



- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
A61B 19/00 (2006.01) *A61F 5/37* (2006.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/US2015/048169
- (22) **International Filing Date:**
2 September 2015 (02.09.2015)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**
14/475,223 2 September 2014 (02.09.2014) US
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- (81) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR,

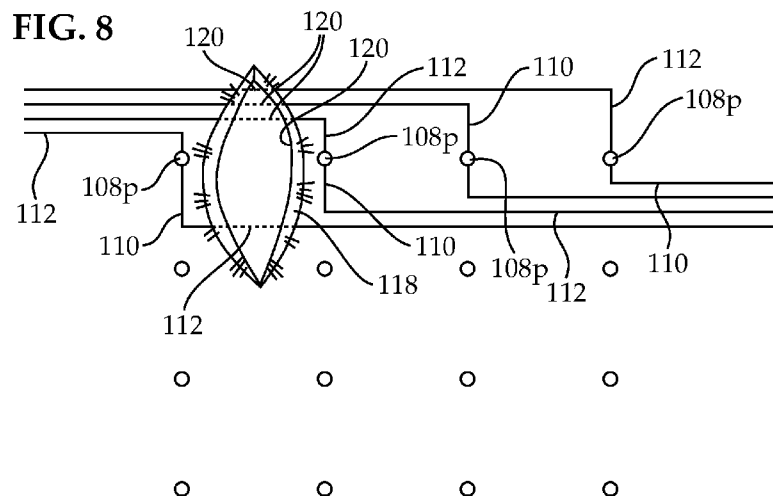
KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

- (84) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))
- upon request of the applicant, before the expiration of the time limit referred to in Article 21(2)(a)
- with information concerning one or more priority claims considered void (Rule 26bis.2(d))

(54) **Title:** SURGICAL DRAPE, EVOKED RESPONSE PROBES AND THEIR METHODS OF USE



(57) **Abstract:** The disclosure relates to a surgical cranial drape, probe for mapping brain of a subject and their methods of use. Specifically, the disclosure relates to a sterile surgical cranial drape embedded with electrodes; an system for mapping physiologically functional brain regions using evoked electrophysiological responses in a first and a second region; and their methods of use in combination or separately.

SURGICAL DRAPE, EVOKED RESPONSE PROBES AND THEIR METHODS OF USE

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[1] This application Claim priority from non-provisional application number 14/475,223 filed September 2, 2014, which claims priority from US provisional patent application Number 61/872,672, filed August 31, 2013 and US provisional patent application Number 61/872,675, filed August 31, 2013, all which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND

[2] The disclosure is directed to a surgical cranial drape, probes for mapping brain of a subject and their methods of use. Specifically, the disclosure is directed to a sterile surgical cranial drape embedded with electrodes; probe systems for mapping brain regions using evoked electrophysiological responses; and their methods of use in combination or separately.

[3] In recent years, patients or any subject undergoing a surgical procedure is generally at least partially covered by a surgical drape. The surgical procedure is often performed through a fenestration (which can be a window, slit, or other opening) in the drape. It is important for surgical draping to provide an aseptic field about the central operative area. It is common practice for many types of surgery to cover the patient and operating table with a sterile drape in such a way that only the portion of the body upon which surgery is to be performed is presented to the care provider. The drape should therefore conform to the contour of the operative area to ensure that a sterile surgical field is maintained throughout and until the procedure is completed.

[4] Likewise, in many surgeries involving the central nervous system (CNS), electrodes can be used as part of the surgery to either/or monitor, treat, stimulate and diagnose the subject, or in certain circumstances, to conduct research. For example, the placement of intracranial strip and grid electrodes for recording cortical electrocorticography (ECoG) has become an important component in the workup of patients who are considered for resective epilepsy surgery. Those can be electroencephalography (EEG) electrodes recording .Also, intra-operative

electromyographic monitoring of the lower cranial motor nerves (LCN IX-XII) in skull base surgery is done using electromyographic electrodes (EMG).

[5] Moreover, electrophysiological monitoring of selected neural pathways of the brain, brainstem, spinal cord and peripheral nervous system has become mandatory in some surgery of the CNS where preventable neural injury can occur. Likewise electrodes may be used in any other invasive procedure requiring that could be assisted by somatosensory evoked potential measurement and mapping.

[6] For example, in deep brain stimulation (DBS) done pre or intra surgery in respective epilepsy surgery, a deep electrode can be inserted to the brain and physiological response measured. Currently, the surgery is performed on awake patient in order to enable a treating physician to access patient's responses and evaluate positioning of the electrode based on known patterns, in order to reach a target area in the brain for electric stimulation or any other surgical treatment.

[7] The positioning of the electrodes is important for reaching a specific target in the brain for diagnostic, research and healing purposes, e.g. for extra cellular or trans-cranial recording from the brain and the nervous system as well as in functional neurosurgery or other biological tissue samples.

[8] Accordingly, there is a need for a sterile surgical cranial drape embedded with electrodes, together or separate with an electrode system for mapping brain regions using evoked electrophysiological responses that can be used on sedated patients during selected procedures.

SUMMARY

[9] In an embodiment, provided is a surgical drape comprising, a film having an upper surface area and a lower surface area, the film surfaces areas defining a border, the film configured to provide a sterile barrier; a plurality of electrodes operably coupled to said film, wherein at least one of said plurality of electrodes being in contact with a patient's organ, the electrode having redundant number of leads connecting the electrode to a signal processor; optionally a locator coupled to the upper film surface; and optionally, a sensor, a transducer, or their combination operably coupled to the film.

[10] In another embodiment, provided herein is a method of obtaining electrophysiological signal from an area of interest on a patient in need thereof, comprising: providing a surgical

drape comprising: a polymeric film having an upper surface area and a lower surface area, the film surfaces areas defining a border, the film configured to provide a sterile barrier; a plurality of electrodes operably coupled to said film, wherein at least one of said plurality of electrodes being in contact with a patient's area of interest; a locator coupled to the upper film surface; and optionally, a sensor, a transducer, or their combination operably coupled to the film, wherein each of the plurality of said electrodes comprises a redundant number of selectable electric leads configured to couple the electrode to a signal processor; using the locator, locating the drape over the area of interest and using at least one of said plurality of electrodes; fenestrating the film over the area of interest such that at least one of the electrical leads couples the electrode to a signal processor; and measuring electrophysiological characteristics in the area of interest.

[11] In yet another embodiment, provided herein is a brain mapping system, comprising: a first probe having a proximal end and a distal end and a longitudinal axis, the probe comprising a plurality of contacts operably coupled thereto, disposed along the longitudinal axis, wherein at least one contact is selectively operable for stimulating physiological evoked response; recording said physiological evoked response, or both; a recording electrode; and an analysis module operative for providing segmentation of the brain into a plurality of physiologically active brain regions, the analysis module being in communication with the probe, wherein the stimulation takes place in a first region and recording of the evoked response takes place in a second region.

