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Aerosol Device and Method for Moving Consumable

Abstract

A device for converting a consumable into an aerosol with high heat without burning the consumable using a moving aerosol-producing substrate to incrementally heat portions of the substrate to release the consumable from various portions of the substrate. The aerosol-producing substrate is placed in an aerosol-producing device in which a portion of the aerosol-producing substrate is surrounded by an induction heating element. The portion of the aerosol-producing substrate surrounded by the induction heating element can release consumable when the induction heating element is activated. A driver causes the aerosol-producing substrate to advance through the induction heating element causing another portion of the aerosol-producing substrate to enter the induction heating element, heating of which causes more release of the consumable.

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Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] This invention relates to devices for aerosolizing medicants via a high-temperature, non-combusting inductive heating method, and uses thereof. The invention further relates to methods and devices for producing an aerosol from tobacco and/or other non-medicant substances using similar methods and devices.

BACKGROUND

[0002] When faced with a condition giving rise to bodily discomfort, such as a diseased state, disorder, ailment, normal bodily disruptions, and the like, most people turn to medicants, such as drugs, supplements, herbs, and the like for immediate relief from the symptoms that arise from the underlying condition. There are certain legal and widely available over-the-counter (OTC) medications and supplements that have beneficial effects when used for a variety of common conditions. There are also certain controlled narcotics and pharmaceuticals prescribed by doctors for a variety of more serious conditions.

[0003] One of the most common routes of administration of these OTC and prescription drugs is oral administration. As with any oral delivery of medication, however, it must pass through the digestive tract. There are a number of disadvantages of oral administration. For example, because the drug has to pass through the digestive system, the onset of activation of the drug is slow. In addition, in the digestive tract the drug may be inactivated or destroyed, and therefore, lose its potency or efficacy. The drug itself can also cause problems in the digestive tract, or side effects, such as loss of appetite, diarrhea, acidity, and the like. Furthermore, patients may be reluctant or unable to swallow oral medication in the form of a pill.

[0004] Certain medicants are intended to affect the brain or the brain's actions or activities but, given the accepted method of ingestion—gastrointestinal, intravenous, or intramuscular—these medicants can also have a variety of discomforting side effects due to the nature of ingestion or injection. These include, but are not limited to gastro-intestinal complications, digestive disorders, high blood pressure, and/or headaches, as well as the reluctance of users to self-administer medicants by injection.

[0005] Other routes of delivery exist, such as intradermal injections, patch applications, inhalations, and the like. Each of these has its own advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, there is still room for improving routes of administration of medicants.

[0006] For example, there are varieties of medicants that are safer, more effective, and more efficient with respect to both safety and efficacy if their ingestion is via inhalation of an aerosol, such as a gas, vapor, mist, and any other inhalant, containing the medicant or its active ingredient rather than by gastrointestinal, intravenous or intramuscular delivery.

[0007] Additionally, certain methods to aerosolize and deliver these medicants have drawbacks as well, specifically those that aerosolize the medicant itself, changing the molecular or chemical structure of the medicant or those that might aerosolize at a high temperature-extending the duration heating and raising the risk of changing the molecular or chemical structure of the active ingredient. Other drawbacks of current aerosolization techniques include the transport, storage and merchandising of certain of these medicants in cartridges that are prone to leaking and, in many cases, are designed and constructed with cartridge materials that are not environmentally friendly, containing plastics and other materials that are not biodegradable.

[0008] In order to ensure that the medicant is delivered intact via the high temperature, non-combusting inductive method, it is preferred that the method of aerosolization does not change the chemical or fundamental molecular structure of the medicant or other materials that make up the medicant, or if such changes occur, that they will not interfere with, and/or improve, the efficacy of the medicant.

[0009] Therefore, there is still a need for improving the routes of administration of medicants. In particular, there is still a need for improving methods of aerosolizing medicants for inhalation that would also provide the added benefit of metering, monitoring and measuring inhalers exact dosages without destroying the active ingredient or adding other chemicals to the aerosol as a result of energy inefficiency or prolonged heating duration. There is also the need for consumable embodiments that are biodegradable and do not contain materials that are not consistent with environmentally friendly disposal.

[0010] In addition to medicant delivery systems, heat-not-burn (HNB) devices are a type of device generally used to heat tobacco at temperatures lower than those that cause combustion to create an aerosol containing nicotine and other tobacco constituents, which is then made available to the device's user. In some embodiments, the heated element or susceptor is placed inside a solid tobacco product with a coil wrapped around the tobacco product and susceptor to cause the susceptor to heat through an inductive mechanism. Unlike traditional cigarettes, the goal is not to burn the tobacco, but rather to heat the tobacco sufficiently to release the nicotine and other constituents through the production of aerosol. Igniting and burning the cigarette creates unwanted toxins that can be avoided using the HNB device. There is a fine balance, however, between providing sufficient heat to effectively release the tobacco constituents in aerosol form and not burn or ignite the tobacco. Current HNB devices on the market have not found that balance, either heating the tobacco at temperatures that produce an inadequate amount of aerosol or over heating the tobacco and producing an unpleasant or "burnt" flavor profile. Additionally, the current methodology leaves traditional HNB device internal components dirtied with burning tobacco byproducts and the byproducts of accidental combustion.

