CLAIMS

1. A powder delivery apparatus (1) for topical administration to a body orifice or a mucous membrane thereof, of a powder composition from a hard capsule (21) comprising:
   a) the container holder (3) comprising two compartments configured to communicate through an inlet gas orifice (7); wherein a substantially U-shaped compartment (9) is configured to be mounted at the capsule holder (2) by interlocking snapping means (13) on the external surface of the substantially U-shaped compartment (9) and means for releasing the powder composition from the hard capsule (21) mounted internally into the substantially U-shaped compartment (9) and a second compartment (19) configured to retain the high pressure container valve mechanism (25) tip at the one end of an inlet gas orifice (7);
   b) a capsule holder (2) comprising an outlet nozzle (11), a compartment (20) configured to form a single mixing chamber (23) with the substantially U-shaped compartment (9) of the container holder (3) when interlocked, for powder composition and gas to be mixed; and a capsule inlet opening (10) configured to retain at least partially a hard capsule (21);
   c) optionally, an applicator (5) configured to be mounted on the outlet nozzle (11) and
   d) a high-pressure container (4) comprising a valve mechanism (25) comprising a valve housing (22) and a valve stem (6), configured to be safely secured to the container holder (3), wherein the high-pressure container contains a liquid propellant in liquid and in gas form for immediately releasing only the gas form from the valve mechanism (25) upon actuation, at a pressure equal to the liquid propellant's vapor pressure.
2. A powder delivery apparatus (1) according to claim 1, wherein the high-pressure container (4) consists essentially of a liquid propellant in liquid and in gas form.
3. A powder delivery apparatus (1) according to claims 1-2, wherein the liquid propellant is selected from 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane, 1,3,3,3-Tetrafluoropropene and mixtures thereof.
4. A powder delivery apparatus (1) according to claims 1-3, wherein all the exit orifice (24) of the valve housing (22) is dipped in the gas form of a liquid propellant.
5. A powder delivery apparatus (1) according to claims 1-4, wherein at least one an exit orifice (24) is positioned on the side of the valve housing (22).
6. A powder delivery apparatus (1) according to proceeding claims, wherein the level of the liquefied propellant in liquid form is below the exit orifice (24) on tip of the valve

housing (22) or the exit orifice (24) on the tip of a dip tube affixed to the tip of the valve housing (22).

7. A powder delivery apparatus (1) according to proceeding claims, wherein the actuation of the valve mechanism (6) involves applying force to the base of the container (18)
8. A powder delivery apparatus (1) according to proceeding claims, wherein a high-pressure container is a metallic canister or enforced glass vial.
9. A powder delivery apparatus (1) according to proceeding claims, wherein the capsule inlet opening (10) is conical frustum shaped.
10. A powder delivery apparatus (1) according to claim 1, wherein the applicator (5) has stopper (12) indicating the insertion depth into a body orifice.
11. A powder delivery apparatus (1) according to claim 10, wherein the applicator (5) is of single or multi-use.
12. A kit comprising i) an apparatus according to claim 1, ii) at least one hard capsule comprising a powder composition in a blister card or a container, iii) an applicator (5) and iii) an instruction leaflet for use.
13. A kit according to claim 12, wherein the powder composition is a pharmaceutical powder composition.
14. A method for delivering powder composition from a hard capsule (21) to a body orifice or a mucosal membrane thereof, comprising the steps of i) providing an apparatus (1) according to claim 1, ii) assembling the apparatus (1) of step i), iii) providing a hard capsule (21) prefilled with powder composition iv) twisting the container holder (3) against the capsule holder (2), iv) placing the outlet nozzle (11) or the applicator (5) in the body orifice or a mucous membrane v) actuate the valve mechanism (25).