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(54) Title: AUTOMATED FILLING OF FLEXIBLE CRYOGENIC STORAGE BAGS WITH THERAPEUTIC CELLS

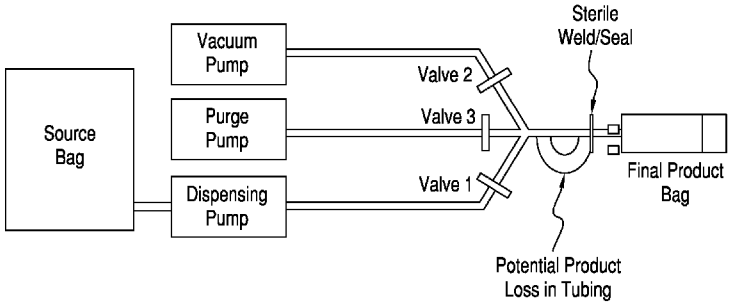



FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: An apparatus and processes for aseptically dispensing live mammalian cells into sterile, flexible bags in a non-sterile atmosphere. The method includes the steps of: providing the cells suspended in a liquid; providing a plurality of sterile flexible bags fluidly connected to a main line by a plurality of branch lines of sterile flexible tubing; evacuating air from the flexible bags by applying a vacuum to the open end of the main line; preventing fluid flow through all branch lines except that of one bag to be filled; dispensing a desired volume of cell suspension into the open end of the main line; and introducing sufficient sterile purging gas under pressure into open end of the main line to drive into the bag any of the dispensed volume remaining in the main line or branch line of filled bag. Cells can be cryogenically preserved in the filled bags.

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