Health problem addressed
Intestinal parasites - types of helminthiasis and protozooses - are endemic and afflict more than 1 billion people all over the world, particularly affecting the mental and physical development of our children. Affected children are unable to develop their abilities which consequently compromises the Human Development Index of the respective country.

Product description
We developed a product to easily detect the extent of parasite infestations. The product allows for accurate and economic analysis integration into national health plans in communities of low and medium incomes. The product is a prefilled container used for filtering, concentrating and recovering parasites from fixed/preserved body waste.

Product functionality
In a vial with preserving solution, a stool sample is collected by the patient. At the laboratory, the technician places the vial upside down in a tray and waits for 15 minutes, allowing the preserved sample to pass through the filter system. Subsequently, the sample can be directly analysed under the microscope.

Developer’s claims of product benefits
Our product, unlike other methodologies, does not need any equipment or reagents to perform the parasitological examination of feces. The system includes a special filter inside, made of polyester with 266 micra, which renders the sample much cleaner and makes it easier to find the parasites. In just one step the sample is ready to be analysed under the microscope. Another important difference is the new preserving liquid that does not use formalin or any other toxic and aggressive reagent, an exclusive development to preserve the environment and the people that work directly with this kind of process.

Operating steps
By the patient: Open the vial, and with the help of a spoon (provided) collect a portion of feces and put it inside the vial, directly into the preserving liquid. Close the vial and bring it to the laboratory.

By the Technician: Homogenize the sample by shaking the vial, turn over the vial and put it in the tray (provided) for 15 minutes. Place two drops directly on glass microscope plate.

Development stage
The product is on the market since 2007, and its number of laboratories that choose this method is growing. Conformity assessment: ISO 9001:2008 / ISO 13485:2003 / CE Mark / FDA.

Future work and challenges
The technology is ready to be used in any country. It is accessible, affordable, available and applicable. The company needs to find funding to move to the next stage (supply worldwide).

Use and maintenance
User: Patient, technician
Training: none.
Maintenance: none.

Environment of use
Requirements: Product should be stored at room temperature (15°C to 30°C).

Product specifications
Dimensions (mm): 35 x 35 x 70
Weight (kg): 0.02
Consumables: none.
Shelf time: 3 years.
Retail Price (USD): 1.5

Other features: Portable. Single use.
Year of commercialization: 2007
Currently sold in: Brazil, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates

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