CLAIMS

1. Method for the removal of a soft contact lens from a container, comprising the steps of providing a soft contact lens (30) immersed in a liquid (20) in a container (10), providing a removal tube (3) and dipping the removal tube (3) into the liquid (20) in the container (10), providing a pressure tube (5) that terminates in the container above the liquid level, closing the container (10) containing the liquid (20) and the immersed soft contact lens (30) pressure-tight with a lid (2) comprising the removal tube (3) and the pressure tube (5) which both are guided through the lid (2), and applying an overpressure to the interior of the closed container (10) through the pressure tube (5), such that the soft contact lens (30) and the liquid (20) are pressed into the removal tube (3) and the soft contact lens (30) is removed from the container (10) together with at least a portion of the liquid (20) through the removal tube (3),
wherein a removal tube system is attached to the removal tube (3) and wherein the removal tube system has an exit opening arranged at a level which is lower than that of the bottom (13) of the container (10).

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the overpressure which is applied to the interior of the container (10) through the pressure tube (5) is adjusted to about 0.5 bar to about 5 bar above ambient pressure.

3. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the overpressure is established by injecting pressurized air.

4. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the overpressure is applied impulse-like with a duration of from about 0.75 seconds to about 2 seconds.

5. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the removal tube (3) at its front end is provided with a funnel (4) having a diameter (f) of

about 4 mm to about 9 mm.

6. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a removal tube (3) is selected which has an internal diameter (d) of about 2 mm to about 6 mm.

7. Use of the method according to any one of the preceding claims for the removal of a soft contact lens (30) from a cuvette (10) for optical inspection of contact lenses.

8. Combination of a container and a device for the removal of a soft contact lens from a container comprising a removal tube (3) adapted for being dipped into a liquid (20) which is held in a container (10) and in which a soft contact lens (30) is immersed, and for receiving the soft contact lens (30) together with at least a portion of the liquid (20), wherein the removal tube (3) is held by and guided through a lid (2) which is adapted for closing the container (10) pressure-tight, and further comprising a pressure tube (5) which is adapted to terminate above the liquid which is held in the container (10), the pressure tube (5) being held by and guided through the lid (2) and which is further is adapted for being connected to a source of overpressure, and further comprising a removal tube system attached to the removal tube (3) wherein the removal tube system has an exit opening arranged at a level which is lower than that of the bottom (13) of the container (10).

9. Combination according to claim 8, wherein the removal tube (3) protrudes from a lower face of the lid (2) a longer distance than the pressure tube (5), such that with the lid (2) mounted pressure-tight on the container (10) a front end of the removal tube (3) is located about 1 mm to about 5 mm above a bottom (13) of the container (10).

10. Combination according to claim 9, wherein the removal tube (3) at its front end is provided with a funnel (4) having a diameter (f) of about 4 mm to about 9 mm.

11. Combination according to claim 10, wherein the removal tube (3) has an internal diameter (d) of about 2 mm to about 6 mm.

12. Combination according to any one of claims 8 to 11, wherein the pressure tube (5) is adapted to be connected to a source of pressurized air.

13. Use of a combination according to any one of claims 8 to 12 for the removal of soft contact lenses (30) from cuvettes (10) for optical inspection of the lenses.