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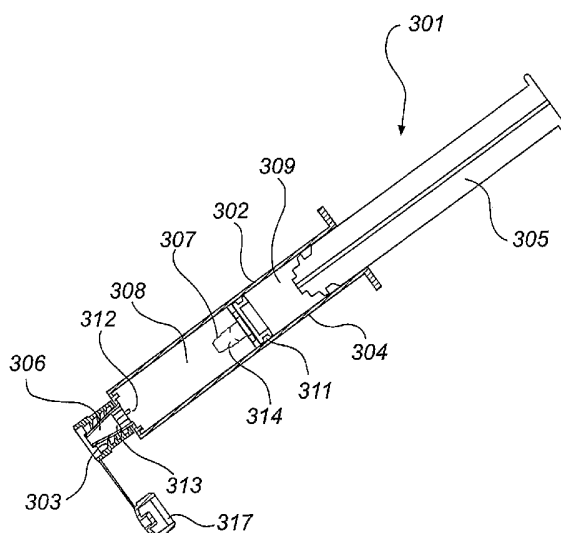
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(54) Title: APPLICATOR AND METHOD FOR APPLYING LOCK SOLUTION IN A CATHETER



(57) Abstract: A device for applying a lock solution in a catheter or other access system comprises a syringe (302) having an expulsion arrangement (305, 311) for expelling the lock solution from the device, said expulsion arrangement including a plunger (305) arranged in a housing (304), further comprising a sterile connector (303) for connecting the syringe (302) to the catheter. The connector (303) is arranged to engage a tip (307) of the expulsion arrangement (305, 311) tightly when the syringe (302) is inserted in the connector (303). The connector (303) is arranged to prevent the tip (307) of the expulsion arrangement (305, 311) from entering the catheter. The tip (307) is frangible. A method of applying a lock solution in a catheter or other access system is also disclosed.



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APPLICATOR AND METHOD FOR APPLYING LOCK SOLUTION IN A CATHETER

Technical Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a device for applying a lock solution in a catheter or other system for access to an organism, a vascular system, tissue
5 structures or hollow organs, said applicator device comprising a syringe having an expulsion arrangement for expelling the lock solution from the device, said expulsion arrangement including a plunger arranged in a housing, further comprising a sterile connector for
10 connecting the syringe to the catheter or other system for access, the connector being arranged to engage a tip of the expulsion arrangement tightly when the expulsion arrangement of the syringe is inserted in the connector.

The invention also relates to a method for applying
15 a lock solution in a catheter or access system.

Background Art

When deciding to treat a patient with the help of a catheter, the benefit of the treatment always has to be
20 balanced against the risk of nosocomial infections, since there is always a risk that bacteria or other microorganisms spread by touch or air contamination grow in the catheter. In order to reduce the risk of infections, a lock solution is applied in the catheter
25 when it has been disconnected from e.g. a dialysis machine or due to therapeutic interventions such as application of contrast media or instillation of fluids or medication. The lock solution provides a kind of liquid barrier for growth of bacteria and other
30 microorganisms. It may contain e.g. heparin, citrate or taurolidine.

In order to further reduce the risk of infections and to simplify the application of the lock solution, pre-filled syringes with lock solution may be used.

Pre-filled syringes are known containing saline
5 solution for rinsing or e.g. a heparin solution for use as lock solution. Such syringes are marketed e.g. by BD under the name BD PosiFlush™. These syringes are provided with a so-called luer lock for connecting the syringe to the catheter. Although the solutions in the pre-filled
10 syringe are sterile a problem with maintaining sterility remains, since microorganisms may be introduced by touch or air contamination at the opening of the catheter when connecting and disconnecting the syringe.

15 Summary of the Invention

The object of the present invention is to alleviate the problems described above.

A specific object of the invention is to provide a pre-filled applicator device for applying lock solution
20 in a catheter or access system, which ensures enhanced operative simplicity during aseptic handling and which reduces the risk of microbial, particle or air contamination.

Another object of the invention is to provide a pre-
25 filled applicator which makes possible a simple procedure for rinsing and locking a catheter or access system.

Yet another object is to provide a method of applying a lock solution which ensures a significant improvement of the aseptic connection procedure with
30 maintained sterility in the catheter or access system.

An object of the invention is also to provide method that simplifies the procedure of rinsing the catheter or access system prior to application of the lock solution.

According to the invention, these and other objects
35 are achieved by means of a device according to claim 1. Preferred embodiments are defined in the dependent claims.

These objects are also achieved by means of a method in accordance with claim 15, preferred variants being defined in the dependent claims.

The device of the invention has a connector which is
5 arranged to prevent the tip of the expulsion arrangement from entering the catheter lumen, the tip being frangible. With such a device, the tip of the expulsion arrangement may be left behind as a stopper in the connector when the device is removed after injecting the
10 lock solution, thus ensuring maintained sterility.

The connector is preferably a luer lock connector. This type of connector ensures a tight connection and may be fitted on most catheters. However, the connector may of course be of any other equivalent design preventing
15 touch contamination during connection to the catheter.

The frangible tip of the expulsion arrangement may be provided with a peripheral row of indentations. The indentations provide a stress raiser which makes it easy to break off the tip of the expulsion arrangement.

20 In order to enhance the engagement of the frangible tip of the expulsion arrangement inside the connector, the frangible tip is preferably provided with a substantially radial projection and an inside of the connector provided with a notch, the projection being
25 arranged to engage the notch.

Another way of enhancing the engagement of the tip of the expulsion arrangement inside the connector is to provide the tip of the expulsion arrangement with a conical shape which tightly fits in an inner conical
30 shape of the connector.

In one embodiment, the housing defines a single compartment which contains the solution to be injected. The one-compartment housing allows a particularly simple construction.

35 In another embodiment, the housing is divided into a first and second compartment. Thus, two different

solutions may be injected using the same applicator device.

The first compartment in a tip end of the housing is preferably filled with flushing solution and the second
5 compartment in a back end of the housing is preferably filled with a lock solution. The applicator device of this embodiment may be used for rinsing a catheter and subsequently applying the lock solution. The flushing solution may be e.g. a saline solution.

10 The expulsion arrangement may further comprise a divider separating the first and second compartments. This is a way of expelling solution first from the first compartment and then from the second compartment.

According to one embodiment of the invention, the
15 divider is a frangible membrane, and a mandrel at the tip end of the housing is arranged to rupture the membrane. In this manner, the two different solutions may be kept separate during storage and the mandrel ruptures the membrane when the plunger is pressed down to allow
20 solution from the second compartment to pass through the ruptured membrane, into the catheter.

The frangible tip may be arranged on the plunger or on the divider. A suitable placement of the tip may thus be chosen as desired.

25 As an alternative to a frangible membrane, the device of the invention may comprise a by-pass arranged to shunt the lock solution past the membrane. Thus, lock solution may effectively be injected once the flushing solution has been injected.

30 In one embodiment of the invention, the divider is a seal including a valve which is openable on pressing down the plunger. This is another way of allowing solution to be expelled from the second compartment into the catheter.

35 According to the invention, the plunger may be provided with an abutment means for indicating when the first compartment has been emptied. The nurse or

physician thus knows when all flushing solution has been inserted, should he/she wish to wait before injecting also the lock solution.

The inventive applicator may advantageously be
5 provided with an air removal system for removing air bubbles.

The air removal system preferably comprises a chamber separated from the atmosphere by an air permeable membrane and arranged to communicate with the catheter
10 when the syringe is connected to the catheter. In this manner, atmospheric pressure may be established in the chamber and blood with air bubbles will flow out into the chamber.

The method of the invention comprises the steps of:
15 connecting a sterile connector attached to a tip end of a syringe to the catheter or other access system,
injecting the lock solution in the catheter by pressing an expulsion arrangement of the syringe including a plunger, thereby engaging a frangible tip of
20 the expulsion arrangement in the connector,
removing the syringe from the connector, leaving behind the frangible tip of the expulsion arrangement which is broken off when removing the syringe,
closing a lid on the connector.

25 By using this method lock solution may easily be applied while ensuring maintained sterility in the catheter.

According to a specific variant of the inventive method flushing solution is injected prior to injecting
30 the lock solution. The catheter or any other access system may thus conveniently be rinsed before application of the lock solution.

In one variant of the method of the invention flushing solution is injected by a first press on the
35 plunger and the lock solution is injected by a second press on the plunger. This is convenient should the nurse or physician wish to wait between rinsing and application

of lock solution. An abutment means arranged on the plunger may indicate to the nurse or physician when the flushing solution has been expelled from the syringe.

In another variant the flushing solution and
5 subsequently the lock solution are injected in one continuous press on the plunger. This is a quick way of rinsing the catheter and applying the lock solution.

Brief Description of the Drawings

10 The invention will be described in more detail with reference to the appended drawings, which show examples of presently preferred embodiments of the invention.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an applicator device according to a first embodiment of the invention with one
15 compartment.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the applicator device of Fig. 1 shown before the plunger is pressed.

Fig. 3 is a view corresponding to Fig. 2, but shown when the plunger has been pressed all the way down.

20 Fig. 4 is a perspective view of an applicator device according to a second embodiment of the invention with two compartments.

