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McKinley et al.

(54) METHODS AND DEVICES FOR DELIVERING OR DELAYING LIPIDS WITHIN A DUODENUM

(76) Inventors: **James T. McKinley**, Redwood City, CA (US); **Zhenyong Keck**, Redwood City, CA (US); **Fiona M. Sander**, Los Altos Hills, CA (US)

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(60) Provisional application No. 61/077,579, filed on Jul. 2, 2008, provisional application No. 60/950,071, filed on Jul. 16, 2007.

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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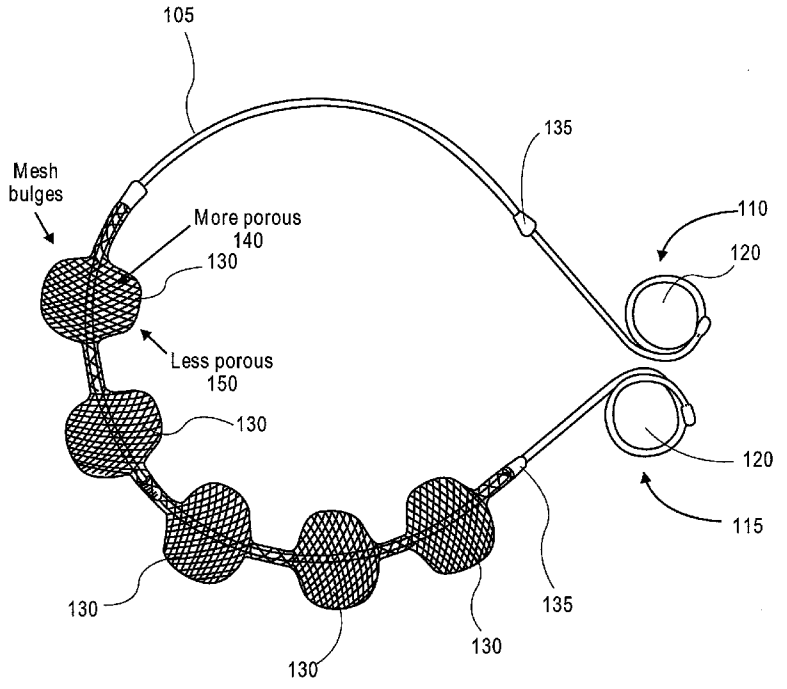
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Devices are described that are adapted and configured for use within the duodenum of a mammal. One aspect of the device includes a spine having a proximal end and a distal end; an atraumatic feature positioned on at least one of the proximal end and the distal end of the spine; and a flow reduction element positioned along the spine and having a variable porosity along its length. In another aspect, there is a flow reduction device adapted and configured for use within the duodenum of a mammal having a spine having a length, a proximal end and a distal end; a first atraumatic feature positioned adjacent to the spine proximal end; a second atraumatic feature positioned adjacent to the spine distal end wherein the length of the spine is selected so that when the first atraumatic feature is in the stomach the second atraumatic feature is in the fourth portion of the duodenum; and a flow reduction element having a proximal end, a distal end, an interior portion, an exterior portion and a variable porosity between the proximal end and the distal end. Additionally or alternatively, some or all of the components of the device may be formed from or coated with a lipid-philic material. There is also provided a method for adjusting the passage of ingesta through the duodenum of a mammal. The method includes placing the distal end of a flow reduction device in the duodenum of a mammal; placing the proximal end of the flow reduction device in a stomach of the mammal; expanding within the duodenum of the mammal a variable porosity flow reduction element supported by the flow reduction device; and directing at least a portion of the flow of ingesta through the duodenum through the proximal end of the variable porosity flow reduction element and into an interior portion of the variable porosity flow reduction element.



