

# Case Study: BAMBI – Balloon Against (post-partum) Maternal Bleeding

XLI ANNUAL SCHOOL

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

13 September 2022

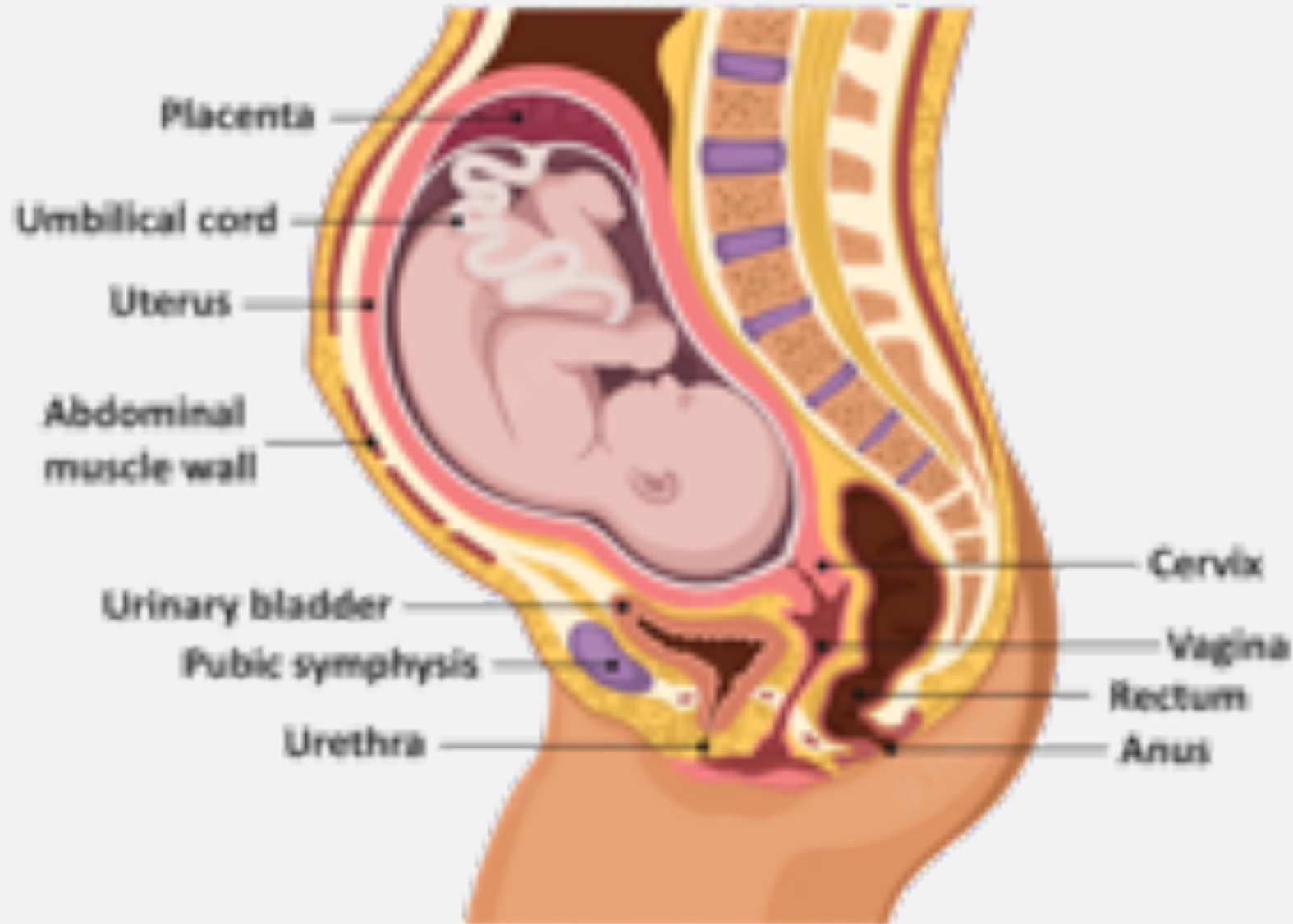
Francesco De Gaetano, PhD

Department of Chemistry, Materials and Chemical  
Engineering “Giulio Natta”



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

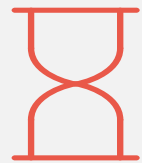
# Background: Uterus and pregnancy



# Post Partum Haemorrhage (PPH)



**500 ml** or more



within **24 hours** after birth



leading cause of maternal death  
worldwide

# Social relevance and expected social impact



World cases

*Health Organization (2018)*



Related deaths

*Herrick et al. (2017)*



Deaths in low-  
income countries

*Health Organization (2018)*

# Social relevance and expected social impact



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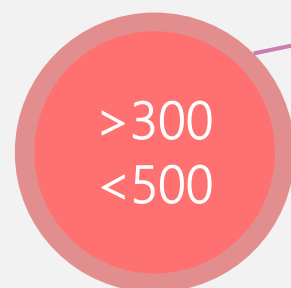
Deaths in low-  
income countries

*Health Organization (2018)*

# Maternal mortality ratio



World Health  
Organization



(per 100k births)

# Existing Needs

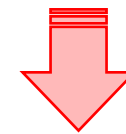




# Existing Needs



**31-year** gap in **life expectancy** between the developing and developed countries.



**PPH** is one of the **main causes**

# COVID related effect

nature research



NEWS • 15 SEPTEMBER 2020

## Stillbirth rate rises dramatically during pandemic

Researchers stress need for antenatal care, as emerging data link disrupted pregnancy services to increase in stillbirths.

# COVID related effect



PPH related Maternal deaths per 100,000 live births 2030 target



# Uterine Balloon Tamponade (UBT)



- Minimally Invasive Procedure
- Slows down or Stops the bleeding by exerting pressure on the uterus walls
- 1<sup>st</sup> choice in Low Resource Settings due to poor availability of pharmaco-therapeutic management (uterotonic agents es. Oxytocin)

# State of the Art - UBT Devices



Device	Price
	\$250 - \$350
	\$125 - \$400
	\$25 (more than one is needed)
	\$10 (not on the market)



