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Medicament Delivery Device

Abstract

A medicament delivery device (**10**) is provided that includes an attachment surface (**16, 100**) for attachment to a skin surface of a user, a drive (**28, 30**), a plunger rod (**36**) connected to the drive, a medicament container (**54**) containing medicament to be pressurized by the plunger rod and the drive, a valve arrangement (**66**) fluidly connectable to the medicament container, an injection needle (**72**) fluidly connected to the valve arrangement, and a controller (**86, 88**) operably connected to the valve arrangement for opening and closing a fluid path between the medicament container and the injection needle.

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Background/Summary

TECHNICAL AREA

[0001] The present invention relates to a medicament delivery device and in particular a device that can be attached to a skin surface of a user for administering delivery of medicament.

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

[0002] There are many medicament delivery devices that have been developed for self-administration of medicament, such as pen-injectors, auto-injectors and the like that are held and operated by the user during the administration of medicament. Other types that have been developed are medicament delivery devices that are attached to the body of a user, so-called wearable devices. Medicament delivery devices may either be developed as multi-use devices that are re-filled or single use, so-called disposable, devices. Regarding wearable devices, there is a challenge to make them as small and discreet as possible and at the same time have a good functionality, especially in relation to automatic functions not performed by the user. The challenge is even more pronounced if the wearable is designed as a disposable device, because of production costs in relation to the complexity in housing important functional and automatic features in a restricted space.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF INVENTION

[0003] The aim of the present invention is to remedy the drawbacks of the state of the art medicament delivery devices and in particular wearable devices.

[0004] This aim is obtained by a medicament delivery device comprising the features according to the independent patent claim.

[0005] Aspects of the invention that are preferred but not essential are defined in the dependent patent claims.

[0006] According to a main aspect, a medicament delivery device is provided, which may comprise attachment surface for attachment to a skin surface of a user, drive means, plunger rod connected to the drive means, medicament container containing medicament to be pressurised by the plunger rod and the drive means, valve arrangement fluidly connectable to the medicament container, injection needle fluidly connected to the valve arrangement, and control means operably connected to the valve arrangement for opening and closing a fluid path between the medicament container and the injection needle.

[0007] According to a further aspect, the control means may be designed to operate the valve arrangement for providing a pulsed injection sequence. In this regard the pulsed injection may be controlled regarding pulse frequency and pulse duration.

[0008] According to yet an aspect, the control means may comprise a solenoid. In this regard, the control means may further comprise a controller programmed to operate the solenoid.

[0009] According to another aspect, the valve arrangement may comprise a needle hub, wherein the needle hub may comprise the injection needle and a cartridge needle.

[0010] The valve arrangement may further comprise a piston movable in a passage by the solenoid, that the injection needle and the cartridge needle are fluidly connected to the passage and that the piston may comprise a fluid path such that, when the piston is in a first position, the fluid connection between the needles is blocked, and when the piston is in a second position, the fluid path fluidly connects the needles. In this regard, the fluid path of the piston may comprise an annular groove.

[0011] The drive means and the plunger rod may, upon activation, move the medicament container

in contact with the cartridge needle, causing a fluid connection between the medicament container and said cartridge needle.

[0012] According to a further aspect, the medicament delivery device may comprise a base member provided with the attachment surface and a unit pivotably connected to the base member. The unit may comprise the drive means, the plunger rod, the medicament container, the valve arrangement, the injection needle and the control means, wherein a pivoting action of the unit in relation to the base member may cause a penetration of the injection needle.

[0013] Further, the unit may comprise an attachment surface for attachment to a skin surface of a user when pivoted in relation to the base member.

[0014] These and other aspects of, and advantages with, the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of the invention and from the accompanying drawings.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0015] In the following detailed description of the invention, reference will be made to the accompanying drawings, of which

[0016] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a wearable device according to an embodiment of the invention,

[0017] FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the device of FIG. 1 with a top cover removed,

[0018] FIGS. 3-7 are detailed views of components of the device of FIG. 1,

[0019] FIGS. 8-10 are cross-sectional views of the device of FIG. 1 in different operational positions,

[0020] FIGS. 11-12 are detailed views of a needle hub comprised in the device of FIG. 1,

[0021] FIG. 13 is a detailed view of sensor arrangement comprised in the device of FIG. 1, and

[0022] FIGS. 14-16 are perspective views with removed top cover of a locking mechanism for the device of FIG. 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0023] A wearable injector device 10 shown in the drawings comprises a generally rectangular base member 12 having two oppositely arranged side walls 14, an end wall 15 and an underside 16 intended to be in contact with a skin surface of a wearer of the device. The underside 16 is for this purpose preferably provided with an adhesive layer 18, FIG. 4, for attachment to the skin surface. The adhesive layer is before use protected by a protective film 20 that can be peeled off. The underside 16 is further provided with a passage 22, FIG. 8. Further, a generally rectangular base plate 24 is attached to the base member 12 via hinges 26 at one end of the side walls 14 of the base member 12 in order to provide a pivoting action of the base plate 24 in relation to the base member 12 as will be described in detail below.