[0011] Furthermore, in order to ensure the state change from a solid or liquid state to an aerosol state in a rapid, energy efficient manner via high temperature, non-combusting inductive heating, the formulation must be configured in a way that eliminates air flow between the formulation and the inductive system's susceptor.

[0012] For the foregoing reasons there is a need for a device, which will affect the temperature at which the tobacco will be heated via the inductive method to reduce the risk of combustion—even at what would otherwise be sufficient temperatures to ignite—while increasing the efficiency and flavor profile of the aerosol produced. There is also a need for a device that uses a unique consumable that is inexpensive to produce and when used in an associated device, provides a satisfying user experience by moving the consumable past an inductive coil for successive inhalations.

SUMMARY

[0013] The present invention is directed towards devices and methods for delivering a consumable in an aerosolized state for inhaled administration and ingestion using a high temperature, non-combusting inductive method to aerosolize an embodiment of the formulation's design and configuration.

[0014] In particular, the present invention is directed towards further improvements in heat-not-burn devices, such as those described in U.S. Pat. No. 10,750,787; PCT/US2019/012204; and PCT/US2020/040779. In general, the heat-not-burn device is a device for converting a consumable into an aerosol that contains certain of its constituents but limiting the byproducts most often associated with combustion, for example, smoke, ash, tar and certain other potentially harmful chemicals. It does so by using high heat without burning the consumable by packaging the consumable containing an internal susceptor inside an encasement. This invention can involve

positioning and incrementally advancing heat along a consumable tobacco component with the use of an induction heating element wrapped around the consumable-containing package to heat the susceptor using a magnetic field generated by the induction heating element, by moving either the heating element, the consumable, or both.

[0015] Another object of the present invention is a consumable tobacco component comprised of at least one encasement containing a consumable tobacco preparation- and an induction heating source. The encasement may be a paper, fabric, plastic, or woven sheet or any other material that is porous enough to convey an aerosol generated during heating of the consumable. The consumable may be assembled with two sheets of this material, a top and a bottom, sandwiching the susceptor within the consumable preparation, and then the two sheets may be folded together to enclose the consumable preparation. Several of these “packets” may be used in a single consumable, or just one packet.

[0016] In alternative embodiments, the encasement may be an aluminum shell with pre-set openings. The encasements may be coated with a gel that seals the openings until an inductive heating process melts the gel, clearing the openings. In some embodiments, the gel can include a flavoring agent that can add flavor to or enhance the flavor of the tobacco aerosol.

[0017] In some embodiments, multiple encasements may be stacked inside a paper tube with spaces between them, formed by excess wrapping at the bottom end of each encasement and channels on either side to allow for the aerosol produced to pass through. When the inductive heating source is activated, the pre-set openings are cleared, and flavor is combined with the aerosol to travel through the tube and be made available to the user of the device.

[0018] Using these methods and apparatus, the device is required to heat less mass, can heat-up immediately, cool down quickly and conserve power, allowing for greater use between re-charging sessions. This contrasts with the well-known, current, commercially available heat-not-burn devices.

[0019] Another object of the present invention is to create a consumable-containing package that is easy to replace and minimizes fouling the inside of the case during use so as to reduce cleaning efforts of the case.

[0020] Another object of the present invention is to move the susceptor or the consumable relative to the heating element to heat segments of the consumable independent of other segments. “Segments” in this context refers to either physically segmented consumable materials, or contiguous consumable materials that are sequentially heated as they move past the inductive coil or vice versa.

[0021] Another object of the invention is to aerosolize the consumable, which can be compressed around a susceptor in such a way as to eliminate any flow of air between the consumable and the susceptor. For example, the aerosol-producing substrate can contain inert non-reactive compounds that are mixed with a form of the consumable and then tightly compressed around a susceptor. The formulation can be aerosolized using a hand-held high temperature inductive heating device configured to the embodiment of the consumable.

[0022] Accordingly, the device, method, and formulation of the present invention can be used to aerosolize a variety of consumables, preferably, medicants. For example, these medicants include, but are not limited to those configured to increase bronchial efficiency, support tobacco and nicotine cessation, assist in relaxation, ease anxiety, discourage disruptive ideation, manage pain, increase concentration, aid in restful sleep, aid in sexual activity, increase energy and wakefulness and counteract the harmful effects of the overdosing of certain other medicants. In addition, these consumables may include tobacco, *cannabis*, or other substances that can be ingested via inhalation by consumers.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0023] FIG. 1 shows a side view inside of an embodiment of the present invention assembled in a HNB device.

[0024] FIG. 2A shows a perspective view of an embodiment of the present invention assembled into a consumable-containing package.

[0025] FIG. 2B shows a perspective view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 2A with portions of the consumable-containing package cut away and/or removed to reveal the susceptor.

