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(73) Jogosult(ak):

**Sanofi-Aventis Deutschland GmbH, 65929
Frankfurt am Main (DE)**

(72) Feltaláló(k):

SCHABBACH, Michael, 65926 Frankfurt (DE)**ROTH, Axel, Frankfurt 65926 (DE)****HAMBRECHT, Gerhard, 65926 Frankfurt (DE)**

(74) Képviselő:

**Danubia Szabadalmi és Jogi Iroda Kft.,
Budapest**

(54)

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(54) **INJECTION DEVICE WITH HOLDING MEANS TO PREVENT UNINTENTIONAL MOVEMENTS OF PISTON ROD**

INJEKTIONSVORRICHTUNG MIT HALTEMITTEL ZUR VERHINDERUNG VON UNGEWOLLTEN BEWEGUNGEN DER KOLBENSTANGE

DISPOSITIF D'INJECTION AVEC MOYEN DE SERRAGE DE LA TIGE DE PISTON

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(72) Inventors:
• **SCHABBACH, Michael**
65926 Frankfurt (DE)
• **ROTH, Axel**
Frankfurt 65926 (DE)
• **HAMBRECHT, Gerhard**
65926 Frankfurt (DE)

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(73) Proprietor: **Sanofi-Aventis Deutschland GmbH**
65929 Frankfurt am Main (DE)

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Description

[0001] This invention relates to an injection device, comprising a housing being adapted to receive in its proximal housing portion a container with an injection fluid and to receive in its distal housing portion a dose setting and injection mechanism, wherein the mechanism includes a piston rod being axially displaceable with respect to the housing for dispensing injection fluid from the container, wherein the piston rod has an outer thread and is arranged torque proof with respect to the housing, dose setting means comprising a threaded element, which threaded element has an inner thread being in engagement with the outer thread of the piston rod, is designed so that its axial position relative to the housing is changeable and is rotatably relative to the piston rod and relative to the housing during setting of an injection dose, wherein the dose setting means are designed such that the threaded element is held in torque proof manner relative to the piston rod and to the housing during the injection of the beforehand set injection dose in such a manner that the threaded element and the piston rod are axially displaceable together with respect to the housing, wherein the mechanism further comprises holding means being in contact with the piston rod and being designed such that the axial displacement of the piston rod can be immobilized or substantially immobilized during use of the device except for the dispensing of the injection dose.

[0002] Such an injection device is known from document DE 299 07 881 U1, which discloses an injector device for automatically, in a first step injecting, the needle, and in a second step dispensing an injection dose, the injection dose being beforehand set by manual operation. In this device the injection operation is mainly effected by a pre-stressed spring which urges the injection mechanism toward a proximal end (side of a patient) of the device, when the dispensing of an injection dose is activated. In the first step (needle injection) the aforementioned spring acts on a threaded sleeve having an inner thread being in contact with the outer thread of the piston rod. The piston rod is coupled by a slipping clutch (holding means) with further sleeves that are fixedly connected with the container having the needle at its proximate end. In the first step, the spring urges via threaded element, piston rod, slipping clutch, and sleeves in axial direction on the container so that the needle is moved together with the container to a stop position. When this stop position is reached, the pre-stressed spring urges further on the threaded element and the piston rod in proximal direction, so that the slipping clutch having ratchet teeth on the piston rod and a corresponding ratchet arm on a further sleeve, is disengaged. This enables the piston rod to be axially displaced in order to press on the piston within the container and to dispense the beforehand set injection dose. The slipping clutch, namely the ratchet arm, is arranged on these sleeves being in contact with the container, so that the whole slipping clutch is axially moveable with respect to the housing of the injection device.

[0003] Furthermore, there is known a similar injection device from document EP 1 610 848 B1 having no needle expelling function and no holding means.

[0004] Document EP 0 496 141 A1 describes a hypodermic syringe including a plunger rod received within a non-cylindrical opening of a collar. An inner surface of the collar can include prongs, which engage and dig into a surface of the plunger rod to restrict movement of the plunger rod toward the proximal end of the housing. The prongs on the inner surface of the collar still permit movement of the plunger rod toward the distal end of the syringe so as to cause a piston of a container to move within the container so as to diminish the volume of the container.

[0005] Document EP 0 594 349 A1 relates to a device to prevent refilling of a hypodermic syringe. There, a threaded piston rod is held in place by a push nut, wherein a prong of the push nut keeps a threaded piston rod from turning as well as moving toward a dose nut. The prong of the push nut engages with a longitudinally extending groove of the piston rod thereby preventing the piston rod from turning or moving toward a dose knob.

[0006] Document US 2008/0119796 A1 discloses a product dispensing apparatus having a piston rod being prevented from moving backwards, counter to an advancing direction, by a blocking means. The blocking means fulfills a double function and comprises blocking elements as well as breaking elements. While the blocking elements prevent the piston rod from moving forward, the breaking elements are adapted to make it more difficult to move the piston rod in an advancing direction during dosing.

[0007] It is often to observe that a little bit of the medicament to be injected leaks from the needle when a patient is rotating a dose knob of the dose setting mechanism. Typically, there appears firstly a droplet on the needle point. When further rotating action is made on the dose knob this droplet grows further and in extreme examples the medicament drop falls down. Such phenomena are unintentional and are making the patient insecure, although these phenomena are not safety relevant in addition to the contamination of the environment. Such phenomena are due to manufacturing tolerances, material surface properties, undesirable inner frictions and plays within the injection mechanism, which leads to unwanted axial movements of the piston rod dispensing medicament from the cartridge.

[0008] Such phenomena could be avoided by extremely precise manufacturing and frictionless construction of the different components of the injection mechanism. This is very costly and it is very difficult to achieve such precise manufacturing, also bearing in mind, that the components are rather small.

[0009] It is therefore the object of the present invention to provide an injection device, wherein unwanted droplet formation is avoided.

[0010] This problem is solved by a generic injection device, wherein the holding means are axially fixed with respect to the housing.

[0011] When the holding means being in contact with the piston rod but axially fixed with respect to the housing and being designed such that the axial displacement of the piston rod can be substantially immobilized during use of the device except for the dispensing of other injection dose, the holding means are not subjected to any play of the injection mechanism, as in contrast to the slipping clutch of DE 299 07 871 A1 having parts axially displaceable with respect to the housing. When the holding means are arranged fixedly relative to the housing of the injection device, an unwanted axial displacement of the piston rod can effectively avoided as forces due to plays of the mechanism or due to inner friction can be received by the housing by means of the holding means. Therefore, there is no need for further improvement of the precision of manufacturing, so that the holding means axially fixed with respect to the housing provide a cost-saving possibility to avoid the formation of droplets during normal use of the injection device.

The piston rod has two planar longitudinal outer surfaces cut in the outer thread and being arranged in parallel to each other on opposing sides of the piston rod, wherein the holding means are expediently in contact with both parallel outer surfaces of the piston rod and exert a compressive force on the piston rod. In this respect the holding means act as a clamp having two clamp portions each of which being in contact with a respective planar outer surface of the piston rod to frictionally engage with the piston rod.