Fig. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the applicator device of Fig. 4 shown before the plunger is pressed.

25 Fig. 6 is a view corresponding to Fig. 5, but shown when the plunger has been pressed all the way down.

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of an applicator device according to a third embodiment of the invention with two compartments and a by-pass.

30 Fig. 8 is a cross-sectional view of the applicator device of Fig. 7 shown before the plunger is pressed.

Fig. 9 is a view corresponding to Fig. 8, but shown when the plunger has been pressed all the way down.

Fig. 10 is a perspective view of an applicator
35 device according to a fourth embodiment of the invention with two compartments and a valve function.

Fig. 11 is a cross-sectional view of the applicator device of Fig. 10 shown before the plunger is pressed.

Fig. 12 is a view corresponding to Fig. 11, but shown when the plunger has been pressed part of the way down and the first compartment has been emptied.

Fig. 13 is a view corresponding to Fig. 12, but shown when the plunger has been pressed all the way down.

Fig. 14 is a perspective view of an applicator device according to a fifth embodiment of the invention with an air removal system.

Fig. 15 is a cross-sectional view of the applicator device of Fig. 14 shown before the plunger is pressed.

Fig. 16 is a view corresponding to Fig. 15, but shown when the plunger has been pressed part of the way down and the first compartment has been emptied.

Fig. 17 is a view corresponding to Fig. 16, but shown when the plunger has been pressed all the way down.

Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments of the Invention

The applicator device 1 of Fig. 1 basically consists of a hollow body similar to a syringe 2 provided with a connector in the form of a connector 3 for connection with a catheter or other access system (not shown). The syringe 2 has an elongate housing 4 in which a plunger 5 is coaxially arranged. The plunger 5 constitutes an expulsion arrangement for expelling solution from the syringe. On a tip end 6 of the housing 4 the connector 3 is connected. The plunger 5 has a tip 7 which is frangible.

When the catheter has been disconnected from e.g. a dialysis machine or other bloodline system, it is important to make sure that no blood clots are formed in the catheter and that microorganisms are prevented from entering the catheter. Therefore, the catheter is rinsed by means of a separate syringe filled with flushing solution, e.g. saline solution. Once the catheter has

been rinsed, a lock solution containing e.g. heparin or taurolidine or any other composition of biologically and physiologically suitable substances may be applied in the lumen of the catheter by means of the applicator device

5 1. The connector 3 is connected to the catheter and the tip end 6 of the housing 4 is fixed inside the connector 3. When the plunger 5 is pressed down, the lock solution enters the catheter. As the plunger 5 is pressed all the way down the tip 7 is stuck inside the connector 3. The

10 inner shape of the connector 3 and the outer shape of the tip 7 ensure that the tip 7 does not enter the catheter. This may be achieved e.g. by means of projections on the outside of the tip 7 and corresponding notches on the inside of the connector 3 or preferably by the tip being

15 shaped as a cone fitting in an inner cone shape of the connector 3. The tip 7 is provided with a stress raiser in the form of a peripheral row of punctures or indentations 14. Once the tip 7 is stuck inside the connector 3, the syringe 2 may be withdrawn and the

20 broken-off tip 7 left in the connector 3, closing the opening of the connector 3. The tip end 6 of the housing 4 is also broken off and left together with the connector 3. When the syringe 2 has been removed, a lid 8 is placed over the connector 3, which remains connected to the

25 catheter. In this manner, a lock solution is applied in the catheter while maintaining the sterility of the opening of the catheter.

In the embodiment of Figs 4-6, the applicator device 101 is similar to the applicator device 1 of Fig. 1,

30 except that the applicator device 101 has a housing 104 which is divided into two compartments 108, 109 delimited by a divider in the form of a frangible membrane 110. With the plunger 105 the membrane 110 forms an expulsion arrangement for expelling solution from the syringe. The

35 tip end compartment 108 is filled with flushing solution, e.g. saline solution, and the back end compartment 109 is filled with a lock solution. A frangible tip 107 is

attached to the plunger 105. The tip end 106 of the housing 104 is provided with a mandrel 112 arranged in a semicircle. The mandrel 112 has a sharp forward cutting edge for rupturing the membrane 110.

5 As with the applicator device 1 of Fig. 1, the applicator device 101 is connected to a catheter or other access system via the connector 103. As the plunger 105 is pressed, first the saline solution of the first compartment 108 is injected into the catheter. When all
10 saline solution has been injected, the membrane 110 has reached the tip end 106 of the housing 104. The membrane 110 is then ruptured by the mandrel 112 and continued pressing of the plunger 105 injects the lock solution of the second compartment 109. As the plunger 105 is pressed
15 all the way down, the tip 107 engages the inside of the connector 103 in the same way as in the first embodiment, as can be seen in Fig. 6. Therefore, as the syringe 102 is removed, the tip 107 and the tip end 106 of the housing 104 are left behind, closing the opening of the
20 catheter. As with the first embodiment, this embodiment ensures that sterility is maintained in the catheter. Furthermore, the applicator device 101 of this second embodiment simplifies the rinsing and locking of the catheter since it obviates the need for a separate
25 syringe for the flushing solution. When the syringe 102 has been removed, a lid 111 is placed over the connector 103.

 In the embodiment of Figs 7-9 the applicator device 201 is similar to the applicator device 101 of Fig. 4,
30 but is provided with a by-pass 212 near the tip end 206 of the housing 204, and not provided with a mandrel. Just as in the device 101, the plunger 205 and a divider, in this case in the form of a non-frangible membrane 210, form an expulsion arrangement for expelling solution from
35 the syringe 202. In contrast to the device 101, the frangible tip 207 is arranged on the membrane 210 and not on the plunger 205.

As with the applicator devices of Figs 1 and 4, the applicator device 201 is connected to a catheter via the connector 203. As the plunger 205 is pressed, first the flushing solution (e.g. saline solution) of the first
5 compartment 208 is injected into the catheter. When all saline solution has been injected, the membrane 210 has reached the tip end 206 of the housing 204. Continued pressing of the plunger 205 injects the lock solution of the second compartment 209. Since the membrane 210 blocks
10 the outlet passage 213 at the tip end 206 of the housing 204, the lock solution by-passes the membrane 210 via the by-pass 212. As the plunger 205 is pressed all the way down, the tip 207 which is attached to the membrane 210 is pushed all the way down and engages the inside of the
15 connector 203 in the same way as in the first and second embodiments, as can be seen in Fig. 9. Therefore, as the syringe 202 is removed, the tip 207 is left behind. The tip end 206 of the housing 204 is also broken off and left behind. Just as with the first and second
20 embodiments, this embodiment ensures that sterility is maintained in the catheter. Furthermore, the applicator device 202 of this third embodiment simplifies the rinsing and locking of the catheter since it obviates the need for a separate syringe for the flushing solution.
25 When the syringe 202 has been removed, a lid 211 is placed over the connector 203.

In the embodiment of Figs 10-13, the applicator device 301 is similar to the applicator devices of Figs 4 and 7, except that the two compartments 308, 309 are
30 delimited by a seal 311. With the plunger 305, the seal 311 forms an expulsion arrangement for expelling solution from the syringe 302. As in the second and third embodiments, the tip end compartment 308 is filled with flushing solution (e.g. saline solution) and the back end
35 compartment 309 is filled with a lock solution. The seal 311 that separates the two compartments 308, 309 is

provided with a frangible tip 307 corresponding to the tip 7 in the first embodiment.

As with the applicator devices of the other embodiments, the applicator device 301 is connected to a catheter or other access system via the connector 303. As
5 the plunger 305 is pressed, first the flushing solution of the first compartment 308 is injected into the catheter. When all flushing solution has been injected, the seal 311 has reached the tip end 306 of the housing
10 304, as can be seen in Fig. 12. Through continued pressing of the plunger 305 a valve in the seal is opened and the lock solution of the second compartment 309 can be injected. The valve in the seal 311 is constituted by
15 slits in the seal 311, which are normally closed, but which open when the seal impacts spacers 312 at the tip end 306 of the housing 304. As the plunger 305 is pressed all the way down, the tip 307 is also pressed all the way
20 down and engages the inside of the connector 303 in the same way as in the other embodiments, as can be seen in Fig. 13. Therefore, as the syringe 302 is removed, the tip 307 is left behind, closing the opening of the catheter. The tip end 306 of the housing 304 is also
25 broken off and left in the connector 303. As with the three other embodiments, this embodiment ensures that sterility is maintained in the catheter. Furthermore, the applicator device 302 of this fourth embodiment
simplifies the rinsing and locking of the catheter since it obviates the need for a separate syringe for the flushing solution. When the syringe 302 has been removed,
30 a lid 317 is placed over the opening of the connector 303.

