

CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR WITH MAGNETIC ACTIVATION

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention lies in the field of in vivo analyte measurement technology. In particular, it is related to analyte measurement kits for continuous subcutaneous analyte monitoring. The analyte may, for example, be glucose.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The monitoring of characteristic parameters of substances in the human body is crucial for maintaining a healthy state of a person suffering from certain diseases. For example, persons suffering from diabetes mellitus (Persons with Diabetes, PwDs) strongly rely on monitoring glucose concentration in order to avoid hypo- and hyperglycemia. Glucose concentration may be measured in different locations, in particular body fluids such as blood and/or interstitial fluid.

It has long been possible to monitor the blood glucose level with traditional fingerprick testing methods, however these methods only allow the PwD to measure the glucose level at a single point in time (so-called spot measurement). In order to enable continuous monitoring in real time or close to real time, continuous glucose monitoring devices have been developed. In a typical design, a sensor element on electro, electrochemical or enzymatic basis is transcutaneous introduced into the tissue and is connected with an electronic control unit

that is carried outside the body, typically via adhesive attachment to the skin. Such combination of sensor element and control unit is in the following generally referred to as sensor assembly. The sensor assembly is typically continuously used for an application time of several days up to several weeks or even months. For introducing the sensor element into the tissue,
5 an insertion device is typically provided.

After the usage time, the PwD can simply remove the sensor assembly from the skin, thereby also withdrawing the sensor element from the tissue. In such design, the sensor assembly is designed as single use device and discarded at the end of its usage time.

The control unit comprises all analogue and/or digital circuitry that is required for the analyte
10 measurements and also a power supply in form of a battery as discussed further below. The control unit is typically encapsulated in a fully closed and hermetically sealed housing and without any user interface. Measured analyte values and further relevant information (such as status information, error conditions and the like) may be stored in a memory of the control unit and/or transmitted to a remote device via a wireless communication interface. Similarly,
15 data such as calibration data, may typically be received from the remote device via the wireless communication interface. The remote device may, for example, be a dedicated control device, or a general purpose device, in particular a smart phone. Wireless communication may be realized, for example, via Bluetooth®, other general-purpose or proprietary wireless communication means.

20 In order to provide power for wireless communication as well as overall operation of the device, the control unit contains a small battery. However, the size of the battery and consequently its capacity are limited, as the monitoring devices should be as small as possible for

reasons of discreetness and carrying comfort. The usage time of the sensor assembly is, among others, limited by the battery powering the sensor assembly. The battery is typically an integral part of the control unit and cannot be replaced.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 Batteries of suitable size and electrical characteristics that have a capacity which is sufficient for providing the power supply for a sensor assembly over its usage time are available. However, the sensor assembly is typically transported and stored in warehouses for extended periods of time of typically several months, potentially even up to several years (referred to as storage time). Thus, any energy that is consumed during the storage time decreases the useful
10 life time of the battery and accordingly of the sensor assembly. For example, some known devices emit every 300 seconds a Bluetooth® signal for finding and connecting to a remote device (pairing). These devices therefore have a very limited storage life time of only up to 3 months. Thus, if the device is stored for a longer period, it may well be that the initial battery capacity is already largely or even completely consumed before the device has even been used
15 for its dedicated purpose. In addition, this type of device has the disadvantage that connecting with the remote device may take up to several minutes, which is known to be annoying for the user.

In view of the above, it is therefore desirable to provide a continuous monitoring system and, in particular, a sensor assembly device with a sensor that is initially, after its manufacture and
20 during storage time, in an inactivated state, where the power consumption is minimal and favorable negligible.

WO 2014/179343 discloses various arrangements for switching from a pre-operative into an operative state. In an embodiment, an activation circuit with an optical sensor is provided which is exposed to light for initializing the sensor electronics. For this type of design, however, suited lighting conditions are required. In another variant, a Reed switch or Hall effect
5 sensor is provided. For initializing the sensor electronics, a magnet is temporarily brought into proximity with the Reed switch or Hall effect sensor. For this type of design, a dedicated user action is required for the initialization process. Further, the initialization may happen unintentionally if the device, and, in particular, the Reed switch or Hall effect sensor, is for any reason exposed to a magnetic field, e. g. due to electromagnetic interference.

10 WO 2012/050926 discloses the switching of a sensor from a storage mode into a normal operation mode by pulling a magnet away from the sensor electronics module. Thereby an interrupt line is triggered or the state of a Reed switch is altered.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to improve the state of the art regarding continuous analyte measurement technology, thereby preferably avoiding the disadvantages
15 of the prior art fully or partly.