The holding means are made from a bent metal wire and the clamping portions have a curvature being convex in a direction to the piston rod.

Moreover, when inserted in a guiding element, the clamping portions of the holding means protrude with their respective convex wire portions in an opening in which the piston rod is axially guided and held in torque proof manner due to mechanical cooperation, in particular engagement, of the outer planar surfaces of the piston rod with corresponding planar surfaces of the opening.

Preferably, the holding means at least partially encompass the piston rod. Such an encompassing allows a good transfer of forces acting axially on the piston rod to the housing, so that the piston rod can be held immobilized.

Furthermore, it is proposed that the clamping portions are designed in such a manner, that they exert static friction on the piston rod being as high as to prevent unintentional axial displacement of the piston rod. Furthermore, the two clamping portions are preferably designed in such a manner, that they exert kinetic friction on the piston rod being as small as not to or only slightly interfere with the required axial displacement of the piston rod during dispensing an injection dose.

[0012] The acting of a holding means preferably by clamping portions from two sides on the parallel and opposing outer surfaces of the piston rod leads to the advantage that the exerted compressive force only acts on the piston rod. The holding means do not act upon the piston rod unilaterally so that the compressive force would have to be supported especially in radial direction by parts of the injection mechanism. In fact, the compressive forces produced by each of the two clamping portions pressing on opposing sides of the piston rod neutralize each other, so that no additional forces are generated, which have to be supported by the injection mechanism. The two clamping portions are automatically centering the holding means with respect to the piston rod. The holding means having two clamping portions lead to a frictionally engaging connection with the piston rod, wherein the static friction should be as high as to transfer forces due to plays in the injection mechanism securely to the housing. Furthermore, the frictionally engaged connection should allow for an easy dispensing of an injection dose, i.e. a smoothly axial displacement of the piston rod with respect to the holding means, when the injection dose is manually dispensed by pressing on a distal end of the injection device.

[0013] According to an embodiment, the holding means, preferably only the clamping portions, are deformable, preferably elastically deformable and/or deflectable, wherein it is further proposed that the clamping portions are deformable between a holding state and a sliding state, wherein a contact area between the clamping portion and the planar outer surfaces of the piston rod is maximal in the holding state. Such an arrangement leads to the advantage that the static friction being naturally higher than the kinetic friction, can be further increased with respect to the kinetic friction of the holding means, as a maximal contact area in the holding state leads to a maximum possible static friction. When the clamping portions are elastically deformed during axial displacement of the piston rod, the end faces of the clamping portions are slightly tilted with respect to the outer surfaces of the piston rod, so that a smaller contact area with the piston rod is achieved. This allows for an easy axial displacement of the piston rod as the kinetic friction is lowered with respect to a case in which a contact area remains maximal during such axial movement of the piston rod.

[0014] Preferably the holding means are made from plastics, preferable of one of a plastics or a blend of the group of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamide, polytetrafluoroethylene, polyoxymethylene, polyurethane.

[0015] The holding means have preferably the form of a disc with an opening having an inner contour defining the clamping portions. Such a disc is most preferably made from plastics and can be manufactured in an easy way for example as molding part or similar.

[0016] In an alternative embodiment the holding means are preferably made from metal, especially from spring steel, wherein the holding means are preferably made from a bent wire. When the holding means have the form of a bent wire, the clamping portions can have a curvature being convex in a direction to the piston rod.

[0017] In both alternatives, namely holding means in form of a plastic disc and in form of a bent metal wire, the clamping portions are formed in such a way, that the required frictional forces are evoked, so that unintentional axial displacement of the piston rod can be avoided.

[0018] The holding means have preferably a symmetrical form with respect to the plane containing the longitudinal axis of the piston rod and being in parallel to the planar outer surfaces of the piston rod.

[0019] Furthermore, the holding means can be arranged at a proximal end of the distal housing portion close to a connection portion where the proximal housing portion and the distal housing portion are removably attached to each other, preferably screwed, to each other. This proximal end of the distal housing portion provides the space for arranging an additional component (holding means) without the need of a considerable adaptation of the rest of the injection mechanism.

[0020] Preferably, the injection device further comprises a guiding element which is connected in torque proof manner to the piston rod, is in removable torque proof engagement with the housing and guides the axial displacement of the piston rod considerable adaptation of the rest of the injection mechanism.

[0021] Preferably, the injection device further comprises a guiding element which is connected in torque proof manner to the piston rod, is in removable torque proof engagement with the housing and guides the axial displacement of the piston rod during dispensing of an injection, wherein the holding means are arranged in the guiding member or between the guiding member and the housing.

[0022] When the holding means are arranged between the guiding member and the housing it is preferred that they are disposed adjacent to the guiding element on the distal end thereof.

[0023] The guiding element also has the function of a return element in order to screw the piston rod in distal direction by rotating the return element relative to the housing when the container of injection fluid is emptied and to be changed. In this case the proximal housing portion and distal housing portion are removed from each other. After exchanging the empty container against a new container, the two housing portions are mounted together. With reestablishing the torque proof engagement of the guiding element with the housing a new series of injections can start. The piston rod being arranged in its proximal end position can then be screwed back in its distal start position by rotating the guiding element relative to the housing with bringing the return element out of the torque proof engagement with the housing. Subsequently, in order to press on the piston of a newly inserted full container.

[0024] The dose setting means of the injection device comprise preferably a differential transmission for setting the dose, wherein the differential transmission comprises a plurality of threaded sleeves, wherein at least one sleeve has a thread pitch being different from the thread pitch of one another sleeve. This arrangement allows for example to have a rather great pitch of a dose setting member being operated directly by a patient, which leads to a rather big axial displacement recognized by the patient and allowing an easy display of the actually set dose and to have further sleeves having smaller pitches which transmit this rotational axial displacement to the threaded element on the piston rod, so that an according small dose can be set, wherein this dose needs a smaller axial displacement of the threaded element.

[0025] At last, it is preferred, that the dispensing of the injection dose is operated manually, where applicable with assistance through the pitch of the thread of a dose setting member.

[0026] The invention is to be described exemplary and in no case restrictive with respect to the following figures.

Figure 1 is a longitudinal cross section of a known injection device of EP 1 610 848 B1, which shows the basic function of this device.

Figure 2 shows in a schematic perspective partial view the arrangement of holding means of a first embodiment in a guiding member.

Figures 3a and 3b show the guiding member and the holding means of the first embodiment before inserting the holding means (figure 3a) and after inserting the holding means (figure 3b).

Figure 4 shows the holding means according to a second embodiment, namely in form of a disc on the piston rod.

Figure 5 shows the holding disc in a schematic front view.

Figure 6 shows in a schematic cross section according to the line VI-VI of figure 4 a possible elastic deformation of the holding means during axial displacement of the piston rod.

Figure 7 shows in a schematic cross section different alternatives of holding means according to the first embodiment and to the second embodiment.

