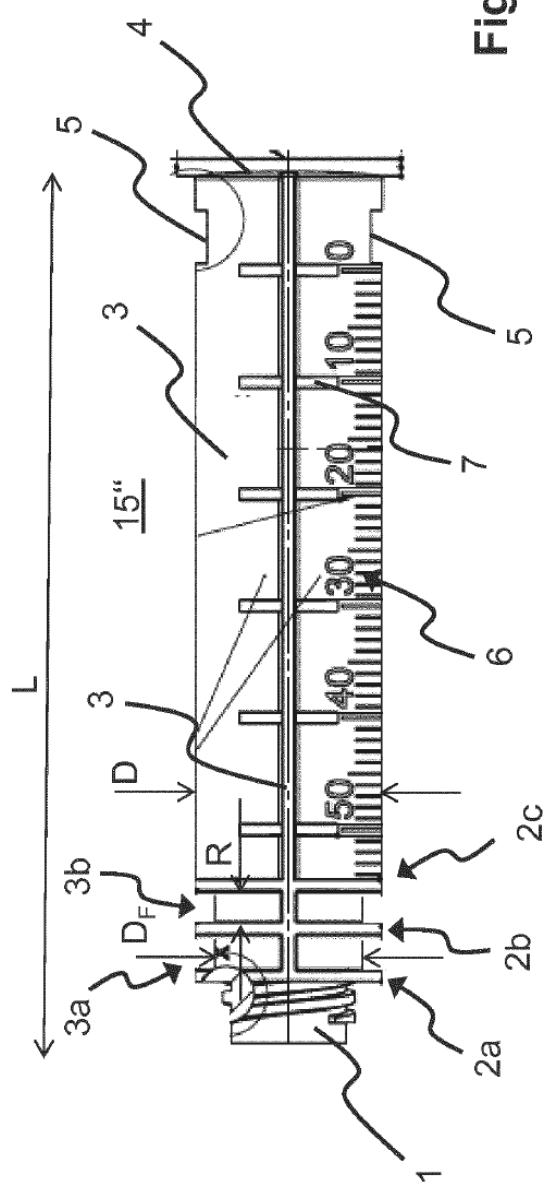


Fig. 2.b

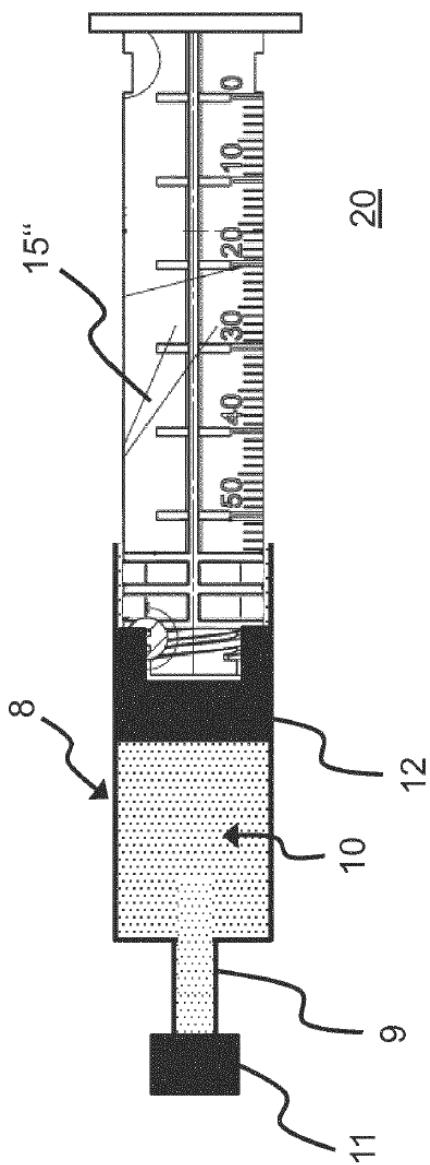


Fig. 2.c