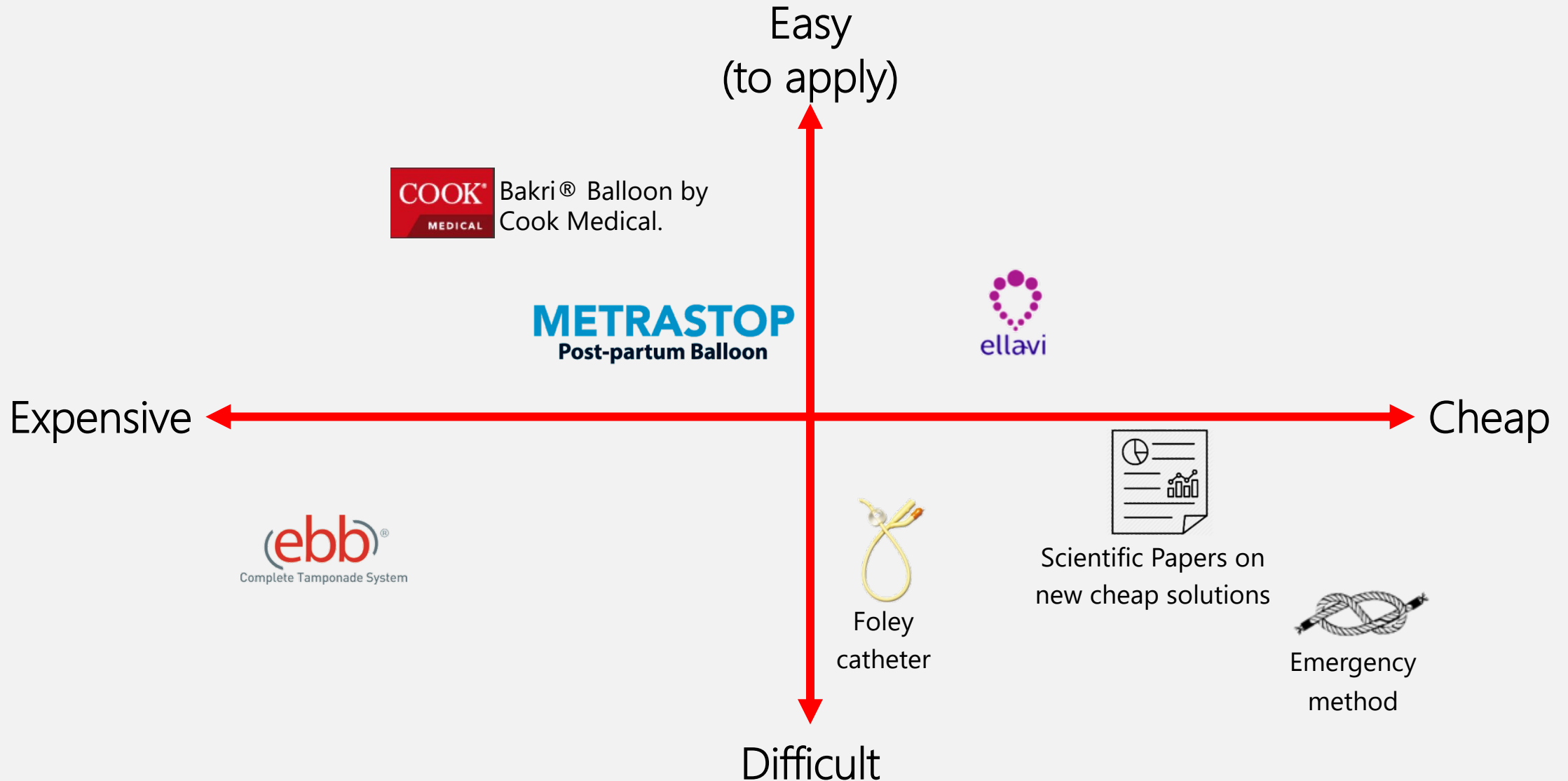
# State of the Art - CBT Devices



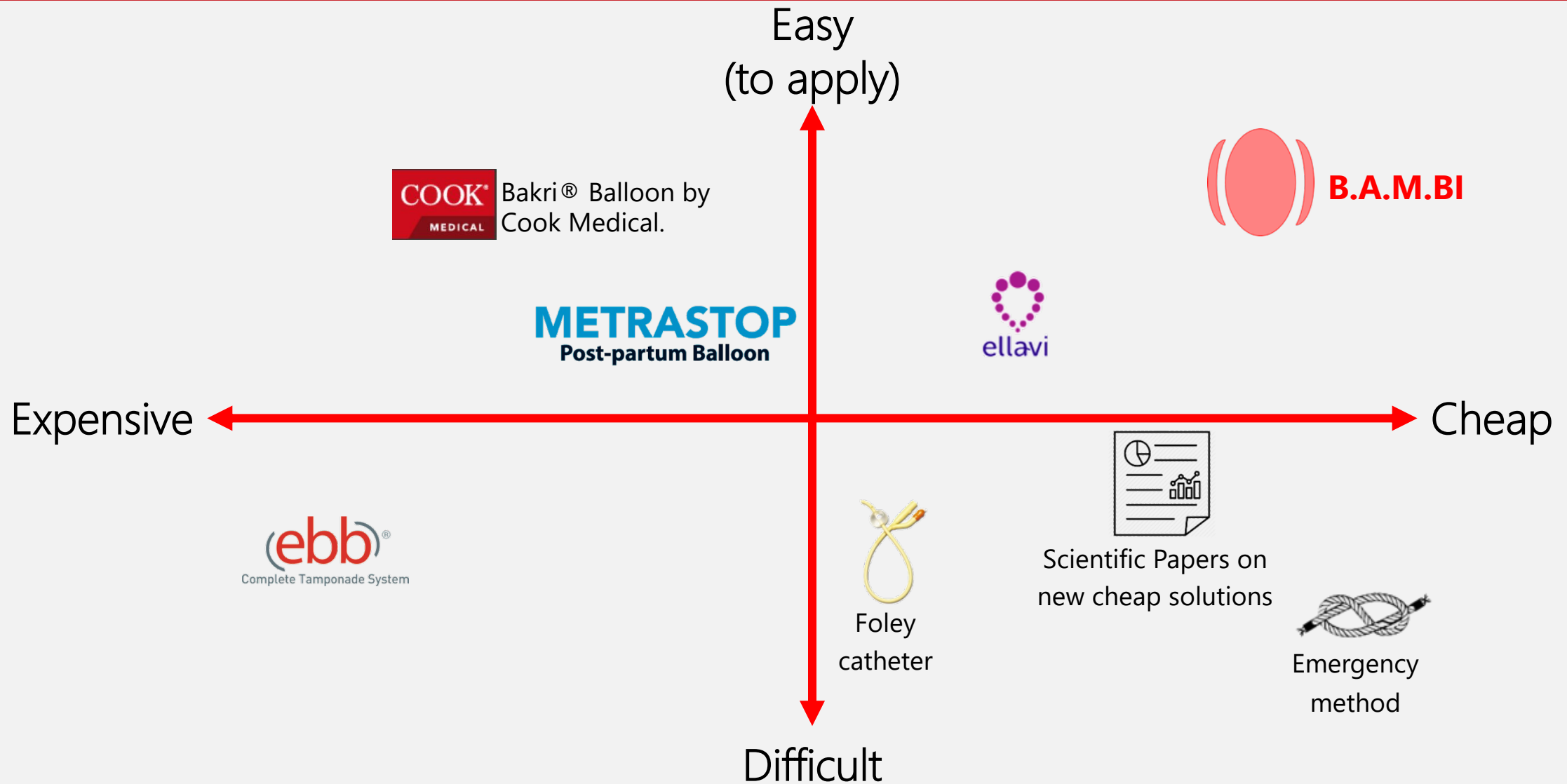
Emergency Devices in resource-poor settings: **C**ondom **B**alloon **T**amponade (CBT) devices



# BAMBI market positioning



# BAMBI market positioning





# State of the Art

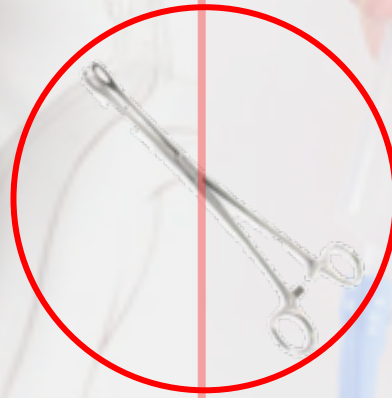


# State of the Art – UBT vs. CBT Devices

## UBT



Expensive  
125 to 350 \$



Require sterilized  
surgical instruments

## CBT



Fluid leakage

# Objective

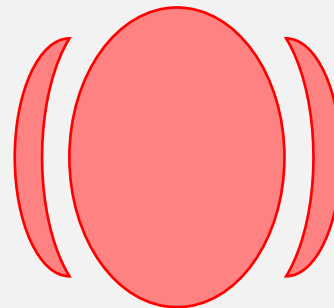
## Issues:

### Current CBT Devices:

- Present leakage
- Are time consuming to prepare
- Need specific training
- Are difficult to apply and often need surgical instruments

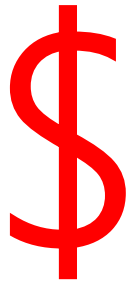
## Our Proposal:

**BAMBI** : **B**alloon **A**gainst **M**aternal **B**leeding



# The BAMBI KIT

A **NEW DEVICE** able to STOP PPH



Economically  
affordable (<5\$)