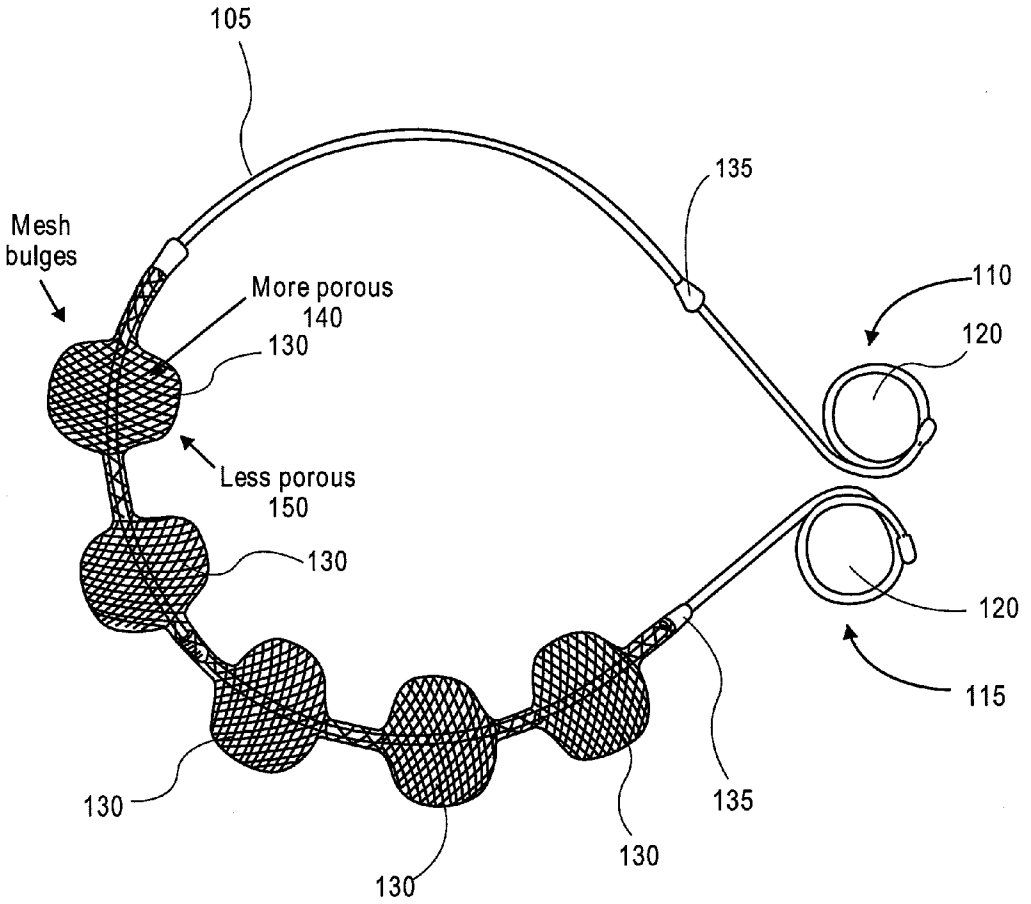

105
135
Mesh
bulges
More porous
140
130
110
120
Less porous
150
130
120
115
130
135
130
130

