ETHZürich

From EpiPen to EpiPatch

Authors: Stephanie Huwiler, Marie Matos, David Renggli and Muriel Wandres



Personas & Problem Statement

Klaus, 85, Switzerland

- Retiree
- Daily income: 150\$
- Tremor in hands \rightarrow struggles in EpiPen usage
- Afraid of needles

Indah, 20, Indonesia

- Seamstress
- Daily income: 6\$
- EpiPen would be too expensive
- Doesn't know how and when to use EpiPen
- Storage conditions







"How can I afford an easy and safe to use Device?"

The solution - EpiPatch

Naomono, 35, Uganda

- Field worker
- Daily income: 1\$
- EpiPen would be too expensive
- Doesn't know what anaphylaxis is
- Doesn't know how and when to use the EpiPen

Marta, 26, Peru

- Maid & cooking in community kitchen
- Daily income: 3\$
- Critical to technology & clinics
- EpiPen would be too expensive
- Doesn't know how to use the EpiPen

Main Problems solved

Challenges

- Easy and correct application
- Safe device
- Short storage life of 12-18 months
- One-time usage only
- Too expensive

New Features

- Subcutaneous administration of Epinephrine via microneedles
- Dissolving needles upon body fluid contact
- Microneedles contain exact dosage
- Enhanced stability of Epinephrine
- Space efficient
- Protective storage box







- Easy usage (patch like application)
- Safe usage (eliminated sharp waste and easier application)
- Cheaper manufacturing (less drug wasting and simpler technology)
- Cheaper transportation and storage (smaller size, extended shelf life and enhanced Epinephrine stability)

Limitations

- Unethical to perform effectiveness studies
- EpiPen already working well in developed countries
- Lower acceptance (undressing depending on application site of patch) in some cultures

Appropriateness Evaluation

	EpiPen	EpiPatch
Performance	 Mishandling Pushing EpiPen strong enough into thigh Waiting 3 seconds for successful Epinephrine delivery 	+ Improved effectiveness - Correct application easily performed - Leave patch on skin until doctor's appointment
Cost	 - 30\$ production cost + brand capital costs - Replacing costs every 12-18 months 	 + Lower production costs of patch → improved accessibility + Reduced replacing costs
Durability	 Shelf life of 12-18 months Return used device to medical facility 	+ Increased shelf life + Can be disposed
Usage	 Training/Introduction needed Hesitation to use injector (needle phobia) Possible injuries due to mishandling 	+ Easy application + No training needed + No needle phobia

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