[0024] The base plate 24 is further provided with a power spring 28. The power spring 28 is guided inside by tubular spring guide 30. One end of the power spring 28 is in contact with an end wall 32 of the base plate 24. The opposite end of the power spring 28 is resting on an annular ledge 34 of the spring guide 30. An end surface of the spring guide 30 is to be moved in contact with an end surface of a plunger rod 36, as will be described. The plunger rod 36 is designed with plate-shaped segments 38 oriented generally vertical to the plane of the base plate 24, FIG. 3. The segments 38 are interconnected in series by hinges 40 that could be grooves in the material, forming living hinges. Each segment 38 is further provided with a guide plate 42 oriented generally perpendicular to the surface of the segments 38. The guide plates 42 have bevelled end surfaces forming a V-shaped gap 44 between adjacent guide plates 42.

[0025] The design of the plunger rod 36 enables it to form a curve, wherein the plunger rod 36 is guided on its outside by a curved support wall 46 in the base plate 24. The guide plates 42 are as

seen in FIG. 3 arranged on the inside of the curved plunger rod 36 and fit into a groove 48 on a guide curve 50, which will prevent any transversal movement of the plunger rod 36 during operation, as will be described. The opposite end of the plunger rod 36 from the spring 28 is provided with a generally circular push plate 52. The dimensions of the push plate 52 are such that it will fit into an opening of a generally cylindrical medicament container, such as a cartridge 54, which in turn is placed in a cartridge holder 56 of the base plate 24. Before use, the cartridge 54 is held in an initial position between the push plate 52 of the plunger rod 36 and a stop ledge 58, which is attached to a lever 60, FIG. 7, the function of which will be explained. The cartridge 54 is provided with a movable stopper 62 and has a neck at the opposite end from the opening, which neck is provided with a pierceable septum 64. Thus, a quantity of medicament is contained in the cartridge 54 in the space between the stopper and the septum.

[0026] Adjacent the neck end of the cartridge 54, a needle hub 66 is provided, FIGS. 4 and 5, attached to or made integral with, the base plate 24, which needle hub is comprised in a valve arrangement. The needle hub 66 is provided with a first hollow needle 68, which is a cartridge needle extending from a side surface thereof, oriented generally horizontal to the plane of the base plate and aligned with the septum 64 of the cartridge 54. The first needle 68 is protected and kept sterile by a flexible sheath 70. The needle hub 66 is further provided with a second hollow needle 72, which is an injection needle extending downwards from a bottom surface of the needle hub 66 and through a passage 74 in the bottom of the base plate 24 and is directed generally perpendicular to the plane of the base plate 24. The second needle 72 is protected and kept sterile by a needle sheath 76, which in turn is connected to a needle cap 78, which needle cap 78 extends from beneath into the passage 22 in the base member 12 and is in an initial position of the device in contact with, or adjacent, the bottom of the base plate 24 as seen in FIG. 4. The needle hub 66 is further provided with a passage 80, wherein openings in the inner ends of the first and the second hollow needles are in fluid communication with the passage 80. In the passage 80 a piston 82 is arranged to be movable. The piston 82 is provided with a fluid communication path, in the embodiment shown as an annular groove 84. The piston 82 is movable between a first position, wherein the openings in the inner ends of the two needles 68, 72 are blocked by the piston 82, and a second position, wherein the groove 84 is aligned with the openings of the needles, providing a fluid path between the two needles, see FIGS. 11, 12. The piston 82 is further arranged with suitable sealing members on both sides of the groove 84.

[0027] The movement of the piston 82 is provided by a solenoid 86 attached to one end of the piston 82. The solenoid 86 is in turn electrically connected to a controller 88. The controller 88 comprises processor means, memory means and appropriate sensor means. The controller 88 is powered by a battery 90. Further, a display 92 is connected to the controller 88 for showing the status of the device during use as well as a user-operated start button 94. Both the display 92 and the start button 94 may be arranged in a top cover 96 attached to the base plate 24, for providing easy access, FIG. 1. The top cover 96 may further be provided with an opening 98 through which the cartridge and its content is visible. Further, the top cover may be arranged with a lip 100, which in turn may be provided with an adhesive layer on its underside, as will be explained.

[0028] The start button 94 is movably arranged in a generally vertical direction by vertical ledges 102 fitted in vertical grooves (not shown) in the base plate 24. Before use, the start button 94 is however blocked from movement by ledges 106 on a lever 108 arranged below the start button 94 in contact with vertical ledges 110 on the start button 94. In this initial position, the start button 94 blocks movement of the spring guide 30, with the tensioned spring 28, by radially extending protrusions 112 on the annular ledge 34 of the spring guide 30 abutting the vertical ledges 110 on the start button, as seen in FIG. 6.