FIG. 1

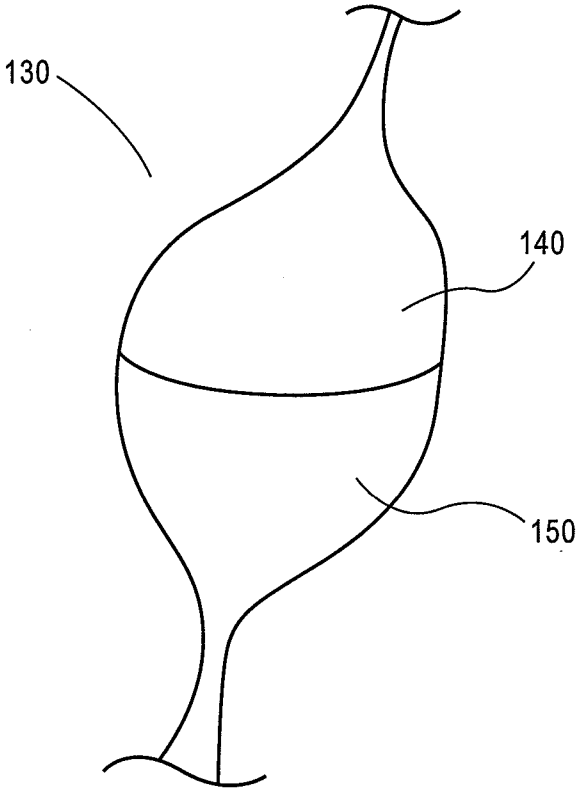


FIG. 2

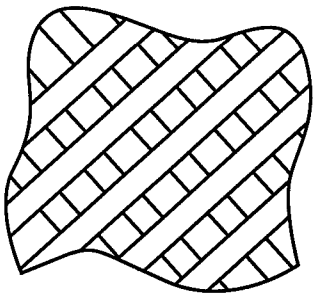


FIG. 2A

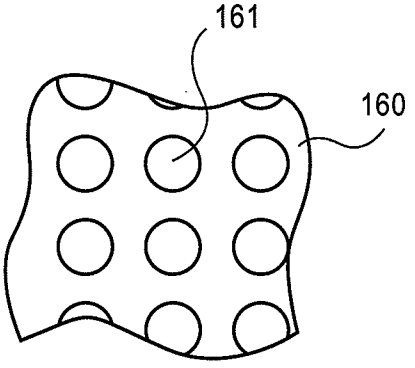


FIG. 2B

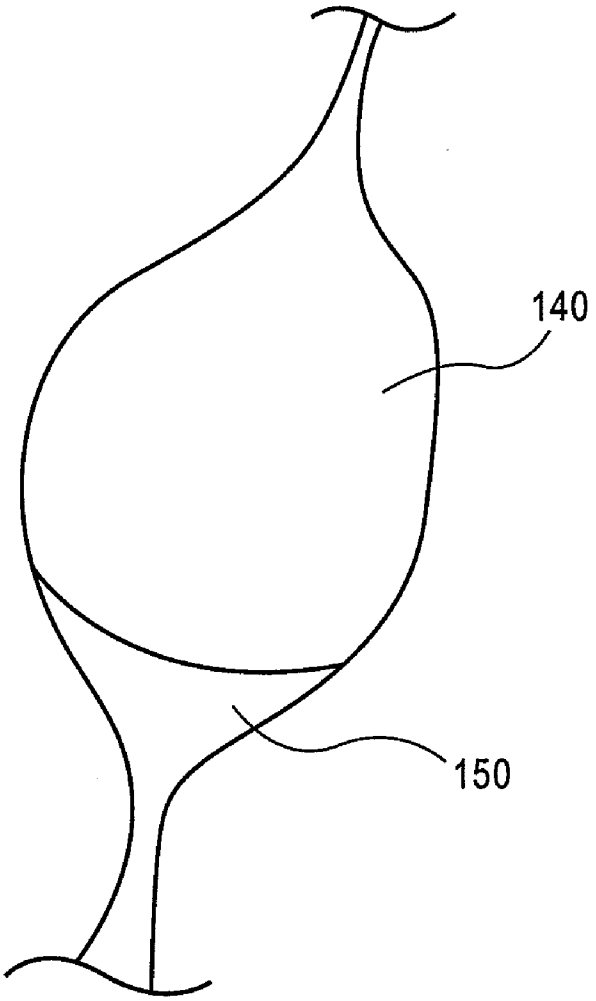


FIG. 3

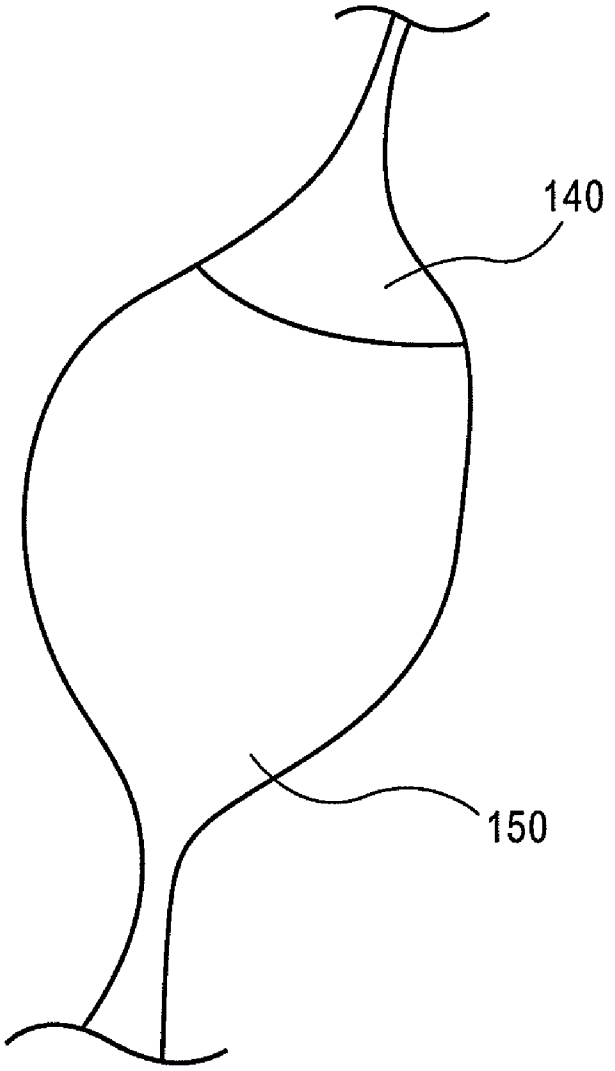


FIG. 4

METHODS AND DEVICES FOR DELIVERING OR DELAYING LIPIDS WITHIN A DUODENUM

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 61/077,579 filed Jul. 2, 2008 and is a continuation in part of International Patent Application No. PCT/US2008/070226 filed on Jul. 16, 2008, published as WO 2009/012335 A1, the entirety of each of these applications is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[0002] Various aspects of the design, function, deployment, operation and delivery of conformal flow reduction devices for use in the duodenum are described in the following related applications: U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/950,071, filed Jul. 16, 2007, entitled "CONFORMATIONALLY-STABILIZED INTRALUMINAL DEVICE FOR MEDICAL APPLICATIONS," now International Patent Application No. PCT/US2008/070226 filed Jul. 16, 2008 entitled "A Conformationally-Stabilized Intraluminal Device for Medical Applications;" U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/999,410, filed Nov. 30, 2004, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REDUCING OBESITY," now publication no. 2005-0192614; U.S. patent application Ser. No.: 11/300,283, filed Dec. 15, 2005, entitled "METHODS AND DEVICES TO CURB APPETITE AND/OR REDUCE FOOD INTAKE," now publication no. 2006-0178691; and U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/807,107, filed May 25, 2007, entitled "METHODS AND DEVICES TO CURB APPETITE AND/OR REDUCE FOOD INTAKE," now publication no. 2007-0293885.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