[0026] FIG. 2C shows a cross-sectional view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 2A cut along line 2C-2C.

[0027] FIG. 2D shows an exploded view of the consumable-containing package shown in FIG. 2A.

[0028] FIG. 2E shows a perspective view of the consumable-containing package with another embodiment of the susceptor with portions of the consumable-containing package cut away and/or removed to reveal the susceptor.

[0029] FIG. 3A shows a perspective view of an embodiment of a consumable-containing package.

[0030] FIG. 3B shows a perspective view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 3A with portion of the consumable-containing package and consumable removed to show the interior configuration.

[0031] FIG. 3C shows an exploded view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 3A.

[0032] FIG. 4A shows a perspective view of another embodiment of the present invention.

[0033] FIG. 4B shows the embodiment in FIG. 4A in an open configuration.

[0034] FIGS. 5A-5D show a series of perspective views of another embodiment of the present invention in which the consumable moves through the housing.

[0035] FIGS. 6A-6C show a series of perspective views of another embodiment of the present invention in which the consumable moves through the housing.

[0036] FIGS. 7A-7E show a series of perspective views of another embodiment of the present invention in which the consumable is inserted into a HNB device and the consumable moves through the housing.

[0037] FIGS. 8A-8B show a series of perspective views of another embodiment of the present invention in which the consumable moves through the housing.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0038] The detailed description set forth below in connection with the appended drawings is intended as a description of presently-preferred embodiments of the invention and is not intended to represent the only forms in which the present invention may be constructed or utilized. The description sets forth the functions and the sequence of steps for constructing and operating the invention in connection with the illustrated embodiments. It is to be understood, however, that the same or equivalent functions and sequences may be accomplished by different embodiments that are also intended to be encompassed within the spirit and scope of the invention.

Heat-Not-Burn Device

[0039] The invention of the present application is a device for generating aerosols from a consumable-containing product for inhalation in a manner that utilizes relatively high heat with minimal burning of the consumable-containing product. For the purposes of this application, the term “consumable” is to be interpreted broadly to encompass any type of pharmaceutical agent, drug, chemical compound, active agent, constituent, any other medicant, and the like, regardless of whether the consumable is used to treat a condition or disease, is for nutrition, is a supplement, or used for recreation. By way of example only, a consumable can include pharmaceuticals, nutritional supplements, and over-the-counter medicants, such as but not limited to, tobacco, *cannabis*, hemp, lavender, kava, coffee, caffeine, *lobelia*, hoodia, melatonin, epimedium, guarana, *ginseng* and the like.

[0040] An example of an HNB device **100** is shown in FIGS. 1-2E, and described fully in U.S. Pat. No. 10,750,787; PCT/US2019/012204; and PCT/US2020/040779, which applications are

incorporated in their entirety here by this reference. The device **100** comprises a consumable-containing package **102** and an aerosol-producing device **200**. The consumable-containing package **102** comprises an aerosol-producing substrate **104** that releases an active agent (the consumable) when heated, and a susceptor **106** embedded therein to heat the aerosol-producing substrate **104**. The device **100** generates aerosols through a heat-not-burn process in which an aerosol-producing substrate **104** is exposed to an aerosolizing thermal state, such as high aerosolizing temperatures and the absence of oxygen, which does not burn an aerosol-producing substrate **104** within the consumable-containing package **102**, but does release the active ingredient (the consumable) from the aerosol-producing substrate **104** in the form of an aerosol product that can be inhaled. Thus, an aerosol-producing substrate **104** is any product that contains an active ingredient that can be released into aerosol form when heated to the proper temperature and condition. Any description of the invention to a specific application, such as to a tobacco product, is provided only as a concrete example, and is not intended to be limiting. As such, the invention is not limited to use with tobacco products only.

[0041] With reference to FIG. 1, the aerosol-producing device **200** comprises a receiver **151** to contain a consumable-containing package **102**, an induction heating element **160** to heat the susceptor **106**, a system controller **166** to control the induction heating element **160**, and a power source **220** to power the device **100**. A user interface **230** operatively connected to the controller **166** can be provided to facilitate ease of operation. A trigger **232** can be provided to actuate the device **100**, or the device **100** can be activated through the user interface **230**.

[0042] With reference to FIGS. 2A-2E, the consumable-containing package **102** is the component that is heated to release the consumable (i.e. active agent) in aerosol form. The consumable-containing package **102** comprises an aerosol-producing substrate **104**, and the susceptor **106** surrounded by the aerosol-producing substrate **104** for heating the aerosol-producing substrate **104** from the inside out through an inductive heating system. In some embodiments, the consumable-containing package **102** can have an encasement **108** to at least partially contain the aerosol-producing substrate **104** and the susceptor **106**. For example, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** can be completely covered by the encasement **108**. In some embodiments, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** can be partially covered by the encasement **108** such that portions of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** is exposed, such as all or portions of the ends, the top, the bottom, or any other portion of the aerosol-producing substrate **104**. In some embodiments, the consumable-containing package **102** can further comprise a housing **150** to hold one or more aerosol-producing substrates **104** with embedded susceptors **106** with or without the encasement **108**.