In the embodiment of Figs 14-17, the applicator device 401 is similar to the applicator device of Figs 10-12, except that this fifth embodiment includes an
35 air removal system 402, which consists of a separate chamber 403 of the applicator 401 with an air permeable membrane 404, such that the pressure in the chamber 403

is similar to the atmospheric pressure p_2 outside the applicator 401. When the catheter is connected with the applicator 401, the air removal system 402 communicates with the catheter. The blood pressure p_1 in the catheter is higher than the pressure p_2 in the chamber 403. The blood with air bubbles will therefore flow into the chamber 403. When the chamber is filled with blood, the plunger 405 is pressed down, so that the stopper 406 moves downwards and becomes penetrated by the mandrel 407. When the stopper 406 is pressed all the way down, the blood with air is enclosed in the chamber 403. By pressing the plunger 405 further down, the rinsing solution in the forward compartment 409 is pressed into the catheter. With the plunger 405, the seal 410 forms an expulsion arrangement for expelling solution from the applicator 401. The back end compartment 411 is filled with a lock solution. The valve 410 that separates the tip end compartment 409 with the rinsing solution from the back end compartment 411 is provided with a frangible tip 412.

When all rinsing solution has been injected into the catheter, the valve 410 has reached the tip end of the housing, as can be seen in Fig. 16. By continued pressing of the plunger 405, a valve 410 in the seal is opened and the lock solution of the back end compartment 411 can be injected into the catheter. The valve 410 in the seal is constituted by slits in the seal, which are normally closed, but which open when the seal impacts spacers 419 at the tip end of the housing. As the plunger 405 is pressed all the way down, the tip 412 is also pressed all the way down and engages the inside of the tip end of the housing and the luer lock in the same way as in the other embodiments described above. Therefore, as the syringe 413 is removed, the tip 412 is left behind, closing the opening of the catheter. The tip end of the housing is also broken off and left in the luer lock.

The skilled person realises that a number of modifications of the embodiments described herein are possible without departing from the scope of the invention, which is defined in the appended claims.

5 For instance, the two-compartment applicator device 101; 201; 301 may be provided with a small abutment on the plunger 105; 205; 305, so that the nurse or physician is given an indication when the tip end compartment 108; 208; 308 has been emptied. The plunger 105; 205; 305 may
10 then be pressed further, past the abutment, for emptying the back end compartment. Otherwise, the injection of the flushing solution and the lock solution may be done in one continuous push.

 The two-compartment applicator device 101; 201; 301
15 or an applicator with more than two compartments, may also be suitable in cases where the components of the lock solution need to be stored separately during sterilization and storage. In such cases, distilled water or a simple buffer solution is contained in one
20 compartment and other components in dry form or in high concentrations are contained in the other compartment(s).

CLAIMS

1. A device for applying a lock solution in a catheter or access system, said applicator device
5 comprising a syringe (2; 102; 202; 302; 413) having an expulsion arrangement (5; 105, 110; 205, 210; 305, 311; 405, 410) for expelling the lock solution from the device, said expulsion arrangement including a plunger (5; 105; 205; 305; 405) arranged in a housing (4; 104; 204; 304; 414), further comprising a sterile connector
10 (3; 103; 203; 303; 416) for connecting the syringe (2; 102; 202; 302; 413) to the catheter, the connector (3; 103; 203; 303; 416) being arranged to engage a tip (7; 107; 207; 307; 412) of the expulsion arrangement (5; 105, 110; 205, 210; 305, 311; 405, 410) tightly when the
15 expulsion arrangement (5; 105, 110; 205, 210; 305, 311; 405, 410) of the syringe (2; 102; 202; 302; 413) is inserted in the connector, c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n that the connector (3; 103; 203; 303; 416) is arranged to
20 prevent the tip (7; 107; 207; 307; 412) of the expulsion arrangement (5; 105, 110; 205, 210; 305, 311; 405, 410) from entering the catheter, said tip (7; 107; 207; 307; 412) being frangible.

2. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said
25 connector is a luer lock (3; 103; 203; 303; 416).

3. A device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the frangible tip (7; 107; 207; 307; 412) of the expulsion arrangement (5; 105, 110; 205, 210; 305, 311; 405, 410) is provided with a peripheral row of indentations (14; 114; 214; 314; 417).
30

4. A device as claimed in anyone of claims 1 to 3, wherein the frangible tip (7; 107; 207; 307; 412) of the expulsion arrangement (5; 105, 110; 205, 210; 305, 311; 405, 410) is provided with a substantially radial
35 projection and an inside of the connector (3; 103; 203; 303; 416) is provided with a notch, said projection being arranged to engage said notch.

5. A device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the frangible tip (7; 107; 207; 307; 412) of the expulsion arrangement (5; 105, 110; 205, 210; 305, 311; 405, 410) has a conical shape which tightly fits in an inner conical shape of the connector (3; 103; 203; 303; 416).

6. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the housing (104; 204; 304; 414) is divided into a first and a second compartment (108, 109; 208, 209; 308, 309; 409, 411).

7. A device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first compartment (108; 208; 308; 409) in a tip end of the housing (104; 204; 304; 414) is filled with flushing solution and the second compartment (109; 209; 309; 411) in a back end of the housing (104; 204; 304; 414) is filled with a lock solution.

8. A device as claimed in 6 or 7, wherein the expulsion arrangement further comprises a divider (110; 210; 311; 410) separating the first and second compartments (108, 109; 208, 209; 308, 309; 409, 411).

9. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the divider is a frangible membrane (110; 410), and wherein a mandrel (112; 407) at the tip end of the housing (104; 414) is arranged to rupture the membrane (110; 410).

10. A device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the frangible tip (7; 107) is arranged on the plunger (5; 105).

11. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the frangible tip (207; 307; 412) is arranged on the divider (210; 311; 410).

12. A device as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a by-pass (212) arranged to shunt the lock solution past the divider (210).

13. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the divider is a seal (311; 410) including a valve which is openable on pressing down the plunger (305; 405).

14. A device as claimed in any one of claims 6-13, wherein the plunger (105; 205; 305) is provided with an abutment means for indicating when the first compartment (108; 208; 308) has been emptied.

5 15. A device as claimed in any one of claims 6-14, further comprising an air removal system (402).

16. A device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the air removal system (402) comprises a chamber (403) separated from the atmosphere by an air permeable membrane (404)
10 and arranged to communicate with said catheter or access system when said syringe (413) is connected to said catheter or access system.

17. A method of applying a lock solution in a catheter or access system, comprising the steps of
15 connecting a sterile connector attached to a tip end (6; 106; 206; 306; 418) of a syringe (2; 102; 202; 302; 413) to the catheter or other access system,

 injecting the lock solution in the catheter by pressing an expulsion arrangement of the syringe (2; 102; 202, 302; 413) including a plunger (5; 105; 205; 305; 405), thereby engaging a frangible tip (7; 107; 207; 307; 412) of the expulsion arrangement (5; 105, 110; 205, 210; 305, 311; 405, 410) in the connector (3; 103; 203; 302; 416),

25 removing the syringe (2; 102; 202; 302; 413) from the connector (3; 103; 203; 303; 416) leaving behind the frangible tip (7; 107; 207; 307; 412) of the expulsion arrangement (5; 105, 110; 205, 210; 305, 311; 405, 410) which is broken off when removing the syringe (2; 102; 202; 303; 413),

30 closing a lid (8; 111; 211; 317) on the connector (3; 103; 203; 303).

18. A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein a flushing solution for rinsing the catheter is injected
35 prior to injecting the lock solution.

19. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein flushing solution is injected by a first press on the

plunger (105; 205; 305; 405) and the lock solution is injected by a second press on the plunger (105; 205; 305; 405).

20. A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the
5 flushing solution and subsequently the lock solution are injected in one continuous press on the plunger (105; 205; 305; 405).