[12] In an embodiment, provided herein is a method of mapping a plurality of physiologically functional brain regions in a subject, implementable in a system comprising a probe having a proximal end and a distal end and a longitudinal axis, the probe comprising a plurality of contacts operably coupled thereto disposed along the longitudinal axis, wherein at least one contact is selectively operable for stimulating physiological evoked response; recording said physiological evoked response, or both; a recording electrode; and an analysis module operative for providing segmentation of the brain into a plurality of physiologically active brain regions, the analysis module being in communication with the probe and the recording electrode, the method comprising: contacting the plurality of physiologically functional brain regions with at least one macro-electrode; selectively operating at least one electrode to stimulate a first physiologically active brain region to evoke physiological response; selectively operating at least one electrode to record the evoked response in a second brain region; using the analysis module, analyzing the evoked response from the second brain region; and based on the analysis of the

evoked response, segmenting the brain to physiologically active regions, thereby mapping the brain.

[13] In an embodiment, provided herein is a brain mapping probe, comprising a plurality of contacts, configured to selectively provide localized stimulation between at least two of the plurality of contacts, measure differential between at least two of the plurality of contacts, short at least two of the plurality of contacts, or a combination comprising one or more of the foregoing .

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[14] The features of the surgical cranial drape, the macro-electrodes for mapping brain of a subject and their methods of use described herein will become apparent from the following detailed description when read in conjunction with the drawings, which are exemplary, not limiting, and wherein like elements are numbered alike in several figures and in which:

[15] FIG. 1, illustrates an embodiment of an electrode carrying surgical drape constructed and operative in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, when the surgical drape is partially mounted on a head of a patient;

[16] FIG. 2, illustrates an embodiment of an electrode carrying surgical drape, showing a first arrangement of electrodes over the surgical drape;

[17] FIG. 3 illustrates another embodiment of an electrode carrying surgical drape, showing a second arrangement of electrodes over the surgical drape;

[18] FIG. 4, illustrates an embodiment of an electrode carrying surgical drape, showing a third arrangement of electrodes over the surgical drape;

[19] FIG. 5 illustrates a first arrangement of electrical connections between the electrodes incorporated in the surgical drape;

[20] FIG. 6, illustrates a second arrangement of electrical connections between the electrodes incorporated in the surgical drape;

[21] FIG7, is an illustration of the electrode carrying surgical drape, shown following fenestration of a surgical site within the surgical drape;

[22] FIG. 8, illustrates electrical connections between the electrodes incorporated in the surgical drape following fenestration within the surgical drape;

- [23] FIG. 9, illustrates the upper side of another embodiment of the drape (sterile side) with four locator extensions drawn;
- [24] FIG. 10 illustrates the lower side of the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 9;
- [25] FIG. 11, illustrates an embodiment of the drape showing sterile drape with nasion andinion landmark anchoring positions (locators) are marked on the drape; while the left and right locators are anchored through extensions from the drape;
- [26] FIG. 12 illustrates an embodiment of the drape with markings (or scoring) on the drape specifying the positions of the locators on the drape;
- [27] FIG. 13 illustrates a patient's head showing the placement of a probe into the brain;
- [28] FIG. 14, illustrates entry and exit points to and from different brain regions;
- [29] FIG. 15, shows an illustration (FIG. 15A) and a graph (FIG. 15B) of exemplary segmentation of the brain into different physiologically-active brain regions;
- [30] FIG. 16, illustrates an embodiment for configuring location of the macro-electrodes mapping for mapping physiologically active brain regions;
- [31] FIG. 17, illustrates another embodiment for configuring location of the macro-electrodes mapping for mapping physiologically active brain regions;
- [32] FIG. 18, illustrates an embodiment of the spatial arrangement of the electrodes on the probe with a micro-contact tip (FIG. 18A), and without a micro contact tip (FIG. 18B);
- [33] FIG. 19, illustrates an embodiment of the spatial arrangement of the electrodes on the macro-electrode;
- [34] FIG. 20 illustrates a probe with two macro contacts that can be used for test stimulation if stimulated together, or for evoked electrophysiology if stimulated unipolar or bipolar; and
- [35] FIG. 21, shows an example of a stimulation protocol..
- [36] While the disclosure is amenable to various modifications and alternative forms, specifics thereof have been shown by way of example in the drawings and will be further described in detail hereinbelow. It should be understood, however, that the intention is not to limit the disclosure to the particular embodiments described. On the contrary, the intention is to cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[37] The disclosure relates in one embodiment to sterile surgical cranial drapes embedded with electrodes, electrode systems for mapping brain regions using evoked electrophysiological responses and their methods of use in combination or separately.

[38] Detailed embodiments of the present technology are disclosed herein; however, it is to be understood that the disclosed embodiments are merely exemplary, which can be embodied in various forms. Therefore, specific structural and functional details disclosed herein are not to be interpreted as limiting but merely as a basis for the claims and as a representative basis for teaching one skilled in the art to variously employ the present technology in virtually any appropriately detailed structure. Further, the terms and phrases used herein are not intended to be limiting but rather to provide an understandable and enabling description.

[39] The terms “first,” “second,” and the like, herein do not denote any order, quantity, or importance, but rather are used to denote one element from another. The terms “a,” “an” and “the” herein do not denote a limitation of quantity, and are to be construed to cover both the singular and the plural, unless otherwise indicated herein or clearly contradicted by context. The suffix “(s)” as used herein is intended to include both the singular and the plural of the term that it modifies, thereby including one or more of that term (e.g., the probe(s) includes one or more probe). Reference throughout the specification to “one embodiment”, “another embodiment”, “an embodiment”, and so forth, means that a particular element (e.g., feature, structure, and/or characteristic) described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment described herein, and may or may not be present in other embodiments. In addition, it is to be understood that the described elements may be combined in any suitable manner in the various embodiments. Likewise, “first region” and “second region” are used to denote regions for stimulation and recording evoked potential (EP) and not necessarily define spatial arrangement. In other words, the first and second regions may be the same, adjacent or different brain region or region on the body of the subject where the systems and methods described herein are employed.

[40] In addition, for the purposes of the present disclosure, directional or positional terms such as “top”, “bottom”, “upper”, “lower”, “side”, “front”, “frontal”, “forward”, “rear”, “rearward”, “back”, “trailing”, “above”, “below”, “left”, “right”, “horizontal”, “vertical”,

"upward," "downward," "outer," "inner," "exterior," "interior," "intermediate," etc., are merely used for convenience in describing the various embodiments of the present disclosure.

[41] In an embodiment, provided herein is a surgical drape comprising, a film having an upper surface area and a lower surface area, the film surfaces areas defining a border which provides a sterile barrier between the upper surface and the lower surface; a plurality of electrodes operably coupled to said film, wherein at least one of said plurality of electrodes being in contact with a patient's organ; a locator coupled to the film surface; and optionally, a sensor, a transducer, or their combination operably coupled to the film.