The Susceptor

[0043] The susceptor **106** is the component that is heated through the inductive method and heats the aerosol-producing substrate **104** from the inside out. As such, the susceptor **106** is made of a metal that can be heated through an inductive method, such as ferrous metals. Other metals or materials that have the capacity to inductively heat the aerosol-producing substrate **104** may also be used. To maximize efficient heating of the aerosol-producing substrate **104**, the susceptor **106** generally matches the shape of the largest cross-sectional area of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** so as to maximize the surface area with which the aerosol-producing substrate **104** comes into contact with the susceptor **106**, but other configurations may also be used.

[0044] The susceptor **106** can be machine extruded, made of metal particles that are sintered or otherwise fused, metal wool, stamped, pressed, or any other number of methods that can produce a satisfactory susceptor. Some of these methods are described in U.S. Pat. No. 10,750,787; PCT/US2019/012204; PCT/US2020/040779, and U.S. application Ser. No. 17/687,470, which are all incorporated here in their entirety by this reference. In some embodiments, an aerosol-producing substrate **104** can be combined with or incorporated into a susceptor **106** by co-extruding it with the susceptor **106** to create a layer of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** on top or on bottom of the layer of the susceptor **106**. In some embodiments, two layers of the aerosol-producing substrate

104a, 104b can be co-extruded with the susceptor **106** in between to create a sandwich around the susceptor **106** that can be compressed in between the two layers of the aerosol-producing substrate **104a, 104b**. The co-extruded material can then be cut to the appropriate size.

[0045] In some embodiments, in which the susceptor **106** is steel wool or metal particles, the consumable can be incorporated directly into the susceptor **106**, for example, in a fluid (e.g., liquid, semi-liquid, viscous substance, and the like) or loose solid (e.g., powder, grains, granules, and the like) form, in which case the susceptor **106** has the dual function of being the heating element and the aerosol-producing substrate **104**. As such, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** can be the susceptor **106** combined with the consumable incorporated therein.

The Aerosol-Producing Substrate

[0046] The design of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** is to minimize the amount of air to which the aerosol-producing substrate **104** is exposed. This eliminates or mitigates the risk of oxidation or combustion during storage or during the heating process. As a result, at certain settings, it is possible to heat the aerosol-producing substrate **104** to temperatures that would otherwise cause combustion when used with prior art devices that allow more air exposure.

[0047] As such, in some embodiments, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** is made from a powdered form of the consumable that is compressed into a hard, compressed pellet, rod, or cuboid. Compression of the consumable reduces the oxygen trapped inside the aerosol-producing substrate **104**, and limits migration of oxygen into the aerosol-producing substrate **104** during storage and heating.

[0048] In some embodiments, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** may be one elongated unit defining a longitudinal axis A in the form of a rod or stick as shown in FIGS. 2A-2E. The aerosol-producing substrate **104** may be an elongated cylinder or tube having a circular transverse cross-section, an oval transverse cross-section, a rectangular transverse cross-section, a polygonal transverse cross-section, and the like. In some embodiments, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** may be a plurality of cylindrical tablets or pellets stacked on top of one another.

[0049] In a preferred embodiment, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** may be a slightly elongated cuboid in shape defining a longitudinal axis A, as shown in FIGS. 3A-3C and 4A-4B. Other cuboid shapes may also be used as well as a combination of generally planar and/or rounded faces in a generally cuboid shape.

[0050] The susceptor **106** may be similarly elongated and embedded in the aerosol-producing substrate **104**, preferably, along the longitudinal axis A and extending substantially the length L of the aerosol-producing substrate **104**. The susceptor **106** may also extend substantially the width W of the aerosol-producing substrate **104**. In other embodiments, the susceptor **106** may extend beyond the width (or diameter) and length of the aerosol-producing substrate **104**, or be substantially shorter than either dimension.

[0051] In some embodiments, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** can take on any other shape, including spherical, ovoid, elliptical, and even amorphous. In general, the susceptor **106** can pattern the shape of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** to maximize the surface area contact between the susceptor **106** and the aerosol-producing substrate **104**; however, the susceptor **106** can be other shapes as well, including a plurality of susceptors **106** being sporadically distributed within the aerosol-producing substrate **104**.

[0052] In yet another alternative embodiment, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** could be formed into tiny pellets, grains, powder, or other form that can be encapsulated to further reduce the air available to the consumable.

[0053] In some embodiments, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** can comprise a ground up source of the consumable made into powder form, then combined with a susceptor **106** by compressing tightly around the susceptor **106**. By way of example only, the source of the consumable may be a plant, seed, flower, root, leaf, plant component, or any other source from which the consumable can be extracted. These components can be dried, ground up, and mixed

with other components known for creating pellets and tablets to compress around a susceptor **106** to form the pellet, tablet, or rod around the susceptor **106**. The compressed pellet, tablet, or rod can be encased inside the encasement **108** to form the consumable-containing package **102**.