[0027] Figure 1 is a longitudinal cross section of an injection device 10 having a proximal housing portion 12 and a distal housing portion 14. In the proximal housing portion 12 a container 16 filled with injection fluid 18 is received. On the proximal end P of housing portion 12 a cap 20 having integrated a needle 22 is screwed by means of a thread 24, so that a distal end of the needle 22 (not shown) is inserted into the container 16 in order to provide an outlet for injection fluid 18.

[0028] The distal housing portion 14 comprises a dose setting and injection mechanism 26, which is in detail described in EP 1 610 848 B1. The injection mechanism 26 comprises a piston rod 28 being axially displaceable with respect to the housing 12, 14 for dispensing injection fluid 18 from the container 16 by means of the piston 30, which is in contact with a proximal end 32 of the piston rod 28. The piston rod 28 has an outer thread 34 and is arranged torque proof with respect to the housing 12, 14, wherein torque proof means that the piston rod 28 is not rotatable in the assembled state of the injection device relative to the housing 12, 14.

[0029] Furthermore, the dose setting and injection mechanism 26 comprises a threaded element 36 having an inner thread 38 being in engagement with the outer thread 34 of the piston rod 28. This element 36 is designed such that its axial position relative to the housing 12 is changeable and the threaded element 36 is rotatable relative to the piston rod 28 and relative to the housing 12 during setting of an injection dose. This means, that during the setting of a dose the threaded element 36 is moved rotating on the piston rod 28 upon rotation of a dose setting member 40 axially in distal direction D. When a beforehand set dose is dispensed, the patient has to press a button 42 which is pre-stressed in a locked position by a spring 44, whereby the piston rod 28 is axially moved in a proximal direction due to the engagement with the threaded element 36 being beforehand moved a predetermined amount in distal direction D for setting a injection dose to be dispensed.

[0030] It has to be noticed, that the dose setting and injection mechanism 26 has further sleeves having different inner and outer threads with different or equal pitches, so that a rotational operation of the dose knob 40 leads to a differential transmission of this rotational axial movement to the threaded element 36. For more details, concerning this known dose setting and injection mechanism it is referred to EP 1 610 848 B1.

[0031] The piston rod 28 is held in torque proof manner by a guiding element 46 having a central opening 48 which is in mechanical cooperation, in particular engagement, with at least two planar oppositely disposed outer surfaces 50 cut in the outer thread 34 of the piston rod 28. In a preferred embodiment this guiding element 46 also serves as a return element in order to screw the piston rod 28 back in its distal start position according to figure 1 after removing an emptied cartridge 16 from the housing 12. For this purpose, the guiding and return element 46 is drawn out of housing portion 14 in order to screw piston 28 relative to the rest of the injection mechanism 26 by rotating element 46 relative to the housing portion 14.

[0032] In the following, two embodiments of holding means are explained with respect to figures 2 to 7. These holding means are arranged close to a connection portion 52, where the proximal housing portion 12 and the distal housing portion 14 are removably attached, preferably screwed, to each other.

[0033] Figure 2 shows in a schematic perspective partial view the piston rod 28 with its outer thread 34 and one of two opposed planar outer surfaces 50 for torque proof engagement with guiding element 46. Furthermore, the proximal end 32 of the piston rod 28 is apparent. The holding means 60 according to a first embodiment are inserted into the guiding element 46, as indicated in figure 2.

[0034] The holding means 60 of the first embodiment is a bent wire having substantially U-form as can be seen from figure 3a. The bent wire is preferably made of spring steel and the two branches-off the "U" are bent in such a manner, that clamping portions 62, 62' are formed having a convex shape with respect to the piston rod 28 inserted into the guiding element 46. The holding means or holding clamp 60 is inserted through a slit 46 in the guiding element 46 and is held axially fixed within the guiding element 46 but preferably with some play for enabling movement in a radial plane with respect to the axis of the piston rod 28.

[0035] When inserted in the guiding element 46, the clamping portions 62, 62' of the holding means 60 protrude with their respective convex wire portions in an opening 66 in which the piston rod 28 is axially guided and held in torque proof manner due to mechanical cooperation, in particular engagement, of the outer planar surfaces 50 of the piston rod 28 with corresponding planar surfaces 68 of the opening 66. This is best viewed in figure 3b being a front view from the proximal end according to arrow III of figure 3a.

[0036] Thus, the holding means 16 is automatically centered on the piston rod 28.

[0037] According to a second embodiment illustrated in figures 4 to 6 the holding means 160 has the form a disc, wherein an inner contour 170 defines an opening through which the piston rod 28 passes. The holding means 160 is made of a plastic disc, and the contour 170 also defines two clamping portions 162, 162', which are in contact with the two planar surfaces 50 of the piston rod 28.

[0038] Such a holding disc 160 is arranged preferably adjacent to the guiding element 46 on the distal side thereof, as indicated by reference 52 in figure 1. During dispensing of an injection dose the holding disc 160 abuts against the guiding element 46 or against another fixed part of the housing and is therefore axially fixed with respect to the housing portion 14, so that it can act as holding means for the piston rod 28.

[0039] Figure 6 shows simplified cross sections according to the line VI-VI of figure 4. In the right cross section of figure 6 the clamping portions 162, 162' are in a holding position. In this position the respective front faces 172, 172' are in full contact with the respective planar outer surface 50 of the piston rod 28. When the piston rod 28 is moved relative to the axially fixed clamping disc 160 in proximal direction M for dispensing a beforehand set injection dose, the preferably elastic clamping portions 162, 162' are slightly deflected, so that they are only in contact with a small area, namely an edge area 174, 174' of the front faces, 172, 172'. With such a configuration, the static friction in the holding position according to the right side of figure 6, is rather high, wherein the naturally smaller kinetic friction when the piston rod 28 moves with respect to the clamping disc 162 is further minimized by the deflection of the clamping portions 162, 162' due to the reduced contact area between the front faces 172, 172' and the respective outer surface 50 of the piston rod 28. It has to be mentioned that in the schematic drawing of figure 6 the amount of elastic deformation during movement of the piston rod is exaggerated, so after ending of a movement of the piston rod 28 in the direction of arrow M the clamping portions 162, 162' are urged towards the holding position according to figure 6 (right hand side) without any effect on the position of the piston rod 28. Accordingly, there is no retraction of the piston rod in distal direction (opposed to arrow M of figure 6) due to the back-movement of the clamping portions 162, 162' in the rest position (right hand side). The clamping portions 162, 162' are urged by elastic restoring force towards the holding position.

[0040] Figure 6 shows in a schematic and simplified manner possible alternatives of the cross section of the bent wire 60 according to the first embodiment, and of the clamp portions 162, 162' of the disc shaped holding means 160. As can be seen, the first cross section on the left is from a bent metal wire having a circle cross section. Alternatively, this cross section could be a circle segment in order to increase the contact area between the metal wire and the planar surface 50 of the piston rod 28. Furthermore, on the right side there is an alternative to the already proposed clamping portion 162, wherein the alternative clamping portion 162a has a front face being in contact with the surface 50 of the piston rod 28 by two lips. Such an arrangement can also be advantageous in case of a resilient small deformation of the clamping portion 162, during movement of the piston rod 28 as indicated in figure 6 on the left side.