Easy to  
apply



Reliable and  
safe

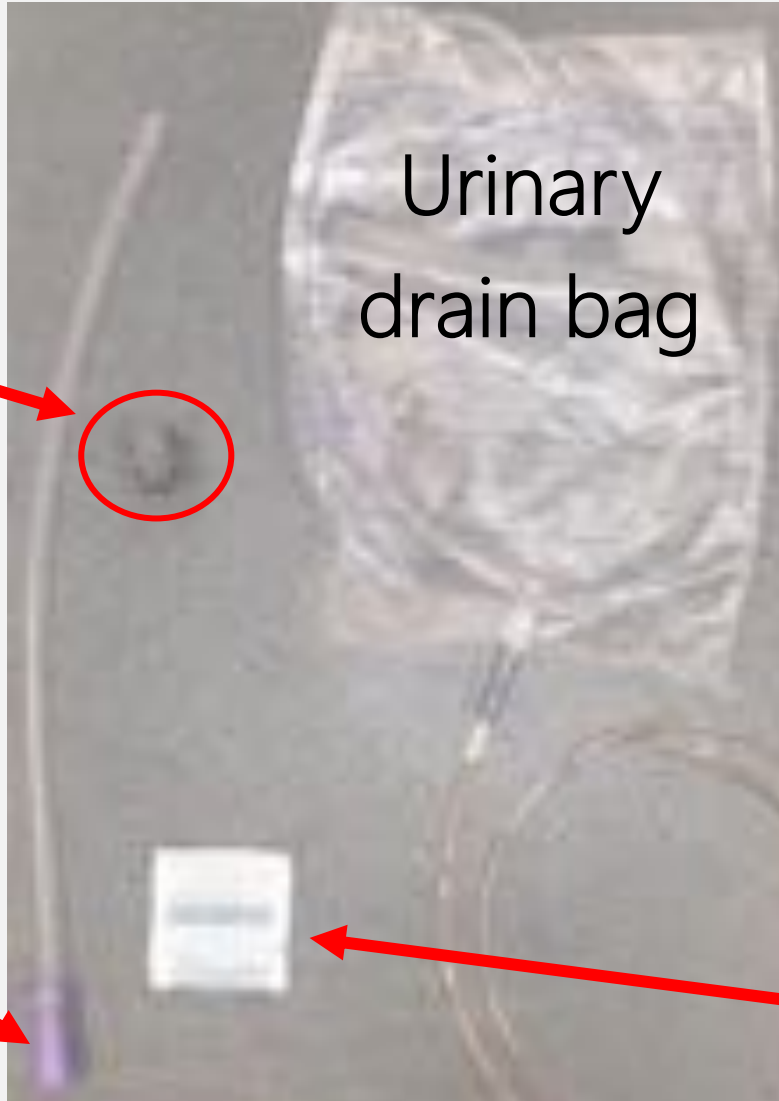
# BAMBI KIT

Connector



Urinary  
drain bag

Rectal  
Probe

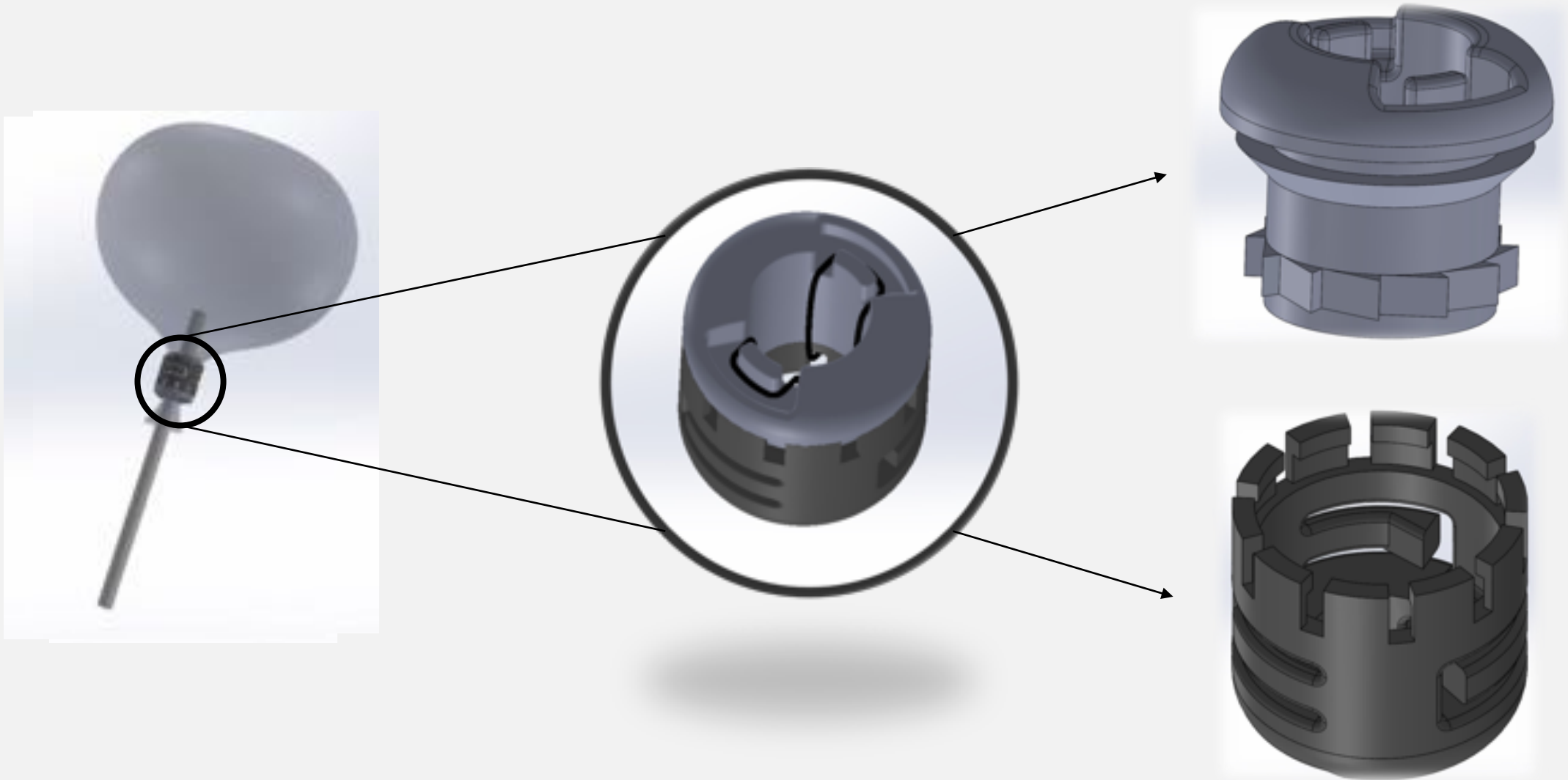


**Social Patent n.  
102020000009016**



Probe Cover

# BAMBI – Connector Mechanism

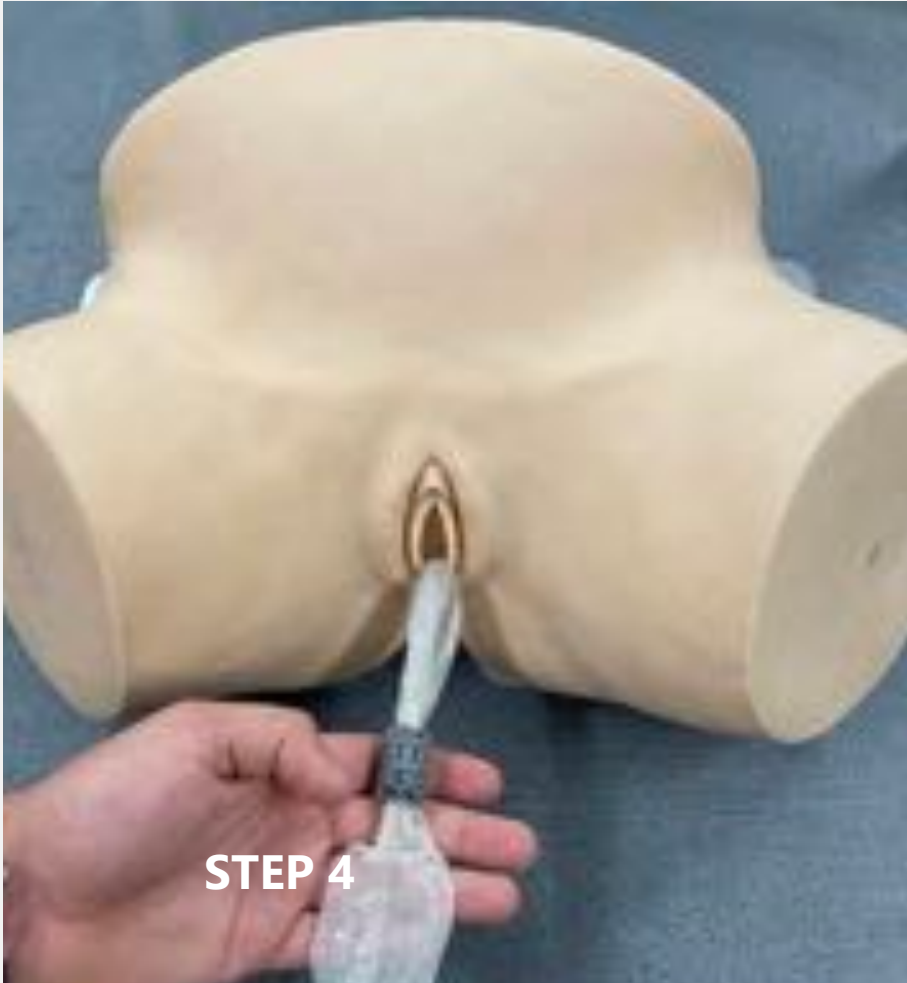




# BAMBI - How it works



# BAMBI - How it works





# Material



3D printer: Form 3B by formlabs

# Material



3D printer: Form 3B by formlabs

**formlabs** 

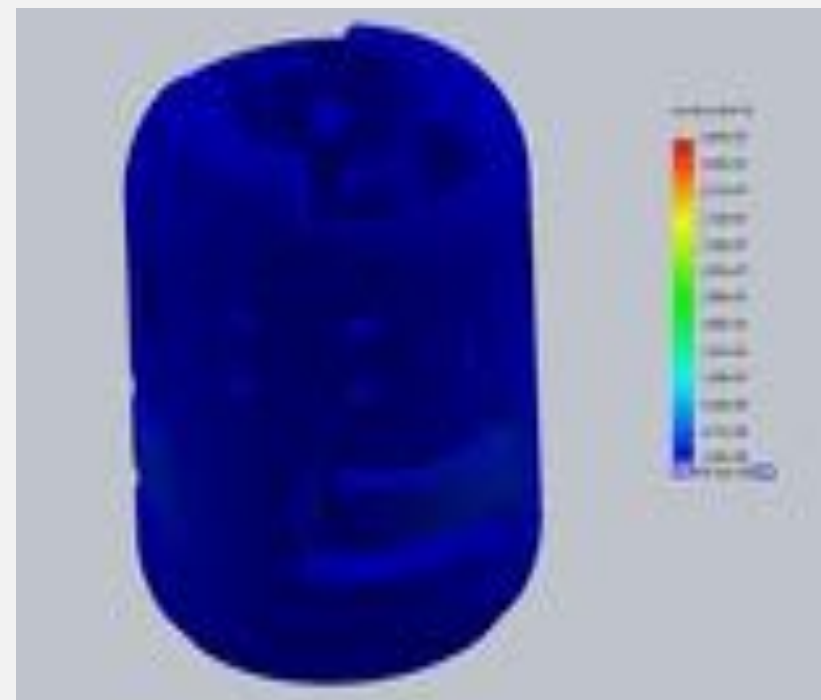
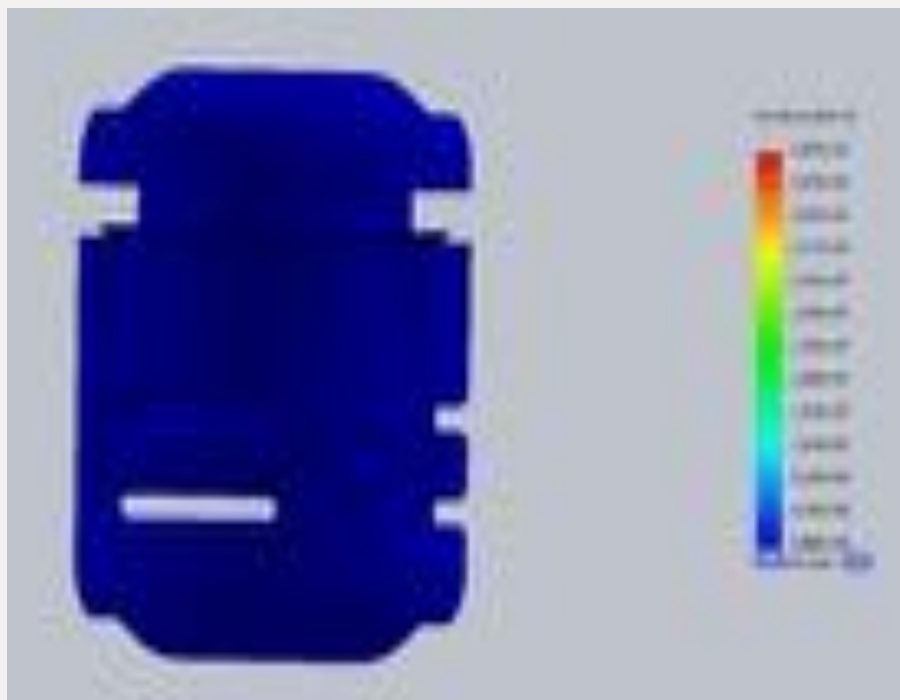
**Grey Pro resin**



