Abstract: A method and system for determining the residual volume within a patient having a naso-enteral feeding tube. A collection container is coupled to the naso-enteral feeding tube and a physical force is applied to the collection container to prevent stomach fluid from flowing into the collection container. The physical force is removed from the collection container and the stomach fluid is allowed to flow into the collection container. The volume of fluid within the collection container is determined, which represents the gastric residual volume of the patient. At least a portion of the collected volume of stomach fluid is returned to the patient from the collection container.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61M5/168 A61B5/107

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
A61M A61B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category*</th>
<th>Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 4 808 161 A (KAMEN DEAN L [US]) 28 February 1989 (1989-02-28) column 1, lines 16,34; figures 1,2 column 2, lines 1,9,12,16,19-22,38,39</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
X See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
*"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
*"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
*"L" document which may throw doubts on prior art claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
*"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
*"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 28 January 2010
Date of mailing of the international search report: 13/01/2011

Name and mailing address of the ISA:
European Patent Office, P.B. 5816 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax. (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer:
Visser, Rogier
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patent document cited in search report</th>
<th>Publication date</th>
<th>Patent family member(s)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US 2008219928 A1</td>
<td>11-09-2008</td>
<td>NONE</td>
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<tr>
<td>US 4808161 A</td>
<td>28-02-1989</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box No. II  Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. [X] Claims Nos.: 1-17
   because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
   
   see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

2.   Claims Nos.: 
   because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3.   Claims Nos.: 
   because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III  Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

   see additional sheet

1.   As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2.   As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3.   As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4.   [X] No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

   18-20

Remark on Protest

   □ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

   □ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

   □ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet (2)) (April 2005)
This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 18-20

   Subject-matter as claimed in claim 18 (including a pressure chamber, cf. lines 5-13)

2. claims: 21-22

   Drainage valve
Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 1-17

Claims 1-17. In claim 1, a method is claimed that comprises a step of "removing the physical force applied to the collection container such that the stomach fluid from within the patient's stomach flows into the collection container" (cf. line 7). This is a step acting on/into the human body with considerable medical risk if not carried out appropriately by a medical practitioner.

In claim 12, a corresponding step is claimed as "lowering the collection container below the patient to allow stomach fluid to flow into the collection container" (cf. line 6).

Therefore, claims 1 and 12, and their dependent claims 2-11 and 13-17, define a surgical method practised on the human or animal body, which is not industrially applicable (PCT Art. 33(4)) and the requirements of PCT Art. 33(1) are not met.