In a general way, the object is achieved by the subject matter of the independent claims. Exemplary and/or particularly favorable embodiments are described by the dependent claims, the description and the figures.

Favorably, an analyte measurement kit with a sensor assembly is provided which does not
20 require any or at least only minor amounts of energy in a pre-operative state and which can

be readily brought into an operative state by the patient shortly before or during transcutaneous introduction of the sensor. Preferably, little or no additional handling effort for the patient is required. Further favorable, the analyte measurement kit can be manufactured in a cost efficient manner.

5 According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided an analyte measurement kit including a sensor assembly and an insertion device. The sensor assembly comprises a sensor element, preferably a transcutaneous sensor element, and a control unit. The control unit includes a battery for powering the sensor assembly, and a magnetic sensor designed or configured to generate an electrical activation signal in dependence of a magnetic field. The
10 control unit is designed or configured to switch from a pre-operative state into an operative state upon generation of the activation signal. The sensor assembly and the insertion device comprise complementary coupling structures for releasable coupling. Furthermore, the insertion device is designed or configured for executing an insertion routine. The insertion routine includes advancing the sensor assembly from a retracted position in which the sensor element
15 stands back behind a skin contact surface of the insertion device into an advanced position in which the sensor element projects beyond the skin contact surface, and subsequent decoupling the insertion device from the sensor assembly. The insertion device includes an activation magnet. Executing the insertion routine is associated with a change of a magnetic coupling between the activation magnet and the sensor assembly, thereby generating the activation
20 signal. The activation magnet is generally a permanent magnet.

An analyte assembly of the above-described type has the advantage that the activation signal is generated during the insertion routine, upon which the control unit is switched from a pre-operative, i.e. inactive, state to an operative, i.e. active, state. It is to be understood that the

pre-operative state comprises a state in which no or only marginal battery power is used by the control unit. The pre-operative state may in particular correspond to a low-energy mode or sleep mode of the control unit respectively its circuitry. In the pre-operative state, the control unit has none or only limited function. For example, it is not possible for the control
5 unit in the pre-operative state to communicate with another device, such as a receiving device or to carry out and/or process analyte measurements.

In some embodiments, the change of magnetic coupling may be induced by altering the distance between the activation magnet and the sensor assembly, particularly the magnetic sensor. Alternatively or additionally, a direction of the magnetic field of the activation magnet
10 may be altered, for example by providing a rotatable or turnable activation magnet, such that the activation magnet is rotated or pivoted upon executing the insertion routine. Furthermore, the magnetic coupling may be altered by shielding the magnetic field of the activation magnet from the sensor assembly, in particular, the magnetic sensor. For example, the insertion device may comprise a magnetic shield made, e. g., from a soft ferrite or soft steel, which
15 is brought from an initial non-shielding position into a shielding position upon execution of the insertion routine, or vice versa.

Providing an activation magnet as part of the insertion device and generating the activation signal as consequence of executing the insertion routine is particularly favourable since the insertion routine is a step that needs to be carried out anyway. Therefore, the switching from
20 the pre-operative state into the operative state does not need any particular step to be carried out or measures to be taken by the PwD. Further, the switching is carried out directly at the point in time where it is required, without avoidable delay. That is, upon switching into the activated state, pairing with the remote device can be immediately carried out. In contrast,

typical known systems repeatedly emit a signal for detecting the presence of a remote device to connect with during the storage life, i. e. in the pre-operative state. In order to limit the amount of energy that is consumed in the pre-operative state, the time period that lapses between consecutive signal emissions is comparatively long, for example 1 min or even more, resulting in the process being time consuming and often annoying for the user.

As the generation of the activation signal is associated with a change of a magnetic coupling between the activation magnet already present in the insertion device and the sensor assembly, external accidental activation for example during transport may be prevented in some embodiments as explained further below.

The change of magnetic coupling between activation magnet and magnetic sensor may result in an increase or decrease of the magnetic field to which the magnetic sensor is exerted, in dependence of the particular implementation as explained further below. Further, the magnetic field sensor may either be configured to react on the presence respectively strength of a magnetic field, or on a change of the strength of the magnetic field, in particular a time derivative of the magnetic field strength.