Elastic Modulus: **2 Gpa**  
Ultimate Strength: **80 MPa**



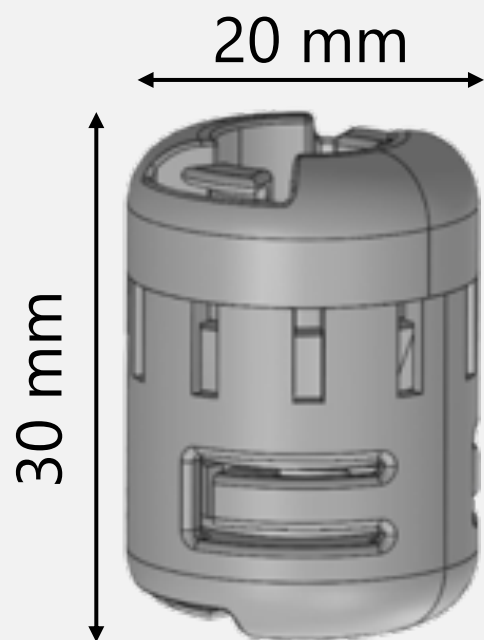
# BAMBI – Connector Design Assessment



Ultimate Strength: 80 MPa

Max. Stress: 50 MPa

# Prototypes



CAD

STL file




Prototypes

# Experimental Activities

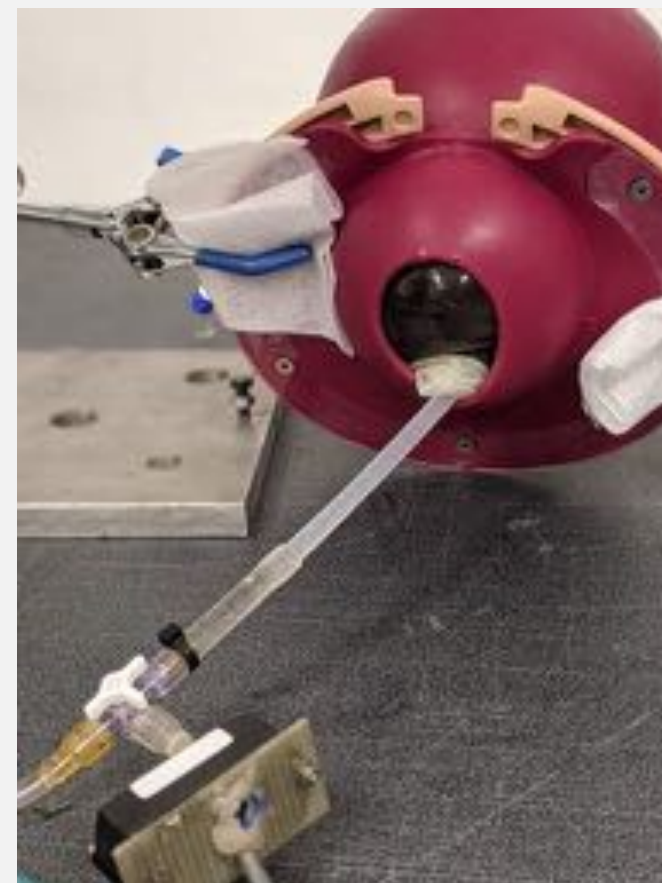
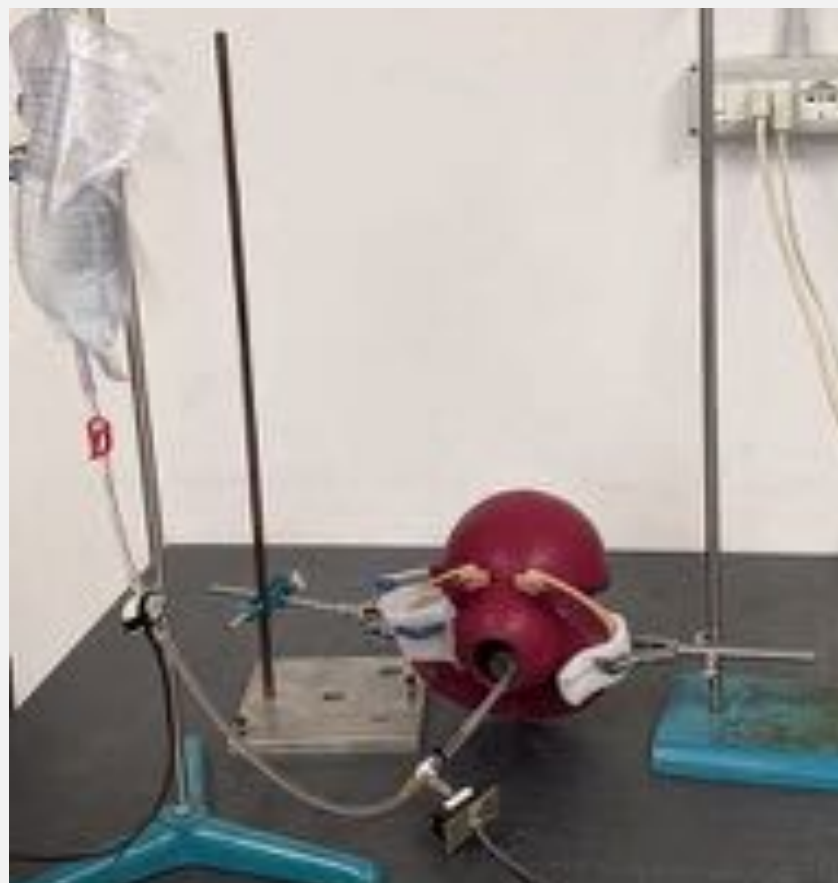
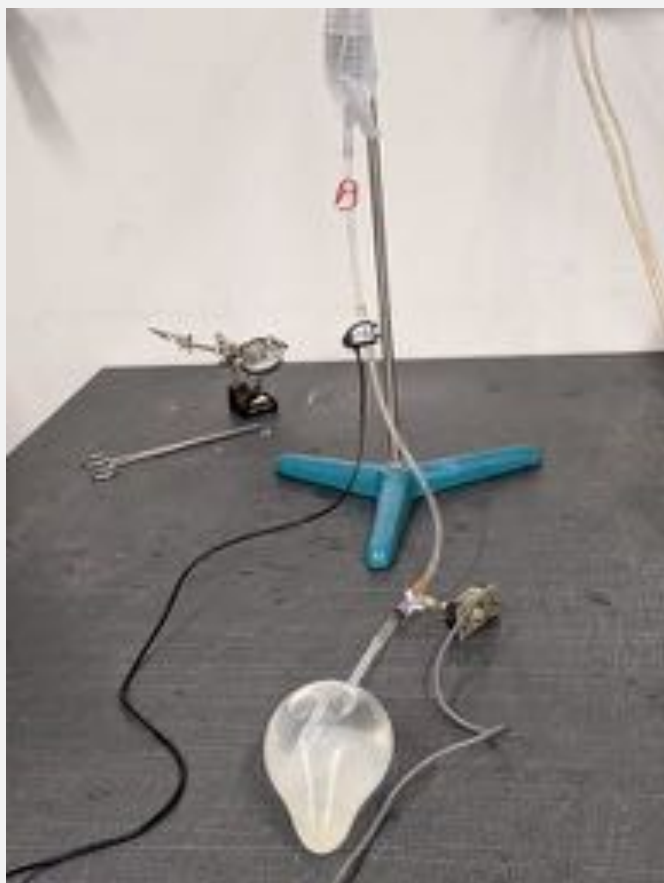
Which kind of test should we perform?

# Experimental Activities

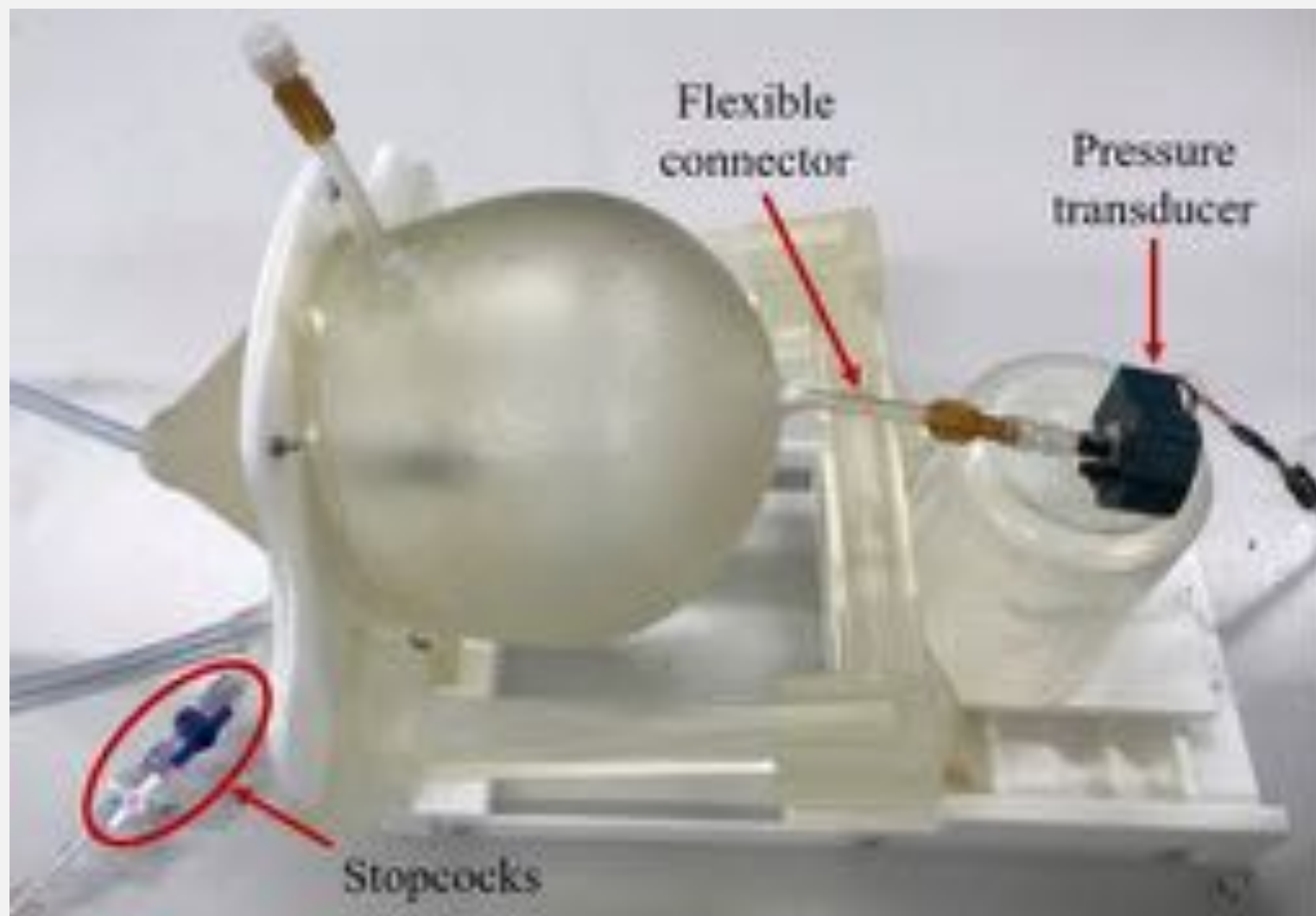
## Safety and Mechanical **Performance Assessment**