The Encasement

[0054] The invention of the present application is directed towards the construction of the consumable-containing package **102**, and a structure that moves the consumable-containing package **102** past an inductive coil **160** to heat segments of the consumable-containing package **102** in a sequential manner.

[0055] In some embodiments as best seen in FIGS. 2A-2E, an encasement **108** contains the aerosol-producing substrate **104** with the susceptor **106** embedded therein. In some embodiments, the encasement **108** may be configured with holes **120** to allow the aerosol to escape from the encasement **108**, or the encasement **108** may be a permeable membrane, paper, fabric, or other material to allow the aerosol to escape. The aerosol-producing substrate **104** can be placed inside a housing **150** that can mimic a cigarette. In some embodiments, a filter **140** can surround the encasement **108**. The housing **150** may be capped with an end cap **154** at one end **152** and a mouthpiece **158** at the opposite end **156**. The end cap **154** may be comprised of a type of filter material. The mouthpiece **158** allows the user to draw the heated consumable aerosol out of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** along the housing **150** towards the mouthpiece **158** and into the user's mouth. As such, the mouthpiece **158** may also comprise a type of filter, similar to that of the end cap **154**. Adjacent to the mouthpiece **158** may be a plurality of holes **446** through which air can be drawn into when the user takes a drag on the housing **150** by sucking on the mouthpiece **158**.

[0056] In a preferred embodiment, the encasement **108** comprises a top sheet **108a** and a bottom sheet **108b**, which may be two separate sheets or one contiguous sheet. The sheets **108a**, **108b** may comprise a permeable material that allows aerosol to escape, which may be filter paper, porous paper, fabric, plastic, membrane, metal with holes, tea bag material, or cigarette filter media (cellulose), or any suitable material.

[0057] The permeable nature of the encasement **108** can expose the aerosol-producing substrate **104** to air and potential oxidation/degradation. To prevent this, the pores or openings in the encasement **108** may be temporarily sealed using a coating. The coating is preferably made of a composition that melts and/or becomes permeable at temperatures that create consumable aerosols. Therefore, as the susceptor **106** is heated, due to the lack of air inside the encasement **108**, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** can be raised to exceedingly high temperatures without combusting. As the susceptor **106** reaches high temperatures, the consumable aerosols that begin to form, are not able to escape. When the coating melts or becomes permeable, the consumable aerosols are able to escape the encasement **108** for inhalation. In the preferred embodiment, the coating may be propylene glycol alginate ("PGA") gel or a food grade starch. The coating may also include a flavoring. Therefore, as the coating melts away and the consumable aerosol is released, the flavoring is also released with the consumable aerosol. In some embodiments, the flavoring can be mixed with additives.

[0058] In a preferred embodiment, the encasement **108** may comprise a top portion **108a** and a bottom portion **108b**, which portions may be separate pieces or one contiguous piece. Preferably, the top and bottom portions of the encasement **108a**, **108b** have pre-formed cup-like indentations or cavities **109** to surround the aerosol-producing substrate **104**, as shown in FIG. 3C. Alternatively, one or both of the top and bottom portions of the encasement **108a**, **108b** may be flat and then pressed or stretched around the aerosol-producing substrate **104** during production.

[0059] In a preferred embodiment, to securely close the encasement **108** around the aerosol-producing substrate **104**, the ends **124**, **126** of the encasement **108** may have folds **130**, **132** as shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B. Prior to folding, the two portions of the encasement **108a**, **108b** may be joined or sealed with conventional methods, such as adhesives, mechanical fasteners, crimping, RF welding, or any suitable method, to enclose the encasement **108**. Likewise, after folding, the

sealed/joined ends **124**, **126** may be adhered to the outer surfaces of the encasement **108** as shown in FIG. 4A. Alternatively, the ends **124**, **126** of the encasement **108** need not be sealed prior to folding, but instead held in folded pattern by adhesives, mechanical fasteners, crimping, RF welding, or any suitable method. In yet another alternative, the encasement **108** may simply be held in place by the folds themselves, without any sealing or joining.

[0060] Therefore, a method of manufacturing a consumable-containing package **102** for use in an aerosol-producing device **200** comprises combining a susceptor **106** with an aerosol-producing substrate **104** containing a consumable; covering the aerosol-producing substrate **104** with an encasement **108**; folding the ends **124**, **126** of the encasement **108** to enclose the aerosol-producing substrate **104**; and placing the assembly into a housing **150**.

[0061] In some embodiments, the encasement **108** may be eliminated altogether and the aerosol-producing substrate **104** is simply surrounded by the housing **150**. In such an embodiment, the aerosol is released from the aerosol-producing substrate **104** directly into the channel between the aerosol-producing substrate **104** and the housing **150**. Like the encasement embodiments, the exterior of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** does not reach combustion temperature due to the rapid inside-out inductive heating.