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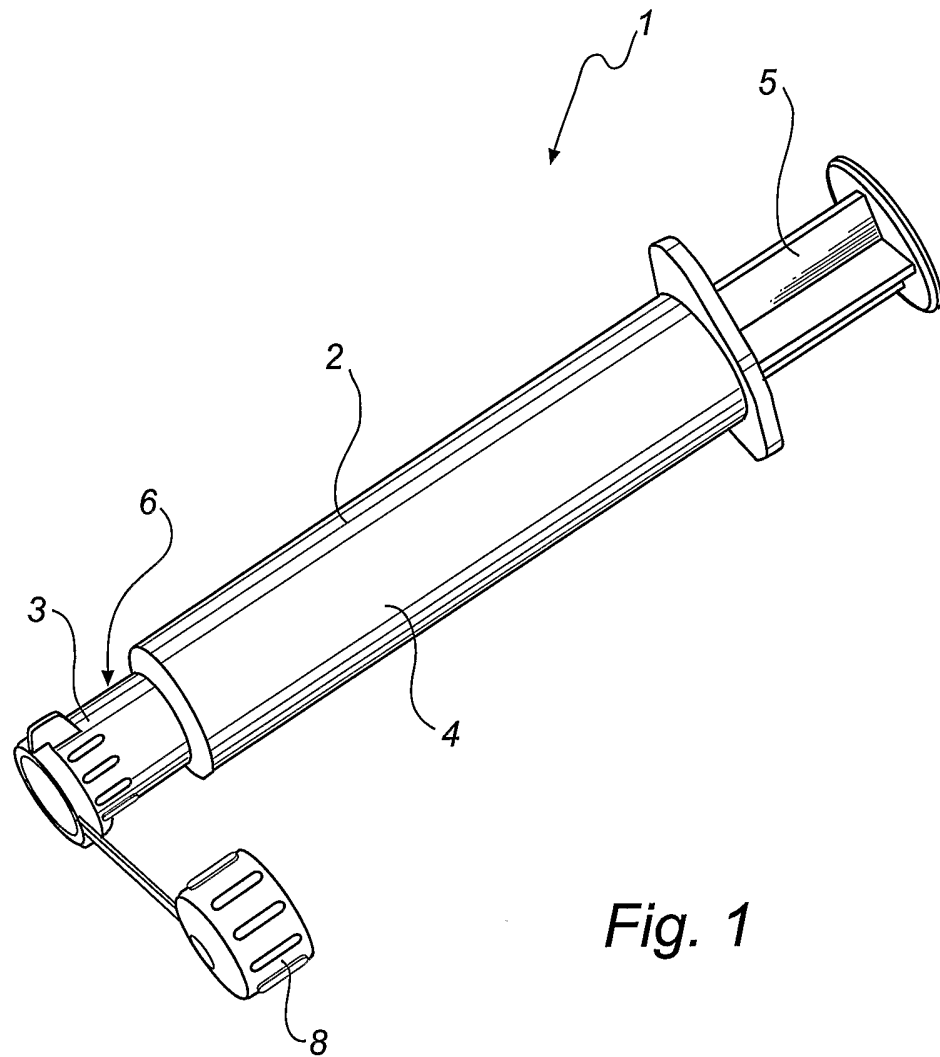
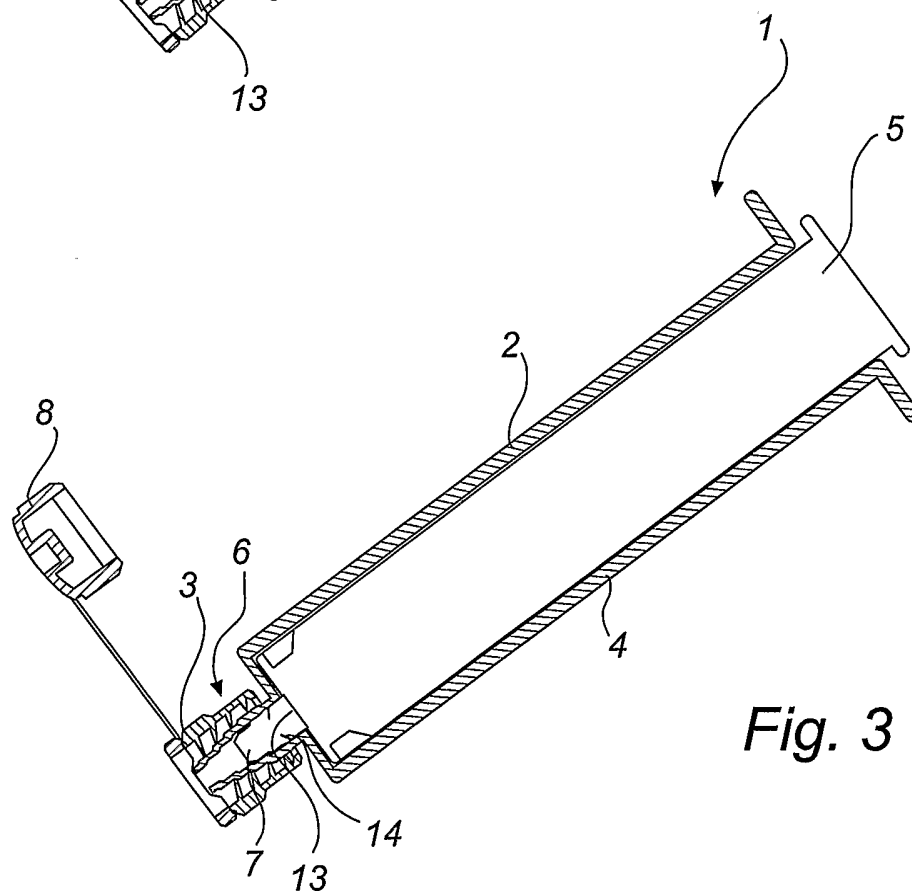
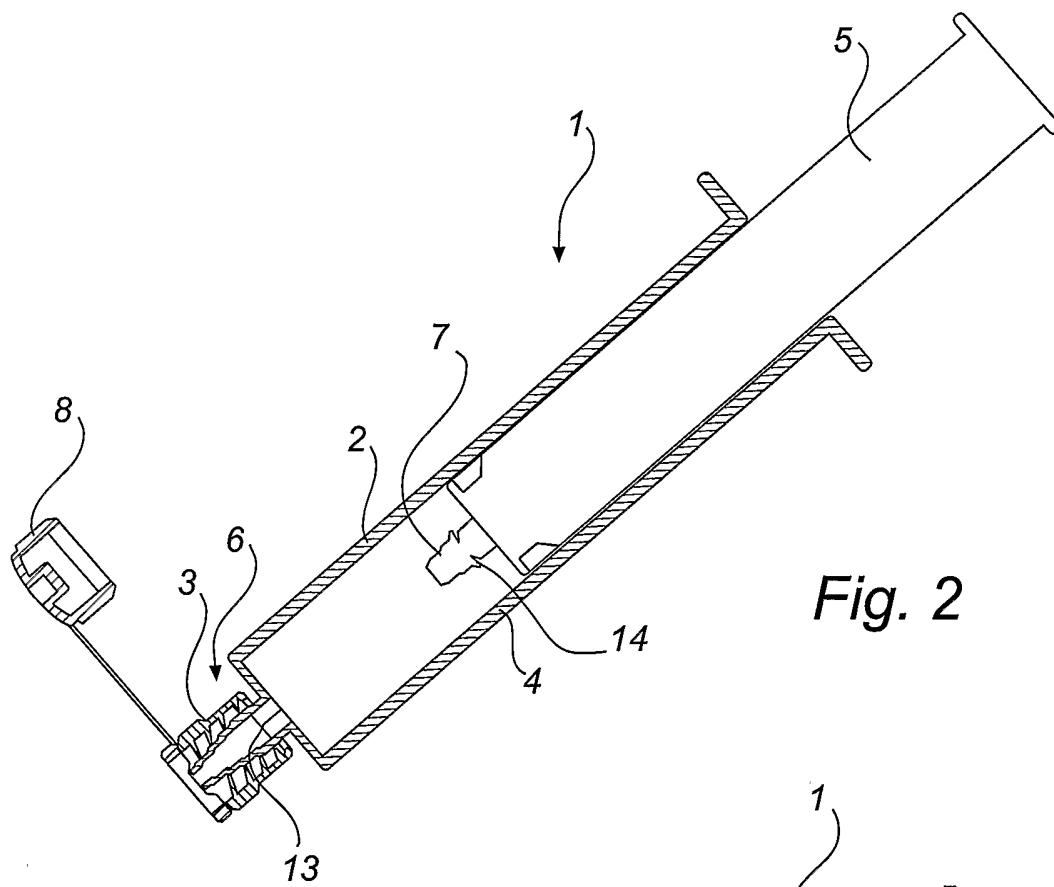
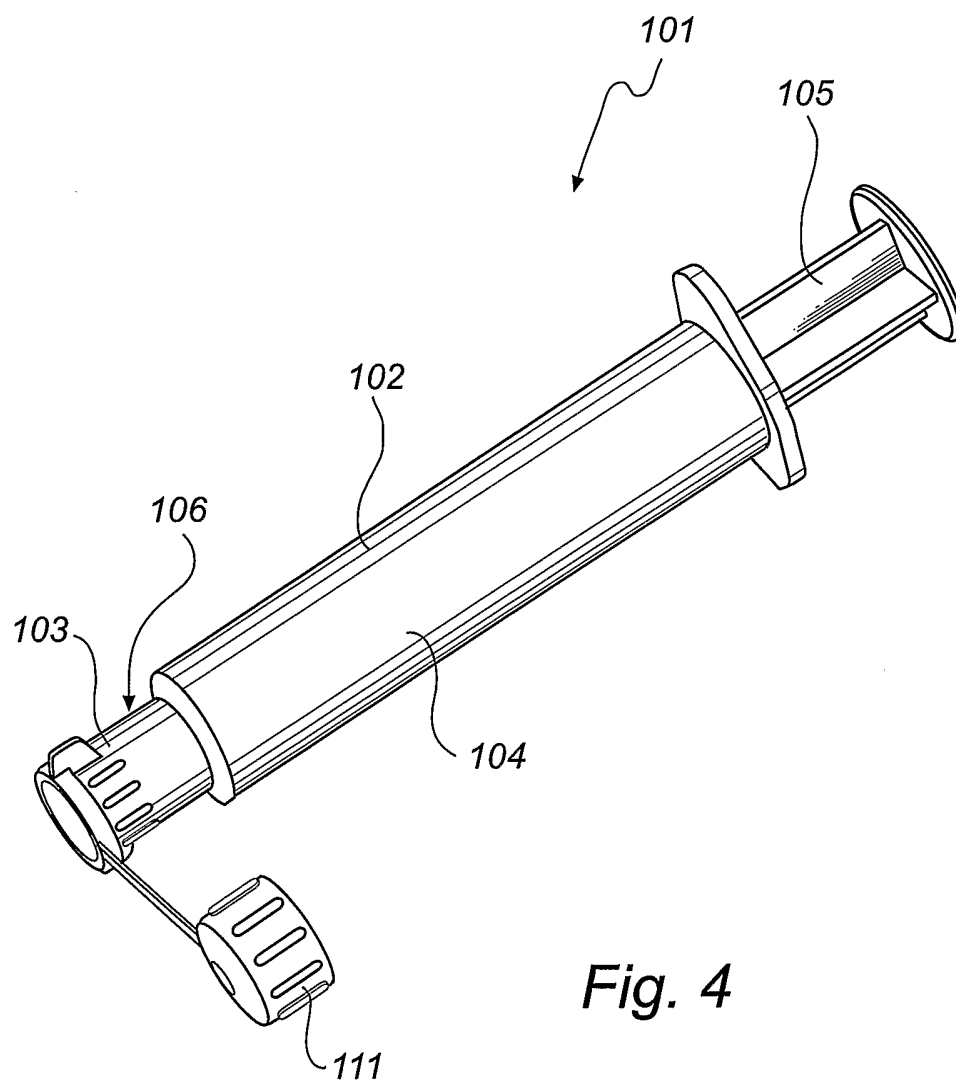