[0003] All publications and patent applications mentioned in this specification are herein incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each individual publication or patent application was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0004] Obesity and type 2 diabetes are diseases of insufficient or deficient regulation. We know from human studies that the small intestine plays a critical role in both energy and glucose homeostasis: when the duodenum is exposed to lipids, appetite is diminished and native (liver) glucose production is down-regulated. Previously we have invented a device that can be implanted into the duodenum and remain in place; we have described devices and methods for slowing the passage of food through the duodenum to cause increased tissue-nutrient contact, thereby causing amplified hormonal signaling from the duodenum; and, we have invented methods and devices for delivering chemicals, drugs or other compounds to the duodenum.

[0005] What is needed are devices and/or methods for additional lipid uptake, delaying ingesta passage/prolonging ingesta contact, delivering or providing lipids or other appetite and glucose reducing nutrients and/or combinations of these characteristics.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] In one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a device adapted and configured for use within the duodenum of a mammal. The device has a spine having a proximal end and a distal end; an atraumatic feature positioned on at least one of the proximal end and the distal end of the spine; and, positioned along the spine, a flow reduction element having variable porosity along its length. In one embodiment, the variable porosity of the flow reduction element is selected so that a portion of a flow over the proximal end of the flow reduction element flows into an interior portion of the flow reduction element. In one embodiment, the variable porosity of the flow reduction element is selected so that flow within an interior of the flow reduction element is at least partially inhibited from flowing through the distal portion of the variable porosity structure. In one embodiment, the proximal portion of the flow reduction element comprises a material, a mesh or a braid having a porosity or altered to provide a porosity selected to permit a flow into an interior portion of the flow reduction element. In one embodiment, the distal portion of the flow reduction element comprises a material, a mesh or a braid having a porosity or altered to provide a porosity selected to at least partially inhibit a flow from within an interior portion of the flow reduction element. In one embodiment, the length of the spine is selected so when the atraumatic feature is positioned in a stomach the flow reduction element is positioned on the spine and distal to a pylorus. In one embodiment, the length of the spine is selected so when the atraumatic feature is positioned in a stomach the distal end of the spine is in the fourth portion of the duodenum and the flow reduction element is positioned within a portion of the duodenum. In one embodiment, there is also a flow reduction element having a non-variable porosity along its length. In one embodiment, there is also a feature on the spine positioned to restrict movement of the flow reduction element relative to the spine.

[0007] In still another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a device adapted and configured for use within the duodenum of a mammal. The device has a spine with a length, a proximal end and a distal end; a first atraumatic feature positioned adjacent to the spine proximal end; a second atraumatic feature positioned adjacent to the spine distal end wherein the length of the spine is selected so that when the first atraumatic feature is in the stomach the second atraumatic feature is in the fourth portion of the duodenum; and a flow reduction element having a proximal end, a distal end, an interior portion, an exterior portion and a variable porosity between the proximal end and the distal end. In one embodiment, the porosity of the proximal end is selected to the allow flow to pass from the exterior portion to the interior portion. In one embodiment, the porosity of the distal end is selected to impede flow from the interior portion to the exterior portion. In one embodiment, the proximal portion is more porous than the distal portion. In one embodiment, the proximal end has a porous structure configured to permit flow into the interior portion and the distal end has a solid portion to retain material within the interior portion. In one embodiment, there is provided another flow reduction element between the proximal and distal ends of the spine. In one embodiment, the another flow reduction element has variable porosity between the proximal and distal ends of the flow reduction element. In one embodiment, the length of the spine is selected so that when the first atraumatic feature is positioned in a stomach the second atraumatic feature is positioned within the duodenum and adjacent to the first atraumatic feature. In one embodiment, the length of the spine is selected so that when the first atraumatic feature is positioned in a stomach the second

atraumatic feature is positioned within the duodenum and in proximity to the ligament of Treitz.

[0008] In still another aspect, there is provided a method for adjusting the passage of ingesta through the duodenum of a mammal by placing the distal end of a flow reduction device in the duodenum of a mammal; placing the proximal end of the flow reduction device in a stomach of the mammal; expanding within the duodenum of the mammal a variable porosity flow reduction element supported by the flow reduction device; and directing at least a portion of the flow of ingesta through the duodenum through the proximal end of the variable porosity flow reduction element and into an interior portion of the variable porosity flow reduction element. In one embodiment, there is also provided a method retaining a portion of the ingesta within the interior portion of the variable porosity flow reduction element until the ingesta is pushed out of the interior portion by peristaltic action of the duodenum. In still another embodiment, there is provided a method of adjusting the passage of ingesta wherein the ingesta is pushed out of the interior portion by passing through a distal portion of the variable porosity flow reduction element. In still another alternative method for adjusting the passage of ingesta, the ingesta is pushed out of the interior portion by passing through the proximal portion and thereafter passing around the variable porosity flow reduction element.