[42] As used herein the term "film" can be used in a generic sense to include plastic web, regardless of whether it is film or sheet. Likewise, the term "laminate" when used in connection with the film, refers to a multiple-film composite structure having two or more films bonded together by any suitable means. The surgical drape described herein could accordingly be made from more than one layer (or even sides); whereby each layer can comprise wirings/conductors, as well as additional extra, or redundant connection to the electrodes. Moreover, another layer could be used for noise shielding (e.g. connected to a ground reference). for example: one layer could comprise electrode wiring with at least two wiring possibilities for each electrode running opposite posterior-anterior sides, while a second layer can be configured to include connection to each electrode having opposite diagonal and another layer with lateral-medial connections or leads. Each connection or lead could be selectively activated and the electrode can be operated with minimum or a single lead (or contact) communicating with the grid. Other layers can include an adhesive layer, an absorbent layer and the like.

[43] The surgical drape described herein can have a polymeric film having two opposite surfaces, a first surface adapted to contact a patient skin and a second surface adapted to provide a sterile barrier, and a plurality of electrodes associated with the film, at least some (e.g., one or more) of the plurality of electrodes being in contact with patient skin.

[44] As indicated, each of the plurality of electrodes can be provided with a redundant number of electrical leads (in other words, providing alternative wiring scheme), for example at least two separate independently selectable electrical leads extending in different directions from the electrode and maintain electronic communication (e.g., current, data, signal, etc.), the leads configured to operate independently. For example, the electrical leads can run in opposite posterior-anterior sides of the surgical drape, or be configured to include connection to each

electrode having opposite diagonal, or in another example with lateral-medial connections or leads. Moreover, the conductors (in other words, leads or connectors) connecting the electrodes to a recording device (e.g., a transceiver) could be stretchable or resilient, and at the same time they do not cut. Accordingly and in an embodiment; in operations like a burhole operation where the fenestration in the drape is not that big, fenestration will not cut the wires, rather instead they will be moved according to the cut and according the stretch direction of the drape. Stretching could therefore be advantageous because there is a difference in the skull size between different people. The term “resilient” refers in an embodiment to the ability of the leads or contacts to resume their original shape or position after being compressed or deflected. A person holding ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that any redundant lead coupled to the electrode at any angle is covered by the description provided.

[45] The plurality of electrodes operably coupled to the film used in conjunction with the surgical drape described herein can be integrally formed within said film. For example, by using electroconductive ink, or, in another example, creating a flexible printed circuit board (PCB) and the like, or in another embodiment, the electrodes can be selectively removable from the film by, for example stitching or by using adhesive, or a combination thereof. The term “selectively” as used herein, refers to circumstances where the element or steps to which the term refers is activated or deactivated without affecting other elements or steps or the system’s, apparatus’ or method’s final purpose.

[46] It is also appreciated that any kind of medical electrode may be used. For example, EEG electrodes can be used, however it will be appreciated that any kind of medical electrodes comprising conducting contacts, for obtaining various physiological characteristics of a patient may be used in accordance to an embodiment of the present invention. These are, for example, EMG, EKG, ERP, EP, VEP, SSEP medical electrodes or a combination comprising one or more of the foregoing electrodes. Other sensors may be embedded similarly within the film (for example, as an electrode layer in a laminated film), used in conjunction with the surgical drape described herein, and can be for example; temperature sensors, (NIR e.g.,) oxygen sensors, current sensors, and the like. Accordingly, the surgical drape described herein can further comprise a sensor array configured to provide additional information useful for the surgical operation.

[47] A transceiver may be provided and used in conjunction with the surgical drape described herein, which can be adapted to communicate with each of the plurality of the electrodes in either a wired or a wireless manner. In case of a wireless communication, each of the plurality of electrodes can be configured to communicate its positioning to the transceiver via RF transmitter, utilizing Bluetooth, ZigBee or any other suitable wireless protocol.

[48] The surgical (cranial) drape described herein, can be provided with marking that will allow the care provider to align and place the sterile drape on the patient head so that location of bur hole and/or EEG electrodes are set according to these markings. Accordingly, the positioning markings that will state the names of, for example the EEG electrodes according to known EEG systems e.g. the international 10-20 EEG system. Having the marking, or the electrodes disposed according to the 10-20 system will be maintained using the flexible or stretchable film material described herein and can for example be implementable using the resilient leads or contacts described herein.

[49] The upper or lower surface of the film used in conjunction with the surgical drape described herein can further comprise a posterior locator coupled to the film upper or lower surfaces via a strip, configured to extend from the film's upper and/or or lower surfaces, an anterior locator coupled to the film upper or lower surfaces via a strip, configured to extend from the film's upper and/or lower surfaces configured to be positioned along a nasion-inion line of the subject (sometimes, due to variability in the subject's head size, there is a need for a stretch) or between markings found along the line connecting nasion-inion points. Likewise, the film upper or lower surfaces used in conjunction with the surgical drape described herein can further comprise a lateral right locator coupled to the film upper or lower surfaces via a strip, configured to extend from the film upper or lower surfaces , a left lateral locator coupled to the film upper or lower surfaces via a strip, configured to extend from the film upper or lower surfaces area border configured to be positioned perpendicular to the nasion-inion line (some stretch might be necessarily) of the subject and between the right and left preauricular points or between markings found along the line connecting the right and left preauricular points. The locators (anterior, posterior and right and left laterals) can have tabs used to pull the locators from the surface (upper or lower) of the film. The tabs, when pulled, or in another embodiment, tore, can expose an adhesive layer or have a liner, which when separated from the locator, can be used to adhere the surgical drape (whether stretched or not) onto the subject's scalp. In addition, the film used in

surgical drape provided herein, can have at least a portion that is transparent and enables the care provider to observe the scalp of the subject, or in another embodiment, any area where the surgical drape is to be used.

[50] Accordingly, the drape extensions can be coupled to markings used when applying, for example the EEG 10-20 system, for example the nasion, inion, preauricular points or other cranial markings. In some embodiments, the care provider/ physician can first apply and anchor the front extension to the nasion land mark then remove a strip liner running from the front anterior to the posterior part of the drape and expose an adhesive strip of the film forming the drape. The drape can then be stretched from the nasion landmark to the inion landmark and care provider will push along the drape part over the adhesive strip to attach it to the skin. Following locating the extension along the nasion-inion line, the two lateral extensions for the preauricular points can be peeled away from the upper surface and be attached by care provider. Additionally, means for removing the liners and exposing the adhesive layer, for example strings coupled to the peelable strips (or a tab on a scored strip or similar means) can be pulled by the care provider in order to remove the liner under a strip running between the left and the right preauricular points; care provider will then press along and above this strip to attach the adhesive drape firmly along this strip. After that the rest of the strings can be pulled in order to remove the remaining liner protecting the adhesive sides of the drape. And a care provider at this point can apply pressure over all cranial parts of the drapes in order to make sure that drape is attached firmly to the scalp, effectively forming an electrode helmet.

[51] In an embodiment, the term “peelable” refers to securing in an impervious manner by adhesive bonding or sealing, enabling the manual separation, in normal use of the locator strips, of the two pieces secured in this way, without tearing them, meaning that the connection between the locator(s), be it by means of an adhesive, heat sealing, scoring, or other means, can be broken, disrupted or eliminated by manually urging the locator strip away from the upper film without compromising the integrity of the films.

