

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
29 March 2007 (29.03.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/035471 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
A61M 25/01 (2006.01)

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(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2006/036001

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(22) International Filing Date:
14 September 2006 (14.09.2006)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/717,916 16 September 2005 (16.09.2005) US
11/314,183 20 December 2005 (20.12.2005) US

(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), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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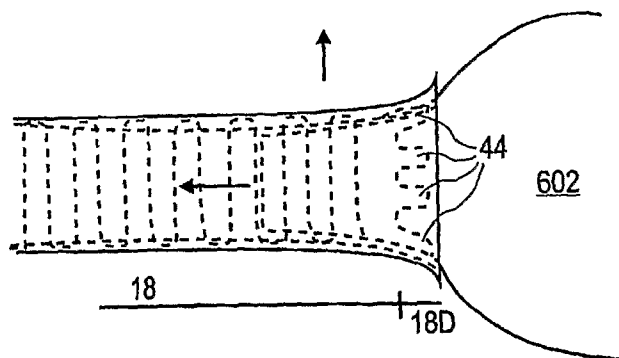
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Published:
— with international search report
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
28 June 2007

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: MEDICAL DEVICE DELIVERY SHEATH



(57) Abstract: A support member for a catheter sheath is disclosed. The support member has a series of ribs with a distal member having integrated fingers for providing radial compliance. The support member provides sufficient axial stiffness to provide a desired pushability of a minimally invasive device for replacing a heart valve. Various alternative embodiments are also described.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 06/36001

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61M 25/01 (2007.01)

USPC - 604.171

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)

USPC: 604/103.05, 19, 163

IPC(8): A61M25/01

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

USPC: 604/103.05, 19, 163

IPC(8): A61M25/01

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

WEST: (USPT,PGPB,EPAB,JPAB)

Search Terms: catheter, cuff, jacket, sleeve, sheath, finger, tab, prong, radial expansion, funnel, deploy, withdraw, stiff, bend

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 5,824,041 A (LENKER et al) 20 October 1998 (20.10.1998), especially column 9 lines 29 to 47 and column 12 lines 1 to 13	1, 5, 10-16, 22-30 ----- 2-4, 17-21
X --- Y	US 6,863,668 B2 (GILLESPIE et al) 08 March 2005 (08.03.2005), especially column 3 line 49 to column 4 line 47 and figures 1a & 1b	6-9 ----- 2-4, 17-21

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- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
13 March 2007 (13.03.2007)

Date of mailing of the international search report
08 MAY 2007

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Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents
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Facsimile No. 571-273-3201

Authorized officer:
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PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300
PCT OSP: 571-272-7774