[0009] In another aspect, the flow reduction elements positioned along the device backbone could be coated with, manufactured from or contain lipid-philic materials. For example, one or more of the flow reduction elements of the intraduodenal device could be manufactured from a lipid absorbing or adsorbing material. A flow reduction element manufactured in this way will attract and collect lipids from passing ingesta and hold the lipids for a period of time. The length of time that the lipids will remain attached to the flow reduction element will vary based on a number of factors. For example, the flow reduction element may exude the lipids as peristalsis continues to squeeze the device. The prolonged presence of and/or sustained release of lipids within the duodenum is believed to benefit and in some cases to increase hormonal regulation. It is to be appreciated that embodiments of the present invention provide prolonged presence of and/or sustained release of lipids within the duodenum through the use of one or more of: making flow reduction elements and/or other components of the flow reduction device (i.e., any of the components of FIG. **1** for example) at least partially or even completely from one or more lipid-philic materials; coating flow reduction elements and/or other components of the flow reduction device entirely or at least partially form lipid-philic materials; and/or placing within a flow reduction element, or attaching to a component of the flow reduction device an additional element or component formed from or at least partially coated with a lipid-philic material.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] FIG. **1** is a prospective view of a device for use in the duodenum.

[0011] FIG. **2** is an enlarged view of one of the flow reduction elements of FIG. **1** showing the upper and lower portions of the element;

[0012] FIG. **2**A is an enlarged view of a material used to provide variable porosity to a flow portion of a flow reduction element;

[0013] FIG. **2**B is an enlarged view of a solid or semi permeable sheet where a pattern of holes are used to provided variable porosity to a portion of a flow reduction element;

[0014] FIG. **3** illustrates a flow reduction element embodiment where more of the flow reduction device is utilized for allowing flow through the use of a larger proximal portion having a more porous construction and a smaller distal portion having a less porous construction;

[0015] FIG. **4** illustrates a flow reduction element embodiment where more of the flow reduction device is utilized for preventing flow than for allowing flow through the use of a smaller proximal portion having a more porous construction and a larger distal portion having a less porous construction.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0016] The present application relates to methods and devices for providing a sense of fullness/satiety and/or glucose production inhibition. The devices and methods described herein provide for additional lipid presence in the duodenum by delaying ingesta passage/prolonging ingesta contact, delivering or providing lipids or other satiety and/or glucose reducing nutrients and/or combinations thereof.

[0017] Lipids can be generally defined as substances such as a fat, oil or wax that dissolve in alcohol but not in water. Lipids contain carbon, hydrogen and oxygen but have far less oxygen proportionally than carbohydrates. They serve as a source of fuel and are an important constituent of the structure of cells. As used herein, lipids refer to any of fatty acids, glycerides, complex lipids and nonglycerides. Fatty acids include both saturated and unsaturated. Glycerides include, for example, neutral phosphoglycerides. Complex lipids are lipids complexed with another type of chemical compound and include, for example, lipoproteins, phospholipids and glycolipids. Nonglycerides include, for example, sphingolipds, steroids and waxes.

[0018] Because most ingesta contain lipids, it is believed that the methods and devices described herein for prolonging lipid residence time, delaying lipid passage and/or providing lipids would enhance the operating characteristics of a duodenal positioned flow reduction device, such as those described in the related applications. In other words, the methods and devices described herein not only slow the passage of food but may also detain or delay the passage of food. The delay or detention may allow for prolonged nutrient release and aid in achieving health objectives. Additionally or alternatively, the devices and methods described herein may also provide for active introduction of lipids into the duodenum.

[0019] Catch and hold food, some of which is lipid. By using flow reduction bulges along the spine of the device pictured in FIG. **1**, ingesta can be caught and held temporarily. The mesh bulges may have a more open structure on the end from which nutrients arrive from the stomach and smaller openings on the end from which nutrients depart as one way to hold nutrients longer. Alternatively, the spheres could themselves become 'buckets' in which food is captured and retained. The bucket may be provided by having a solid bottom portion so that chyme entering remains in the bottom of the bucket until pushed out by peristaltic action or my movement of additional chyme to displace it.

[0020] The flow restriction devices may be any of a wide variety of shapes and dimensions as described in the incorporated patent applications. The adjustment of the flow characteristics of ingesta or chyme: (a) around the outside of a flow reduction element, (b) through a wall of a flow or portion

of a flow reduction element and (c) retained within a flow reduction element may be accomplished in a number of ways. One way to adjust the flow characteristics within a flow regulated duodenum (i.e., a duodenum having a flow reduction device implanted within it) is through the porosity or flow characteristics of the flow reduction elements.