Fig. 1

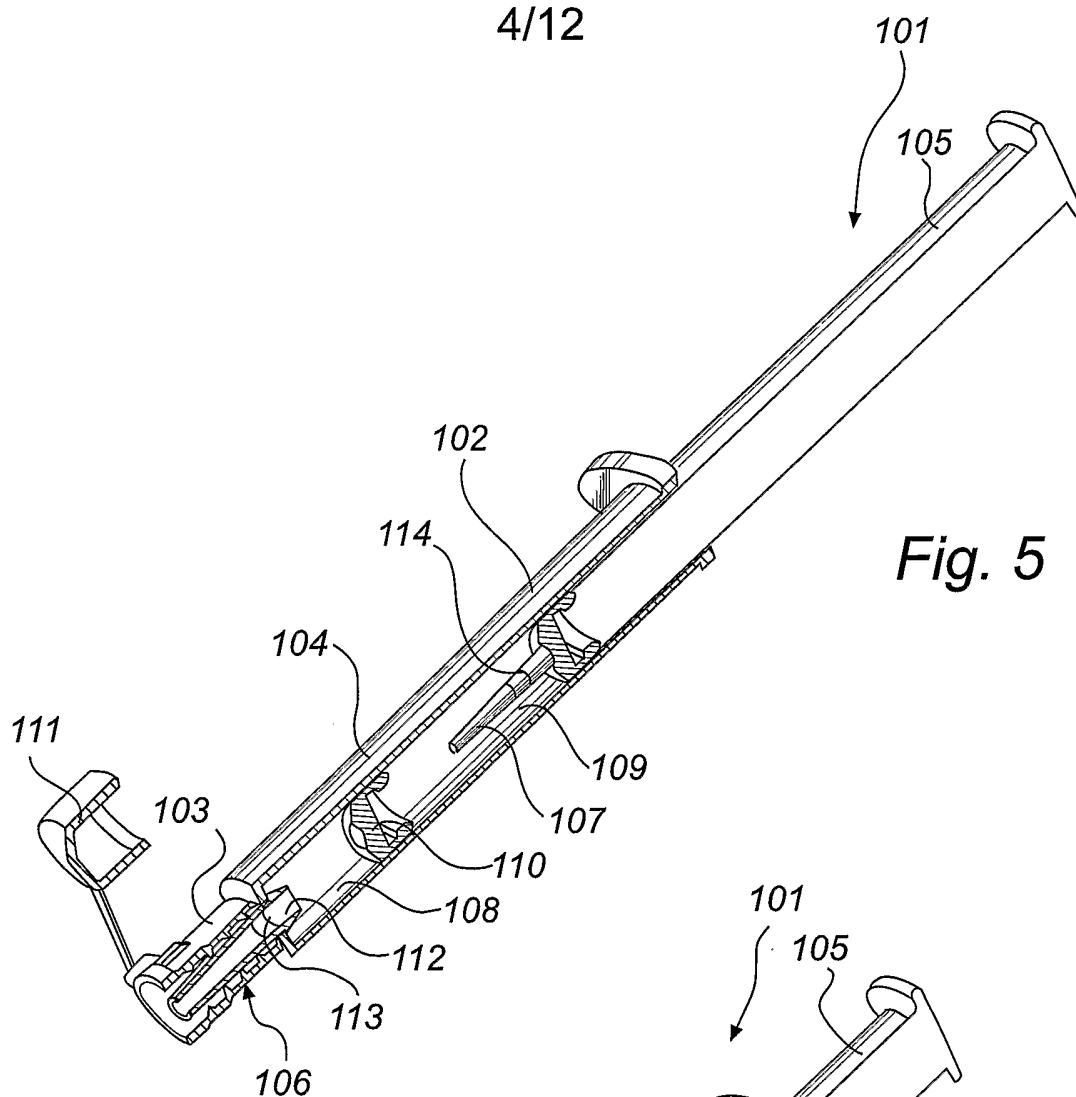
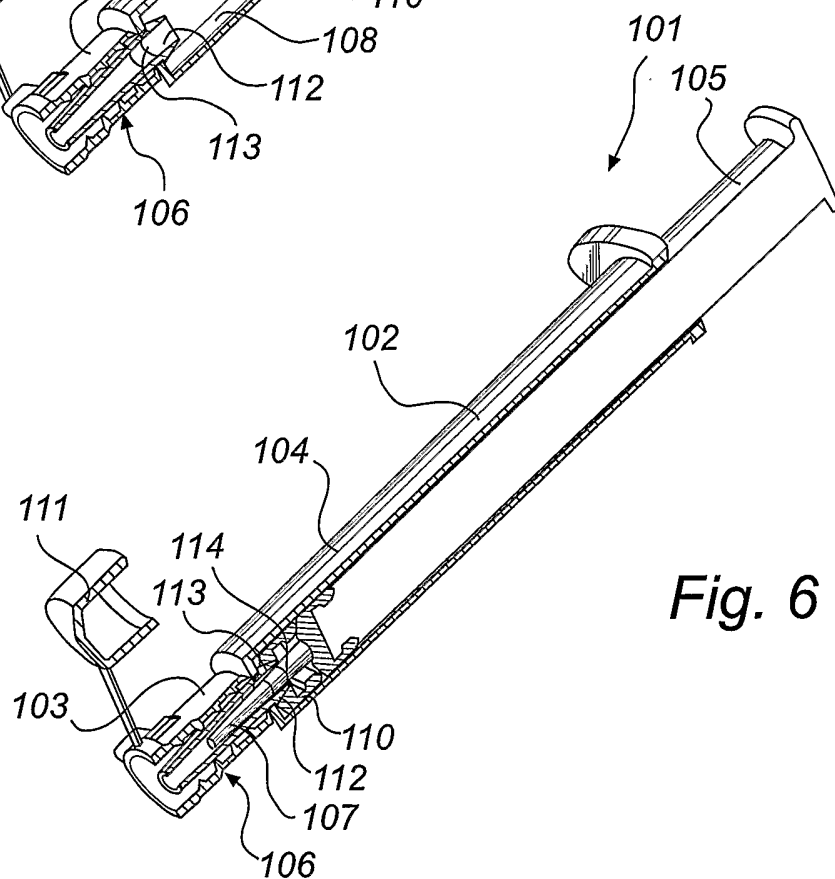
2/12