Typically, the sensor assembly, in particular the sensor element, comprises one or more electrodes, such as an enzyme-based electrode, which may be based on or include glucose oxidase. The sensor element typically is realized as elongated element, e. g. in form of a rod, wire, or needle, and carries the one or more electrodes that are placed in the subcutaneous tissue respectively interstitial fluid in the insertion routine.

Typically, the sensor assembly comprises an adhesive element, such as an adhesive pad or patch, for skin-mounting the sensor assembly to a patient's skin for an extended time period. The adhesive element may be either directly or indirectly connected to the control unit. For example, the adhesive element may be realized by an adhesive layer or coating that is arranged
5 at a bottom surface of the control unit, in particular a skin contact surface or bottom surface of a sensor housing as explained further below. In the advanced position of the sensor assembly, the adhesive element contacts the skin, thereby fixing the sensor assembly.

Alternatively, an adhesive element, e. g. an adhesive layer or coating, may be provided on a skin contact surface of a separate adapter, commonly also referred to as cradle. Such separate
10 adapter may have a coupling structure for coupling with the sensor assembly which may have a corresponding complementary counter coupling structure. Further, the adapter and the insertion device may comprise complementary adapter-inserter coupling structures for releasable coupling. In such embodiment, the cradle or adapter may be attached to the skin in a first step. Subsequently, the insertion routine is executed in a coupled state of adapter and
15 inserter, thereby coupling the sensor assembly and the cradle or adapter. Subsequently, the insertion device is removed.

In typical embodiments, the insertion device and the sensor assembly are provided readily coupled and in a sterile package. After the insertion process, the insertion device is discarded. Alternatively, however, the coupling of sensor assembly and insertion device via their com-
20plementary coupling structures may be established only by the user prior to application. In such embodiment, the insertion device may in principle be reusable.

In some embodiments, the sensor assembly includes a sensor housing, which encapsulates the control unit, wherein the sensor element projects from the sensor housing. In such embodiments, the sensor housing with the control unit may be advanced from the retracted position into the advanced position during the insertion routine by the insertion device together with
5 the sensor element. In executing the insertion routine, the sensor element pierces the skin of the PwD and gets introduced into the tissue, such that the one or more electrodes are placed in the subcutaneous tissue or interstitial fluid. Further in the advanced position, an adhesive layer or coating on the bottom surface of the sensor housing rests on the skin of the PwD, thereby fixing the control unit on the skin. Alternatively, the sensor assembly may, when
10 assuming the advanced position, couple with an adaptor or cradle via complementary coupling structures as explained before. The sensor element may project perpendicularly from the bottom surface of the housing. For such design, the insertion movement is generally perpendicular to the skin. In alternative designs, the sensor element and the plane that defines the bottom surface have an angle in a range, of, e.g. 30 to 60 degrees. For such embodiment,
15 the insertion movement is generally inclined or oblique with respect to the skin surface.

In some embodiments, the insertion device further includes an elongated piercing element, which is structurally coupled with the sensor element in the retracted position. The insertion routine includes advancing the piercing element together with the sensor assembly from the retracted position into the advanced position, followed by only retracting the piercing ele-
20 ment into the retracted position. This kind of embodiment is particularly favourable if the sensor element that is introduced into the tissue is flexible respectively not sufficiently stiff to pierce the skin without bending or cranking and/or has a blunt rather than a pointed tip. The piercing element, in contrast is stiff and pointed to be easily pushed through the skin.

During the insertion routine, the piercing element remains coupled with the sensor element, such that the sensor element is guided into the tissue together with the piercing element and stabilized by the piercing element. The piercing element and the sensor element are favourable in mechanical contact over substantially their whole length, e. g. in a side-by-side arrangement in a coaxial arrangement with the sensor element being arranged in a central lumen of the piercing element. Alternatively, the sensor element may be hollow and have a central lumen in which the piercing element is arranged. The piercing element may be an insertion needle or a cannula and may be decoupled from the sensor element before retraction of the piercing element. In alternative embodiments, however, the sensor element may be sufficiently stiff to pierce the skin and be introduced into the tissue without requiring an additional piercing element.

In some embodiments, the insertion device includes an insertion device housing. The activation magnet is rigidly coupled to the insertion device housing. In dependence of the position of the activation magnet, different kinds of embodiments may be realized regarding the magnetic coupling and the change thereof when executing the insertion routine, as explained in the following.

