Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR UMBILICUS PROTECTION DURING ABDOMINAL SURGERY

Abstract: A device and method for umbilicus protection during abdominal surgery; and, especially plastic reconstructive and aesthetic surgery requiring umbilicoplasty and/or umbilicus transposition is provided. The device embodies an umbilicus shield, which envelops the umbilical pedicle during abdominal surgery. The device can include a tubular element, having a distal end and a proximal end, containing near its proximal end, means for releasably retaining suture material from tacking stitches taken in the umbilicus to provide means for drawing the umbilical pedicle into the tubular element. The suture material is advantageously drawn through the tubular element by means of a suture shuttle which contains, proximate its distal end, means for releasably retaining the suture material.
— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
11 May 2006
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
   IPC(8): A61F 11/00; A61B 19/00

   USPC: 606/139;128/846,898
   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)

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

   Electronic database 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 5,562,684 A (KAMMERER) 08 October 1996 (08.10.1996), see Figures 16-25 and column 8, line 47 - column 9, line 60.</td>
<td>1-8, 10, 17-22 and 24</td>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>US 2,973,761 A (KOHL) 07 March 1961 (07.03.1961), entire document.</td>
<td>11-13</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,655,544 A (JOHNSON) 12 August 1997 (12.08.1997), see Figures 3-6 and column 7, lines 10-18.</td>
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☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
☐ See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search
05 March 2006 (05.03.2006)

Date of mailing of the international search report
23 MAR 2006

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2005)