[52] In an embodiment, instead of four strip extensions for the standard markings, number of these extensions could be different; and other standard or specific markings (e.g., EEG 10-20 markings system) can be used. Also instead of these extensions the drape could attach to these markings without any extension from it as there can be markings on the drape to specify the anchoring points for the markings.

[53] In an embodiment, the surgical drapes described herein, are used in methods for obtaining electrophysiological signal from an area of interest on. Accordingly and in an embodiment, provided herein is a method of obtaining electrophysiological signal from an area of interest on a patient in need thereof, comprising: providing a surgical drape comprising: a polymeric film having an upper surface area and a lower surface area, the film surfaces areas defining a border, the film configured to provide a sterile barrier; a plurality of electrodes operably coupled to said film, wherein at least one of said plurality of electrodes being in contact with a patient's area of interest; a locator coupled to the upper or lower film surfaces; and optionally, a sensor, a transducer, or their combination operably coupled to the film, wherein each of the plurality of said electrodes comprise at least two separate electrical leads (in other words, wires (e.g., resilient wires) covered (or uncovered) with an insulation used for conducting current between components such as the electrodes and a signal processor); using the locator, locating the drape over the area of interest and using at least one of said plurality of electrodes; fenestrating the film in the desired surgical access area near the area of interest; and measuring electrophysiological characteristics in the area of interest.

[54] The term "coupled", including its various forms such as "operably coupled", "coupling" or "coupleable", refers to and comprises any direct or indirect, structural coupling, connection or attachment, or adaptation or capability for such a direct or indirect structural or operational coupling, connection or attachment, including integrally formed components and components which are coupled via or through another component or by the forming process (e.g., an electromagnetic field). Indirect coupling may involve coupling through an intermediary member or adhesive, or abutting and otherwise resting against, whether frictionally (e.g., against a housing) or by separate means without any physical connection.

[55] The term "fenestration" or "fenestrating" refers to an opening provided through a surface of the film from the lower surface of the film to the upper surface of the film. A fenestration may have a variety of geometries for example; a straight cut, circular, semi-circular, oval, oblong, or cuts, incisions perforations and the like, having other geometries. In an embodiment, the drape undergoes fenestrating such that regardless of the size and shape of the cut, all electrodes are operational due to the redundant alternative wiring options. Likewise, following fenestration, resilient leads can be used to remove the obstructing leads from the fenestrated site without disrupting their operation.

[56] The term “signal processor” as used herein refers in an embodiment, to a power source, a pre-amplifier, an amplifier, an A/D and/or D/A converter, or a module or system comprising one or more of the foregoing.

[57] The step of locating in the methods described herein can further comprise peeling the anterior and posterior locators; peeling the right lateral locator and the left lateral locator; positioning the anterior and posterior locator strips along the nasion-inion line of the patient; and positioning the left lateral and right lateral strips laterally above ears of the patient and perpendicular to the nasion-inion line between the left and right preauricular points.

[58] In yet another embodiment, the surgical drape provided can be used together or separately with the brain mapping system described herein. Accordingly, provided herein is a brain mapping system, comprising: a first probe adapted to provide stimulation, recording or both recording and stimulation, having a proximal end and a distal end and a longitudinal axis, the probe comprising a plurality of contacts operably coupled thereto, disposed along the longitudinal axis, wherein at least one contact is selectively operable for stimulating physiological evoked response; recording said physiological evoked response, or both; an electrode; and an analysis module operative for providing segmentation of the brain into a plurality of physiologically active brain regions, the analysis module being in communication with the first probe, or electrode used for recording evoked response or both the probe and electrode.

[59] Typically, in a sedated patient, most of physiological responses cannot be measured. However, in the brain mapping system provided herein, during the procedure of evoking response(s), the sedation/ anaesthetic level of patient will be measured and recorded. The recorded evoked responses will be compared to the recorded sedation/ anaesthetic level and then a determination would be made on whether or not to use the evoked responses, or alternatively, to normalize the recorded responses as a function of the sedation/ anaesthetic level. Recording of the sedation/ anaesthetic levels could be done by known methods for example by using EEG electrodes by analyzing the spatio-temporal patterns in the electroencephalogram (e.g., bispectral electroencephalographic monitoring) and then using special algorithms (e.g., Lempel-Ziv complexity analysis). Likewise, normalization could for example be done by dividing the evoked signals with the sedation/ anaesthetic averaged level value at a certain window of time. Other

normalization methods could be done as well. Accordingly and in an embodiment, the mapping system described herein can be used on sedated subjects.

[60] The probe can comprise at least two different electrode types, the first type responsible for acute stimulation of at least one of the plurality of brain regions to evoke physiological responses or recording of the physiological evoked responses and the second type is being responsible for chronic stimulation of at least one of the plurality of brain regions. The brain mapping system can comprise a brain probe having a plurality of contacts, configured for placement in contact with the brain and operative for at least stimulating physiological evoked responses and/or recording the physiological evoked responses and analyzing module operative for identifying at least one characteristic of the brain.

[61] In an embodiment, a functional map of functional brain regions of a patient is automatically created, using induction of physiological responses. This functional map represents either statistical segmentation of the brain into different brain regions, or provides for identification of a physiological characteristic of each of the plurality of brain regions. Further, the described mapping method is similarly applicable at any anatomical region during various surgical procedures, such as positioning a probe within patient's body to perform a biopsy, remove a cyst or for DBS surgeries. Stimulation of physiological responses can be performed, which provides for evoked physiological responses. These evoked physiological responses can be recorded and analyzed, in order to provide a functional map of different brain regions. The evoked physiological responses differ and this differentiation permits segmentation of the brain into different brain regions, thus as a result of the analysis of recorded evoked physiological responses, statistical segmentation of brain into different brain regions can be performed along the longitudinal axis of the brain probe. Alternatively, a characteristic of each of the brain regions is identified and recorded for further analysis.

[62] The brain mapping system used in the methods of brain mapping described herein can also comprise at least one EEG electrode operative for at least one of stimulating the physiological evoked responses and recording the physiological evoked responses, or for example, ECoG electrode.

[63] The probe used for both recording and/or stimulation, provided herein, can be, for example, comprising a plurality of contacts, configured to selectively provide localized stimulation between at least two of the plurality of contacts, measure differentially between at

least two of the plurality of contacts, short at least two of the plurality of contacts, or a combination comprising one or more of the foregoing. The contacts can be arranged on the longitudinal axis of the probe and have a contact span (C_s , see e.g., FIG. 20), of between about 0.5mm and about 2.5 mm, while insulation between adjacent contacts can have an insulation span (I_s , see e.g., FIG. 20) of between about 0.25 mm and about 1.5 mm. In an embodiment, the total length of the probe is variable and can be between about 10mm and about 1500 mm.

[64] In another embodiment, the mapping probe can be comprised of alternating, selectively operable concentric and telescopically extendable electrodes separated by insulation tubes, where the same or different insulation spans (I_s) or contact spans (C_s) can be varied. The central probe, can be, for example a sharp tip (needle) that can be used for micro stimulating or macro recording.