In some embodiments, the activation magnet is positioned such that a distance between the activation magnet and the magnetic sensor increases upon advancing the sensor assembly, in particular the magnetic sensor, into the advanced position, thereby generating the activation signal. Increasing the distance between the activation magnet and the magnetic sensor results in a continuous reduction of the magnetic coupling between the activation magnet and magnetic sensor and accordingly a continuous reduction magnetic field strength at the magnetic sensor. For such type of embodiment, the activation magnet is positioned, e. g. by attaching

to an insertion device housing, in a position where it is in close vicinity to the magnetic sensor in the retracted position, resulting in the magnetic coupling being maximal in the initial retracted position of the sensor assembly. For this type of embodiment, magnetic sensors that react on the strength and/or a change in the magnetic field may be used. The latter is in particular favorable in typical embodiments where the insertion device includes one or more resilient elements, such as an arrangement of one or more springs, for quickly moving the sensor assembly from the retracted into the advanced position. The movement typically result in a sufficient change in the magnetic field (time derivative of the magnetic field strength) for the magnetic sensor to react and generate the activation signal. It is noted that the larger the change in the magnetic field strength, the less sensitivity is required for the magnetic sensor. A comparatively low sensitivity is favorable since it results in the design being less critical and the tolerance with respect to interfering magnetic fields is reduced.

In some embodiments, the activation magnet is positioned such that a distance between the activation magnet and the magnetic sensor decreases upon advancing the sensor assembly into the advanced position, thereby generating the activation signal. Decreasing the distance between the activation magnet and the magnetic sensor results in a continuous increase of the magnetic coupling between the activation magnet and magnetic sensor and accordingly a continuous increase of the magnetic field strength at the magnetic sensor. For such type of embodiment, the activation magnet is positioned, e. g. by attaching to an insertion device housing, in a position where it is close vicinity to the magnetic sensor in the advanced position, resulting in the magnetic coupling being maximal in the advanced position of the sensor

assembly. This type of embodiment is in principle similar to the before-described type of embodiment but complementary in that the magnetic coupling increases rather than decreasing when moving the sensor assembly from the retracted into the advanced position.

In a further type of embodiment, the change in magnetic coupling and accordingly the generation of the activation signal occurs as decrease and finally canceling of the magnetic coupling upon detaching and removing the insertion device at the end of the insertion routine. In such embodiment, the activation magnet may be arranged at the inserter device housing in a position where it is in close vicinity to the magnetic sensor in the advanced position as in the before-discussed type of embodiment. Similarly, the activation magnet may be arranged at or in the coupling structure of the insertion device for coupling with the sensor assembly.

In some embodiments, the activation magnet is coupled with the piercing element to move relative to the sensor assembly when retracting a piercing element as explained before into the retracted position. In embodiments in which the retraction is performed rapidly, for example by a resilient element, such as a spring, the change rate of the magnetic coupling is large. Therefore, the required sensitivity of the magnetic sensor is decreased and the occurrence of malfunctions is reduced also explained before. For this type of embodiment, the activation signal is generated when retracting the piercing element subsequent to placing the sensor element into the tissue.

In some of the before-described embodiments, the activation magnet is rigidly coupled to or included in the piercing element. If the activation magnet is included in the piercing element, no additional structural features, which further complicate the overall setup of the analyte

measurement kit, are required. The piercing element may for example partially or fully be made from a permanent magnetic material.

In some embodiments, the magnetic sensor includes a coil. The coil may, e. g. be a planar coil and be realized as part of a printed circuit board of the control unit. Alternatively, the coil
5 may be an elongated cylindrical coil. This type of embodiment is based on the fact that a voltage is induced in a coil if the magnetic flux through the coil changes, with the voltage serving as activation signal. Favorably, the coil is connected to a microprocessor or microcontroller of the control unit, e. g. at an interrupt port or wake-up port. Since the voltage is proportional to the first time derivative of the magnetic field in accordance with the law of
10 induction, this type of embodiment is particularly favorable in embodiments where the magnetic coupling between activation magnet and magnetic sensor changes quickly, e. g. in a spring-driven advancement of the sensor assembly from the retracted into to the advanced position or a spring-driven retraction of a piercing element. In all of these embodiments, the voltage that is induced in the coil and serves as activation signal is peak- respectively pulse
15 shaped. A particular advantage of using a coil as magnetic sensor in the present context is that the voltage that serves as activation signal is generated by the coil and accordingly no further power supply is needed for powering the magnetic sensor, which is favorable regarding the desired minimal power consumption during storage and prior to usage. The magnetic field, however, needs to be comparatively strong.

