

DESCRIPTION

**DEVICE FOR INSUFFLATING GAS AND COLLECTING EFFLUENTS FROM THE
BODY CAVITIES OF AN INDIVIDUAL.**

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Object of the invention.

The present invention refers to a device for insufflating gas and collecting effluents from the body cavities of an individual, preferably a device for insufflating gas by rectal route for the distension of the intestines during the execution of an imaging exploration of said intestines.

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Background of the invention.

The present invention refers to a device that permits the introduction of gas, such as air or carbon dioxide, in the intestines of a patient so that these are distended, thus allowing these diagnostic methods to be practiced by imaging exploration.

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During such an exploration, the individual usually discharges or spills effluents out of the rectal cavity which may contaminate the means used to inject the gas and the place where the exploration is being performed.

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A device for reducing these problems is known comprising: a gas insufflation apparatus, a first duct for supplying gas fed by the insufflation apparatus into a body cavity of the individual; barriers inserted in the first duct to prevent the passage of effluents from the individual into the insufflation apparatus, a reservoir for collecting said effluents, a member insertable in an individual's cavity, attachable to the first duct and provided with an expandable annular element for sealing the perimeter of the individual's cavity, and means for inflating the expandable annular element when the insertable member is introduced into the body cavity of the individual.

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In this manner, upon inserting the insertable member in the rectal cavity of the individual, the effluents produced during the exploration pass through the first duct and are collected in the reservoir. This device has several problems, the main one being that the first duct performs both the insufflation of the gas and the collection of effluents through the same channel, which contributes to a greater contamination of the insufflation device. Furthermore, the insufflation apparatus must bear the excess pressure that can be produced during the diagnosis process, which reverts in the fact

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that it should absorb gases coming from the cavity, thus being contaminated although the barriers are effective to the passage of liquids and solids.

Also, with these devices a total extraction of the effluents is not achieved, since, although the insufflation gas stream obstructs the collection of effluents flowing
5 through the duct in the opposite direction, part of these effluents remaining in the rectal cavity. These effluents remaining in the rectal cavity distort the images obtained by the radiologist during the imaging exploration, considerably complicating the diagnosis.

Thus, the document of the PCT application WO2005105198 A1 for a "Manually operated insufflator", of the firm E-Z-EM INC, describes a manual device for
10 distending a subject's abdominal cavity comprising, in one embodiment, of an insufflation gas reservoir, an insertable member for its insertion in an abdominal cavity and a manually operated pump for introducing the gas from the reservoir through an intermediate duct communicating with the insertable member. This device has been designed to carry out diagnosis tests execution during practical learning exercise.
15 Therefore its construction is simple to obtain a reduced cost and does not present certain safety precaution means used in other devices, or these are simpler. In this way, to regulate the gas pressure in the cavity it comprises a valve in the intermediate duct, just before the manually operated pump, for intuitive operation, which allows the discharge of overpressure. This valve does not prevent effluents and gaseous pollutants
20 from coming out through it right where the doctor operates the pump, thus reducing the aseptic handling.

U.S. patent publication US4704102 for "Method of Eliminating intra-abdominal infections" of the firm Geneco Inc. is also known, which describes a method for irrigating a body cavity with an irrigation liquid or solution, ensuring the asepsis of
25 said cavity, such as the bladder or colon. For this purpose, it uses a device comprising a member insertable into said cavity with a balloon for its attachment and for plugging the entry to the cavity. This insertable member is connected by means of some taps or valves with an irrigation liquid reservoir, drainage means to a collecting reservoir of the drainage once the irrigation has been carried out. This device enables the entrance of
30 the irrigation liquid and the exit of the liquid once carried out the irrigation to be done through parallel ducts within the insertable member, avoiding the contamination of the irrigation liquid, said liquid being maintained within the cavity for the desired time. This device is not intended for carrying out colonoscopies by blowing air or gas, since it does not have suitable means for continuous and simultaneous handling of the introduction of

pressurized gas and collecting the effluent, required during the diagnosis procedure.

Description of the invention.

5 The device for insufflating gas and collecting effluents from the body cavities of an individual, object of this invention, has technical features aimed at improving patient comfort and ensuring the cleanliness and hygiene of the gas insufflation device.

10 The device comprises: a gas insufflation apparatus, a first duct for supplying gas fed by the insufflation apparatus into of a body cavity of the individual; barriers inserted in the first duct to prevent the passage of effluents from the individual into the insufflation apparatus, a reservoir for collecting said effluents, a member insertable in an individual's cavity, attachable to the first duct and provided with an expandable annular element for sealing the perimeter of the individual's cavity, and means for inflating the expandable annular element when the insertable member is
15 introduced into the body cavity of the individual.

According to the invention, the first duct presents a by-pass to which a second gas evacuation duct is connected, having a security valve for the automatic discharge of gas to the outside when the pressure of the gas contained in the first duct exceeds a predetermined value.

