

## ARTHRITIS GUN BACKFIRES WITH FDA



By **ANDY GELLER**

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The Food and Drug Administration has shot a huge hole in a New Jersey company's plan to develop a squeezable handgun suitable for people with arthritis.

The agency ruled yesterday that the 9mm weapon (right), called a Palm Pistol, is not a medical device under the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and thus it is removing it from its electronic database.

The agency said it was returning the \$1,800 registration fee to the company, Constitution Arms of Maplewood, NJ.

If the FDA had listed the \$300 weapon - still in the design stages - as a medical device, buyers might have been able to get reimbursement from Medicare.

The Palm Pistol is a single-shot gun that has a muzzle coming out of a round handle. It is fired by squeezing the trigger with the thumb.

"It is ideal for seniors, the disabled or others who may have limited strength or manual dexterity," the gun's promotional material says.

"Using the thumb instead of the index finger for firing, it significantly reduces muzzle drift, one of the principal causes of inaccurate targeting. Point and shoot couldn't be easier."

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