20 In some embodiments, the magnetic sensor includes a Hall effect sensor. As known in the art, a Hall effect sensor measures strength of a magnetic field to which the sensor is exerted. In contrast to a coil as explained before in the context of other embodiments, a Hall effect sensor

reacts on the strength of a magnetic field rather than its rate of change and is capable of measuring both static and changing (dynamic) magnetic fields. The use of a Hall effect sensor is accordingly particularly favorable where the change in magnetic coupling between activation magnet and magnetic sensor is comparatively slow. State-of-the-art Hall effect sensors are typically realized as micro-machined semiconductor components. It is noted that, in order to detect the change in magnetic coupling with the activation magnet, the Hall effect sensor needs to be continuously powered via a DC power supply. However Hall effect sensors are available that only require a current of about 350 nA to operate. When using such Hall effect sensor, a standard small coin cell battery as power supply of the sensor assembly is depleted only to a small degree during the storage time of several months up to years, such that sufficient battery capacity remains for powering the sensor assembly during its application time. In a further embodiment, a Reed switch is provided as magnetic sensor which opens respectively closes in dependence of a magnetic field. A particular advantage of a Hall effect sensor or Reed switch is that the magnetic field can be comparatively weak. Therefore, the activation magnet can be small and cheap. For example, the activation magnet may be a resin-bound magnet.

In some embodiments, the activation magnet and the magnetic sensor are aligned, in particular coaxially aligned, with each other in a coupled state of the sensor assembly and the insertion device. This type of arrangement favorably maximizes the magnetic coupling. For embodiments where the magnetic sensor is a coil, the relative arrangement of activation magnet and coil is favorably such that the magnetic flux lines are parallel to the coil axis for maximum magnetic coupling. In embodiments where the magnetic sensor is a Hall effect sensor, the

arrangement is favorably such that the magnetic flux lines correspond to a direction of maximum sensitivity of the Hall effect sensor (perpendicular to a plane as defined by the Hall probe of the Hall effect sensor).

In some embodiments, the control unit includes a wireless communication interface. Furthermore, the control unit is configured to pair with a remote device for data communication via the wireless communication interface upon being switched into the operative state. In particular, the remote device may include a smart phone, a portable computer or any other suitable device. In alternative embodiments, it may also be possible to connect the control unit via a communication interface and a cable with a device for data communication.

In some embodiments, the sensor assembly is configured to execute analyte measurements in the operative state, for example, by electrochemical or electroenzymatic measurements. In some particular embodiments, the analyte is glucose. In the pre-operative state, in contrast, no analyte measurements are carried out and the control unit is in a low-energy or sleep mode and only the magnetic sensor is powered (in case of the magnetic sensor being a Hall effect sensor as explained before) and those parts of the control unit, in particular of a microcontroller or microprocessor, that are required for detecting the generation of the activation signal and reacting thereon. In the operative state, the control unit may be configured to directly transmit glucose measurements to the remote device, and/or to temporarily store measurement results in a memory of the control unit and transmit them upon request by the remote device and/or according to a transmission time schedule.

According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method for switching a sensor assembly from a pre-operative state in an operative state. The method including:

(a)

providing an analyte measurement kit as defined in the first aspect; and (b) executing an insertion routine, the insertion routine including changing a magnetic coupling between the activation magnet and the sensor assembly, thereby generating the activation signal.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5 Figure 1 shows a schematic view of an analyte measurement kit in accordance to a first embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 shows a schematic view of an analyte measurement kit in accordance to another embodiment of the invention;

Figure 3 shows a schematic view of an analyte measurement kit in accordance to another
10 embodiment of the invention.

Figure 4 shows a further embodiment according to the invention in a first configuration.

Figure 5 shows a further embodiment according to the invention in a second configuration.

Figure 6 shows a further embodiment according to the invention in a third configuration.

Figure 7 shows the sensor assembly of the embodiment of Figure 4 to Figure 6 after removal
15 of the insertion device.

EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS

The analyte measurement kit 1 shown in Figure 1 includes a sensor assembly 100, which is releasably coupled with an insertion device 200 via corresponding coupling structures 130 and 230. Sensor assembly 100 comprises control unit 120 and sensor element 110. Furthermore, sensor assembly 100 is encapsulated in sensor housing 140, while sensor element 110 protrudes or projects from the sensor housing 140. Control unit 120 includes a battery 121 for powering the sensor assembly 100 and a magnetic sensor 122, which is designed to generate an electrical activation signal in dependence of a magnetic field and may be either of a Hall effect sensor or a coil. The sensor assembly 100 is shown in its retracted position prior to insertion of the sensor element 110 into the patient's skin S and thus the control unit is in a pre-operative state. Insertion device 200 is designed for executing an insertion routine, the insertion routine including advancing the sensor assembly 100 from the shown retracted position, where the sensor element 110 stands back behind a skin contact surface 220 of the insertion device 200 along insertion direction I into an advanced position beyond the skin contact surface 220. Afterwards, the insertion device 200 is decoupled from sensor assembly 100 by releasing the coupling of coupling structures 130 and 230. The insertion device 200 includes an activation magnet 240, which in the embodiment at hand is rigidly coupled to insertion device housing 250 in a fixed position. Housing 250 comprises resilient element 251, which is contracted at the beginning of the insertion routine and which is expanded after the sensor element 110 has protruded the skin and the sensor assembly 100 and the insertion device 200 have been decoupled. Furthermore, housing 250 comprises spring element 252, which is contracted and thus loaded at the beginning of the insertion routine. If the user operates activator 253, which may be a push button, spring 252 is unloaded and the sensor

assembly is advanced in an advanced position upon which resilient assembly 251 is contracted and thus loaded. In the present embodiment, activation magnet 240 and magnetic sensor 122 are coaxially aligned in the coupled state shown in Figure 1. If the insertion routine is executed, i.e. when the sensor assembly 100 is brought into the advanced position, the sensor
5 assembly 100 and thus the magnetic sensor 122 is moved away relative to the activation magnet 240. Thus, in the embodiment shown, a distance between the activation magnet 240 and the magnetic sensor 122 increases upon executing the insertion routine, i.e. upon advancing the sensor assembly into an advanced position. Consequently, the magnetic coupling between activation magnet 240 and magnetic sensor is reduced and finally cancelled. Thereby, the
10 activation signal is generated, upon which the control unit is switched from a pre-operative to an operative state. Control unit 100 further comprises wireless communication interface 123, with which the control unit 120 can be paired with remote device 300 for data communication, when the control unit is switched into the operative state.

Figure 2 shows another embodiment of an analyte measurement kit 1. The analyte measurement kit 1 also includes sensor assembly 100, which is coupled to insertion device 200 via
15 complementary coupling structures 130 and 230. Compared to the embodiment shown in Figure 1, insertion device 200 includes activation magnet 240, which is however arranged at a different position, i.e. in close proximity of skin contact surface 220. Figure 2 shows the coupled analyte measurement kit 1 during the insertion routine. The insertion device 200 is
20 already compressed to a certain level as compared to the embodiment shown in Figure 1, for example by a pressure exerted by the patient on the top surface of insertion device housing 250 and sensor assembly 100 is advanced in the insertion direction I. In the particular embodiment shown, the two legs of the insertion device slide into each other, which brings the

sensor assembly 100 in an advanced position in which sensor element 110 can protrude from the skin contact surface 220 and puncture the patient's skin S. Concomitantly, the distance between the magnetic sensor 122 and the activation magnet decreases. In this embodiment, the magnetic coupling between the sensor assembly 100 and activation magnet 240 changes and thereby generates the activation signal, because the distance between the sensor assembly 100 and activation magnet 240 decreases upon advancing the sensor assembly into the advanced position. Like in the embodiment of Figure 1, the magnetic sensor 122 may be either of a Hall effect sensor or a coil.

Figure 3 depicts another embodiment of an analyte measurement kit 1 according to the invention. Analyte measurement kit 1 comprises sensor assembly 100 with sensor element 110 and control unit 120. Furthermore, the sensor assembly 100 comprises an adhesive element 150, such as an adhesive pad, at the lower surface for skin-mounting the sensor assembly 100 to the patient's skin for an extended period of time. Analyte measurement kit 1 further comprises insertion device 200 with insertion device housing 250 and skin contact surface 220. In contrast to the embodiments shown in Figure 1 and 2, the insertion device 200 additionally comprises piercing element 260, which is structurally coupled with sensor element 110. For example, sensor element 110 can be tubular and/or cylindrical, and the piercing element is circumferentially encompassed by sensor element 110. Furthermore, activation magnet 240 (drawn in exaggeration, for better illustration) is rigidly coupled to piercing element 260. During the insertion routine, piercing element 260 is advanced together with sensor assembly 100 from the retracted position in insertion direction I into the advanced position, followed by retraction of only piercing element 260 into the retracted position in retraction direction R, while the sensor assembly 100 remains in the advanced position. For example, the insertion

