



(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

18 December 2003

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US 02/01540

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61N1/372

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61N

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, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2001/003799 A1 (BOVEJA BIRINDER BOB) 14 June 2001 (2001-06-14) abstract; figure 14 paragraph '0055! - paragraph '0058! paragraph '0223!	16,22
A	---	1-15
Y	US 5 683 432 A (GOEDEKE STEVEN D ET AL) 4 November 1997 (1997-11-04) abstract; figure 1 column 1, line 13 - line 25 column 2, line 57 - line 60	16,22
A	---	1-15
	--- -/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in 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.
- *G* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

1 October 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

09/10/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Wetzig, T

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US 02/01540

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5 438 990 A (WAHLSTRAND JOHN D ET AL) 8 August 1995 (1995-08-08) figure 2 column 5, line 34 - line 42 column 11, line 65 -column 12, line 14	22
A	-----	1-16

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US 02/01540

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 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.: 17-21
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
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 II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

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

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 fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
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.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

PCT/US 02/01540

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2001003799 A1	14-06-2001	US 6205359 B1	20-03-2001
		US 6615081 B1	02-09-2003
		US 6611715 B1	26-08-2003
		US 6564102 B1	13-05-2003
		US 6366814 B1	02-04-2002
		US 2001002441 A1	31-05-2001
US 5683432 A	04-11-1997	AU 1692997 A	01-08-1997
		DE 69716035 D1	07-11-2002
		DE 69716035 T2	14-08-2003
		EP 1151759 A2	07-11-2001
		EP 0876179 A1	11-11-1998
		WO 9725100 A1	17-07-1997
US 5438990 A	08-08-1995	AU 5597194 A	22-06-1994
		WO 9412238 A1	09-06-1994
		EP 0530006 A1	03-03-1993