- 
1. Intraluminal Pressure (ILP) Measurement:  
Open Air and *in-situ*
  2. Evaluation of the connector and the balloon-  
catheter attachment: Tensile tests
  3. Usability tests

# ILP Measurement: Open Air and *in-situ*



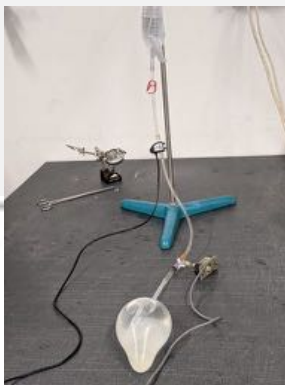
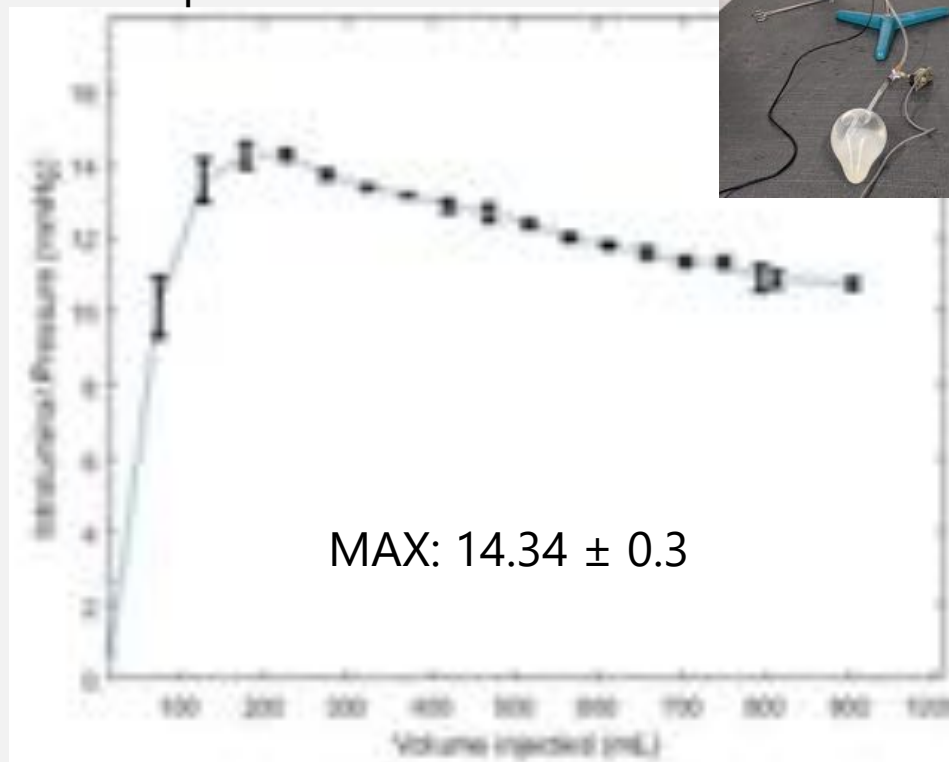
# ILP Measurement: Open Air and *in-situ*



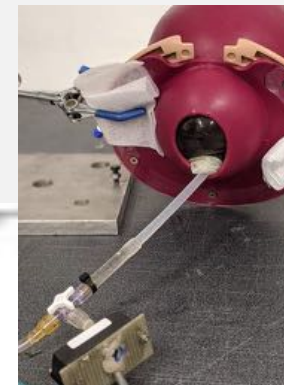
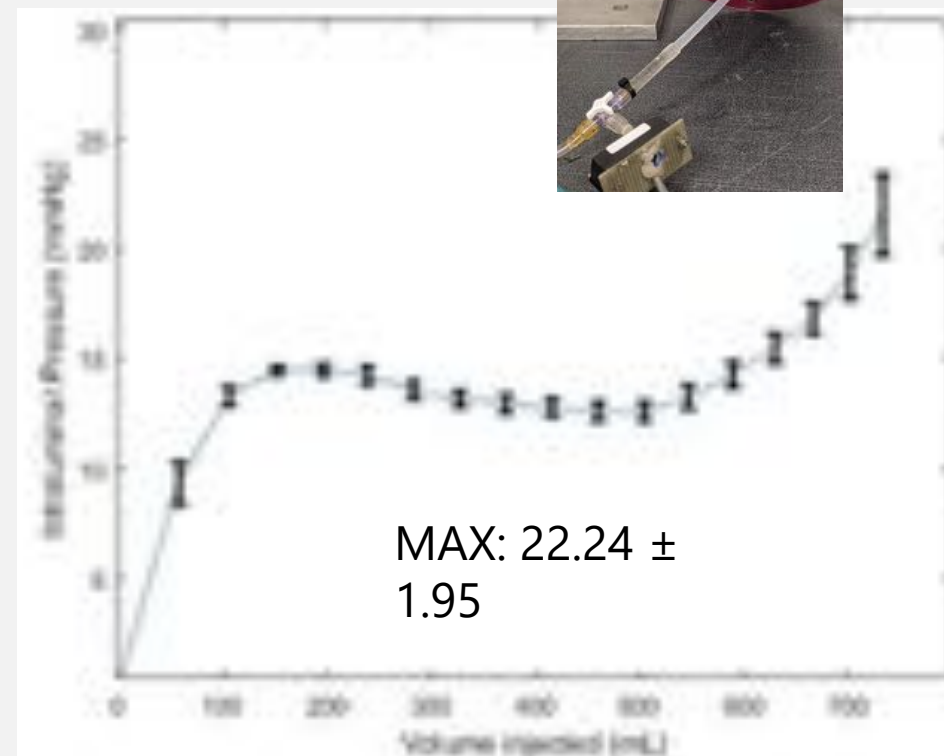


# Results: Intraluminal Pressure

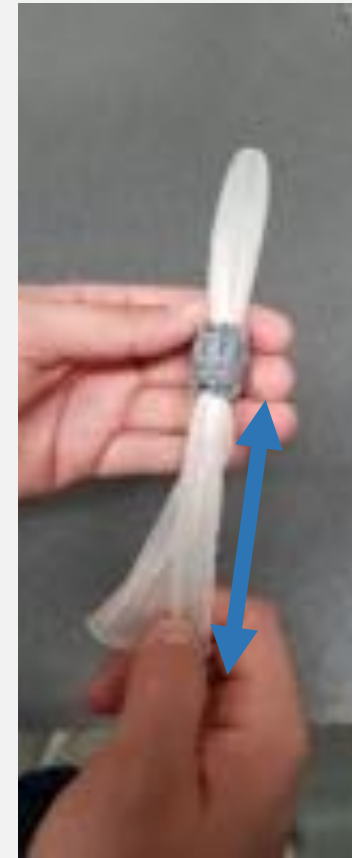
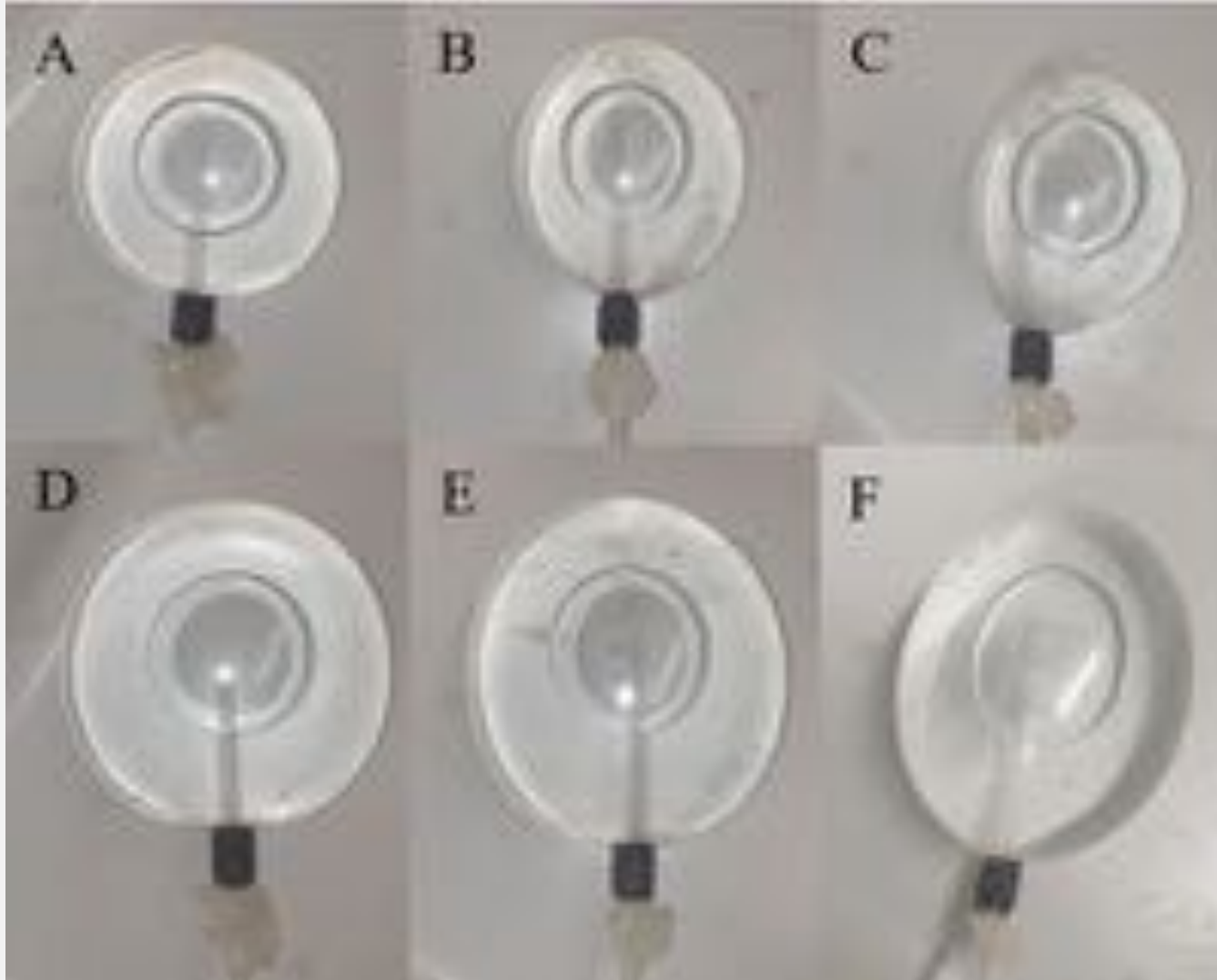
Open Air