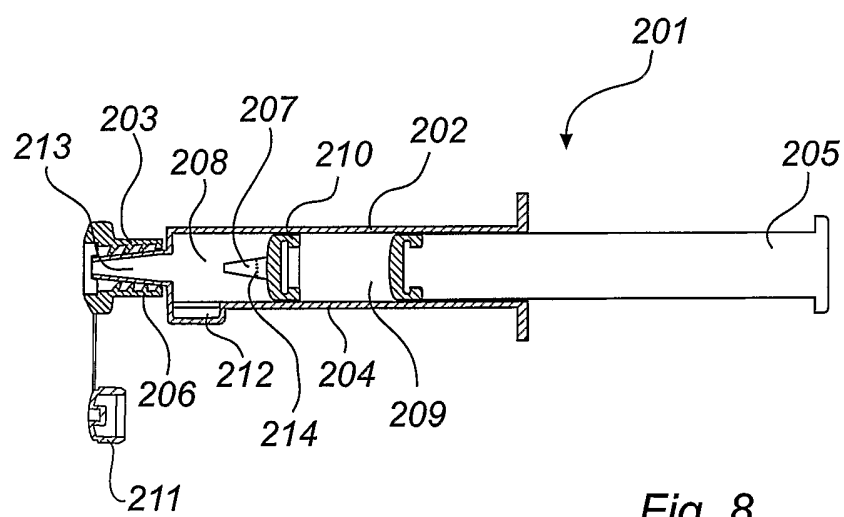
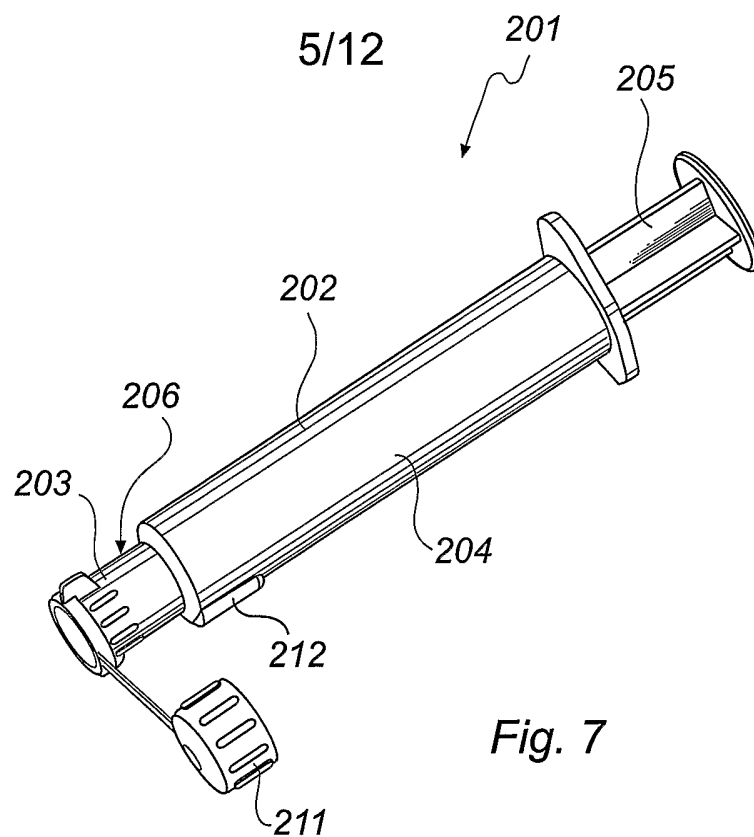


3/12

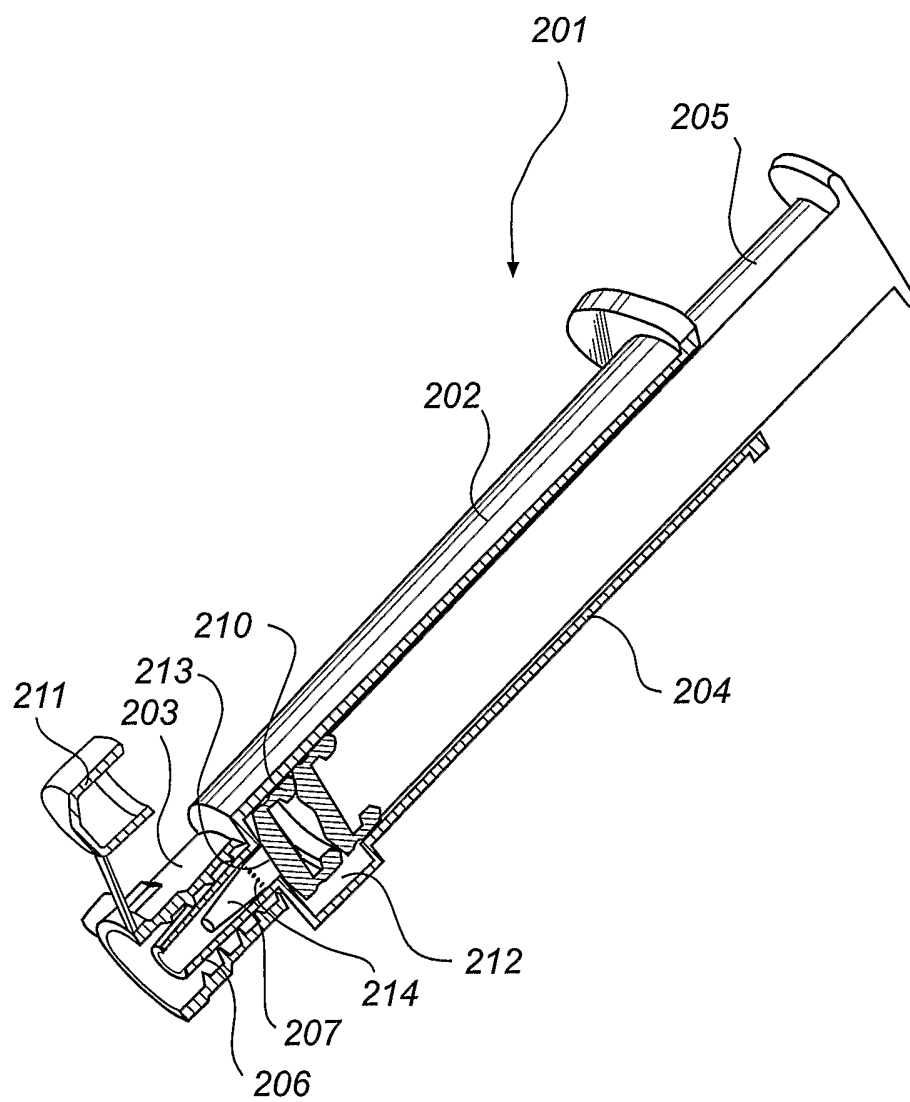
*Fig. 4*

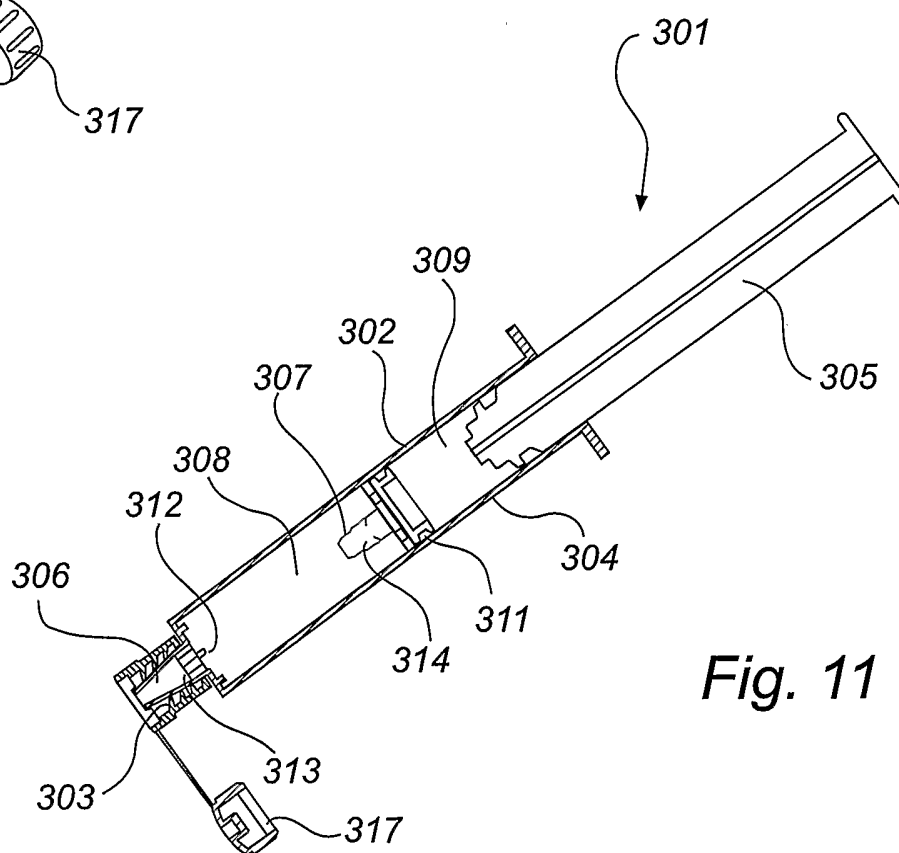
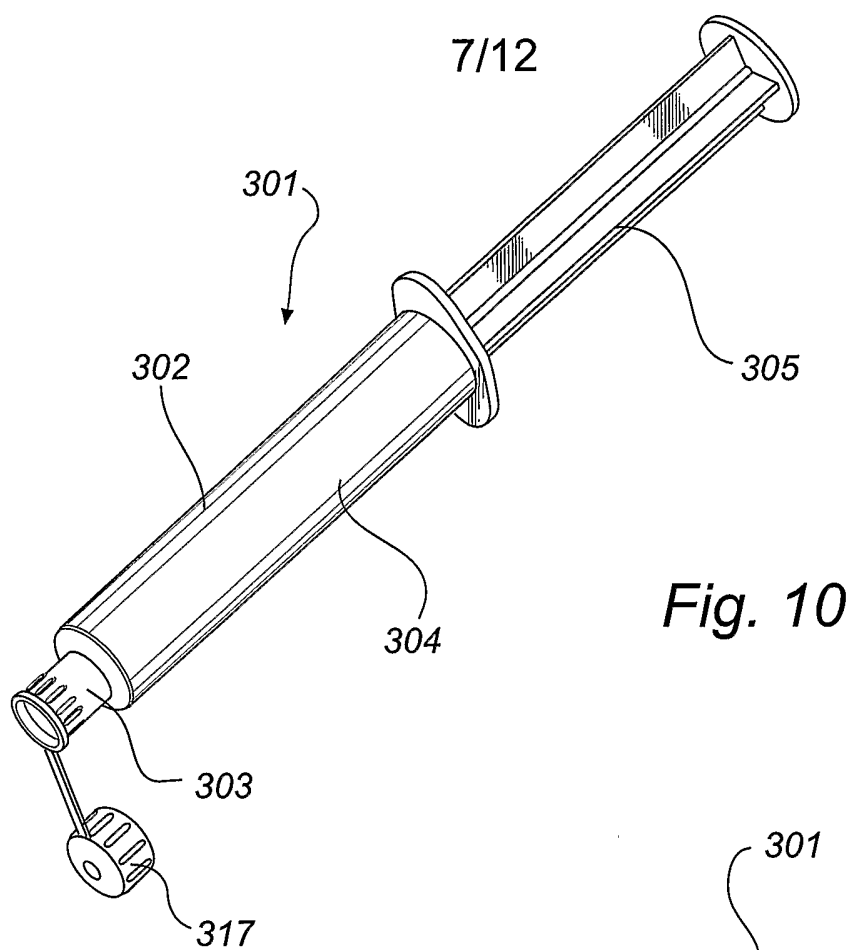
4/12

