

Marc takes the tube

DOCTOR MARC SPINOZA, a paediatrician at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, has achieved a major breakthrough by receiving approval for his Braidlock® invention to be used in hospitals throughout Europe.

Marc Spinoza's patented product, already tested successfully in British hospitals, is for a quicker and safer way of securing tubes or 'lines' to hospital patients. Having gained CE Mark approval, his Braidlock invention can now be used throughout Europe – a market of over 730m people.

The Braidlock is a short, braided sleeve the lines pass through, attached to the patient with sutures, adhesive patches or Velcro tape. It is easy to push a tube through the Braidlock into the patient, but very hard to pull it back out unintentionally.

But the lines *can* be released, by

simply squeezing the Braidlock, without the need to remove sutures or sticking plaster.

Dr Spinoza's inspiration for his invention was a children's toy called the Chinese finger trap – a braided tube that allows a child to push a finger into it, only to discover that no amount of tugging will get the finger out.

Marc had to remortgage his house to raise the money he needed to develop his invention, patent it and gain approval for its use in hospitals. "Yes, I would do it again, but it's been a hard journey with many surprising obstacles," he says. "Fortunately, I had enough business sense to get my invention patented."

Doctors have hailed his device as simple, effective, safe and likely to save the NHS both waste and cost: the UK's estimated market is 60m lines every year.



"And it doesn't stop there," Marc said. "With more help from my patent attorneys, Mathys and Squire, I've applied to patent the braided tube technology for use in a range of other non-medical ways." ■

Source: CIPA, www.waylines.co.uk

● www.sull-ltd.co.uk

SAMSUNG BOTTLES IT

● **SAMSUNG** has unveiled the Blue Earth touchscreen phone, below, which is made from recycled water bottles and is free from harmful substances such as brominated flame retardants, beryllium and phthalates. It also includes a solar panel on the back which can be used to charge it, and a pedometer which tells the user how much CO₂ they have saved by walking. ■



THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE?

HEALTHCARE BUDGETS face ever-increasing pressure. Over 80% of the over-65 population develops one or more chronic condition, and many of the world's major nations face a doubling of their populations in the next 50 years – including the elderly population.

But one East Sussex company believes it has the answer to at least part of the problem. Battle-based Telehealthcare (TTC) are developing micro-electronic technologies for 'Intelligent Wearables' – a new generation of vital-sign monitoring technologies that collect and transmit cardio-respiratory, imaging, haemodynamic, pulmonary and temperature data for remote clinical analysis via mobile phones.

TTC also hopes to broaden its product base to cater for babies and pregnant women. Telehealthcare results using old-fashioned wired technologies in the US indicate a 50% reduction in certain hospital admissions. TTC's chairman Alan Magill suggests telehealthcare will develop into a new industry, not just a new business.

● Source: East Sussex Enterprise Hub www.eastsussexhub.com

Hi-tech monitor keeps watch

NUM8 is the world's first GPS locator device specifically designed with children in mind. It will tell you exactly where your child is, whenever you feel you need to know – at home and abroad. All you need is a mobile phone or a computer to find your child's precise location.

num8's GPS is concealed in a child's digital watch that cannot be removed or deactivated without your knowledge. It also allows parents to set up a virtual safe zone – if your child steps outside this zone you'll know straight away. If the watch is removed without permission an alert is sent to your mobile phone and email with your child's location. ■

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