routine may comprise a decoupling step, in which the structural coupling of sensor element 110 and piercing element 260 is released. Thus, while upon advancing the sensor assembly together with the piercing element and the activation magnet does not entail a change in magnetic coupling between activation magnet 240 and sensor assembly 100, retracting only
5 the piercing element 260 together with the activation magnet 240 does trigger a change in magnetic coupling, which generates an activation signal. Thereby control unit 120 is switched from a pre-operative state in an operative state, in which it may communicate with remote device via communication interface 123. It is noted that a piercing element 260 may also be present in the other embodiments, where it is, however, not involved in generating the acti-
10 vation signal.

In the embodiments of Figure 1 to Figure 3, the magnetic sensor 122 may also be realized as Reed switch. In the embodiment of Figure 1, the advancement movement of the sensor assembly results in the distance between the activation magnet 240 and the magnetic switch increasing, thereby opening the Reed switch. The same holds true for an embodiment accord-
15 ing to Fig 3. In the embodiments of Figure 2, in contrast, the decreasing distance to the activation magnet results in the Reed switch being closed as result of the sensor assembly 100 moving from the retracted into the advanced position.

Figure 4 to Figure 7 show a further embodiment of the analyte measurement kit 1. A base part 202 is received in the cap part 201 and is displaceable with respect to the cap part 201 in
20 a telescopic manner along the insertion direction. Similarly, the piercing element carrier 203 is received in the cap part 201 in a coaxial manner as explained further below. The piercing

element carrier 203 is displaceable with respect to the cap part 201 along the insertion direction. The piercing element carrier 203 carries piercing element 260 that projects from the piercing element carrier 203 (best visible in Figure 6).

A sensor assembly carrier 201a projects from the top wall of the cap element 201 and is connected at its lower skin-facing side to the sensor assembly 100 which is further circumferentially surrounded by the sensor assembly carrier 201a. The sensor assembly carrier 201a is rigidly connected to the cap element 201 and may be considered as a functional part thereof. Figure 4 shows an initial configuration where the base part 202 projects beyond the cap part 201 at the lower side towards the skin S. Further, the base part 202 is releasably locked against the cap part 201. The sensor element 110 projects from the skin-facing side of the sensor assembly 100 and stands back behind the skin contact surface 220. Further, a generally tubular piercing element carrier guide 201b projects from and is rigidly connected with the top portion of the cap element 201. The piercing element carrier guide 201b may be considered as functional component of the cap element 201. In its inner space, the piercing element carrier guide 201b receives the piercing element carrier in a longitudinally displaceable manner. Further, the piercing element carrier guide 201b carries at its outside locking structures for locking the base part 202 in two alternative positions (see e. g. Figures 4, 5). The piercing element carrier guide extends towards the top surface of the sensor assembly 100.

Insertion is carried out by placing the skin contact surface 220 on the skin and manually pressing down the cap element 201. Thereby, the locking between cap element 201 and base part 202 is released. Consequently, the cap part 201 and the sensor assembly 100 move downwards. In an inserted configuration, the base part 202 is again locked against the cap part 201.

In this inserted configuration, the sensor element 110 is introduced into the skin and the sensor assembly is placed on the skin. The inserted configuration is shown in Figure 5.

In the end configuration, pressing down the cap element 201 by the user is released. As best visible in Figure 6, a compression spring 252 is arranged between the base element 202 and the piercing element carrier 203. In the initial configuration (Figure 4), spring 252 is released. In moving from the initial configuration to the end configuration (Figure 5), spring 252 is compressed and accordingly stressed. When releasing the cap element 201 in the configuration of Figure 5, spring 252 is unstressed, thereby pushing the piercing element carrier 203 upwards. Since the piercing element 260 is rigidly connected to the piercing element carrier 203, it also moves upwards and the piercing element 260 is retracted. This configuration is shown in Figure 6. Figure 7 shows the sensor assembly 100 in a situation of use, after decoupling and removing the insertion device 200.

The activation magnet is arranged in the piercing element carrier guide 201b in close proximity to the top surface of the sensor assembly 100 and laterally spaced apart from the central axis. The magnetic orientation corresponds to the insertion direction. Consequently, the magnetic flux passes through the sensor assembly 100. The magnetic sensor 122 is a Hall effect sensor that is arranged with its active surface accordingly to the magnetic flux of the magnet 240. During the whole storage time and until the insertion device 200 is removed (transition from Figure 6 to Figure 7), the magnetic field is continuously sensed by the magnetic sensor 122. With removal of the insertion device 200, the magnetic field of the activation magnet 240 is no longer detected, causing the sensor assembly 100 to switch from the pre-operative state into the operative state.