*in-situ*



# Results: Shape differences



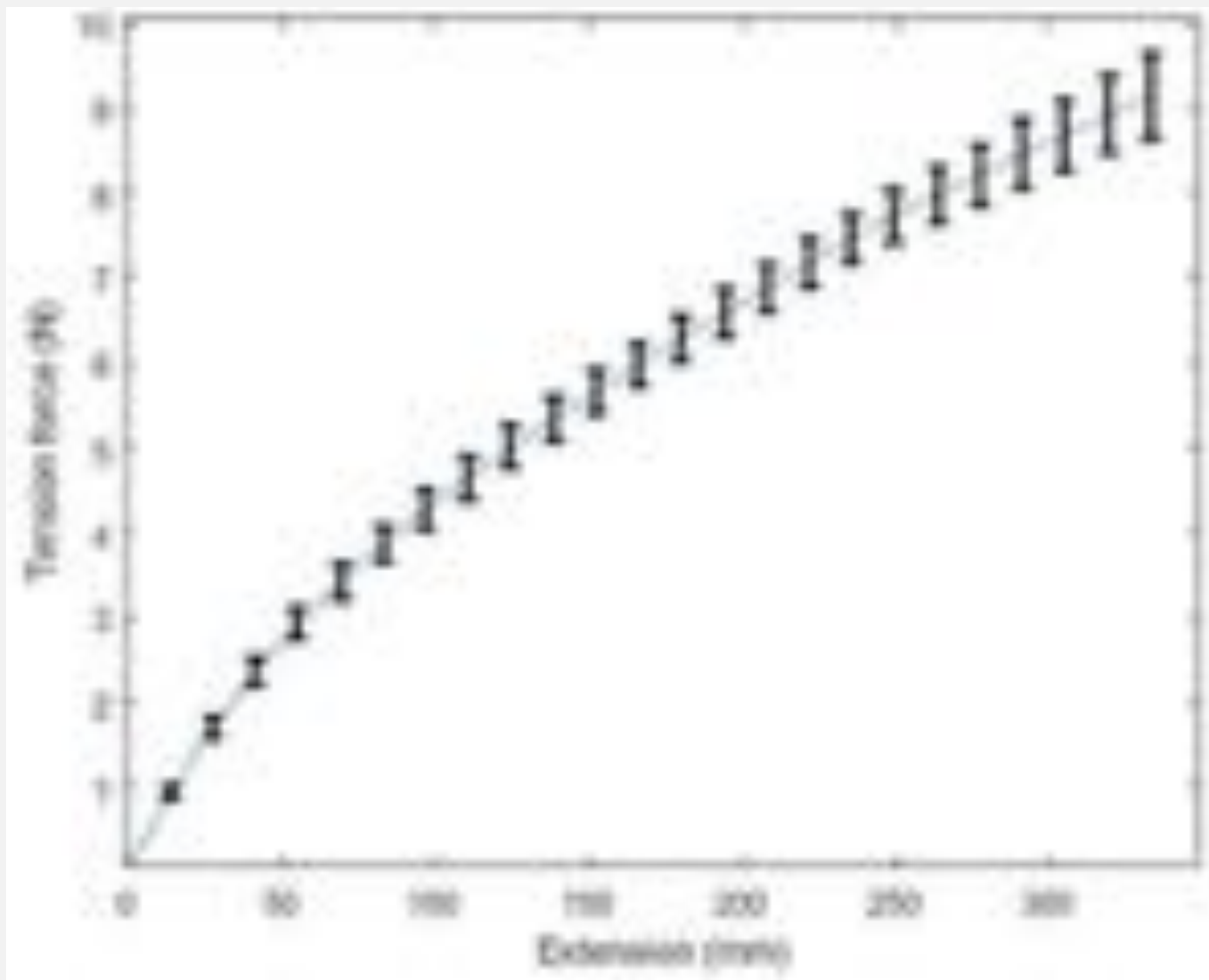
**A, B and C** show the shape of the balloon after being filled by **700 ml of water for 10, 7.5 and 5 cm configurations, respectively. D,E and F** show the same balloons filled until **1500 ml.**

# Connector's Strength Evaluation: Tensile Test



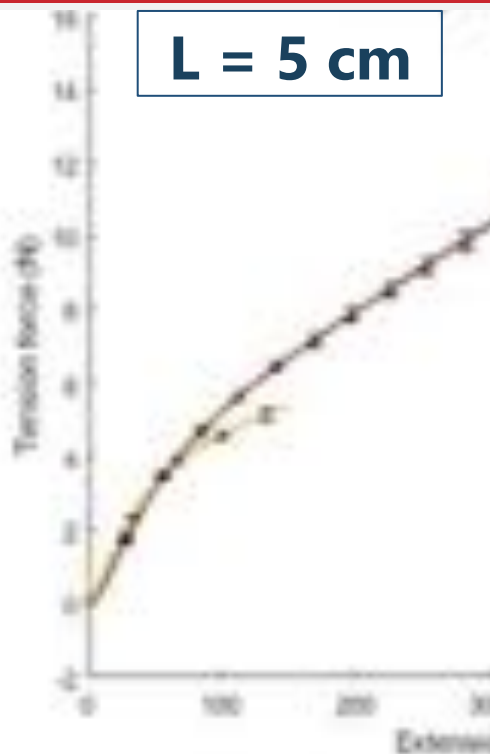
- Electromechanical test system: MTS Synergie 200H (100N load cell)
- Crosshead Velocity: 1 mm/s
- Crosshead Displacement: 400 mm