The holding means 60, 160 in form of a bent wire of spring steel or a disc of plastics allow to hold the piston rod 28 due to static friction between the clamping portions 62 and 62', 162, 162' and the planar surfaces 50 of the piston rod 28. This static friction is as high as to prevent any movement of the piston rod 28 due to inner friction of the injection mechanism 26 (figure 1) and/or due to plays within the injection mechanism 26 or the injection device 10 as whole. The symmetrical form of the holding means 60, 160 with respect to the longitudinal axis of the piston rod 28 leads to a steady clamping action on the piston rod 28. The forces exerted from each of the opposing clamping portions 62, 62' and 162, 162' neutralize each other in such a manner, that the clamping action does not evoke unilateral forces to be supported in radial direction by the housing such leading to a self-centering effect avoiding radial stresses acting between the piston rod and other parts of the injection device.

Claims

1. Injection device (10), comprising a housing (12, 14) being adapted to receive in its proximal housing portion (12) a container (16) with an injection fluid (18) and to receive in its distal housing portion (14) a dose setting and injection mechanism (26), wherein the mechanism includes a piston rod (28) being axially displaceable with respect to the housing (12, 14) for dispensing injection fluid (18) from the container (16), wherein the piston rod (28) has an outer thread (34) and is arranged torque proof with respect to the housing (12, 14), dose setting means comprising a threaded element (36), which threaded element

has an inner thread (38) being in engagement with the outer thread (34) of the piston rod (28), is designed so that its axial position relative to the housing (12, 14) is changeable and is rotatable relative to the piston rod (28) and relative to the housing (12, 14) during setting of an injection dose,

wherein the threaded element (36) is held by the dose setting means (26) in torque proof manner relative to the piston rod (28) and to the housing (12, 14) during the injection of the beforehand set injection dose, wherein the threaded element (36) and the piston rod (28) are axially displaceable together with respect to the housing (12, 14), wherein the mechanism (26) further comprises holding means (60) being in contact with the piston rod (28) to immobilize the axial displacement of the piston rod (28) during use of the device (10) except for the dispensing of the injection dose,

wherein the holding means (60) are axially fixed with respect to the housing (12, 14) and wherein the piston rod (28) has two longitudinal planar outer surfaces (50) cut in the outer thread (34) and being arranged in parallel to each other on opposing sides of the piston rod (28), wherein the holding means (60) are in contact with both parallel outer planar surfaces (50) of the piston rod (28) and exert

a compressive force on the piston rod (28), wherein the holding means (60) act as a clamp having two clamping portions (62, 62') each of which being in contact with a respective planar outer surface (50) of the piston rod (28) to frictionally engage with the piston rod (28), and wherein the holding means are made from a bent metal wire (60) and the clamping portions (62, 62') have a curvature being convex in direction to the piston rod (28) and wherein the clamping portions (62, 62') of the holding means (60) protrude with their respective convex wire portions in an opening (66) of a guiding element (46) in which the piston rod (28) is axially guided and is held in torque proof manner due to an engagement of the outer planar surfaces (50) of the piston rod (28) with corresponding planar surfaces (68) of the opening (66) of the guiding element (46).

2. Injection device according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the holding means (60) at least partially encompass the piston rod (28).
3. Injection device according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the two clamping portions (62, 62') exert static friction on the piston rod (28) being as high as to prevent unintentional axial displacement of the piston rod (28).
4. Injection device according to claim 3, **characterized in that** the two clamping portions (62, 62') exert kinetic friction on the piston rod (28) being as small as not to or only slightly interfere with the required axial displacement of the piston rod (28) during dispensing an injection dose.
5. Injection device according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the holding means (60) are elastically deformable.
6. Injection device according to any of the preceding claims, wherein only the clamping portions (62, 62') of the holding means (60) are elastically deformable.
7. Injection device according to any of claims 1 to 6, **characterized in that** the holding means (60) are made from spring steel.
8. Injection device according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the holding means (60) are arranged at a proximal end of the distal housing portion (14) close to a connection portion (52) where the proximal housing portion (12) and the distal housing portion (14) are removably attached to each other.
9. Injection device according to claim 8, **characterized in that** the guiding element (46) which is connected in torque proof manner to the piston rod (28), is in removable torque proof engagement with the housing (14) and guides the axial displacement of the piston rod (28) during dispensing of an injection, wherein the holding means (60) are arranged in the guiding element.
10. Injection device according to claim 9, **characterized in that** the holding means (160), when arranged between the guiding element (46) and the housing (14), are disposed adjacent to the guiding element (46) on the distal end thereof.
11. Injection device according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the dose setting means (26) comprise a differential transmission for setting the dose.
12. Injection device according to claim 11, **characterized in that** the differential transmission comprises a plurality of threaded sleeves, wherein at least one sleeve has a thread pitch being different from the thread pitch of another sleeve.
13. Injection device according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** the dispensing of the injection dose is operated manually.

Patentansprüche

1. Injektionsvorrichtung (10), umfassend ein Gehäuse (12, 14), das geeignet ist, in seinem proximalen Gehäuseabschnitt (12) einen Behälter (16) mit einem Injektionsfluid (18) aufzunehmen und in seinem distalen Gehäuseabschnitt (14) einen Dosiseinstell- und -injektionsmechanismus (26) aufzunehmen, wobei der Mechanismus eine Kolbenstange (28) aufweist, die zur Abgabe von Injektionsfluid (18) aus dem Behälter (16) bezüglich des Gehäuses (12, 14) axial verschiebbar ist, wobei die Kolbenstange (28) ein Außengewinde (34) hat und bezüglich des Gehäuses

(12, 14) drehfest angeordnet ist,

Dosiseinstellmittel aufweist, die ein Gewindeelement (36) umfassen, wobei das Gewindeelement

ein Innengewinde (38) hat, das mit dem Außengewinde (34) der Kolbenstange (28) in Eingriff steht, so ausgelegt ist, dass seine axiale Position bezüglich des Gehäuses (12, 14) veränderlich ist, und bezüglich der Kolbenstange (28) und bezüglich des Gehäuses (12, 14) während des Einstellens einer Injektionsdosis drehbar ist,

