Device for dispensing medication

Assisting subjects with reduced motility of their hands to self-administer an enema.

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Case number: 5281-0111
Background

Many subjects with spinal cord injuries suffer from constipation and are relieved by an enema administered in the rectum. The enema softens the stool and makes bowel emptying possible. These subjects also often have reduced motility and/or strength of their hands and may have sensory disturbances. This can be a limitation when attempting self-administration of an enema - a procedure requiring fine motor skills - especially when attempting to reach an area out of sight. The ability to maneuver and hold tight the device and having the ability and force to empty the device at the same time can be a challenge.

For many subjects who would otherwise be depending on assistance for administration of an enema it will be a great advantage if they are specifically able to handle this intimate procedure themselves. The small device may thus enable subjects to keep their dignity and flexibility in planning of their daily life (and saving resources for an assistant otherwise necessary for performing the procedure). Subjects with reduced mobility for other reasons eg subjects with brain injuries or elderly could have advantage of using this device when self-administering an enema.

The prevalence of constipation is 2-30% in the general population but more than 50% in the elderly.

The invention

The device is designed to hold the enema tube on one side and then fix the device to a finger or the hand so that the enema is easier to maneuver without risk of dropping it. The thumb can then be used to put pressure on the tube to empty it.

The subject may thus have a good grip of the tube to be able to empty the contents of the tube it in the rectum.

Key selling points

- Simple device – but with a great importance to the users
- Suitable for different types of mini-enema – or other small medication tubes
- Device may be used in connection with already marketed products.

Development status

A functional prototype is available, but further development of the final design and finish can be done.

Intellectual property rights

A patent application was filed in September 2018.