*Fig. 5**Fig. 6*



6/12

*Fig. 9*



8/12

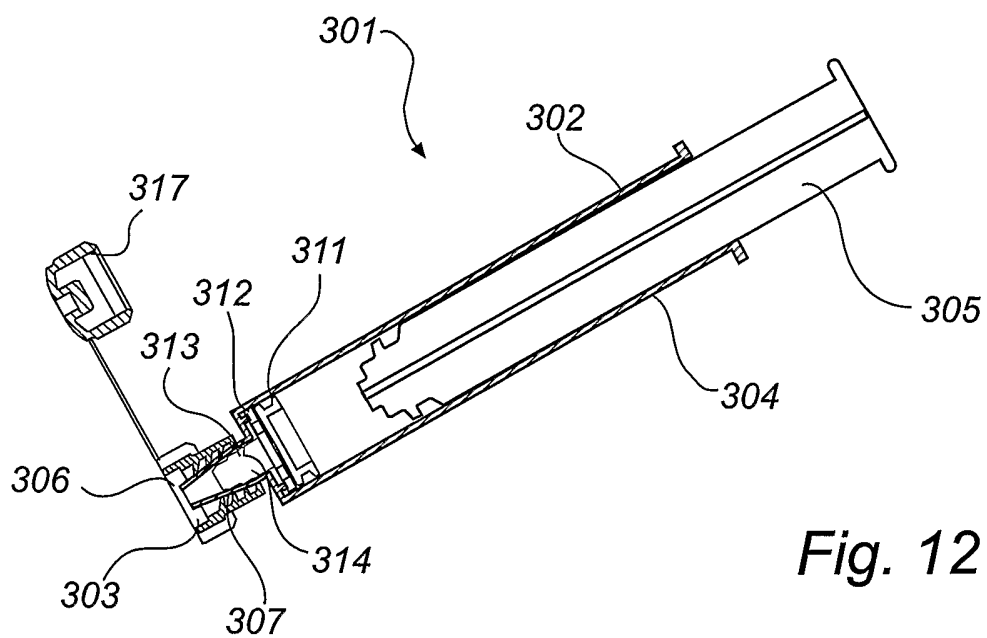


Fig. 12

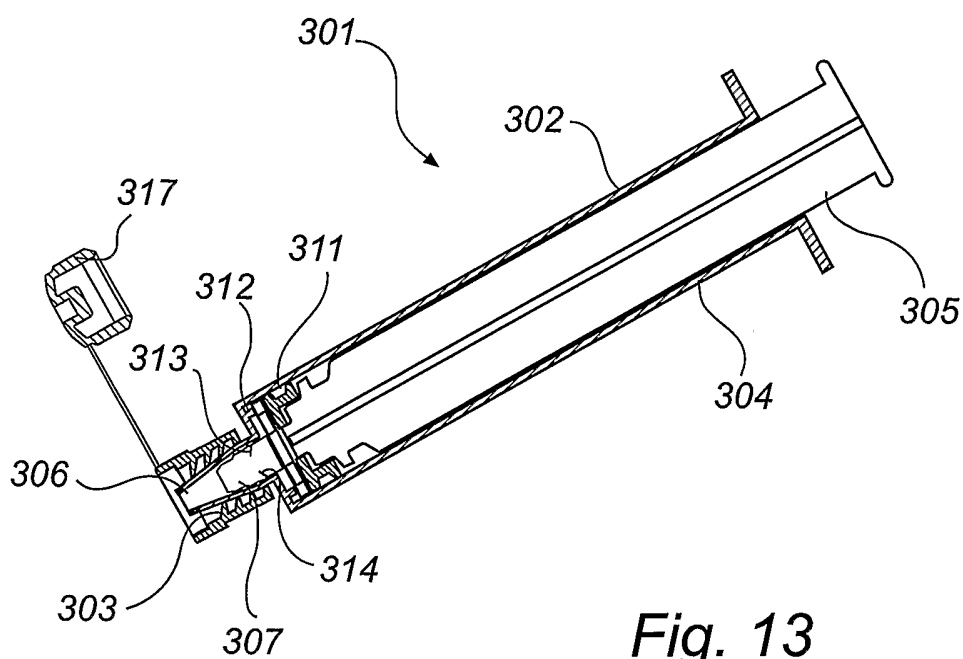
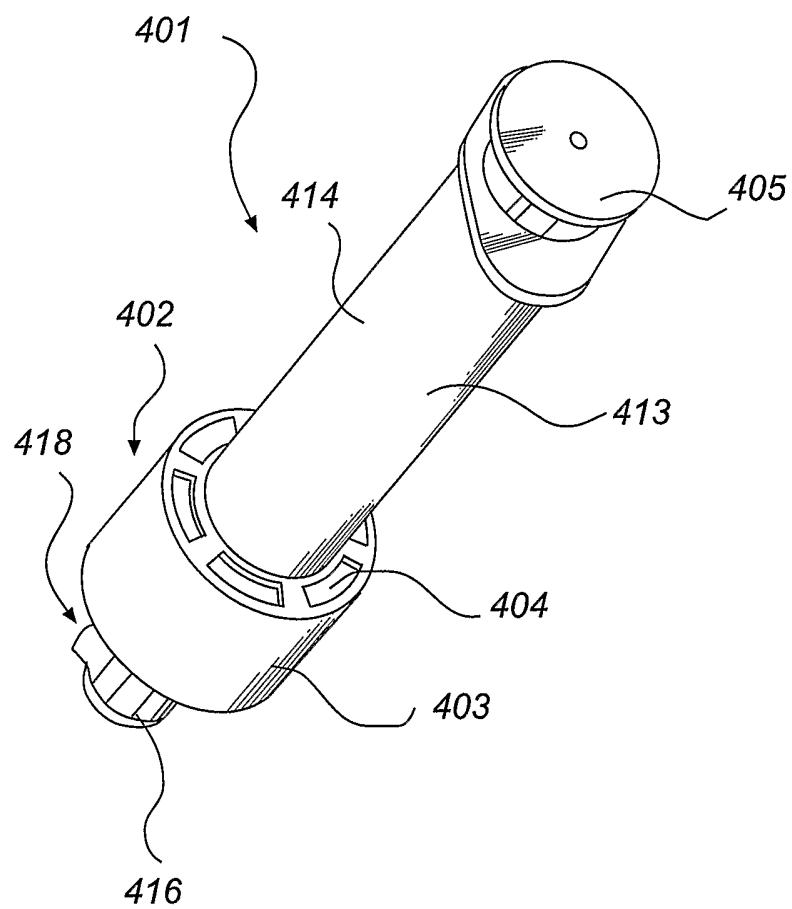