LIST OF DESIGNATIONS

	1	Analyte measurement kit
	100	Sensor assembly
	110	Sensor element
5	120	Control unit
	121	Battery
	122	Magnetic sensor
	123	Wireless communication interface
	130	Coupling structure
10	140	Sensor housing
	150	Adhesive element
	200	Insertion device
	201	Cap part
	201a	Sensor assembly carrier
15	201b	Piercing element carrier guide
	202	Base part
	203	Piercing element carrier
	220	Skin contact surface
	230	Coupling structure
20	240	Activation magnet
	250	Insertion device housing
	251	Resilient element
	252	Spring

	253	Activator
	260	Piercing element
	300	Remote device
	I	Insertion direction
5	R	Retraction direction
	S	Patient's skin

CLAIMS

1. Analyte measurement kit, the analyte measurement kit including:
 - a) a sensor assembly, the sensor assembly including a transcutaneous sensor element and a control unit;

5 the control unit including a battery for powering the sensor assembly and a magnetic sensor designed to generate an electrical activation signal in dependence of a magnetic field, wherein the control unit is designed to switch from a pre-operative state into an operative state upon generation of the activation signal;
 - 10 b) an insertion device, wherein the insertion device and the sensor assembly comprise complementary coupling structures for releasable coupling;

wherein the insertion device is designed for executing an insertion routine, the insertion routine including advancing the sensor assembly from a retracted position where the transcutaneous sensor element stands back behind a skin contact surface of the insertion device into an advanced position where the sensor

15 element projects beyond the skin contact surface, and subsequently decoupling the insertion device from the sensor assembly,

wherein the insertion device includes an activation magnet and executing the insertion routine is associated with a change of a magnetic coupling between

20 the activation magnet and the sensor assembly, thereby generating the activation signal.

2. Analyte measurement kit according to claim 1, wherein the sensor assembly includes a sensor housing, the sensor housing encapsulating the control unit, wherein the transcutaneous sensor element projects from the sensor housing.
3. Analyte measurement kit according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the insertion device includes an elongated piercing element, wherein the piercing element is structurally coupled with the sensor element in the retracted position, wherein the insertion routine includes advancing the piercing element together with the sensor assembly from the retracted position into the advanced position, followed by only retracting the piercing element into the retracted position.
4. Analyte measurement kit according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the insertion device includes an insertion device housing, wherein the activation magnet is rigidly coupled to the insertion device housing.
5. Analyte measurement kit according to claim 4, wherein the activation magnet is positioned such that a distance between the activation magnet and the magnetic sensor increases upon advancing the sensor assembly into the advanced position, thereby generating the activation signal.
6. Analyte measurement kit according to claim 4, wherein the activation magnet is positioned such that a distance between the activation magnet and the magnetic sensor decreases upon advancing the sensor assembly into the advanced position, thereby generating the activation signal.

7. Analyte measurement kit according to claim 3, wherein the activation magnet is coupled with the piercing element to move relative to the sensor assembly when retracting the piercing element into the retracted position.
8. Analyte measurement kit according to claim 7, wherein the activation magnet is rigidly coupled to or included in the piercing element.
9. Analyte measurement kit according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the magnetic sensor includes a coil.
10. Analyte measurement kit according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the magnetic sensor includes a Hall effect sensor.
- 10 11. Analyte measurement kit according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the activation magnet and the magnetic sensor are aligned, in particular coaxially aligned, with each other in a coupled state of sensor assembly and insertion device.
12. Analyte measurement kit according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the control unit includes a wireless communication interface and wherein the control unit is configured, upon being switched into the operative state, to pair with a remote device for data communication via the wireless communication interface.
- 15 13. Analyte measurement kit according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the sensor assembly is configured to execute analyte measurements in the operative state.

14. Analyte measurement kit according to any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the analyte is glucose.
15. Method for switching a sensor assembly from a pre-operative state into an operative state, the method including:
 - 5 (a) providing an analyte measurement kit according to any one of claims 1 to 14;
 - (b) executing an insertion routine, the insertion routine including changing a magnetic coupling between the activation magnet and the sensor assembly, thereby generating the activation signal.