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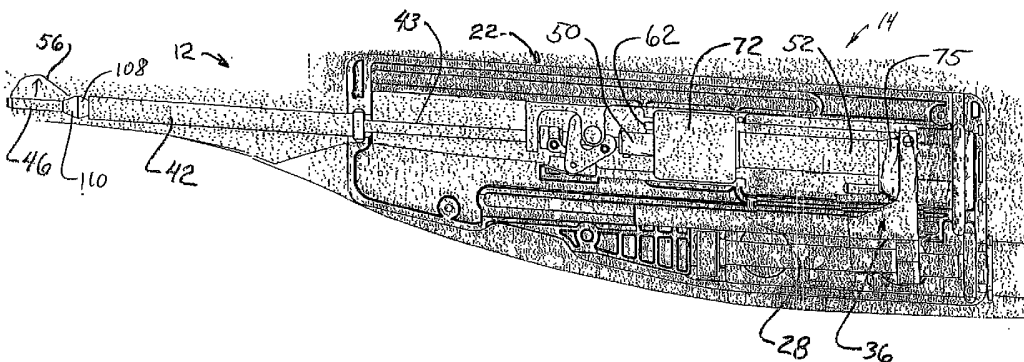
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- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: TISSUE SEPARATOR ASSEMBLY AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A tissue separator assembly (10) includes a proximal end assembly, typically a handle (14), and a catheter assembly (12), including a shaft (44) and a tissue separator (56) movable between a retracted state and an outwardly extending, operational state. An energy source (24) may be selectively coupled to the tissue separator element (56). The tissue separator element (56) may be moved to the operational state and then automatically rotated to separate a tissue section from the surrounding tissue. A tissue holding element (104) may be used to help secure a separated tissue section to the catheter assembly (12). A tubular braided element (104) may be used to surround the tissue separator element (56) and any separated tissue section.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/50978

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(7) : A61B 17/32  
 US CL : 606/170

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)  
 U.S. : 606/33, 37-39, 159, 170, 180, 198; 600/564

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 practicable, search terms used)  
 Please See Continuation Sheet

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 3,557,794 A (VAN PATTEN) 26 January 1971 (26.01.1971), see entire document.	1-61
X	US 6,022,362 A (LEE et al.) 08 February 2000, see entire document.	1-10,27,28,47-50
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Y		51
A	US 6,051,008 A (SAADAT et al.) 18 April 2000 (18.04.2000), see entire document.	1-61

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

*   Special categories of cited documents:	"T"
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	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
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"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
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

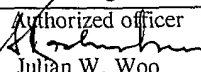
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:**

EAST BRS

search terms: wire, bow, sheath, RF, generator