[0021] FIG. **1** illustrates a perspective view of a device **100** having a spine **105**, a proximal end **110**, a distal end **115**, atraumatic features **120** on both the proximal and distal ends. A series of five flow reduction elements **130** are shown in position along the spine **105**. There may be one or more features **135** on the spine to prevent unwanted proximal or distal movement of the flow reduction elements **130** along the spine **105**. The flow reduction elements **130** are shown in a deployed configuration as they would be in use within the duodenum. In the most basic form, one or more of the flow reduction elements may be formed from a material or materials with porosity characteristics that adjust the flow characteristics of chyme or ingesta flow relative to the material and the flow reduction element.

[0022] As shown in FIG. **1**, the device **100** is orientated as it would be implanted with the proximal end **110** in the stomach and the distal end **115** in the duodenum near the ligament of Trietz. Chyme/ingesta flow is from the proximal end **110** to the distal end **115** in FIG. **1**. The more porous portion of the flow reduction element **140** will interact with the chyme first. Because of the porosity of this part of the flow reduction element, chyme will flow into the interior portion of the flow reduction element as well as around the flow reduction element. As peristaltic action in the duodenum continues to move the chyme, the portion inside of the flow reduction element is urged distally towards the portion of the flow reduction device that is less porous **150**. Some of the chyme entering the flow reduction element portion **150** will be retained within the flow reduction element for some period of time based upon a number of factors such as how much the person has eaten and the porosity of this portion of the flow reduction element among others. As a result of the variable porosity of the structure of the flow reduction element, chyme enters but then is delayed in leaving the flow reduction element interior. It is believed that increasing the residence time of chyme within a flow reduction element will increase the time of interaction of the nutrients in that trapped portion and/or provide for an extended release of the lipids in the trapped portion of chyme. The retained food could be nutrient rich or lipid rich so that the prolonged exposure produces a sense of satiety and/or the inhibition of liver glucose production in the individual. One such mechanism that may be achieved or fostered by the embodiments described herein is described in "Upper intestinal lipids trigger a gut-brain-liver axis to regulate glucose production" by Penny Y. T. Wang et al (Nature, Vol. 452:24 April 2008 doi:10.1038/nature06852).

[0023] The flow characteristics of the flow reduction element may be adjusted in a number of ways. FIG. **2** is an enlarged view of a flow reduction element **130** in FIG. **1**. The flow reduction element is divided roughly in half with an upper portion **140** (the part to first contact with the flow of chyme) having a porosity that allows flow through it and into the interior of the flow reduction element. The bottom portion **150** of the flow reduction element is less porous or allows less flow of chyme from the interior of the flow reduction element. The variable porosity or flow characteristics of the flow reduction elements may be adjusted by selecting material with different sizes (FIG. **2**A), shapes, construction, and/or filaments with different characteristics to enhance or diminish flow as needed for the upper or lower portions. The flow characteristics of a flow reduction element may be obtained by overlapping (i.e., joined or crossed without joining) filaments to form cells that will, to the desired degree, permit or impede chyme passage. Alternatively or additionally, the flow reduction element could be formed from a solid or semi-permeable sheet **160** with holes **161** formed in it as shown in FIG. **2**B. The size, shape, pattern and distribution of the openings may be used to adjust the amount of relative flow through a flow reduction element.

[0024] The flow reduction element adjustment may also be accomplished by adjusting the relative amounts of the flow reduction element used for allowing flow (more porous **140**) or preventing flow (less porous **150**). FIG. **3** illustrates a flow reduction element embodiment where more of the flow reduction device is utilized for allowing flow than for preventing flow. In contrast, FIG. **4** illustrates a flow reduction element embodiment where more of the flow reduction device is utilized for preventing flow than for allowing flow.

[0025] The foregoing are merely examples. More than one flow allowing or more than one flow preventing zone or portion may be used in a flow reduction element. While the relative distribution of the flow zones has been generally perpendicular to the spine or flow within the duodenum, other orientations relative to the spine or the duodenum are possible depending upon the desired flow profile. Moreover, a device may have flow reduction elements having one or more flow adjustment zones, or no flow adjustment zones. The type of flow reduction elements and the flow characteristics of those flow reduction elements may be mixed within a flow reduction device depending upon the desired flow characteristics desired.

[0026] Other flow reduction element properties such as the shape and size of a reduction element, the relative size between reduction elements, the alignment or orientation of a reduction element to the central shaft or spine and other properties are further described in the incorporated applications and may also be adjusted to accomplish the nutrient delivery aspects described herein.

[0027] Alternatively, the flow reduction elements could also be configured to capture and hold a lipid For instance, to maintain a certain lipid level in the spheres, the patient could periodically swallow a lipid 'pill' or other form that engages the device and remains in place. The nutrient could also take the form of an extended release compound that releases an amount of the nutrient over time. The nutrient could also be mixed with another compound that is released when the patient consumes a releasing agent, such as before a meal or at a time of day prone to hunger pangs or higher than desired blood glucose levels. The releasing agent mixes with the nutrient compound mixture causing the release of nutrients, such as lipids, to aid in regulation of hunger and/or glucose.