wobei das Gewindeelement (36) während der Injektion der zuvor eingestellten Injektionsdosis von den Dosiseinstellmitteln (26) drehfest bezüglich der Kolbenstange (28) und des Gehäuses (12, 14) gehalten ist, wobei das Gewindeelement (36) und die Kolbenstange (28) zusammen bezüglich des Gehäuses (12, 14) axial verschiebbar sind, wobei der Mechanismus (26) ferner Haltemittel (60) umfasst, die mit der Kolbenstange (28) in Kontakt sind, um die axiale Verschiebung der Kolbenstange (28) während des Gebrauchs der Vorrichtung (10), außer bei Abgabe der Injektionsdosis, zu immobilisieren, wobei die Haltemittel (60) bezüglich des Gehäuses (12, 14) axial festgelegt sind und wobei die Kolbenstange (28) zwei planare äußere Längsflächen (50) hat, die in das Außengewinde (34) geschnitten sind und auf gegenüberliegenden Seiten der Kolbenstange (28) parallel zueinander angeordnet sind, wobei die Haltemittel (60) mit beiden parallelen planaren äußeren Flächen (50) der Kolbenstange (28) in Kontakt sind und eine Kompressionskraft auf die Kolbenstange (28) ausüben, wobei die Haltemittel (60) als eine Klemme mit zwei Klemmabschnitten (62, 62') wirken, die jeweils mit einer jeweiligen planaren äußeren Fläche (50) der Kolbenstange (28) in Kontakt sind, um mit der Kolbenstange (28) reibend in Eingriff zu stehen, und wobei die Haltemittel aus einem gebogenen Metalldraht (60) hergestellt sind und die Klemmabschnitte (62, 62') eine Krümmung haben, die in Richtung der Kolbenstange (28) konvex ist, und wobei die Klemmabschnitte (62, 62') der Haltemittel (60) mit ihren jeweiligen konvexen Drahtabschnitten in eine Öffnung (66) eines Führungselements (46) ragen, in dem die Kolbenstange (28) aufgrund eines Eingriffs der äußeren planaren Flächen (50) der Kolbenstange (28) mit entsprechenden planaren Flächen (68) der Öffnung (66) des Führungselements (46) axial geführt und drehfest gehalten ist.

2. Injektionsvorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Haltemittel (60) die Kolbenstange (28) mindestens teilweise umschließen.

3. Injektionsvorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die beiden Klemmabschnitte (62, 62') Haftreibung auf die Kolbenstange (28) ausüben, die hoch genug ist, um eine unabsichtliche axiale Verschiebung der Kolbenstange (28) zu verhindern.

4. Injektionsvorrichtung nach Anspruch 3, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die beiden Klemmabschnitte (62, 62') Gleitreibung auf die Kolbenstange (28) ausüben, die so gering ist, um die erforderliche axiale Verschiebung der Kolbenstange (28) während der Abgabe einer Injektionsdosis nicht oder nur geringfügig zu beeinflussen.

5. Injektionsvorrichtung nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Haltemittel (60) elastisch verformbar sind.

6. Injektionsvorrichtung nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, wobei nur die Klemmabschnitte (62, 62') der Haltemittel (60) elastisch verformbar sind.

7. Injektionsvorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 6, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Haltemittel (60) aus Federstahl hergestellt sind.

8. Injektionsvorrichtung nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Haltemittel (60) an einem proximalen Ende des distalen Gehäuseabschnitts (14) in der Nähe eines Verbindungsabschnitts (52) angeordnet sind, an dem der proximale Gehäuseabschnitt (12) und der distale Gehäuseabschnitt (14) lösbar miteinander verbunden sind.

9. Injektionsvorrichtung nach Anspruch 8, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das Führungselement (46), das drehfest mit der Kolbenstange (28) verbunden ist, in lösbarem drehfestem Eingriff mit dem Gehäuse (14) steht und die axiale Verschiebung der Kolbenstange (28) während der Abgabe einer Injektion führt, wobei die Haltemittel (60) im Führungselement angeordnet sind.

10. Injektionsvorrichtung nach Anspruch 9, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Haltemittel (160) dem Führungselement

(46) benachbart an dessen distalem Ende angeordnet sind, wenn sie zwischen dem Führungselement (46) und dem Gehäuse (14) angeordnet sind.

11. Injektionsvorrichtung nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Dosiseinstellmittel (26) ein Differentialgetriebe zum Einstellen der Dosis umfassen.

12. Injektionsvorrichtung nach Anspruch 11, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** das Differentialgetriebe eine Vielzahl von Gewindehülsen umfasst, wobei mindestens eine Hülse eine Gewindesteigung hat, die von der Gewindesteigung einer anderen Hülse verschieden ist.

13. Injektionsvorrichtung nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, **dadurch gekennzeichnet, dass** die Abgabe der Injektionsdosis manuell betätigt wird.

Revendications

1. Dispositif d'injection (10) comprenant un logement (12, 14) conçu pour recevoir, dans sa partie proximale de logement (12), un récipient (16) contenant un fluide pour injection (18) et pour recevoir, dans sa partie distale de logement (14), un mécanisme de réglage et d'injection de dose (26), dans lequel le mécanisme comprend une tige de piston (28) pouvant être déplacée axialement par rapport au logement (12, 14) pour la distribution de fluide pour injection (18) à partir du récipient (16), la tige de piston (28) comportant un filetage extérieur (34) et étant disposée de manière anti-rotation par rapport au logement (12, 14),

des moyens de réglage de dose comprenant un élément fileté (36), ledit élément fileté comportant un filetage intérieur (38) en prise avec le filetage extérieur (34) de la tige de piston (28), étant conçu de telle sorte que sa position axiale par rapport au logement (12, 14) puisse être modifiée et étant rotatif par rapport à la tige de piston (28) et par rapport au logement (12, 14) lors du réglage d'une dose pour injection,

dans lequel l'élément fileté (36) est maintenu par les moyens de réglage de dose (26) d'une manière anti-rotation par rapport à la tige de piston (28) et au logement (12, 14) lors de l'injection de la dose pour injection réglée auparavant, l'élément fileté (36) et la tige de piston (28) pouvant être déplacés axialement conjointement par rapport au logement (12, 14),

dans lequel le mécanisme (26) comprend en outre des moyens de maintien (60) en contact avec la tige de piston (28) afin de bloquer tout déplacement axial de la tige de piston (28) lors de l'utilisation du dispositif (10) si ce n'est pour la distribution de la dose pour injection,

dans lequel les moyens de maintien (60) sont fixés axialement par rapport au logement (12, 14) et dans lequel la tige de piston (28) comporte deux surfaces extérieures planes (50) longitudinales ménagées dans le filetage extérieur (34) et disposées parallèlement l'une à l'autre sur des côtés opposés de la tige de piston (28), dans lequel les moyens de maintien (60) sont en contact avec les deux surfaces extérieures planes (50) parallèles de la tige de piston (28) et exercent une force de compression sur la tige de piston (28), dans lequel les moyens de maintien (60) agissent en tant que dispositif de serrage comportant deux parties de serrage (62, 62'), chacune étant en contact avec une surface extérieure plane (50) respective de la tige de piston (28) afin d'interagir par frottement avec la tige de piston (28), et dans lequel les moyens de maintien sont constitués d'un fil métallique courbé (60) et les parties de serrage (62, 62') présentent une courbure convexe dans la direction de la tige de piston (28) et dans lequel les parties de serrage (62, 62') des moyens de maintien (60) font saillie avec leurs parties de fil convexes respectives dans une ouverture (66) d'un élément de guidage (46) dans lequel la tige de piston (28) est guidée axialement et est maintenue d'une manière anti-rotation du fait d'une interaction des surfaces extérieures planes (50) de la tige de piston (28) avec des surfaces planes correspondantes (68) de l'ouverture (66) de l'élément de guidage (46).

2. Dispositif d'injection selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** les moyens de maintien (60) entourent au moins partiellement la tige de piston (28).

