Device for holding mini-enema

Simple solution for subjects with reduced hand function to self-administer a mini-enema

Constipation - A huge global market
• The prevalence of constipation is 2-30% in the general population but more than 50% in the elderly
• High prevalence of constipation in subjects with spinal cord injuries
• The mini-enema is for many subjects the over-the-counter (OTC) treatment of choice for softening the stool and assisting bowel movements
• OTC sales of enemas is 13 mill units (value 38 mill US$) in 2017 in the US

Problem – Treatment of constipation in subjects with reduced hand function
Many subjects may have a need for using a mini-enema for treating their constipation – but may require assistance with this procedure because they have difficulties holding, managing and emptying the mini-enema tube due to:
• Spinal cord injury
• Brain injury
• Sensory disturbances
• Reduced muscle strength
• Reduced motility
• Reduced coordination

Solution – Mini-enema device
Device can be used for fixing and holding the mini-enema and thus enabling people with reduced hand function to self-administer an enema.
May be used with various marketed mini-enema tubes.
Successfully tested and used by subjects with spinal cord injuries.

Quality of life – Preservation of dignity and flexibility
It is important for most people to be as independent of care as possible. When a person can manage the administration of the enema him-/herself, then both the user and health professional save time. Most importantly people can preserve their dignity by doing this intimate procedure themselves.

Technology Description
The mini-enema 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 and still be able to empty the contents of the tube in the rectum.

Intellectual Property Rights
We have filed a priority patent application describing the technology in September 2018.

Current State
We have developed a functional prototype which has been tested – and is currently used - by subjects with spinal cord injury.
Further development work is ongoing in refining functionality and selection of suitable plastic materials.

The Inventors

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Call to action
We wish to find collaborators or companies who are interested in continued development of the product. Ultimately we would like to attract a licensee who will be able to produce and market the device.