[0028] In another aspect, the flow reduction device could be coated with, manufactured with or contain nutrients such as lipids or lipid-philic materials. For example, the flow reduction elements could be one or more bulges manufactured using lipid leaching materials; or the bulges could be manufactured with lipid-philic materials or a sponge like membrane inside the bulges or otherwise connected to the device backbone, that would absorb and distribute temporally lipids from passing ingesta to increase hormonal regulation.

[0029] In another aspect, the flow reduction elements positioned along the device backbone could be coated with,

manufactured from or contain lipid-philic materials. For example, one or more of the flow reduction elements of the intraduodenal device could be manufactured from a lipid absorbing or adsorbing material. A flow reduction element manufactured in this way will attract and collect lipids from passing ingesta and hold the lipids for a period of time. The length of time that the lipids will remain attached to the flow reduction element will vary based on a number of factors. For example, the flow reduction element may exude the lipids as peristalsis continues to squeeze the device. The prolonged presence of and/or sustained release of lipids within the duodenum is believed to benefit and in some cases to increase hormonal regulation. It is to be appreciated that embodiments of the present invention provide prolonged presence of and/or sustained release of lipids within the duodenum through the use of one or more of:

[0030] making flow reduction elements and/or other components of the flow reduction device (i.e., any of the components of FIG. **1** for example) at least partially or even completely from one or more lipid-philic materials; coating flow reduction elements and/or other components of the flow reduction device entirely or at least partially form lipid-philic materials; and/or placing within a flow reduction element, or attaching to a component of the flow reduction device an additional element or component formed from or at least partially coated with a lipid-philic material.

[0031] The spine could be configured as a central tube with plural inlet/outlet ports in communication with a flow reduction element and/or the outside of the tube as described in the incorporated applications. Additionally or alternatively, a portion of the device itself, i.e.: the backbone or spine, could be hollow such that it could be filled with lipids that would leach out or otherwise be delivered to the duodenum. A nutrient reservoir may be implanted within the patient, within the flow reduction device or separately injected into the device during implantation, after insertion or periodically while the patient has the device inserted in his duodenum.

[0032] Additionally or alternatively, the lipid equipped hormonal regulatory device could be configured to release lipids on demand using an internal or external controller or device as described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/807,107, filed May 25, 2007, entitled "METHODS AND DEVICES TO CURB APPETITE AND/OR REDUCE FOOD INTAKE," now publication no. 2007-0293885.

1. A device adapted and configured for use within the duodenum of a mammal, comprising:
- a spine having a proximal end and a distal end;
- an atraumatic feature positioned on at least one of the proximal end and the distal end of the spine; and
- a flow reduction element positioned along the spine and having a variable porosity along its length.

2. The device of claim **1** wherein the variable porosity of the flow reduction element is selected so that a portion of a flow over the proximal end of the flow reduction element flows into an interior portion of the flow reduction element.

3. The device of claim **1** wherein the variable porosity of the flow reduction element is selected so that flow within an interior of the flow reduction element is at least partially inhibited from flowing through the distal portion of the variable porosity structure.

4. The device of claim **1** wherein a proximal portion of the flow reduction element comprises a material, a mesh or a braid having a porosity or altered to provide a porosity selected to permit a flow into an interior portion of the flow reduction element.

5. The device of claim **1** wherein a distal portion of the flow reduction element comprises a material, a mesh or a braid having a porosity or altered to provide a porosity selected to at least partially inhibit a flow from within an interior portion of the flow reduction element.

6. The device of claim **1** wherein the length of the spine is selected so when the atraumatic feature is positioned in a stomach the flow reduction element is positioned on the spine and distal to a pylorus.

7. The device of claim **1** wherein the length of the spine is selected so when the atraumatic feature is positioned in a stomach the distal end of the spine is in the fourth portion of the duodenum and the flow reduction element is positioned within a portion of the duodenum.

8. The device of claim **1** further comprising:
- a flow reduction element having a non-variable porosity along its length.

9. The device of claim **8** wherein the flow reduction element is at least partially formed from a lipid-philic material.

10. The device of claim **8** wherein at least a portion of the interior or the exterior of the flow reduction element is at least partially coated with a lipid-philic material.

11. The device of claim **1** further comprising:
- a feature on the spine positioned to restrict movement of the flow reduction element relative to the spine.

12. The device of claim **1** wherein the flow reduction element is at least partially formed from a lipid-philic material.

13. The device of claim **1** wherein at least a portion of the interior or the exterior of the flow reduction element is at least partially coated with a lipid-philic material.

14. The device of claim **1** further comprising:
- a lipid-philic structure within the flow reduction element.

15. The device of claim **14** wherein the lipid-philic structure within the flow reduction element is attached to the spine.

16. The device of claim **14** wherein the lipid-philic structure within the flow reduction element is attached to the flow reduction element.

