Claims

1. Method for the removal of a contact lens from a container, comprising the steps of providing a contact lens (30) immersed in a liquid (20) in a container (10), providing a removal tube (3) and dipping the removal tube (3) into the liquid (20) in the container (10), providing a pressure tube (5), closing the container (10) containing the liquid (20) and the immersed contact lens (30) pressure-tight with a lid (2) comprising the removal tube (3) and the pressure tube (5) which both are guided through the lid (2), and applying an overpressure to the interior of the closed container (10) through the pressure tube (5), such that the contact lens (30) and the liquid (20) are pressed into the removal tube (3) and the contact lens (30) is removed from the container (10) together with at least a portion of the liquid (20) through a removal tube (3).

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the removal tube (3) is dipped into the liquid (20) until its front end is located about 1 mm to about 5 mm above a bottom (13) of the container (10).

3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the overpressure which is applied to the interior of the container (10) through the pressure tube (5) is adjusted to about 0.5 bar to about 5 bar above ambient pressure.

4. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the overpressure is established by injecting pressurized air.

5. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein an exit opening of a removal tube system is arranged at a level which is lower than that of the bottom (13) of the container (10).

6. Method according to claim 5, wherein the overpressure is applied impulse-like with a duration of from about 0.75 seconds to about 2 seconds.

7. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the removal tube (3) at its front end is provided with a funnel (4) having a diameter (f) of about 4 mm to about 9 mm.

8. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein a removal tube (3) is selected which has an internal diameter (d) of about 2 mm to about 6 mm.

9. Use of the method according to any one of the preceding claims for the removal of a contact lens (30) from a cuvette (10) for optical inspection of contact lenses.

10. Device for the removal of a contact lens from a container comprising a removal tube (3) adapted for being dipped into a liquid (20) which is held in a container (10) and in which a contact lens (30) is immersed, and for receiving the contact lens (30) together with at least a portion of the liquid (20), wherein the removal tube (3) is held by and guided through a lid (2) which is adapted for closing the container (10) pressure-tight, and further comprising a pressure tube (5) which is held by and guided through the lid (2) and is adapted for being connected to a source of overpressure.

11. Device according to claim 10, wherein the removal tube (3) protrudes from a lower face of the lid (2) a longer distance than the pressure tube (5), such that with the lid (2) mounted pressure-tight on the container (10) a front end of the removal tube (3) is located about 1 mm to about 5 mm above a bottom (13) of the container (10).

12. Device according to claim 11, wherein the removal tube (3) at its front end is provided with a funnel (4) having a diameter (f) of about 4 mm to about 9 mm.

13. Device according to claim 12, wherein the removal tube (3) has an internal diameter (d) of about 2 mm to about 6 mm.

14. Device according to any one of claims 10 to 13, wherein the lid (2) is adapted to maintain an overpressure within the container (10) which amounts to about 0.5 bar to about 5 bar above ambient pressure.

15. Device according to any one of claims 10 to 14, wherein the pressure tube (5) is adapted to be connected to a source of pressurized air.

16. Use of a device according to any one of claims 10 to 15 for the removal of contact lenses (30) from cuvettes (10) for optical inspection of the lenses.

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for the removal of a contact lens from a container, comprising the steps of providing a contact lens immersed in a liquid in a container, providing a removal tube and dipping the removal tube into the liquid in the container, providing a pressure tube, closing the container containing the liquid and the immersed contact lens pressure-tight with a lid comprising the removal tube and the pressure tube which both are guided through the lid, and applying an overpressure to the interior of the closed container through the pressure tube, such that the contact lens and the liquid are pressed into the removal tube and the contact lens is removed from the container together with at least a portion of the liquid through a removal tube.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the removal tube is dipped into the liquid until its front end is located about 1 mm to about 5 mm above a bottom of the container.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the overpressure which is applied to the interior of the container through the pressure tube is adjusted to about 0.5 bar to about 5 bar above ambient pressure.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the overpressure is established by injecting pressurized air.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein an exit opening of a removal tube system is arranged at a level which is lower than that of the bottom of the container.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the overpressure is applied impulse-like with a duration of from about 0.75 seconds to about 2 seconds.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the removal tube at its front end is provided with a funnel having a diameter of about 4 mm to about 9 mm.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein a removal tube is selected which has an internal diameter of about 2 mm to about 6 mm.

9. Use of the method according to claim 1 for the removal of a contact lens from a cuvette for optical inspection of contact lenses.