[0029] The base member 12 is further provided with an end wall 114 that is positioned inside the end wall 15 of the base plate 24, FIG. 14. An inner surface of the end wall 114 of the base member 12 is arranged with a protrusion 116. Further the base plate 24 is provided with a lock-out plate 118

adjacent to the protrusion **116**. The surface of the lock-out plate **118** facing the protrusion **116** is provided with guide wall sections **120**; a first generally vertically extending section **120I**, followed by a second inclined section **120II**, in turn followed by a third vertical section **120III**. A fourth vertical section **120IV** is arranged parallel to the third section. Below the space between the third section and the fourth section, as seen in a vertical direction, a flexible ledge **122** is provided. The function of the lock-out plate will be described below.

[0030] The device is intended to function as follows. When the device **10** is delivered to a user, the unit base plate/top cover **24/96** is in an inclined position in relation to the base member **12** as seen in FIG. **4**. The unit **24/96** is prevented from moving in relation to the base member **12** by the needle cap **78**. When the device is to be used, the user removes the protective layer **20** from the underside **16** of the base member and the lip **100** of the top cover **96**, whereby the needle cap **78** is also removed, FIG. **8**. The user then places and presses the base member **12** of the device **10** against a skin surface for attachment. The pressing of the device and in particular the unit **24/96** will cause a pivoting movement of the unit **24/96** in relation to the base member **12**, thereby causing a penetration of the second needle **72** into the skin, FIG. **9**. The unit **24/96** is held in this position by the adhesive layer **18** on the lip **100** that attaches to the skin surface. The device is now in position for an injection because the lever **108** blocking the start button **94** has pivoted such that its ledges **106** are out of contact with the start button **94**. This pivoting action of the lever **108** is also detected by a sensor **130**, FIG. **13**, that activates and “wakes up” the electronics of the PCB by providing power from the battery, FIG. **13**. Also the lever **60** holding the cartridge **54** has been pivoted so that the cartridge **54** is free to move in the cartridge holder **56**. The display **92** is thus activated and may show information that the injection can be started. The pivoting action has further caused the protrusion **116** on the wall of the base member to contact the inclined second section **120II** of the lock-out plate **118**, thereby pushing the lock-out plate **118** laterally so that the protrusion **116** is in the position shown in FIG. **15**. In alternative embodiments, the inner surface of the end wall **114** of the base member **12** could be provided with the lock-out plate **118** and the base plate **24** could be provided with the protrusion **116**.

[0031] When now the start button **94** is pressed into the top cover, the blocking of the spring guide **30** is removed in that its protrusions **112** can pass cut-outs **132** in the vertical ledges **110** of the start button **94**, FIG. **6**. The power spring **28** is released, whereby the spring guide **30** can move by its force. The spring guide **30** in turn will act on the segmented plunger rod **36** and the plunger rod **36** will move in contact with the stopper **62**. Due to the incompressibility of the medicament, the force from the power spring **28** on the plunger rod **36** will cause the cartridge **54** to move whereby the first needle **68** penetrates the now compressed needle sheath **70** and the septum **64** of the cartridge **54**, FIG. **10**. The movement of the cartridge **54** is stopped when its front comes in contact with the needle hub **66**. The medicament is now pressurised by the plunger rod **36** acting on the stopper **62**. Further, the pressing of the start button **94** will be detected by a sensor **134**, FIG. **13**, which will trigger a start signal of the injection sequence to be initiated. The injection sequence is pre-programmed and stored in the memory means on the controller **88**. The electronics will now operate the solenoid **86** to move the piston **82** from the first blocked position, FIG. **11**, to the second position, FIG. **12**, wherein a flow path between the first needle **68** and the second needle **72** is created by the annular groove **84**, and an injection is initiated. Depending on the stored injection sequence, the solenoid **86** will move the piston **82** repeatedly between the first and the second position, thereby for instance creating a pulsed delivery of medicament. The injection sequence may be designed differently depending on various aspects. The pulses may be short or long in duration and/or short or long in frequency. The pressure on the medicament in the cartridge **54** is maintained by the constantly acting spring force. However, the spring force will decline as the spring is extended, and this situation may be handled by altering the pulse opening time in order to keep a constant medicament flow rate over a time span including at least one full pulse cycle. Usually, the solenoid **86** produces a clicking sound when operated, which may be used as an

indication to a user that the injection is in progress. Further, the start button **94** may be moved back to its initial position by a spring means **136**, FIG. **6**, when the user has stopped pressing. A further pressing may be detected by the sensor **134**, whereby the injection sequence can be stopped. This may be repeated several times for starting and stopping the injection. Thus, apart from the pre-programmed injection sequence, the user may also control the injection.

