

CLAIMS:

1. A lacrimal insert comprising:
a punctal plug including a body portion having a reservoir and first and second ends;
and
an inflatable/deflatable element cooperatively associated with the first end of the body portion wherein the reservoir is separate from the inflatable/deflatable element.
2. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 1, further comprising a collarette configured to rest on the exterior of a punctum, the collarette being affixed to the second end of the body portion.
3. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 2, wherein the collarette comprises an aperture.
4. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 1, wherein the punctal plug is fabricated from a thermoset elastomer.
5. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 4, wherein the thermoset elastomer comprises silicone.
6. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 2, wherein the inflatable/deflatable element is affixed to an exterior portion of the body portion proximate the first end.
7. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 2, wherein the first end of the body portion includes a compartment.
8. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 7, wherein the inflatable/deflatable element is contained within the compartment.
9. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 2, wherein the first end of the body portion comprises a bulb.
10. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 9, wherein the inflatable/deflatable element is contained within the bulb.
11. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 6, wherein the inflatable/deflatable

element comprises a balloon structure.

12. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 11, further comprising an inflation port extending from the collarette to the balloon structure.

13. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 8, wherein the inflatable/deflatable element comprises a balloon structure.

14. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 13, further comprising an inflation port extending from the collarette to the balloon structure.

15. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 10, wherein the inflatable/deflatable element comprises a balloon structure.

16. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 15, further comprising an inflation port extending from the collarette to the balloon structure.

CLAIMS:

1. A lacrimal insert comprising:
a punctal plug including a body portion having a reservoir and first and second ends;
and
an inflatable/deflatable element cooperatively associated with the first end of the body portion wherein the reservoir is separate from the inflatable/deflatable element and the wall thickness of the inflatable/deflatable element varies from region to region around the first end of the body portion.
2. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 1, further comprising a collarette which is configured to rest on the exterior of a punctum, and which is affixed to the second end of the body portion, wherein the collarette comprises two apertures.
3. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 2, wherein the inflatable/deflatable element is affixed to an exterior portion of the body portion proximate the first end.
4. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 2, wherein the first end of the body portion includes a compartment to house the inflatable/deflatable element and wherein the housing contains an aperture in communication with one of the apertures of the collarette to form an inflation port.
5. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 2, wherein the first end of the body portion comprises a an inflatable/deflatable bulb.
6. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 5, wherein the inflatable/deflatable element is contained within the bulb.
7. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 3, wherein the inflatable/deflatable element comprises a nylon balloon structure.
8. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 7, further comprising an inflation port extending from the collarette to the balloon structure.
9. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 7, wherein the inflatable/deflatable element comprises a nylon balloon structure.

10. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 6, wherein the inflatable/deflatable element comprises a balloon structure.

11. The lacrimal insert according to Claim 10, further comprising an inflation port extending from the collarette to the balloon structure.