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Mini-spike Dispensing Pin—An Efficient Way to Prepare Dantrolene

To the Editor:—Most anesthesiologists are familiar with the dispensing pin provided in thiopental kits. Recently, we became aware of a similar device that allows for quick withdrawal of solutions in smaller vials.

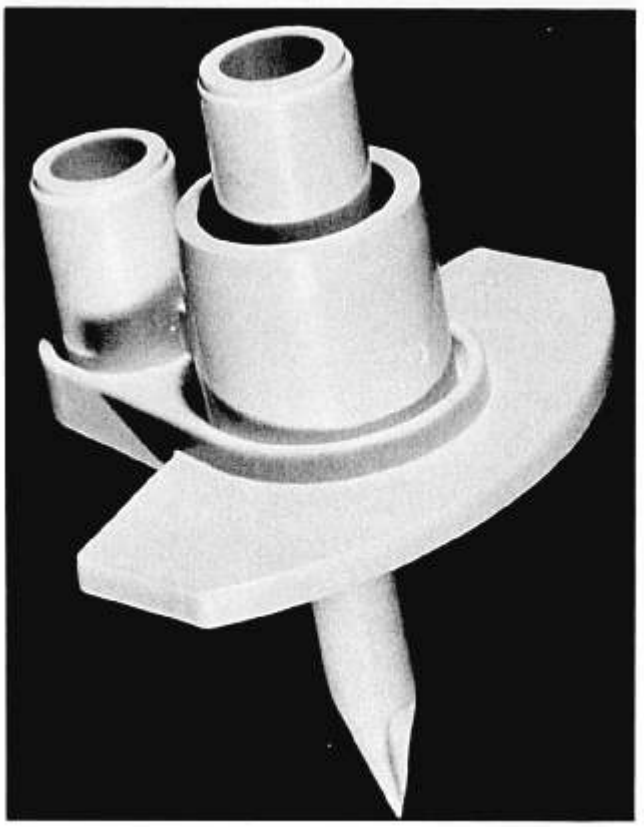

FIG. 1. Mini-spike dispensing pin.

A patient with a family history of malignant hyperthermia was to be pretreated with dantrolene. Her dosage requirement necessitated preparation of eight vials. Time needed to prepare the drug was greatly facilitated with the dispensing pin obtained through our pharmacy. A 0.45 micron filtered vent provides air displacement, allowing for rapid injection of diluent and transfer from vial to syringe *via* the luer connector.

We recommend that the dispensing pin be considered for use on emergency carts, particularly those designed to deal with malignant hyperthermia crises. Our supplier is Burron Medical, Inc., of Bethlehem, PA, and the list price for one pin is $1.09 (fig. 1).

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Subarachnoid Block: Two for the Price of One?

To the Editor:—Recently, following an uneventful spinal anesthetic for an inguinal hernia repair, a patient experienced a rather unusual neurological finding after being returned to his hospital ward.

The patient, a P.S. I, 59-yr-old man, underwent subarachnoid block with 75 mg of 5% xylocaine in 7.5% dextrose with 0.2 mg epinephrine utilizing a 25-G spinal needle placed at the L3–4 interspace. Placement was achieved without difficulty with the patient in the left lateral decubitus position. Clear CSF was obtained without blood or paresthesia. Surgery proceeded without problems, and the patient was discharged from the recovery room 2½ h later. Motor and sensory function was completely intact at that time. Within the next half hour, the patient began