[0062] In embodiments where the encasement **108** is porous or absent, freshness of the consumable may be maintained by use of an airtight packaging, which may be filled with nitrogen or other inert gas to prevent oxidation. Such packaging could be used for large packages of consumable-containing packages **102**, for example, with tobacco products where multiple consumable-containing packages **102** may be used each day. Alternatively, individual packaging may be used for consumable-containing packages **102** containing medicants, where the consumable is only used periodically.

The Housing

[0063] In a preferred embodiment, the encasement **108** is configured to be permeable to the aerosol to allow the aerosol to escape from the encasement **108**. The aerosol-producing substrate **104** can be placed inside a housing **150** with or without the encasement **108** as described above. The housing **150** is preferably less permeable or impermeable to the aerosol. The housing **150** can mimic a cigarette. As such, the housing **150** can be an elongated structure having a first end **152** and a second end **156** opposite the first end **152**. The housing **150** is inserted into the device **200** such that the inductive heating element **160** surrounds the housing **150**. Current passing through the inductive heating element **160** can then heat up the susceptor **104** embedded in the aerosol-producing substrate **104** resulting in the aerosol-producing substrate being heated from the inside-out. When the aerosol-producing substrate **104** is heated by the susceptor **106**, an aerosol is created containing the consumable. When the user draws on the housing **150**, for example, by sucking on the second end **156**, the aerosol escapes from the encasement **108**, but not the housing **150**. Due to the negative pressure created by the sucking at the second end **156**, the aerosol is drawn towards the second end **156** through any space between the aerosol-producing substrate **104** and the housing **150**. An opening in or around the first end **152** may be used to facilitate air flow around the outside of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** and towards the second end **156**. Such opening may be equipped with a valve for one-way or restricted flow.

[0064] To allow for multiple dosages using a single consumable-containing package **102**, a variety of strategies can be employed. For example, the inductive heating element **160** can wrap around a portion of the consumable-containing package **102**. Only the portion of the consumable-containing package **102** that is surrounded by the heating element **160** is heated and the consumable released. The position of the inductive heating element **160** relative to the consumable-containing package **102** can then be modified to have the inductive heating element **160** surround a new portion of the consumable-containing package **102** that has not yet been sufficiently heated to release the consumable. To achieve this new position, either the inductive heating element **160** can be moved and the aerosol-producing substrate **104** kept stationary, or the aerosol-producing substrate **104** can

be moved and the inductive heating element **160** kept stationary, or both the inductive heating element **160** and the aerosol-producing substrate **104** can be moved. In some embodiments, neither the inductive heating element **160** nor the aerosol-producing substrate **104** moves. Rather, the inductive heating element **160** can wrap around the full length of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** and specific segments of the inductive heating element **160** can be activated so as to only heat up specific portions **104c**, **104d**, **104e** of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** at a given time. [0065] As shown in FIGS. 5A-5D, 6A-6C, 7A-7E, and 8A-8B, in the preferred embodiment, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** is moved along the length of the housing **150** while the inductive heating element **160** remains stationary. By way of example only, the aerosol-producing device **200** can comprise a driver **448** that may be operatively connected or otherwise engaged with the aerosol-producing substrate **104** when the aerosol-producing substrate **104** is inserted into the aerosol-producing device **200**. The driver **448** can be configured to advance the aerosol-producing substrate **104** through the housing **150**. Advancement of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** through the housing **150** allows different portions of the aerosol-producing substrate **104c**, **104d**, **104e** to be surrounded by the inductive heating element **160**. Thus, in use, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** can be inserted into the housing **150** in a manner that allows the aerosol-producing substrate **104** to move from the end cap **154** to the mouthpiece **158** through the housing **150** such that portions **104c**, **104d**, **104e** of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** incrementally pass through the induction heating element **160** in series.

[0066] In the preferred embodiment, the driver **448** comprises a rod **550** and a rotatable collar **552** operatively connected to or otherwise engaged with the rod **550** to advance the rod **550**. The collar **552** may be operated by a small motor operatively connected to the controller **166**. The rod **550** can be inserted into the housing **150** through the end cap **154** until the rod **550** meets a first end **105** of the aerosol-producing substrate **104**. In this position, a second end **107** of the aerosol-producing substrate **104c** can be surrounded by the inductive heating element **160** (see, e.g., FIGS. 5A, 5B, 6A, and 7B). When the inductive heating element **160** is activated, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** is heated only at the portion where it is surrounded by the inductive heating element **160**. When the driver **448** is activated, the collar **552** advances the rod **550** towards the second end **156** of the housing **150**. This movement causes a new portion of the aerosol-producing substrate **104d** (closer to the first end **105** of the aerosol-producing substrate **104**) to be surrounded by the inductive heating element **160** (see, e.g., FIGS. 5C, 6B, and 7D). Activation of the inductive heating element **160** can now heat the new portion **104d** of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** that was not heated previously, causing another dose of the consumable to be released as an aerosol for inhalation. The collar **552** can advance the aerosol-producing substrate again through the housing **150** placing yet another unheated portion **104e** of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** (even closer to the first end **105** if not already at the first end **105**) within the heating range of the inductive heating element **160** (see, e.g., FIGS. 5D, 6C, and 7E). This process can continue until the entire aerosol-producing substrate **104** has been heated and the consumable aerosol released.

