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(54) Retractable packaging

(57) An elongated retractable packaging that can be compressed and elongated axially and encloses an elongated member is disclosed. The retractable packaging comprises of an elongated hollow tube housing (1) with a flexible bellow section (2) between the two ends of the elongated hollow tube housing (1). Both ends of the elongated hollow tube housing (1) may be sealed with an opening means such as a weakened section in the form of a score line provided near one sealed end or one end

of the elongated hollow tube housing may be sealed and the other end may be opened. The elongated hollow tube housing (1) encloses an elongated member (5). The elongated member (5) may have an applicator (7) at one (8) of its ends. When the elongated hollow tube housing (1) is retracted, the applicator (7) at the end (8) of the elongated member (5) is exposed for application. After application, the elongated hollow tube housing (1) may be stretched back to its original length to enclose the applicator end.

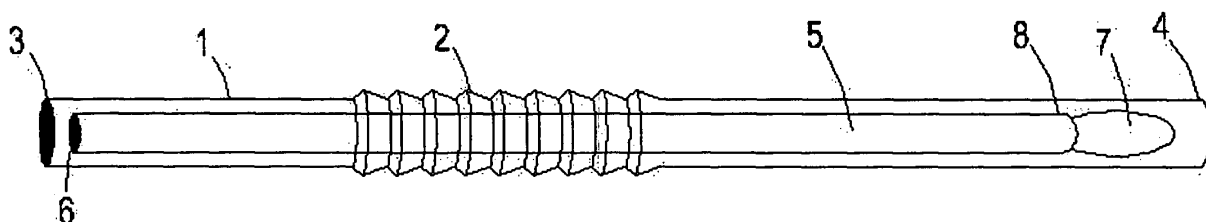


FIG. 1

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 01 2794

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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-The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search Munich		Date of completion of the search 30 August 2006	Examiner Uhlig, R
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 01 2794

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<div>4</div> <div> <div>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</div> </div>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
Munich		30 August 2006	Uhlig, R
<div> <div> <div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div> X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document </div> </div> <div> <div> T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document </div> </div> </div>			

EPO FORM 1503 03.92 (P04C01)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- ☒ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
1-19
- ☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-10

A retractable packaging with bellows between tube sections
and an elongate member disposed within said tubes

2. claims: 11-19

A retractable packaging wherein two tubes are slidable
relative to each other and an elongate member disposed
within said tubes

3. claims: 20-22

A retractable packaging having one tube wherein the diameter
at its ends are different and an elongate member having
different diameters at its end and being slidable relative
to the tube

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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30-08-2006

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