[65] Stimulating electrophysiological response and/or recording electrophysiological evoked response in the systems and methods described herein can comprise stimulating, recording or both stimulating and recording signals differentially, single ended or both differentially and single ended. For example, a differential sensing configuration can include a tip electrode used as the sensing electrode and a ring electrode used as a reference electrode. Typical tip-to-ring spacing can be approximately 10 mm but may be greater or less than 10 mm. Other differential sensing configurations using any type of available electrodes can be used. During differential sensing, both the sensing electrode and the reference electrode can be positioned along a mapped site, such as within a brain region or along a nerve branch, such that both electrodes are subjected to change in electrical potential caused by an electrophysiological event in the tissue.

[66] Likewise, single ended sensing electrode configurations can comprise a sensing electrode in contact with a region of interest, paired with a reference electrode placed away from the region of interest such that the reference electrode is not subjected to changes in electrical potential caused by electrophysiological events occurring at the site. A reference electrode in a single ended configuration may be considered to be positioned far enough away from a signal source that it approximates a zero potential reference (conventionally defined as equivalent to a reference located at an infinite distance). Common single ended sensing configurations in the systems described herein can comprise a sensing electrode (or macro-contact) embodied as a tip or ring electrode (or contact) along a region of interest paired with a reference electrode. A

sensing electrode may be any available tip, ring, or coil electrode. A reference electrode may be any available electrode implanted in a different region or implanted elsewhere in the body (e.g., along the arm), including subcutaneous electrodes.

[67] Localized stimulation in the systems and methods described can be configured to be performed between two adjacent macro-contacts, for example a tip contact and a ring macro contact spaced between about 20 μm and about 500 μm from the tip contact (or electrode); recording evoked response, non-evoked response or both evoked and non-evoked response is configured to be performed by recording differential local field potential (LFP) between the two contacts, wherein one contact is a reference to the other.

[68] At least two of the contacts in the systems and methods described can be macro or micro contacts and be configured and/or adapted to selectively perform localized stimulation, or non-localized stimulation. Unlike non-localized stimulation, in localized stimulation, the stimulation does not dissipate beyond the stimulating electrodes, because all the current that is run from one pole electrode will be received (or conducted) by (or through) the polar opposite contact and thus will only have a stimulation activation effect across these contact. Thus when current is conducted from certain contact and received by the other contact. Thus, the stimulation effect can be limited to the areas between these contacts and thus it will be localized to this area. Localized stimulation can be carried out using, for example, bipolar stimulation, whereby the contacts have different polarities (i.e. one is negative, one is positive) relative to each other, such that the current also runs between the stimulating electrodes, i.e. along or through the functional region sought to be mapped or classified, and because stimulation field in this configuration diminishes fast related to distance from contacts then thus the region activated by stimulation becomes narrower and the contacts provides more localized stimulation. Likewise, at least two of the contacts can be used to distinguish between various functional region in the brain of the subject by recording evoked response, non-evoked response or both evoked and non-evoked response field potentials, then based on predetermined threshold, calculate the difference between the field potentials to determine whether the region is uniform or should be clustered with other locations; short at least a pair of contacts; or be configured to select a combination of the foregoing. Effectively, the contacts systems described herein can be supported by as a system of switches that switches the electrode among the different conditions/states or modes of operation. Stimulation using the probe provided herein does not have to be only localized. For

example, the contacts can be shorted and stimulation can be done through the shorted contacts. Shorting can be done by electrically coupling two or more contacts. Likewise, stimulation can be done using a single contact operating in a unipolar mode.

[69] In an embodiment, the systems described herein, can be used in the methods for mapping a plurality of physiologically functional brain regions in a subject, comprising contacting the plurality of physiologically functional brain regions with at least one brain probe; selectively operating at least one electrode to stimulate a first physiologically functional brain region thereby evoking physiological response; selectively operating an electrode (which, in another embodiment, is coupled to the surgical drape provided herein), to record the evoked response in a second region; using the analysis module, analyzing the evoked response; and based on the analysis of the evoked response, segmenting the brain to physiologically functional regions, thereby mapping the brain. The first region and second region can be the same, adjacent or remote.

[70] For example, electrodes (or contacts) of the probe can be used as both ES (Electrode-Stimulating) and ER (Electrode-Recording) electrodes. Accordingly, the brain probe can be configured to both stimulate the brain and evoke physiological responses and thereafter record the evoked responses. Or in other embodiment, the probe is used for localized stimulation only and recording of evoked response takes place in another region in the brain (for example, the cortex). Any number of brain probes may be used and placed apart at a varying distance or regions from each other. For example, the stimulation of the brain can be performed by stimulating brain probe (SBP) in the amygdala and recording of the evoked responses can be performed using EEG electrodes (Electroencephalogram) on the cortex, which can be positioned over the head of the patient. Opposite functionality can be similarly used, such that stimulation of physiological responses can be performed by TES (transcranial electrical stimulation) electrodes and recording of evoked responses can be performed by recording probe (RBP). Similarly, any number of EEG/TES electrodes may be used.

[71] In an embodiment, the stimulation of the brain can be performed by stimulating brain probe (SBP) and recording of the evoked responses can be performed using ECoG electrodes (Electrocorticography), which can be positioned over the cortex of the patient. Likewise, opposite functionality can be similarly used, such that stimulation of physiological responses can

be performed by ECoG electrodes and recording of evoked responses can be performed by RBP brain probe. Any number of ECoG electrodes may be used.

[72] Moreover, stimulation of the brain can be performed by probe stimulating brain probe (SBP) and recording of the evoked responses can be performed using EMG electrodes (Electromyography), placed on (or in) muscles of the patient. Any number of EMG electrodes may be used. Further, the stimulation of the brain can be performed by TMS (Transcranial-Magnetic-Stimulation) and recording of the evoked responses can be performed using recording brain probe (RBP). The recording instrument, such as either RBP, MER, EEG, ECoG or EMG, can be configured to record evoked physiological responses in different body regions, which evoked physiological responses were previously induced using a stimulation instrument, such as TES, SBP, EEG, ECoG or TMS. The method of mapping plurality of brain regions can comprise, for example the following steps: either fully inserting the brain probe into the brain in one step or incrementally advancing the probe through plurality of brain regions; stimulating plurality of brain regions to provide evoked physiological responses using at least one of the aforementioned stimulation methods (e.g., EMG); recording evoked physiological responses using at least one of the aforementioned recording methods (e.g., MER); analyzing recorded evoked physiological responses by an analyzing module.

[73] The analyzing module preferably performs the following analysis: reduction of recorded evoked physiological responses into uni-dimensional or multi-dimensional parameters, measures or features; employing at least one of segmentation, clustering, classification, sorting, hidden Markov model or dynamic Bayesian network or a combination of the abovementioned analyses. As the result of the analysis performed by the analyzing module, segmentation or detection of different brain regions along the path of probe can be performed.

[74] In addition, any kind of stimuli, such as visual, audial, muscle stimuli, transcranial magnetic stimulation, TES, tDCS, tACS, or electrical stimuli of the brain can evoke physiological responses, which can in turn be recorded by different means in different body regions, such as by means of brain probe, EEG ECoG, EMG, EKG, ERP, EP, VEP or SSEP medical electrodes.