[0067] In the preferred embodiment, the rod **550** can be a jack screw having threading **554** on a first end **556** as shown in FIGS. 7A-7E. The threading **554** on the first end **556** of the rod **550** can mate with a rotatable collar **552**. Actuation of the driver **448** causes the collar **552** to rotate, which in turn causes the rod **550** to advance. Alternatively, the collar **552** could be fixed and the rod **550** could be engaged with a rotational mechanism to cause the rod **550** to advance when rotated. Other forms of drivers **448** for incrementally advancing the aerosol-producing substrate **104** along a linear path can be used, such as a driver **448** with a telescoping action, sliding action, rolling action, and the like, or any combination thereof. In addition, advancement of the aerosol-producing substrate may be by smooth, gradual movement, or more abrupt movement in a step-like manner. In an alternative embodiment, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** or some structure attached thereto could be threaded and engage with a threading on the housing **150**, such that rotating the housing **150** or the aerosol-producing substrate **104** would advance the aerosol-producing substrate

104.

[0068] In some embodiments, in order to prevent the aerosol-producing substrate **104** from moving when not in use, and prior to the connection with the rod **550**, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** can be bonded to the inside of the housing **150** with the first end **105** of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** adjacent to the rod **550**. The bonding between the aerosol-producing substrate **104** can be tight enough that general movement and shaking of the housing **150** would not cause the aerosol-producing substrate **104** to move within the housing **150**. Thus, movement associated with transportation and shipping of the housing would not be sufficient to cause the aerosol-producing substrate **104** from being released by the bond. In addition, the bonding between the aerosol-producing substrate **104** and the housing **150** can be strong enough to allow the rod **550** to be operatively connected to the aerosol-producing substrate **104**. Advancement of the rod **550**, however, is sufficient to break the bond between the aerosol-producing substrate **104** and the housing **150** allowing the aerosol-producing substrate **104** to advance through the housing **150**. The new connection between the rod **550** and the aerosol-producing substrate **104** is sufficiently strong to prevent the aerosol-producing substrate **104** from moving around in the housing **150** during movement after the bond between the aerosol-producing substrate **104** and the housing **150** has been broken. Alternatively, if the bond is a temperature-sensitive material, the bond could be broken or weakened when the aerosol-producing substrate **104** is heated for the first time, prior to the rod **550** advancing.

[0069] To prevent unwanted movement of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** after the first use, however, such as when the device is tossed into a purse or onto a counter, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** may have a friction fit within the housing **150** that prevents movement except for that produced by the rod **550**, or the aerosol-producing substrate **104** could be affixed or otherwise engaged to the rod **550** to prevent movement independent of the rod **550**. Alternatively, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** may engage the housing or other structure with a threading or other structure that prevents unwanted movement of the aerosol-producing substrate **104**.

[0070] In some embodiments, the advancement of the rod **550** may only cause the aerosol-producing substrate **104** to advance through the housing **150**. In some embodiments, the end cap **154** may also advance through the housing **150** as shown in FIGS. **8A-8B**. As such, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** may be connected to the end cap **154**, and the rod **500** may be connected to or otherwise engaged with the end cap **154**. Therefore, advancement of the rod **500** causes the end cap **154** to advance through the housing **150** and the end cap **154** causes the aerosol-producing substrate **104** to advance through the housing **150**.

[0071] Having established the general principles of the consumable-containing package **102**, variations have also been contemplated that achieve the same objectives. For example, in some embodiments, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** may comprise two elongated sections **104a**, **104b**. The two elongated sections **104a**, **104b** of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** may be defined by a plane parallel to and cutting through the longitudinal axis A. Therefore, the two elongated sections **104a**, **104b** may be cuboid or half-cylinder sections that when mated together form a larger cuboid or full cylindrical aerosol-producing substrate **104**.

[0072] In some embodiments, the encasement **108** may be made of porous material. For example, the encasement **108** may be a porous paper wrap, or other similar material. As such, the pores would function as the openings **120** by allowing the aerosol from the aerosol-producing substrate **104** to escape when heated. Furthermore, because the aerosol-producing substrate **104** may be compressed so as to eliminate the oxygen, combustion is still unlikely at the working temperatures and for the short duration of time the aerosol-producing substrate **104** is exposed to the high heat. Even though the exterior of the encasement **108** is exposed to oxygen along the channel between the encasement **108** and the housing **150**, the inductive heating rapidly heats the consumable from the inside-out, so the exterior of the encasement **108** never reaches combustion temperature.

[0073] In embodiments in which the encasement **108** is a porous material, the encasement **108**

allows the aerosol to pass through the pores of the encasement **108** and exit the encasement **108** laterally or radially outwardly. This allows the aerosol to enter the channel created between the housing **150** and the encasement **108**.