20 This by-pass of gas to the outside permits the excess gas in the cavity to be discharged without entering into the insufflation apparatus, preventing its contamination by the return gas from the rectal cavity of the individual. It also allows for an easier control of the inner pressure of the cavity with the direct escape to the outside, keeping the volume and pressure in the cavity of the patient more constant.

25 The by-pass is disposed in the section comprised between the insufflation device and the barrier or barriers that block the passage of the effluents towards said insufflation device, due to which the evacuated gases are clean and the insufflation device insufflates gas in a practically constant manner.

30 At the same time, the insertable member comprises at its rear end a first opening for connecting the first duct to a first inner channel provided with an outlet arranged in an area near the front end of the insertable member, a second opening for coupling an effluent discharge duct with a second inner channel provided with an outlet arranged in an area near the front end of the insertable member and a third opening for connecting the inflation means of the expandable annular element with a third inner

channel provided with an outlet opening on the inside of the expandable annular element. This allows the insufflation gas supply to the individual's cavity to be made by a channel that is completely independent from the route or path for collecting the effluents, which are picked up by another independent channel, thereby reducing the possibility of
 5 contamination of the insufflation apparatus by the effluent collected.

The insufflation apparatus almost continuously blows insufflation gas and said gas flow to the patient prevents the liquids and effluents of the rectum and colon from entering the first duct.

Since the gas enters by a channel and the effluents are collected by
 10 another different channel, this device permits to obtain a better elimination of said effluents. This facilitates the work of the radiologist performing the diagnostic procedure as the image obtained is not distorted by said effluents that are properly collected.

The first conduit presents in the section between the connecting by-pass of the second duct and the end connected to the insufflation apparatus, a second by-
 15 pass to which a catheter is connected for the introduction of gas in a cavity of the patient through the mouth or the nose. Thus, during a gastrointestinal diagnosis, it is possible to carry out the distension of the small intestine by means of said catheter with a single insufflation apparatus by balancing the inner pressure distending both intestines from its two ends.

20 In a first embodiment the length of the effluent discharge duct, connected to the second opening of the insertable member is sufficient to collect the effluents produced. However, it is envisaged that for certain situations, the effluent discharge duct, connected to the second opening of the insertable member will be connected at its rear end to an effluent collecting container when they are abundant.

25 The second gas discharge duct comprises scented barriers that avoid the return gases discharged to the outside from causing discomfort owing to their odour.

The gas insufflation apparatus comprises means for warming the gas to be supplied. These gas warming means comprise a thermostat that regulates the warming of gas to a temperature of about 37.5 Celsius degrees, so that the gas
 30 introduced into the cavities of the individual is at a temperature corresponding to the body temperature, instead of the low temperature that decompressed gas from a bottle usually has, for example. This improves the comfort of the patient who is subjected to a less stressful situation.

At least one of the barriers arranged in the first duct comprises antiviral or

antibacterial materials, so that the gas is evacuated to the outside cleaner. Likewise, at least one of the barriers comprises a hydrophobic filter that prevents said gas discharged to the outside from presenting any kind of moisture or contaminant associated with water, while increasing the safety and cleaning of the insufflation device.

5 It is envisaged that the device comprises clamping means, clamps or a lock arranged in the first duct before the barriers and the discharge duct, so that when the diagnosis has been performed the shed of effluents is avoided when removing and disposing the means designed for single..

10 **Description of figures.**

In order to complement the description that is being carried out and with the purpose of facilitating the understanding of the characteristics of the invention, the present description is accompanied by a set of drawings wherein, by way of a non-limiting example, the following has been represented:

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- Figure 1 shows a plan view of the device.
 - Figure 2 shows a cross section of the insertable member.
 - Figure 3 shows a longitudinal section of the insertable member.
 - Figure 4 shows a plan view of the device in a configuration with the second catheter for its introduction through the nose or the mouth.

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Preferred embodiment of the invention.

As can be seen in the referenced figures the device for insufflating gas and collecting effluents from the body cavities of an individual, comprises a first gas insufflation apparatus (1) connected to a first duct (2) for supplying gas a cavity of an individual through an insertable member (3), the insufflation device (1) having gas heating means (11) and a thermostat (12) within regulated for supplying gas at 37.5 Celsius degrees approximately.

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The first duct (2) comprises a bypass (21) near the end connected to the insufflation device (1), this bypass (21) being connected to a second duct (4) for the discharge of gas provided with a safety valve (41) for the automatic discharge of gas to the outside when the pressure of the gas contained in the first duct (2) exceeds a predetermined value. In said second duct (4) is a scented barrier (42) to prevent odours in the discharge of gases.

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The first conduit (2) presents, after the by-pass (21), barriers (22) that

comprise antiviral and antibacterial barriers and a hydrophobic filter.