[75] Statistical evaluation used in the systems and methods described may employ at least one of the following algorithms for clustering, sorting, classification or detection of different brain regions: single link clustering; complete link clustering; average link clustering; K means

algorithm; K prototypes algorithm; K medoids algorithm; Graph theoretic clustering; density based clustering algorithm and methods; template matching; threshold crossing; model based and neural networks; wavelet based algorithms or principal component analysis.

EXAMPLE

[76] During evoking of activity, stimulation electrodes are inserted in a first location (or region), and stimulation (localized or non-localized) is applied. Evoked activity is then recorded at a second location (or region).

[77] The following parameters establish the evoking protocol and the resulting evoked activity

- a. stimulation configuration (unipolar, bipolar, multi-polar); which is the stimulating electrode and which is the return electrode
- b. stimulation frequency
- c. stimulation trains (see e.g., FIG. 21)
- d. pulse width
- e. threshold values, amplitudes and another (e.g. temporal features)
- f. Pulse shape

[78] For example, if it is necessary to evoke activity in a certain location by stimulation in another location and there is no direct pathway between the two locations (or regions); e.g. the two locations are connected by more than one neural pathway, then in order to evoke useful physiological response stimulation is carried out using pulse trains (in other words, a series of pulses separated in time by a predetermined frequency, that can be the same or different along the pulse train). The number of pulses and their frequency in these trains are established to control the existence and features of the response. If there is a direct neural pathway (i.e. there are neurons connecting the two locations or regions and the activity is recorded from these neurons), then as an example number of pulses in stimulation trains are decreased and stimulation are conducted in the appropriate stimulation frequency that for example could be between 0.1 – 1000 Hz. In both conditions stimulation amplitude is also predetermined;

[79] Stimulation threshold for the induction of electrophysiological recorded response activity is different from stimulation threshold for the induction of clinical functional effect. For recorded activity threshold; the minimal stimulation amplitude (or other value of the other important stimulation parameters) in a first location is sought, to evoke the minimal useful evoked activity in a second location or region. With the clinical functional threshold the minimum stimulation amplitude (or combination of stimulation parameters) to start evoking clinical functions (e.g. muscle movements) is sought.

[80] During surgery, the working stimulation amplitudes, waveforms, frequencies, pulse width and configurations and pulse trains are established. Establishing these parameters is appropriate for evoking of activity that is useful for the algorithms and methods described herein.

[81] Stimulation takes place in multiple sites, whereby stimulation in these sites yields different evoked responses, albeit in some sites no evoking of activity occurs.

[82] In an embodiment, the following method is used to establish stimulation parameters:

a. establishment of threshold for evoking a clinical function (e.g. a motor or sensory activity); by for example stimulating from one of the sites known to be in appropriate motor/sensory area; or stimulating from all of the sites in order to see if there is one site that can evoke a clinical function. For example holding some of the parameters at a certain values and increasing/decreasing other parameter values until an evoked activity is detected and established

b. Taking 70% (or other suitable factor) of that threshold and working with it during the evoking protocol.

c. The threshold established will be a combination of frequency, number of pulses in trains, amplitude; pulse width, ... etc.

[83] A similar protocol from above is followed, but by establishment of threshold recorded activity response.

[84] A more complete understanding of the components, processes, assemblies, and devices disclosed herein can be obtained by reference to the accompanying drawings. These figures (also referred to herein as "FIG.") are merely schematic representations (e.g., illustrations) based on convenience and the ease of demonstrating the present disclosure, and are, therefore, not intended to indicate relative size and dimensions of the devices or components thereof and/or to define or limit the scope of the exemplary embodiments. Although specific terms are used in the following description for the sake of clarity, these terms are intended to

refer only to the particular structure of the embodiments selected for illustration in the drawings, and are not intended to define or limit the scope of the disclosure. In the drawings and the following description below, it is to be understood that like numeric designations refer to components of like function.

[85] Turning now to FIG.s 1, an electrode carrying surgical drape constructed and operative, when the surgical drape is partially mounted on a head of a patient. Albeit the following description is focused on an exemplary embodiment where the surgical drape is mounted on the head of a patient, it should be appreciated that surgical drape constructed and operative as described herein may be similarly mounted on any other surgical area. An exemplary embodiment of a cranial surgical drape is illustrated and described throughout the disclosure, however it will be appreciated by a person skilled in the art that a sterility-maintaining surgical drape constructed as described and claimed herein may be applied in any other surgery and treatment site. A surgical drape comprises film 100 (that can be built also be laminated), which is mounted on a patient's head 102. Surgical drape 10 can generally be made of a resilient material, such as for example ductile polymeric film or alternatively weaved fabrics or weaved fabrics layered with wired electrodes. Film 100 can have two surfaces, first surface 104 can be fixed to patient's head 102, for example by adhesive applied to the entire first surface 104 or by adhesive applied to the perimeter of the first surface 104 of film 100 or using a tearable, peelable liner. First (or lower) surface 104 of film 100 may be fixed to patient's head 102 by means of any other suitable method. Second (or upper) surface 106 of film 100 can face the environment and can be provided for maintaining a sterile field of operation at the surgical site. film 100 can generally be formed for example from a polyurethane material where every layer can have a thickness of, for example about 13 μm (0.005 inches). Different layers can have different thickness, for example, between about 8 μm and about 2000 μm . By way of example, and not by way of limitation, each layer may have a thickness of about 15 mils (0.015 inch, or about 0.375 mm) or less. Of course, embodiments of the surgical drape 10 that include film 100 of other thicknesses are also within the scope of the present technology. Alternate drape materials suitable for maintaining a sterile field may be used. Plurality of medical electrodes 108_p can be attached to film 100. Medical electrodes 108_p may be integrally formed with film 100, such as by printing of electrodes 108_p on film 100. Medical electrodes 108_p may alternatively be removably attached to film 100, such as by stitching, applying an adhesive or in

any other suitable manner. Any kind of medical electrodes 108_p may be used in the surgical drapes described herein. For example, in an embodiment, EEG electrodes are used, however any kind of medical electrodes 108_p comprising conducting contacts, for obtaining various physiological characteristics of a patient may be used. For example, EMG, TES, EKG, ERP, EP, VEP, SSEP medical electrodes may be similarly used in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

[86] Reference is now made to FIG.s. 2 – 4, illustrating three exemplary arrangements of the plurality of medical electrodes 108_p over film 100. As seen in Figs. 2 – 4, any number of (medical) electrodes 108_p may be attached or integrally formed with film 100. Medical electrodes 108_p may be positioned at any location over patient's head 102 for efficiently and reliably obtaining patient's physiological characteristics from the readings provided by the plurality of medical electrodes 108_p.