[0074] In a preferred embodiment, the aerosol-producing substrate **104** is cuboid shaped and the housing **150** is cylindrical, which creates four channels between the aerosol-producing substrate **104** and the housing **108**, between the generally planar faces of the cuboid and the cylinder wall (i.e. above, below, and bilaterally along the sides of the aerosol-producing substrate **104**). Although cuboid is a preferred shape of the aerosol-producing substrate **104** and cylindrical is the preferred shape of the housing **108**, any shape may be used for either of them.

[0075] In some embodiments, the encasement **108** may be thicker and have sufficient porosity to allow the aerosol to travel through the pores longitudinally along the axis A through the length of the encasement **108**. In such an embodiment, a designated channel may not be needed between the housing **150** and the encasement **108** as the aerosol can travel through the encasement **108**. Such porous materials may include cigarette paper, cellulose or other filter media, or any suitable material for the purpose.

[0076] The encasement **108** containing the aerosol-producing substrate **104** can then be inserted into the housing **150** to form the consumable-containing package **102**. When the susceptor **106** is heated, the consumable aerosolizes and escapes into the porous encasement **108**. When the user draws on the mouthpiece **158**, the negative pressure created inside the housing **150** causes an airflow in the direction of the mouthpiece **158**, and the aerosolized consumable travels through the pores of the encasement **108** towards the mouthpiece **158** where the consumable can be inhaled by the user.

[0077] The foregoing description of the preferred embodiment of the invention has been presented for the purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed. Many modifications and variations are possible in light of the above teaching. It is intended that the scope of the invention not be limited by this detailed description, but by the claims and the equivalents to the claims appended hereto.

Claims

1. (canceled)
2. A device for generating aerosol, comprising: (a) an aerosol-producing substrate; (b) a susceptor embedded within the aerosol-producing substrate; (c) a housing to contain the aerosol-producing substrate; (d) an aerosol-producing device for receiving the housing, the aerosol-producing device comprising (i) a driver operatively connected with the aerosol-producing substrate to drive the aerosol-producing substrate through the housing; and (ii) an induction heating element surrounding at least a portion of the housing, wherein the driver is configured to advance the aerosol-producing substrate through the housing such that portions of the aerosol-producing substrate pass through the induction heating element in series, wherein the housing further comprises an end cap and a mouthpiece opposite the end cap, and the driver comprises a rod operatively connected with the aerosol-producing substrate via the end cap.
3. The device of claim 2, wherein the rod is threaded at a first end to advance the aerosol-producing substrate gradually.
4. The device of claim 2, wherein the driver advances the end cap.
5. The device of claim 2, wherein the driver advances the aerosol-producing substrate while the end cap remains stationary.
6. The device of claim 5, wherein the aerosol-producing substrate is cuboid-shape.
7. The device of claim 6, wherein the aerosol-producing substrate is at least partially within an encasement.
8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. A method for aerosolizing a consumable contained throughout an aerosol-producing substrate by an aerosol-producing device, the method comprising: (a) placing the aerosol-producing substrate into the aerosol-producing device; (b) surrounding a first portion of the aerosol-producing substrate with an induction heating element of the aerosol-producing device, wherein a susceptor is embedded within the aerosol-producing substrate; (c) heating the susceptor by activating the induction heating element, whereby the consumable located in the first portion of the aerosol-producing substrate is aerosolized; (d) advancing the aerosol-producing substrate so that a second portion of the aerosol-producing substrate is surrounded by the induction heating element of the aerosol-producing device; and (e) activating the induction heating element of the aerosol-producing device, whereby the consumable located in the second portion of the aerosol-producing substrate is aerosolized wherein the aerosol-producing substrate is within a housing, and when placed into the aerosol-producing device, the induction heating element of the aerosol-producing device surrounds the housing, wherein advancing the aerosol-producing substrate comprises a driver operatively engaging with the aerosol-producing substrate, wherein the housing comprises an end cap at a first end and a mouthpiece at a second end opposite the first end, and wherein the driver comprises a rod operatively connected with the aerosol-producing device via the end cap.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the driver advances the end cap.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the driver advances the aerosol-producing substrate without advancing the end cap.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the aerosol-producing substrate is cuboid shape.

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. A method for manufacturing a device for generating aerosol, comprising: (a) providing an aerosol-producing substrate containing a consumable; (b) embedding a susceptor inside the aerosol-producing substrate; (c) placing the aerosol-producing substrate inside a housing; (d) providing an aerosol-producing device configured to receive the housing, the aerosol-producing device comprising (i) an induction heating element configured to surround at least a portion of the housing, and (ii) a driver operatively connected with the aerosol-producing substrate to advance the aerosol-producing substrate through the induction heating element to heat portions of the aerosol-producing substrate after advancing the aerosol-producing substrate through the induction heating element; (e) providing an end cap positioned at a first end of the housing, and a mouthpiece at a second end of the housing; and (f) engaging a rod from the driver with the aerosol-producing substrate via the end cap.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising advancing the aerosol-producing substrate through the induction heating element by advancing the end cap.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising advancing the aerosol-producing substrate without advancing the end cap.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the aerosol-producing substrate is cuboid shape.