3. Dispositif d'injection selon la revendication 1, **caractérisé en ce que** les deux parties de serrage (62, 62') exercent un frottement statique sur la tige de piston (28) suffisant important pour empêcher un déplacement axial involontaire de la tige de piston (28).

4. Dispositif d'injection selon la revendication 3, **caractérisé en ce que** les deux parties de serrage (62, 62') exercent un frottement cinétique sur la tige de piston (28) suffisant faible pour ne pas entraver ou n'entraver que légèrement le déplacement axial requis de la tige de piston (28) lors de la distribution d'une dose pour injection.

EP 2 373 362 B1

5. Dispositif d'injection selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé en ce que** les moyens de maintien (60) sont déformables de manière élastique.
- 5 6. Dispositif d'injection selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel seules les parties de serrage (62, 62') des moyens de maintien (60) sont déformables de manière élastique.
7. Dispositif d'injection selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 6, **caractérisé en ce que** les moyens de maintien (60) sont constitués d'un acier à ressort.
- 10 8. Dispositif d'injection selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé en ce que** les moyens de maintien (60) sont disposés au niveau d'une extrémité proximale de la partie distale de logement (14) à proximité d'une partie de raccordement (52) au niveau de laquelle la partie proximale de logement (12) et la partie distale de logement (14) sont fixées l'une à l'autre de manière amovible.
- 15 9. Dispositif d'injection selon la revendication 8, **caractérisé en ce que** l'élément de guidage (46), qui est raccordé d'une manière anti-rotation à la tige de piston (28), se trouve en prise anti-rotation libérable avec le logement (14) et guide le déplacement axial de la tige de piston (28) lors de la distribution d'une injection, les moyens de maintien (60) étant disposés dans l'élément de guidage.
- 20 10. Dispositif d'injection selon la revendication 9, **caractérisé en ce que** les moyens de maintien (160), lorsqu'ils sont disposés entre l'élément de guidage (46) et le logement (14), sont placés en position adjacente à l'élément de guidage (46) sur l'extrémité distale de celui-ci.
- 25 11. Dispositif d'injection selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé en ce que** les moyens de réglage de dose (26) comprennent une transmission différentielle pour le réglage de la dose.
- 30 12. Dispositif d'injection selon la revendication 11, **caractérisé en ce que** la transmission différentielle comprend une pluralité de manchons filetés, au moins un manchon présentant un pas de vis différent du pas de vis d'un autre manchon.
- 35 13. Dispositif d'injection selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, **caractérisé en ce que** la distribution de la dose pour injection est effectuée manuellement.
- 40
- 45
- 50
- 55