[87] Reference is now made to Figs. 5 & 6, which illustrate two exemplary different arrangements of electrical connections between medical electrodes 108_p incorporated in film 100. As illustrated, each of medical electrodes 108_p is provided with at least two electrical connection paths 110 and 112, which can be independently operative and configured to be connected to an electrical cable (not shown) for data transfer. If one of the electrical connection paths 110 or 112 is disconnected, the other one of connection paths 110 or 112 remains independently operative and enables continuous measurement of patient's physiological characteristics using the remaining operative electrical connection path 110 or 112.

[88] As illustrated in FIG. 5, electrical connection paths 110 and 112 are positioned horizontally and extend in opposite ways from pth medical electrode 108_p. Any other suitable method of arranging the plurality of medical electrodes 108_p may also be used. Similarly, in FIG. 6, electrical connection paths 110 and 112 are positioned diagonally and extend opposite ways from the pth medical electrode 108_p. Any number of electrical connection paths may be provided to pth medical electrode 108_p. For example, in case that medical electrode 108_p in a certain position is particularly important, more than two electrical connection paths may be provided thereto to ascertain that readings from this particular medical electrode 108_p are not impaired

[89] Reference is now made to FIG.s. 7 & 8, illustrating the electrode carrying surgical drape having film 100, shown following fenestration of a surgical site within film 100 and a

schematic illustration of electrical connection paths 110 and 112 between the medical electrodes 108_p incorporated in film 100.

[90] During a surgical procedure, film 100 can be cut (fenestration) in one or more locations in order to expose one or more surgical sites, such as 114 and 116 as shown in FIG. 7. Cutting of the electrode carrying surgical drape having film 100 along with the patient's skin and opening a surgical site usually forms skin fold 118, such that a portion of the second (upper) surface 106 of film 100 in the region of skin fold 118 faces the remainder of second surface 106 of film 100. As illustrated in FIG. 8 one of medical electrodes 108_p positioned adjacent surgical site 114 can have at least two electrical connection paths 110 and 112, whereas path 112 can be impaired during fenestrating for exposing surgical site 114 and electrical path 112 can likewise be disconnected as shown by section 120, however alternative electrical connection path 110 remains operative, thus medical electrode 108_p provides readings from a location adjacent surgical site 114. Another medical electrode 108_p can be positioned adjacent surgical site 114 and similarly can have two electrical connection paths 110 and 112, whereas path 110 of medical electrode 108_p can be impaired during cutting for exposing surgical site 114 and electrical path 110 can be disconnected as shown by section 120, however second alternative electrical connection path 112 remains operative, thus medical electrode 108_p can provide readings from a location adjacent surgical site 114.

[91] Both medical electrodes 108_p shown in FIG. 8 can be located adjacent surgical site 114 and be capable of reliably providing readings of patient's physiological characteristics without compromising sterility of surgical site 114 because medical electrodes 108_p can be incorporate within film 100.

[92] A stereotactic frame may be attached to patient's head 102 and thus mechanical co-registration of medical electrodes 108_p may be provided by assigning coordinate system to medical electrodes 108_p relative to the frame (not shown) and thus enabling a care provider to positively identify the readings of medical electrodes 108_p at any particular region of interest. Medical electrode 108_p can be placed on skin fold 118, in close proximity to patient's head 102 and identified using the abovementioned co-registration and be rendered inoperative in order to avoid inaccurate readings of medical electrode 108_p that cannot be positioned on patient's head 102 anymore. Medical electrodes 108_p may include a marker that can be identified by different methods, such as magnetic, ultrasonic or visual detection. Electrical connection paths

110 and 112 between medical electrodes 108_p can have a relatively large surface area, such that electrical connection paths 110 and 112 substantially fill the entire surface of the film 100. Thus, at least a portion of the electrical connection paths 110 and 112 remains operative following fenestration performed through film 100.

[93] Turning now to FIG.s 9-12, illustrating the possible markings on surgical drape (that could also be resilient). As shown in FIG. 9, upper surface 106 of film 100 can further comprise posterior locator 151 coupled to upper surface 106 or lower surface 104 via strip 152, configured to extend from upper surface 106 or lower surface area 104, anterior locator 153 coupled to upper surface 106 or lower surface 104 via strip 154, configured to extend beyond upper surface 106 or lower surface area 104 configured to be positioned along a nasion-inion line of the patient's head 102 (not shown see e.g., FIG. 1). Likewise, upper surface 106 of film 100 can further comprise lateral right locator 155 coupled to the upper surface or lower surface via strings 156, 156', configured to extend beyond the upper surface 106 or lower surface area 104, left lateral locator 157 coupled to upper surface 106 or lower surface area 104 whereby for example strings 159, 159', can be used to facilitate the extension of lateral locator 157, configured to extend from upper surface 106 or lower surface area 104 and be positioned perpendicular to the nasion-inion line of subject's head 102 and along line connecting the right and left preauricular points (not shown). Conversely, FIG 10 illustrates lower surface 104 of the drape, which will eventually face the scalp and expose electrode contacts 108_p; extensions 151, 153, 155, and 157; strings 156, 156' and 158, 158' used to peel off liners 152, 154, and expose adhesive layer 161 and liners 160_q are shown in addition. Extensions 151, 153, 155 and 157 may have at least an adhesive layer separated by a peelable liner (Not shown) and be configured to adhere to the subject's scalp following extension. Surgical drape 10 may have at least a portion thereof that is transparent and be stretched to fit various head sizes of a patient following exposure of an adhesive layer such that anchoring one locator on one point, for example left preauricular point, will allow the formation of a helmet. The adhesive layer may be exposed beyond the strips associated with the locators, to allow a closer contact between the drape and the scalp. Likewise the location of the electrodes can be exposed, allowing the physician to determine where to make fenestration that will be the most effective.

[94] FIG.'s 11 and 12, shows other alternatives, whereby the inion-nasion line is graphically shown (FIG. 11) on surgical drape 10, while right 155 and left 157 lateral locators

are extended beyond lower surface 104 and where both are graphically illustrated on upper surface 106. Although only graphically shown, the lines can form a peelable strip that is tearable to expose adhesive layer 161.

[95] Turning now to FIG. 13, illustrating a patient's head showing the placement of a brain probe into the brain. A plurality of fiducials 200, such as bolts or screws, are placed on a patient's head 102 in order to identify anatomical markings obtained by various imaging techniques, such as MRI for example. A brain probe 204 is inserted into patients' brain, designated by reference numeral 206. It is seen that the brain probe 204 extends through a plurality of brain regions, in this particular example through four different regions, 208, 210, 212 and 214. The electrodes of brain probe 204 are preferably mechanically or electronically co-registered with different brain regions. The brain probe 204 typically has a proximal portion 216, which is positioned close to the entry point 218 at the scalp of the patient and a distal portion 220, which is inserted into the brain 206. There is a relatively small amount of electrodes 204 at the proximal portion 216 of brain probe 204 and relatively large amount of electrodes (or contacts) at the distal portion 220 of the brain probe 204, which allows for high accuracy at a target area. For example, while performing a DBS surgery on awake patient, brain probe 204 is either incrementally advanced through different regions in brain 206 or inserted to the approximate target area at once and physiological response of the patient is measured for positioning brain probe 204 in the desired target area.