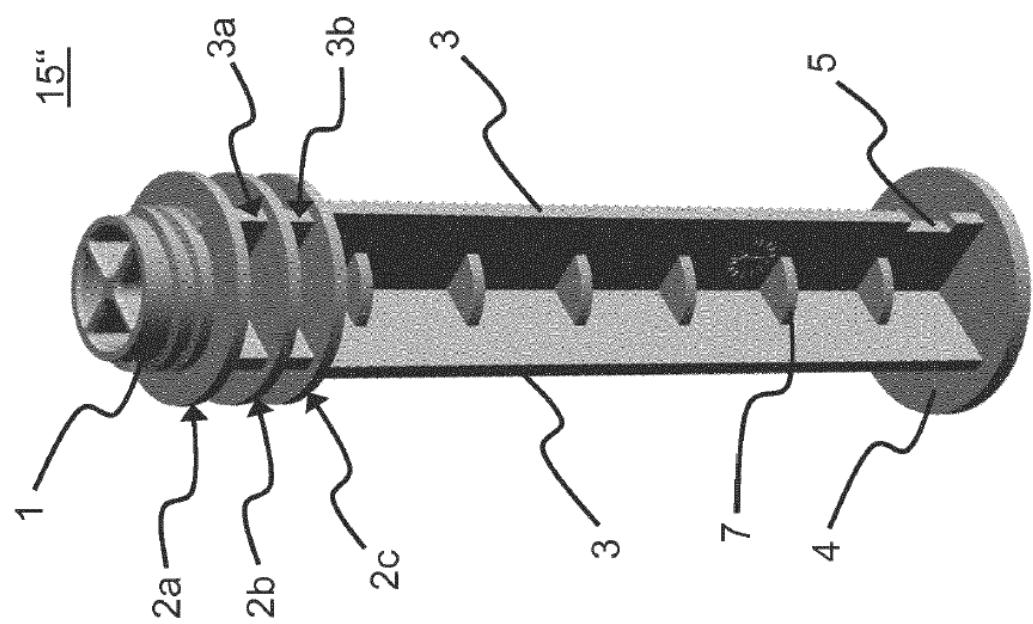


Fig. 3

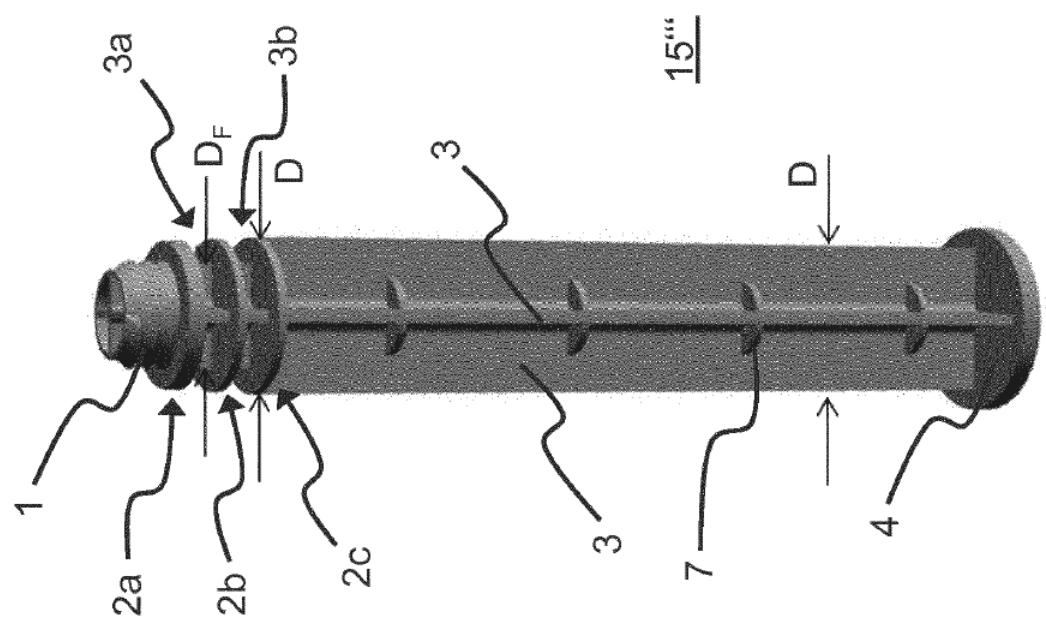


Fig. 4

