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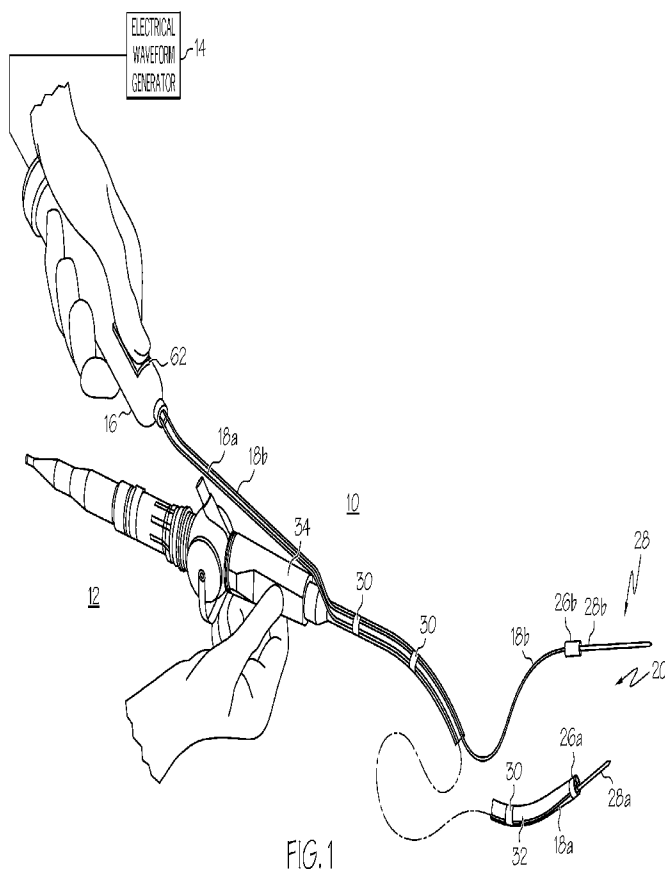
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ELECTRICAL ABLATION APPARATUS, SYSTEM, AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A surgical instrument, such as an endoscopic or laparoscopic instrument, includes an ablation device. The ablation device includes an elongate relatively flexible member having a proximal end and a distal end. The flexible member includes a working channel. A first electrode extends from the working channel at the distal end of the flexible member and is adapted to be endoscopically located in a first position relative to a tissue treatment region. A second electrode is adapted to be percutaneously located in a second position of the tissue treatment region. The first and second electrodes are adapted to couple to an electrical waveform generator and to receive an electrical waveform sufficient to ablate tissue located between the first and second electrodes.

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

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<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> INV. A61B18/14 ADD. A61B18/00		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) A61B		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 569 159 B1 (EDWARDS STUART D [US] ET AL) 27 May 2003 (2003-05-27) abstract; figures 1,2,9-18,20,21 column 1, lines 29-38 column 6, line 60 - column 7, line 20 column 7, line 51 - column 8, line 16 column 10, line 12 - column 11, line 40	1,3,4, 10,12,13
Y	-----	2,11
Y	WO 2005/065284 A (UNIV CALIFORNIA [US]; DAVALOS RAFAEL [US]; RUBINSKY BORIS [US]) 21 July 2005 (2005-07-21) abstract paragraphs [0002], [0017], [0054] - [0060], [0095] ----- -/--	2,11
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents : *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *&* document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search  12 June 2008		Date of mailing of the international search report  15/10/2008
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer  Molina Silvestre, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2005/033277 A1 (CLAGUE CYNTHIA T [US] ET AL) 10 February 2005 (2005-02-10) the whole document	1-4, 10-13
A	----- EP 1 402 837 A (ETHICON ENDO SURGERY INC [US]) 31 March 2004 (2004-03-31) the whole document -----	1-4, 10-13

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US2008/053978

## Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.: 6-9, 19-27  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery (claims 19-27) Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy (claims 19-27) Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Diagnostic method practised on the human or animal body (claims 6-9)
2.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

see annex

### Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-4, 10-13

An ablation instrument having two or three electrodes and also having a generator which is a radio frequency (RF) or an irreversible electroporation (IRE) generator.

2. claims: 1, 5, 10, 14-18

An ablation instrument having image sensing and processing components.

3. claim: 28

A method for sterilizing and storing a surgical instrument.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/US2008/053978
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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WO 2005065284	A	21-07-2005	AU 2004311842 A1 21-07-2005 CA 2550846 A1 21-07-2005 EP 1696812 A2 06-09-2006 JP 2007516792 T 28-06-2007 US 2007043345 A1 22-02-2007
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