# Results: Tensile Tests

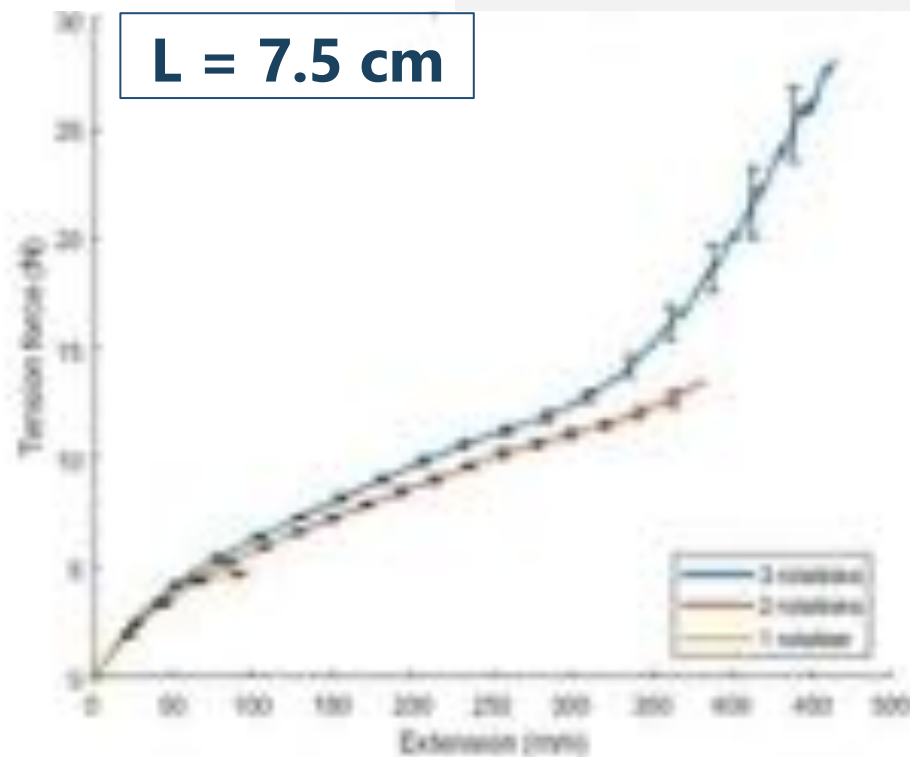


# Results: Tensile Tests

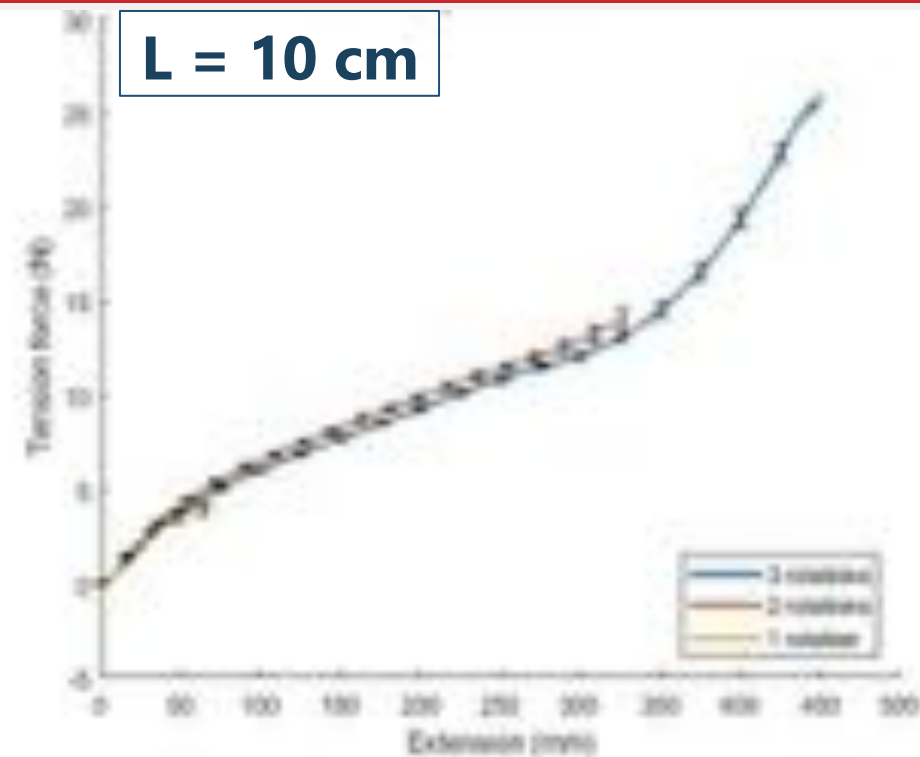
**L = 5 cm**



**L = 7.5 cm**



**L = 10 cm**



# Preliminary Usability Test



**Participants:** 5 researchers with no experience with the uterine tamponade technique.

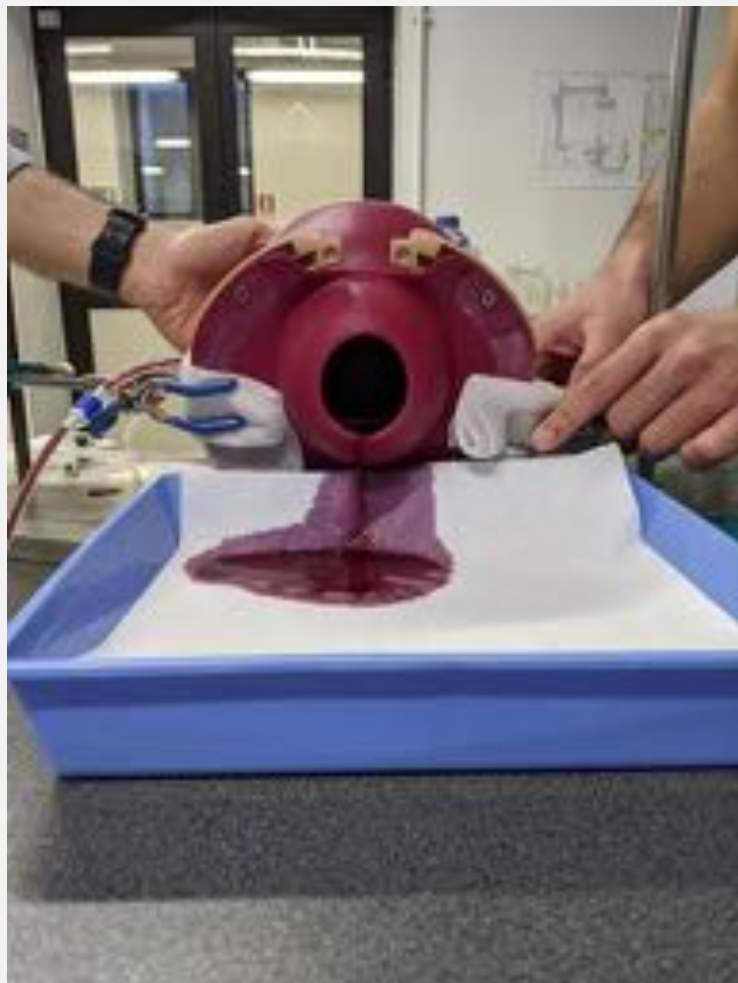
**Training:** Participants were given an overview of the practical instructions on the correct techniques for assembling the devices.

**Experiments:** The participants were required to complete the assembly, inflation of the device and insertion into the uterus model. This procedure was repeated for both devices.

**Survey:** After the completion of the experimental test, the session concluded with a survey regarding the participant's preferences in using the devices.



# Results: Preliminary Usability Tests



BAMBI DEVICE	EMERGENCY DEVICE
30 s	60 s

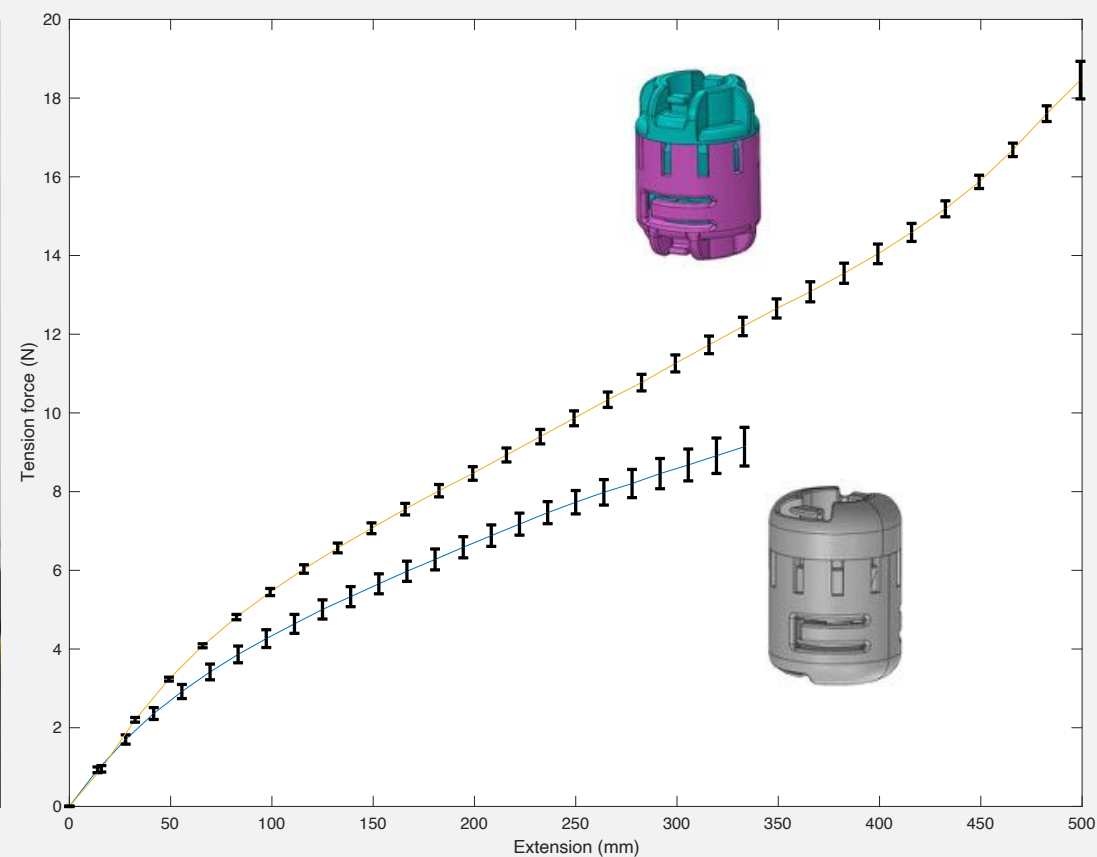


Failed tie using manually  
twisted elastic rings

# Improvement for Mass production



## MTTS





# Beneficiaries and Partners



**Alberto Zanini, MD**

Past Head of the Dep. of Obstetrics  
and Gynaecology (Erba Hospital)



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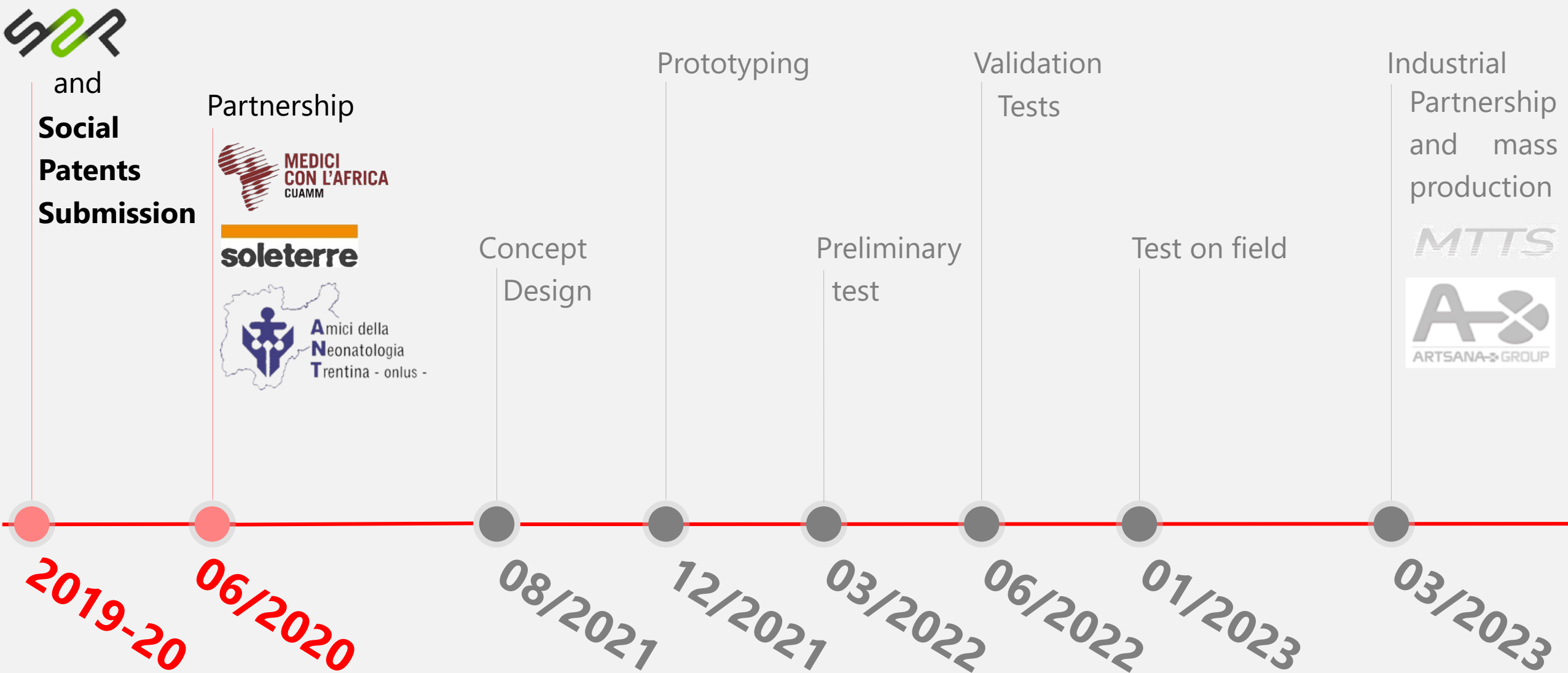
# Funding and Grants

