
■ ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Hingson's Peace Gun



Familiar with jet-injection injuries from his military background, Anesthesiologist Robert A. Hingson, M.D. (1913–1996) published about needle-free injection as early as 1947. By the following year, Hingson had penned papers about his “Hypospray” device, nearly 20 years before Hyposprays were featured on television’s *Star Trek* and then in more than a dozen unrelated science fiction movies. Surprisingly, this handheld version of a Hingson “Peace Gun” pictured above—with its luger-like metal silhouette and sharp bottle piercer—went unchallenged through airport security x-ray machines as it was curatorially hand-carried to the gallery of the Wood Library-Museum. Facilitated by patent innovations in the 1960s by Aaron Ismach and others, Hingson and his Cleveland and Pittsburgh colleagues popularized jet injection technologies which have immunized more than a billion people and eradicated smallpox worldwide. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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