17. A device adapted and configured for use within the duodenum of a mammal, comprising:
- a spine having a length, a proximal end and a distal end;
- a first atraumatic feature positioned adjacent to the spine proximal end;
- a second atraumatic feature positioned adjacent to the spine distal end wherein the length of the spine is selected so that when the first atraumatic feature is in the stomach the second atraumatic feature is in the fourth portion of the duodenum; and
- a flow reduction element positioned along the spine and having a proximal end, a distal end, an interior portion, an exterior portion and a variable porosity between the proximal end and the distal end.

18. The device of claim **10** wherein the porosity of the proximal end is selected to the allow flow to pass from the exterior portion to the interior portion.

19. The flow reduction device of claim **10** wherein the porosity of the distal end is selected to impede flow from the interior portion to the exterior portion.

20. The flow reduction device of claim **10** wherein the proximal portion is more porous than the distal portion.

21. The device of claim **10** wherein the proximal end has a porous structure configured to permit flow into the interior portion and the distal end has a solid portion to retain material within the interior portion.

22. The device of claim **10** further comprising:

another flow reduction element between the proximal and distal ends of the spine.

23. The device of claim **15** wherein the another flow reduction element has variable porosity between the proximal and distal ends of the flow reduction element.

24. The device of claim **10** wherein the length of the spine is selected so that when the first atraumatic feature is positioned in a stomach the second atraumatic feature is positioned within the duodenum and adjacent to the first atraumatic feature.

25. The device of claim **10** wherein the length of the spine is selected so that when the first atraumatic feature is positioned in a stomach the second atraumatic feature is positioned within the duodenum and in proximity to the ligament of Treitz.

26. The device of claim **10** wherein the flow reduction element is at least partially formed from a lipid-philic material.

27. The device of claim **10** wherein at least a portion of the interior or the exterior of the flow reduction element is at least partially coated with a lipid-philic material.

28. The device of claim **10** further comprising:

a lipid-philic structure within the flow reduction element.

29. The device of claim **28** wherein the lipid-philic structure within the flow reduction element is attached to the spine.

30. The device of claim **28** wherein the lipid-philic structure within the flow reduction element is attached to the flow reduction element.

31. A method for adjusting the passage of ingesta through the duodenum of a mammal, comprising:

placing the distal end of a device in the duodenum of a mammal;

placing the proximal end of the device in a stomach of the mammal;

expanding within the duodenum of the mammal a variable porosity flow reduction element supported by the device; and

directing at least a portion of the flow of ingesta through the duodenum through the proximal end of the variable porosity flow reduction element and into an interior portion of the variable porosity flow reduction element.

32. The method for adjusting the passage of ingesta according to claim **19** further comprising:

retaining a portion of the ingesta within the interior portion of the variable porosity flow reduction element until the ingesta is pushed out of the interior portion by peristaltic action of the duodenum.

33. The method for adjusting the passage of ingesta according to claim **20** wherein the ingesta is pushed out of the interior portion by passing through a distal portion of the variable porosity flow reduction element.

34. The method for adjusting the passage of ingesta according to claim **20** wherein the ingesta is pushed out of the interior portion by passing through the proximal portion and thereafter passing around the variable porosity flow reduction element.

35. A method for adjusting the passage of ingesta through the duodenum of a mammal, comprising:

placing the distal end of a device in the duodenum of a mammal;

placing the proximal end of the device in a stomach of the mammal; expanding within the duodenum of the mammal a flow reduction element supported by the device wherein at least one component of the device is at least partially formed from or coated with a lipid-philic material; and

joining a lipid comprising compound to the at least one component of the device that is at least partially formed from or coated with a lipid-philic material.

36. The method of claim **35** further comprising:

Releasing at least a portion of the lipid comprising compound from the at least one component of the device.

37. The method of claim **35** wherein the at least one component is a flow reduction element and the lipid comprising compound is attached to the exterior of the flow reduction element.

38. The method of claim **35** wherein the at least one component is a flow reduction element and the lipid comprising compound is attached to the interior of the flow reduction element.

39. The method of claim **35** wherein the at least one component is a spine of the device and the lipid comprising compound is attached to the spine adjacent to a flow reduction element.

40. The method of claim **35** further comprising:

After the joining step, contacting an interior wall of the duodenum with a portion of the at least one component.

41. A device adapted and configured for use within the duodenum of a mammal, comprising:

a spine having a length, a proximal end and a distal end;

a first atraumatic feature positioned adjacent to the spine proximal end;

a second atraumatic feature positioned adjacent to the spine distal end wherein the length of the spine is selected so that when the first atraumatic feature is in the stomach the second atraumatic feature is in the fourth portion of the duodenum; and

a flow reduction element positioned along the spine and having a proximal end, a distal end, an interior portion, an exterior portion, wherein at least a portion of the device is at least partially made from or coated with a lipid-philic material.

42. The device of claim **41** wherein the at least a portion of the device that is at least partially made from or coated with a lipid-philic material is the flow reduction element.

43. The device of claim **41** wherein the at least a portion of the device that is at least partially made from or coated with a lipid-philic material is the spine.

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