Fig. 13

9/12

*Fig. 14*

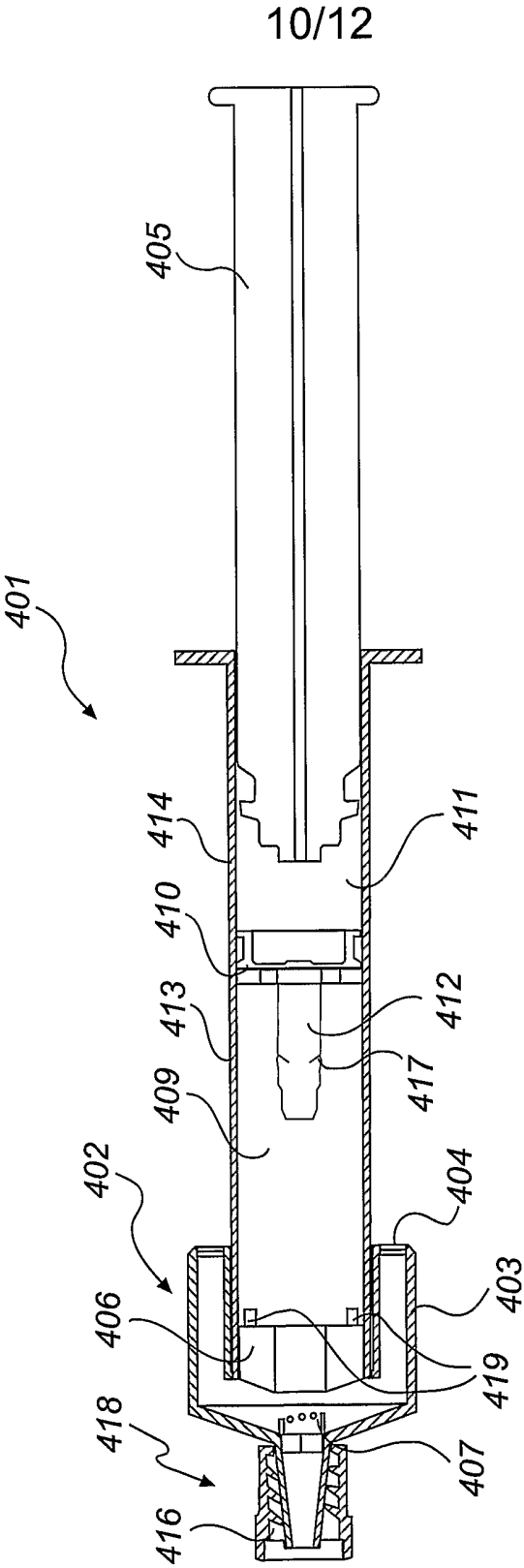


Fig. 15

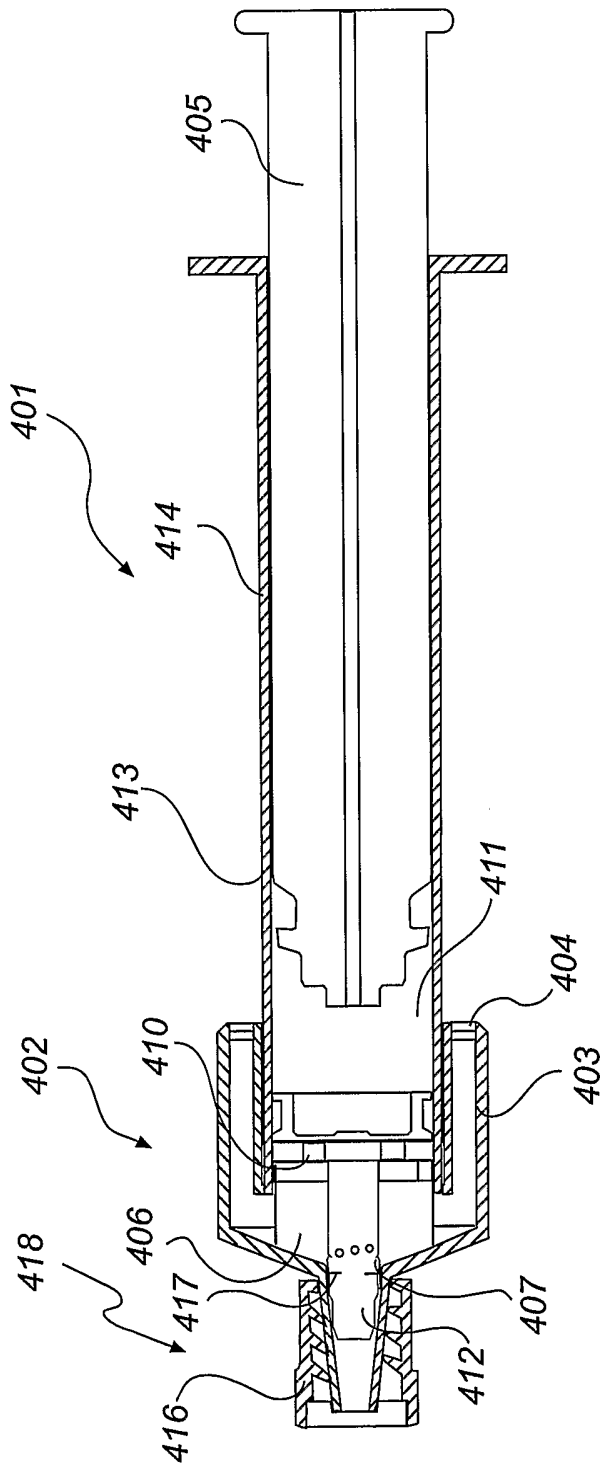


Fig. 16

12/12

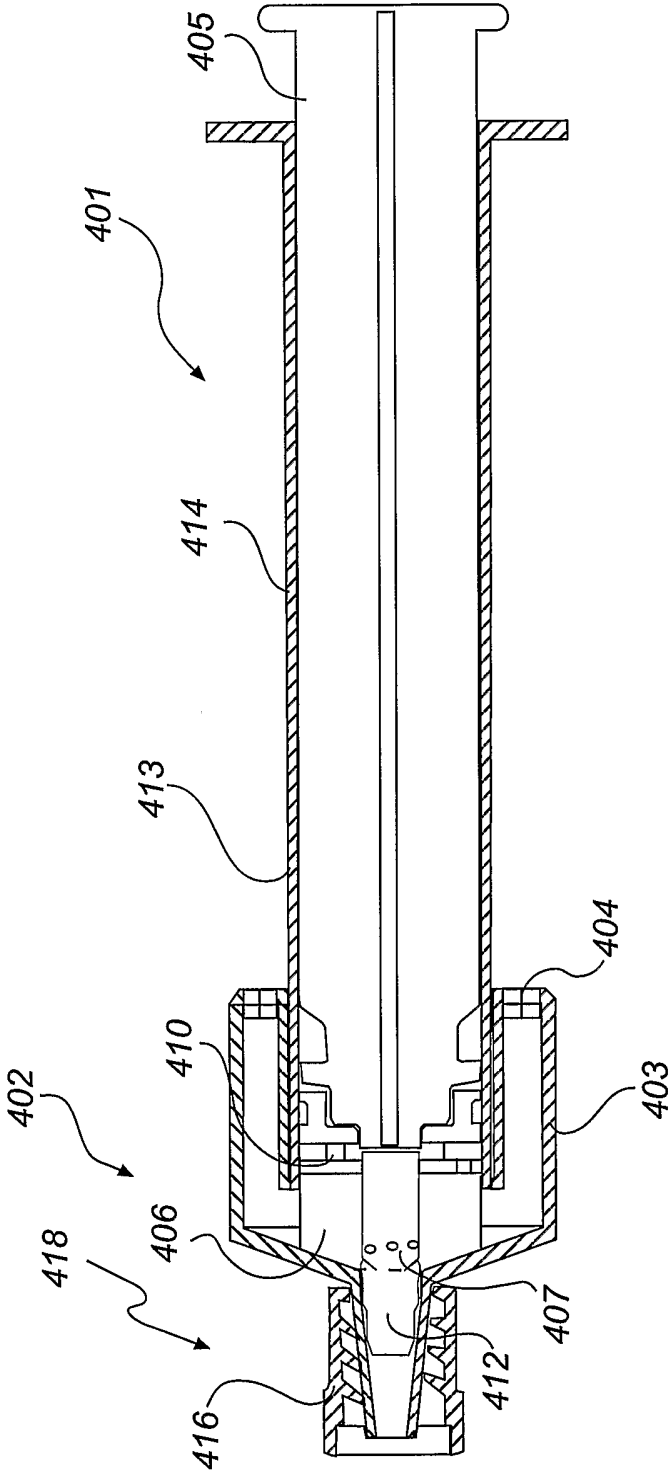


Fig. 17

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 2005/000913

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: A61M 5/50, A61M 39/16, A61M 25/00

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)

IPC7: A61M

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

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-INTERNAL, WPI DATA, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 20020128607 A1 (HAURY ET AL), 12 Sept 2002 (12.09.2002), abstract --	1-20
A	US 20030153897 A1 (RUSSO), 14 August 2003 (14.08.2003), abstract --	1-20
A	US 20030181849 A1 (CASTELLANOS), 25 Sept 2003 (25.09.2003), abstract --	1-20
A	DE 19602366 C1 (SIEVERS, HANS-HINRICH ET AL), 7 May 1997 (07.05.1997), figures 1-3 --	1-20

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 Sept 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

22-09-2005

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International application No.

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 9108011 A1 (ELFANDI, PATRICE), 13 June 1991 (13.06.1991), abstract --	1-20
A	US 4353367 A (HUNTER ET AL), 12 October 1982 (12.10.1982), column 3, line 57 - column 4, line 15 --	1-20
A	DE 3930039 A1 (PALM, ULO-AARNE ET AL), 7 March 1991 (07.03.1991), abstract -- -----	1-20

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Information on patent family members

31/08/2005

International application No.
PCT/SE 2005/000913

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				WO	0010629	A	02/03/2000

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				US	20030153865	A	14/08/2003
				WO	03068293	A	21/08/2003

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WO	9108011	A1	13/06/1991	AP	9901466	D	00/00/0000
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				FR	2654628	A,B	24/05/1991

US	4353367	A	12/10/1982	NONE			

DE	3930039	A1	07/03/1991	NONE			