[0032] When the injection is completed, this may be indicated on the display **92** that it is safe to remove the device from the skin surface. In this regard, there might be a third sensor that is capable of detecting the plunger rod travel position at the end of travel/injection. In addition, the opening **98** may indicate to a user the status of the injection in that the stopper may be visible there. The user then grabs the unit **24/96**, whereby the adhesive film of the lip will loosen from the skin. This action will cause the unit **24/96** to pivot back to the initial position in relation to the base member **12**, whereby the second needle **72**, the injection needle is positioned inside the device. The pivoting movement of the unit **24/96** will further cause the protrusion **116** on the base member **12** to slide along the fourth section **120IV** of the lock-out plate **118** and be moved past the flexible ledge **122** and to the position shown in FIG. **16**, thereby locking the unit **24/96** in its initial position, preventing any attempts to move the unit back to the injection position and thereby avoiding the risk of unintentional needle sticks. Further pulling of the device will remove it completely from the skin surface. The device is now safe to discard.

[0033] It is to be understood that the embodiment described above and shown in the drawings is to be regarded only as a non-limiting example of the invention and that it may be modified in many ways within the scope of the patent claims.

Claims

1. A medicament delivery device comprising: an attachment surface for attachment to a skin surface of a user, a drive means, a plunger rod connected to said drive means, a medicament container containing medicament to be pressurized by said plunger rod and said drive means, a valve arrangement fluidly connectable to said medicament container, an injection needle fluidly connected to said valve arrangement, and control means operably connected to said valve arrangement for opening and closing a fluid path between the medicament container and the injection needle.
2. The medicament delivery device according to claim 1, wherein the control means is designed to operate the valve arrangement for providing a pulsed injection sequence.
3. The medicament delivery device according to claim 2, wherein the pulsed injection sequence is controlled regarding pulse frequency and pulse duration.
4. The medicament delivery device according to claim 1, wherein said control means comprises a solenoid.
5. The medicament delivery device according to claim 4, wherein said control means further comprises a controller programmed to operate said solenoid.
6. The medicament delivery device according to claim 1, wherein said valve arrangement comprises a needle hub, the needle hub comprising said injection needle and a cartridge needle.
7. The medicament delivery device according to claim 6, wherein: said valve arrangement comprises a piston movable in a passage by said solenoid, said injection needle and said cartridge needle are fluidly connected to said passage, and said piston comprises a fluid path, wherein, when said piston is in a first position, the fluid connection between the needles is blocked, and when said piston is in a second position, said fluid path fluidly connects said needles.
8. The medicament delivery device according to claim 7, wherein said fluid path of said piston comprises an annular groove.
9. The medicament delivery device according to claim 6, wherein said drive means and said plunger rod, upon activation, moves said medicament container into contact with said cartridge

needle, causing a fluid connection between said medicament container and said cartridge needle.

10. The medicament delivery device according to claim 1, comprising a base member provided with said attachment surface and a unit pivotably connected to said base member, which unit comprises said drive means, said plunger rod, said medicament container, said valve arrangement, said injection needle and said control means, wherein a pivoting action of said unit in relation to said base member causes a penetration of said injection needle.

11. The medicament delivery device according to claim 10, wherein said unit comprises an attachment surface for attachment to a skin surface of a user when pivoted in relation to said base member.

12. The medicament delivery device according to claim 10, further comprising: a holding lever pivotably connected to the unit and engaging the base member, and a stop ledge attached to the holding lever, wherein, before use, the stop ledge holds the medicament container in an initial position, and said pivoting action of the unit in relation to the base member causes pivoting of the holding lever, whereby the stop ledge frees the medicament container to move.

13. The medicament delivery device according to claim 10, further comprising: a start button that selectively engages the drive means, a blocking lever pivotably connected to the unit and engaging the base member, and at least one blocking ledge on the blocking lever, wherein, before use, the start button engages the drive means to prevent the drive means applying pressure to the plunger rod, the start button being blocked from movement by contact with the at least one ledge, and said pivoting action of the unit in relation to the base member causes pivoting of the blocking lever, whereby the at least one blocking ledge comes out of contact with the start button to free the start button to move out of engagement with the drive means.

14. The medicament delivery device according to claim 10, wherein one of the base member and the unit comprises a protrusion and the other of the base member and the unit comprises a lock-out plate, during said pivoting action of the unit in relation to the base member to cause a penetration of said injection needle, the protrusion causes movement of the lock-out plate, whereby, after one use of the device, the lock-out plate prevents the pivoting action of the unit in relation to the base member from being repeated.

15. The medicament delivery device according to claim 14, wherein the lock-out plate prevents the pivoting action of the unit in relation to the base member from being repeated, as a result of the protrusion moving past a flexible ledge on the lock-out plate.
