Claims

1. Device for cleaning ophthalmic lenses, particularly contact lenses, comprising a vessel (3, 3a-c, 103) which has an inlet (7, 7a-c, 107) and an outlet for liquids and into which ophthalmic lenses, particularly contact lenses, can be introduced for cleaning and can be removed again thereafter, characterized in that
at least part of the outlet is formed by first openings (8, 8a-c, 108, 108a) in the vessel wall and that
at least part of the outlet is formed by a second opening (4, 4a-c, 104) at the base of the vessel,
which second opening is designed such that an ophthalmic lens, particularly a contact lens, can enter or leave the vessel together with at least some of the liquid.

2. Device according to Claim 1, characterized in that the first openings (8, 8a-c, 108a) in the vessel wall are designed as a sieve.

3. Device according to Claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the inlet (7, 7a-c, 107) is designed in the form of nozzles that are arranged at the upper edge of the vessel.

4. Device according to one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the vessel is arranged in such a way that one or more lenses can be delivered for cleaning into the liquid chamber (9, 9a-c, 109) through the second opening (4, 4a-c, 104) at the base of the vessel.

5. Device according to one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the vessel is arranged in such a way that one or more lenses can be placed for cleaning into the liquid chamber (9, 9a-c, 109) by means of a gripper.

6. Method for cleaning ophthalmic lenses, characterized by
introducing an ophthalmic lens, particularly a contact lens, into a vessel
with an inlet and an outlet for liquids, where at least part of the outlet is formed by first openings in the vessel wall and that at least part of the outlet is formed by a second opening at the base of the vessel, which second opening is designed such that an ophthalmic lens, particularly a contact lens, can enter or leave the vessel together with at least some of the liquid,
cleaning the ophthalmic lens in the liquid in the vessel, and
removing the cleaned ophthalmic lens from this vessel.

7. Method for cleaning ophthalmic lenses according to Claim 6, characterized by
introducing an ophthalmic lens into the vessel,
by placing the ophthalmic lens by means of the gripper into the liquid or by flushing the ophthalmic lens off from the gripper by means of the liquid, and
removing the cleaned ophthalmic lens from the vessel by means of a gripper.

8. Method for cleaning ophthalmic lenses according to Claim 6, characterized by
introducing an ophthalmic lens into the vessel,
by placing the ophthalmic lens by means of the gripper into the liquid or by flushing the ophthalmic lens off from the gripper by means of the liquid, and
removing the cleaned ophthalmic lens from the vessel by means of opening the second opening at the base of the vessel and allowing the ophthalmic lens to leave the vessel together with at least some of the liquid.

9. Method for replacing liquids surrounding an ophthalmic lens,

characterized by

introducing an ophthalmic lens, particularly a contact lens, into a vessel

with an inlet and an outlet for liquids, where at least part of the outlet is formed by first openings in the vessel wall and that at least part of the outlet is formed by a second opening at the base of the vessel, which second opening is designed such that an ophthalmic lens, particularly a contact lens, can enter or leave the vessel together with at least some of the liquid,

by placing the ophthalmic lens by means of a gripper into a first liquid or by flushing the ophthalmic lens off from the gripper by means of a first liquid, or by introducing the ophthalmic lens into the vessel through the second opening at the base of the vessel by a reverse flow of a first liquid into the vessel through the second opening,

replacing the first liquid with a second liquid by way of the inlet and outlet for liquids,

removing the ophthalmic lens from the vessel by opening the second opening at the base of the vessel and allowing the ophthalmic lens to leave the vessel together with at least some of the second liquid, or by removing the ophthalmic lens from the vessel by means of a gripper.

The invention claimed is:

1. A device for cleaning ophthalmic lenses comprising:

a vessel configured to store an ophthalmic lens when the lens is being cleaned with cleaning liquid;

a gripper configured to grip an ophthalmic lens such that the gripper can place an ophthalmic lens within the vessel;

wherein the vessel comprises an inlet for liquids;

wherein the vessel comprises a sieve through which liquid in the vessel can pass to enter a discharge line, wherein the sieve is sized to prevent the passage of a stored ophthalmic lens through the sieve; and

wherein the vessel comprises an outlet below the sieve, wherein an ophthalmic lens can be discharged through the outlet with at least some of the cleaning liquid into a shaft having a bore that can be selectively opened and closed.

2. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the inlet is designed in the form of nozzles that are arranged at an upper edge of the vessel.

3. A device according to claim 1, characterized in that the vessel is arranged in such a way that one or more lenses can be delivered for cleaning into the vessel through the outlet below the sieve.

4. A device according to claim 2, characterized in that the vessel is arranged in such a way that one or more lenses can be delivered for cleaning into the vessel through the outlet below the sieve.