Switch To Product 2019

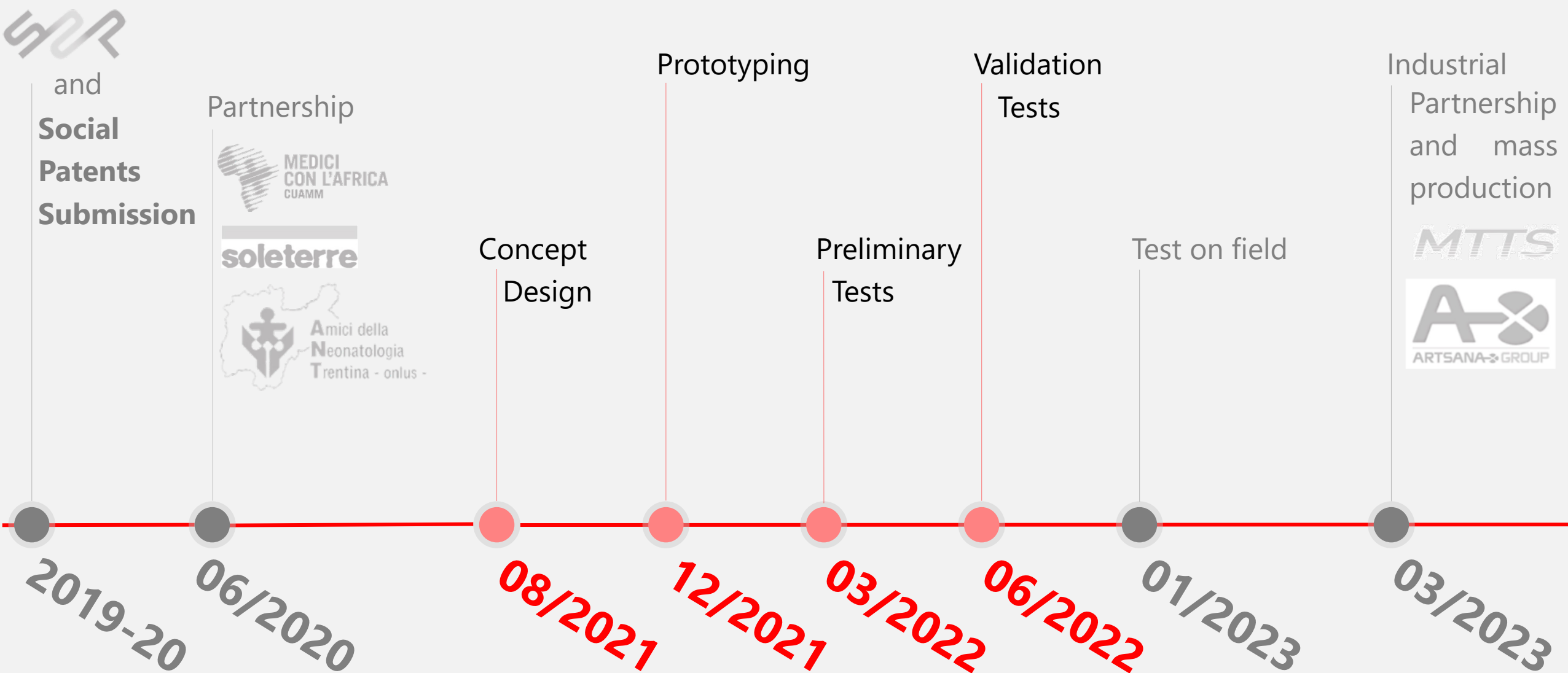
PoliSocial Award 2020



# Activities and expected outcomes

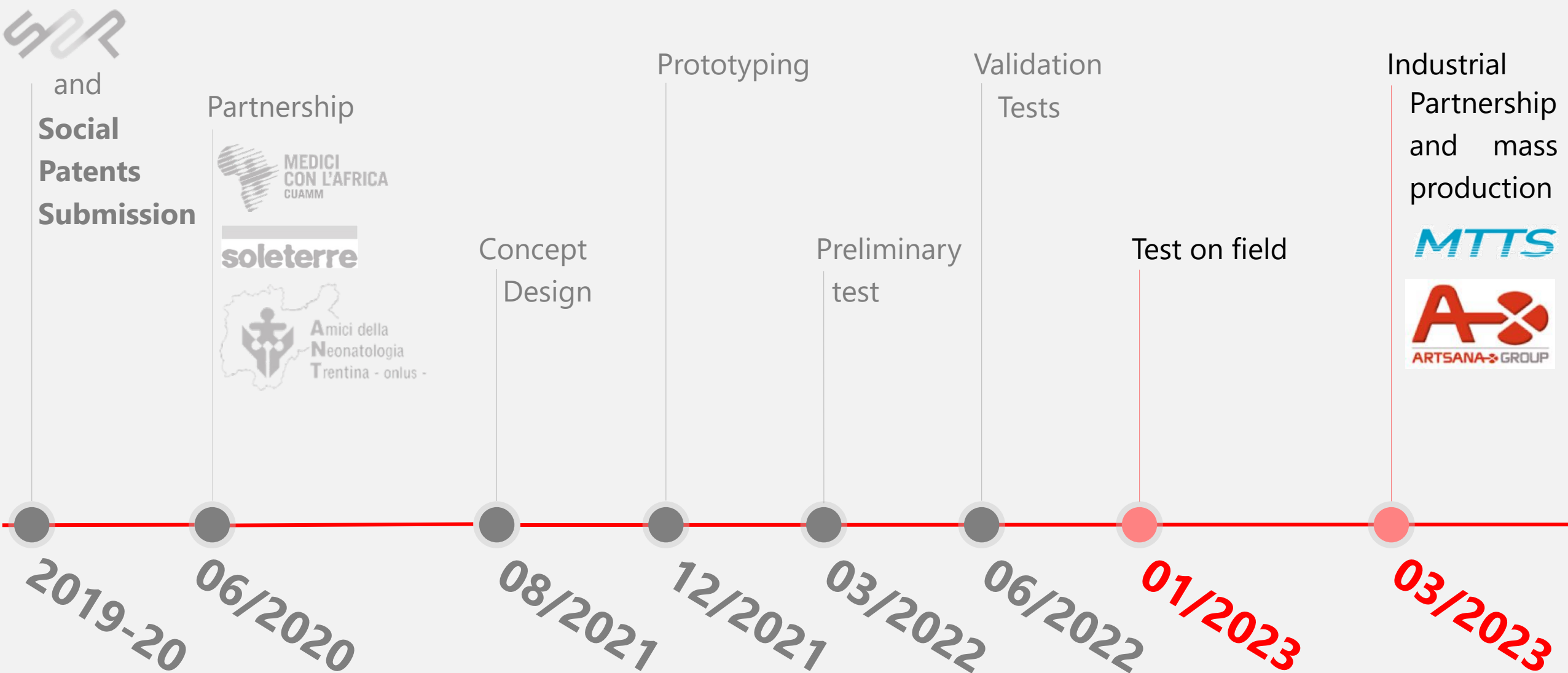


# Activities and expected outcomes





# Activities and expected outcomes



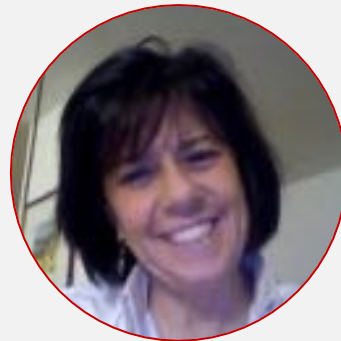
# The TEAM



**Francesco De Gaetano, PhD**

**Project Manager**

Chemistry, Material and Chemical Eng.



**Prof. Maria Laura Costantino, PhD**

**Scientific Advisor**

Chemistry, Material and Chemical Eng.



**Ksra Osouli**

**PhD Student in Biomedical Eng.**

Chemistry, Material and Chemical Eng.



**Prof. Serena Graziosi, PhD**

**Expert in Design for Additive  
Manufacturing**

Mechanical Engineering



**Sara Candidori**

**PhD Student in Mechanical Eng.**

Mechanical Engineering



**Anna Plebani**

**Responsible for IP Protection  
and Technology transfer**

Technology Transfert Office



**B . A . M . B I**

Balloon Against Maternal Bleeding

Let's make **B.A.M.B.I**  
to change the **Tale**:  
Save the **Mother!**



Dr. A. Zanini during a mission with the Rava Foundation  
(Corriere.it)