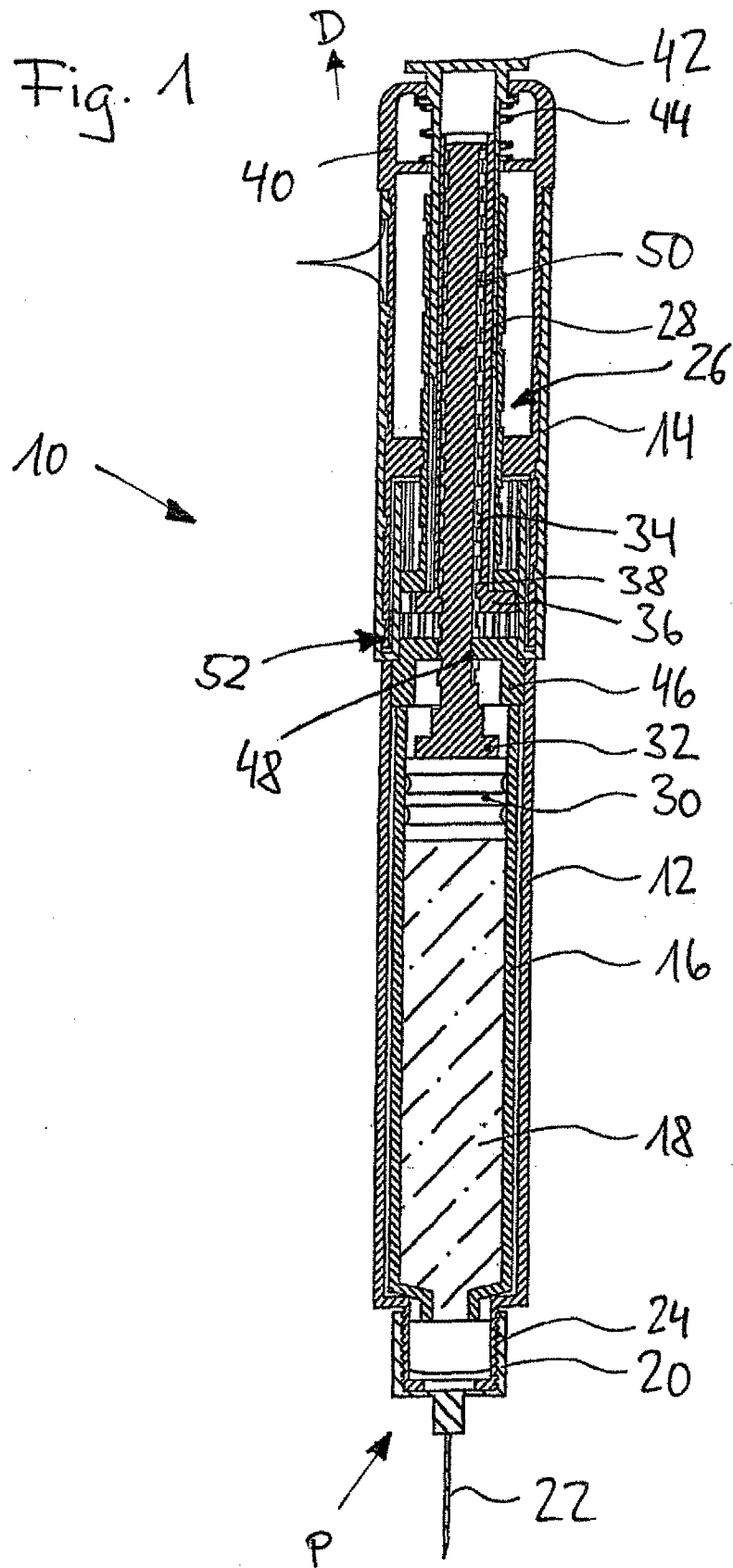


Fig. 2

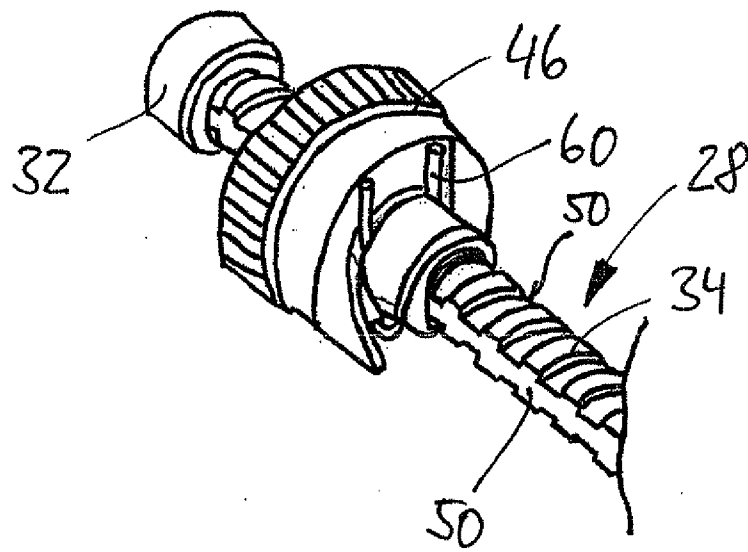


Fig. 3

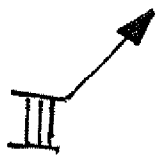
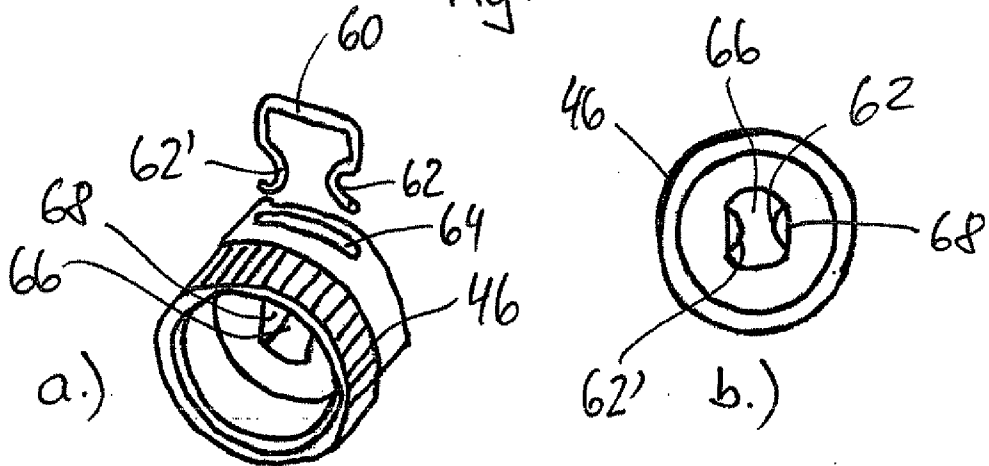
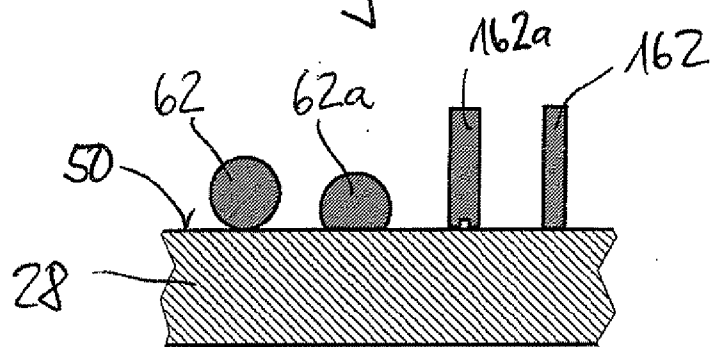
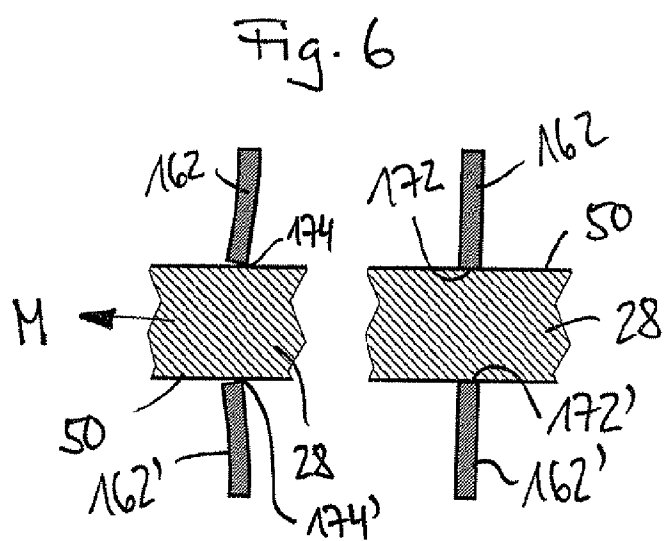
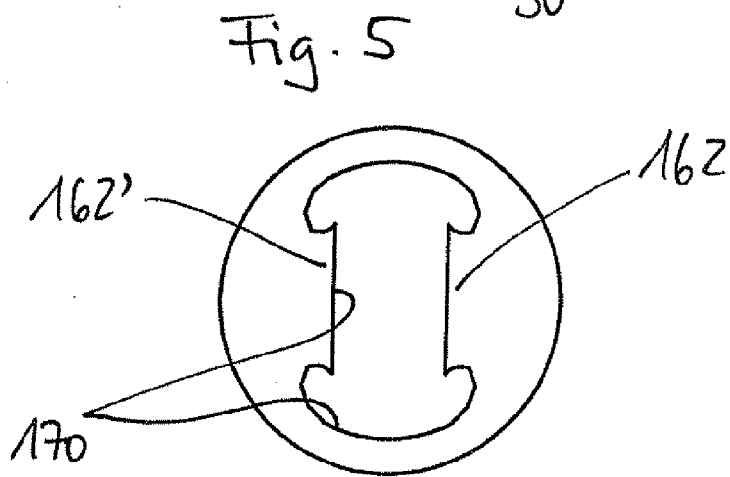
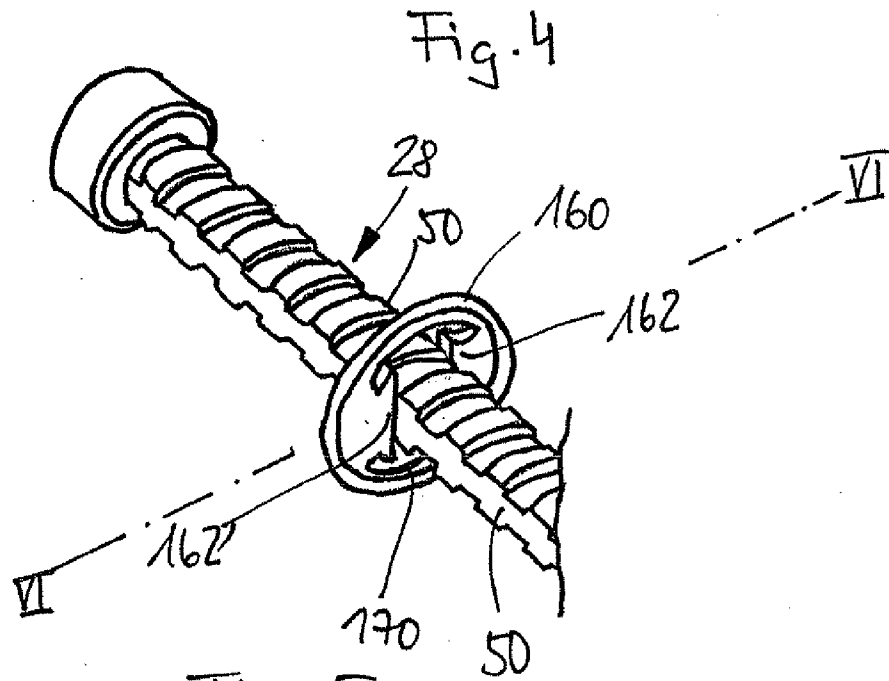


