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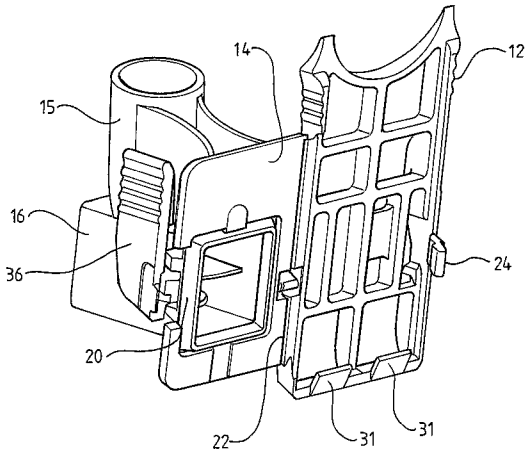
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(54) Title: CENTRIFUGATION DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A centrifugation device comprising a combined sample chamber and slide holder adapted to be mounted, with a microscope slide (26), in a centrifuge in a predetermined position, after placing a fluid biological sample containing cells in the sample chamber. The device comprises an integrally moulded body (10) affording a base (14) which engages the microscope slide, and also affording a back plate (14) connected with the base plate by an integral hinge (22) a latch mechanism formed integrally with the remainder of the device is arranged, when the back plate (14) is closed against the rear of a microscope slide (26) engaged with the base (14), to locate the slide between the base and the back plate and to hold the back plate in this closed position until fracture of a retaining element from the integrally moulded body. Thus, the device can be used once only. The base includes an aperture communicating with the sample chamber and carries an elastomeric gasket (26) for sealing the edges of the aperture with respect to the surface of the microscope slide. The material of the gasket (20) includes an oil component which, in use, forms an oil film on the microscope slide where the gasket contacts the slide, which can act as a barrier to aqueous fluid and prevents migration of such fluid past the region of the slide contacted by the gasket.

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