At its rear end, the insertable member (3) comprises a first opening (31) for connecting the first duct (2), by its free end, with a first inner channel (32) provided with an outlet opening (33) arranged in an area next to the front end of said insertable member (3). The insertable member (3) also comprises a second opening (34) for connecting an effluent discharge duct (5) with a second inner channel (35) provided with an inlet opening (36) arranged in an area next to the front end of said insertable member (3). At the same time, the insertable member (3) comprises a third opening (37) for connecting inflation means (6) with a third inner channel (38), provided with an outlet opening (39) situated inside an expandable annular element (30), said expandable annular element (30) being situated around the insertable member (3) so as to block the entry of the cavity by means of its inflation. This insertable member (3) presents the front end rounded to facilitate its insertion in the rectal cavity without causing injury or discomfort.

The discharge duct (5) presents a length that is sufficient for storing the effluents for their disposal. In one embodiment, at the end of this discharge duct (5) is an effluent collector container (51) of higher capacity.

In one embodiment, the first duct (2) and the effluent discharge duct (5) present coupled clamps (7) for their closing after use, preventing effluent spillages and possible contamination upon removing the insertable member (3) from the cavity of the individual.

In one embodiment, represented in figure 4, the first duct (2) presents in the section between the connecting by-pass (21) of the second duct (4), a second by-pass (23) to which a catheter (8) for the introduction of gas in a cavity of the patient through the mouth or the nose is connected.

Once the nature of the invention as well as an example of preferred embodiment have been sufficiently described, it is stated for all pertinent purposes that the materials, form, size and arrangement of the elements described are susceptible to changes, provided these do not involve an alteration of the essential characteristics of the invention that are claimed subsequently.

CLAIMS

1.- Device for insufflating gas and collecting effluents from the body cavities of an individual of the type comprising: a gas insufflation apparatus (1), a first duct (2) for
 5 supplying gas fed by the insufflation apparatus (1) toward the interior of a body cavity of the individual; barriers (22) inserted in the first duct (2) to prevent the passage of effluents from the individual into the insufflation apparatus (1), a reservoir for collecting said effluents, a member (3) that can be inserted in a cavity of an individual, attachable
 10 to the first duct (2) and provided with an expandable annular element (30) for sealing the cavity perimeter of the individual, and inflation means (6) for inflating the expandable annular element (30) when the insertable member (3) is introduced into the body cavity of the individual **characterized** in that the first duct (2) presents a by-pass (21) to which
 15 a second gas evacuation duct (4) is connected, having a security valve (41) for the automatic discharge of gas to the outside when the pressure of the gas contained in the first duct (2) exceeds a predetermined value.

2.- Device, according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the by-pass (21) is disposed in the section comprised between the insufflation device (1) and the barrier (22) or barriers that block the passage of the effluents towards said insufflation device (1).
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3.- Device, according to any of the previous claims, **characterized** in that the insertable member (3) comprises, at its rear end a first opening (31) for connecting the first duct (2) with a first inner channel (32) provided with an outlet opening (33) arranged in an area next to the front end of the insertable member (3), a second opening (34) for connecting
 25 an effluent discharge duct (5) with a second inner channel (35) provided with an outlet opening (36) arranged in an area next to the front end of the insertable member (3) and a third opening (37) for connecting the inflation means (6) of the expandable annular element (30) with a third inner channel (38) provided with an outlet opening (39) situated inside the expandable annular element (30).
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4.- Device, according to any of the previous claims, **characterized** in that the first duct (2) presents in the section between the connecting by-pass (21) of the second duct (2) and the end connected to the insufflation apparatus (1), a second by-pass (23) to which a catheter (8) for the introduction of gas in a cavity of the patient through the mouth or

the nose is connected.

5 5.- Device, according to claim 3, **characterized** in that the effluent discharge duct (5), connected to the second opening (34) of the insertable member (3) is connected by its rear end to an effluent collector container or reservoir (51).

6.- Device, according to any of the previous claims, **characterized** in that the second gas discharge duct (4) comprises scented barriers (42).

10 7.- Device, according to any of the previous claims, **characterized** in that the gas insufflation apparatus (1) comprises means (11) for warming the gas to be supplied.

15 8.- Device, according to claim 7, **characterized** in that the gas warming means (11) comprise a thermostat (12) that regulates the warming of the gas to a temperature of about 37.5 Celsius degrees.

20 9.- Device, according to any of the previous claims, **characterized** in that at least one of the barriers (22) arranged in the first duct (2) comprises antiviral or antibacterial materials.

10.- Device, according to any of the previous claims, **characterized** in that at least one of the barriers (22) comprises a hydrophobic filter.

25 11.- Device, according to any of the previous claims, **characterized** in that it comprises clamping means, clamps (7) or a lock arranged in the first duct (7) before the barriers (22) and in the discharge duct (5).