Fig. 7





REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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BEFECSKENDEZŐ ESZKÖZ DUGATTYÚRÚD NEM SZÁNDÉKOLT ELMOZDULÁSÁT GÁTLÓ TARTÓTAGGAL

Szabadalmi igénypontok

- 5 1. Befecskendező eszköz (10), amely tartalmaz házat (12, 14), amely egy proximális házrészében (12) befecskendezni szándékozott fluidumot (18) tartalmazó tartály (16) fogadására, valamint egy disztális házrészében (14) dózisbeállító és befecskendező szerkezet (26) fogadására alkalmasan van kiképezve, ahol a szerkezet tartalmaz
- 10 dugattyúrúdat (28), amely befecskendezni szándékozott fluidumnak (18) a tartályból (16) való kiadagolásához a házhoz (12, 14) képest tengelyirányban elmozdítható, ahol a dugattyúrúdnak (28) külső csavarmenete (34) van és a házhoz (12, 14) képest elfordulásmentesen van elrendezve,
- dózisbeállító tagot, amely csavarmentes elemet (36) tartalmaz, amely csavarmentes elem
- belső csavarmenettel (38) rendelkezik, amely a dugattyúrúd (28) külső csavarmentével (34) együttműködik,
- 15 úgy van kiképezve, hogy a tengelyirányú helyzete a házhoz (12, 14) képest változtatható és a dugattyúrúddal (28) képest és a házhoz (12, 14) képest egy befecskendezési dózis beállítása közben elfordítható,
- ahol a csavarmentes elem (36) a dózisbeállító tag (26) által a dugattyúrúddal (28) és a házhoz (12, 14) képest az előzetesen beállított dózis befecskendezése közben elfordulásmentesen van tartva, ahol a
- 20 csavarmentes elem (36) és a dugattyúrúd (28) együtt tengelyirányban a házhoz (12, 14) képest elmozdítható,
- ahol a szerkezet (26) tartalmaz továbbá tartótagot (60), amely a dugattyúrúddal (28) érintkezik a dugattyúrúdnak (28) a befecskendezési dózis kiadagolása kivételével az eszköz (10) használata közbeni mozdulatlanul tartásához,
- ahol a tartótag (60) a házhoz (12, 14) képest tengelyirányban rögzítve van, továbbá a dugattyúrúdnak
- 25 (28) két hosszanti sík külső felülete (50) van, melyek a külső menethez (34) vannak vágva és egymással párhuzamosan vannak kiképezve a dugattyúrúd (28) szemközti oldalain, ahol
- a tartótag (60) a dugattyúrúd (28) mindkét párhuzamos külső sík felületével (50) érintkezik és a dugattyúrúdra (28) összenyomó erőt fejt ki, ahol a tartótag (60) két szorítóreszt (62, 62') tartalmazó szorítóeszközként működik, amely szorítórészek a dugattyúrúddal (28) való súrlódásos együttműködéshez a
- 30 dugattyúrúd (28) egy-egy megfelelő sík külső felületével (50) érintkeznek, továbbá a tartótag hajlított fémhuzalból (60) van és a szorítórészeknek (62, 62') a dugattyúrúd (28) irányában konvex görbülete van, továbbá a tartótag (60) szorítórészei (62, 62') a megfelelő konvex huzalrészeikkel egy vezetőelem (46) nyílásába (66) nyúlnak, amely vezetőelemben a dugattyúrúd (28) tengelyirányban van vezetve és a dugattyúrúd (28) külső sík felületeinek (50) a vezetőelem (46) nyílásának (66) megfelelő sík felületeivel (68) való
- 35 együttműködése révén elfordulásmentesen van tartva.
2. Az 1. igénypont szerinti befecskendező eszköz, **azzal jellemezve**, hogy a tartótag (60) a dugattyúrúdat (28) legalább részben körülvetzi.
3. Az 1. igénypont szerinti befecskendező eszköz, **azzal jellemezve**, hogy a két szorítóreszt (62, 62') által a dugattyúrúdra (28) kifejtett statikus súrlódás olyan nagy, hogy a dugattyúrúd (28) nem szándékozt
- 40 tengelyirányú elmozdulásának megakadályozásához.



4. A 3. igénypont szerinti befecskendező eszköz, **azzal jellemezve**, hogy a két szorító rész (62, 62') által a dugattyúrúdra (28) kifejtett kinetikus súrlódás olyan kicsiny, hogy a dugattyúrúdnak (28) a befecskendezési dózis kiadagolása közben szükséges tengelyirányú elmozdulását nem vagy csak enyhén befolyásolja.

5. Az előző igénypontok bármelyike szerinti befecskendező eszköz, **azzal jellemezve**, hogy a tartótag (60) elasztikusan deformálható.

6. Az előző igénypontok bármelyike szerinti befecskendező eszköz, ahol a tartótagnak (60) csupán a szorító részei (62, 62') elasztikusan deformálhatóak.

7. Az 1-6. igénypontok bármelyike szerinti befecskendező eszköz, **azzal jellemezve**, hogy a tartótag (60) rugóacélból van.

8. Az előző igénypontok bármelyike szerinti befecskendező eszköz, **azzal jellemezve**, hogy a tartótag (60) a disztális házrész (14) proximális végénél egy csatlakozórész (52) közelében van elrendezve, ahol a proximális házrész (12) és a disztális házrész (14) oldhatóan egymáshoz kapcsolódik.

9. A 8. igénypont szerinti befecskendező eszköz, **azzal jellemezve**, hogy a dugattyúrúddal (28) elfordulásmentesen kapcsolódó vezetőelem (46) a házzal (14) oldható elfordulásmentes kapcsolatban van és a dugattyúrúd (28) tengelyirányú elmozdulását egy injekció kiadagolása közben vezeti, ahol a tartótag (60) a vezetőelemben van elrendezve.

10. A 9. igénypont szerinti befecskendező eszköz, **azzal jellemezve**, hogy a tartótag (160), amikor a vezetőelem (46) és a ház (14) között van elrendezve, a vezetőelemmel (46) annak disztális végén szomszédosan vannak elhelyezve.

11. Az előző igénypontok bármelyike szerinti befecskendező eszköz, **azzal jellemezve**, hogy a dózisbeállító tagok (26) a dózis beállításához differenciálattétet tartalmaznak.

12. A 11. igénypont szerinti befecskendező eszköz, **azzal jellemezve**, hogy a differenciálattét több csavarmentes hüvelyt tartalmaz, ahol legalább egy hüvelynek egy másik hüvely menetemelkedésétől eltérő menetemelkedése van.

13. Az előző igénypontok bármelyike szerinti befecskendező eszköz, **azzal jellemezve**, hogy a befecskendezési dózis kiadagolása manuálisan kerül működtetésre.