[96] Reference is now made to Fig. 14, showing entry and exit points to and from different brain 206 regions. The recorded evoked physiological responses along the path of brain probe 204 are analyzed. A plurality of parameters such as RMS, normalized RMS, power density of different frequency bands, firing rates, inter spike intervals or combination of the different parameters are identified. At least one of the following parameter reduction methods are employed: spiking firing rate; spiking amplitude and value; threshold crossing; power density bands of the recorded signal; RMS of background noise or signals; local/global minimums or maximums; principal components analysis or combination of parameters from. Statistical evaluation is performed in order to identify different segments of the brain 206. As shown in FIG. 14, brain probe 204 is either fully inserted into brain 206 or incrementally advanced through first region 230, which has an entry point A and an exit point B, second region 232, which has an entry point C and an exit point D, third region 234, which has an entry point E and

exit point F, fourth region 236, which has an entry point G and exit point H and fifth region 238, which has an entry point I and exit point J. In an embodiment where brain probe 204 is used both as MES and MER, brain probe 204 is advanced through brain regions 230 – 238, while stimulating these brain regions and recording the resulting evoked physiological responses. A plurality of parameters is analyzed along the path of brain probe 204 and the exemplary graph shown in FIG. 14 is obtained, which represents the statistical analysis of characteristic transition points between the different brain regions.

[97] Turning now to FIG. 15, showing an illustration (FIG. 15A) and a graph (FIG. 15B) of exemplary segmentation of the brain into different physiologically-active brain regions. As shown (FIG. 15A) brain probe 204 is advanced through Zone 1, having entry point A and exit point B, Zone 2 Having entry point C and exit point D, Zone 3 having entry point D and exit point E, Zone 4 having entry point F and exit point G and Zone 5 having entry point H. A plurality of parameters such as RMS, Normalized RMS, power density of different frequency bands, firing rates, inter spike intervals or combination of the different parameters is analyzed along the path of the brain probe 204 and an exemplary graph in 15B is obtained, representing statistical analysis of the characteristic parameters for each of the different zones 1 – 5 of brain 206. The analyzing module can be configured to reduce or transform certain parameters from the recorded readings of evoked physiological responses in order to identify what is the threshold of brain stimulation that produces therapeutic effect.

[98] Turning now to FIG. 16, illustrating an embodiment for the use of the brain mapping systems described herein in conjunction with intraoperative monitoring (IOM) tools (e.g., SEP, VEP, AEP, MEP, etc.). Mapping thus is carried out by contacting the plurality of physiologically functional brain regions with at least one probe and stimulating the plurality of regions through the probe contacts in the different regions in the brain; while simultaneously standard intraoperative monitoring tools are activated to measure the effect of stimulation on the established IOM responses and thus determine where exactly the brain stimulating electrode contacts are. The systems described herein can be used in an embodiment for mapping functional brain region and an example is illustrated in FIG. 16. As shown in FIG. 16 stimulating electrodes 411 and 412 are used to evoke a response in the median nerve and the response can be measured using, for example, cranial EEG electrodes in locations 401, 402 (for example, using the surgical drape described herein, fenestrated in locations 401, 402). Recording of the evoked response

from locations 411, 412 establishes a baseline and can be done in both awake and sedated subject. Using probe 204, for example, the probe shown in FIG. 20, probe 204 is inserted to the subject brain and various regions of interest can then be subject to, for example, localized stimulation or non-localized stimulation, and the effect of the stimulation on the established evoked potential baseline can then be evaluated thereby facilitating mapping of functional brain region. The evoked potential baseline established can be, for example: Somatosensory evoked potentials (SEPs or SSEPs), or Visual-evoked potentials (VEPs) tracking visual signals from the retina to the occipital cortex. Other examples can be motor-evoked potential (MEP) and Auditory Evoked Potential (AEP). Accordingly, one could establish a baseline; absent stimulation using probe 204, followed by localized or non-localized stimulation. The effect of the probe on the baseline could be on prohibiting of the EPs or on latency or amplitude of EPs; or even waveform shape. Likewise, FIG. 17 shows the reverse condition, where stimulation can be performed using probe 204 for macro-depth stimulation, together with cortical stimulation in points 401, 402, while using, for example, remotely positioned electromyography (EMG) electrodes in points 421, 422 to record MEP, following establishing of the baseline.

[99] FIG.s 18-20 illustrates embodiments of brain probe 204 configuration of contacts or electrodes 300_i (recording and/or stimulating contacts/electrodes), electrodes 310_j (test-stimulation electrodes/contacts) and micro tip electrode 315. FIG. 18 illustrates brain probe 204 with macro contact 310_j used for example, for test stimulation as well as other more miniature macro contacts 300_i to be used for the evoked stimulation, these can be used in unipolar or bipolar stimulation configurations. As shown in FIG. 18A, brain probe can comprise micro electrode 315 used for recording; while in FIG. 18B the brain probe does not use that micro-tip 315.

[100] As shown in FIG. 19, there are a number of brain probe 204 ring contacts (at least 2); they can be stimulated together in order to supply test stimulation (stimulation mapping) functionality; but also they can be stimulated separately for localized bipolar evoked stimulation or a more localized stimulation by stimulating from one contact and returning current bipolar from an adjacent contact.

[101] Turning now to FIG. 20, illustrating probe 204 with two macro contacts 320, 330 also used for test stimulation if stimulated together, or for evoked electrophysiology if stimulated unipolar or bipolar. The distance between the contacts can have substantial importance over the

effectiveness of the evoking ability of contacts 320 and 330. As shown in FIG. 20, micro-tip 315 can be retractable and be either exposed or covered. The brain probe in FIG. 20, can be formed of alternating, telescopic concentric tubes of conducting and insulating material, The contact surface of macro ring contacts 320, 330 can be selectively regulated by aligning insulating tubes 325, 335 and conducting tubes 320, 330. Similar arrangement can be made for macro-electrodes illustrated in FIG.s 18A, 18B and 19. Several possibilities can exist for activation within evoked or non-evoked protocols: these can be for example; performing localised stimulation by stimulating between macro contacts 320 and macro-contact 330. For example, the distance between macro contact 320 and 330 can be varied (e.g., during production or mechanically during the probe operation) by extending the insulation tube covering conducting tube 330. Due to insulation, polarity can also be selected to provide bipolar stimulation along the whole length of insulating tube 335; distance between the macro contact 330 and 320 can also be setup according to the region of interest size; Recording evoked/non-evoked differential LFP (local field potential) between macro contacts 320 and macro-contact 330 (one contact, e.g, 320 can be a reference to contact 330), or performing test stimulation for the establishment of a therapeutically effective window by electrically shortening both macro contacts 320 and macro-contact 330 and stimulating through them, this can be for example achieved by a system of switches that switches the electrode between the different modes of operation to obtain the necessary evoked response signals. Also shown in FIG. 20, are probe housing 350 and contact span (C_s), referring to the longitudinal thickness of the conducting area of the electrode 320. It stands to reason, that any conducting surface, for example 300_i in FIG. 19, or macro-contact 330 in FIG. 20, will similarly have a conducting span (C_s). Likewise, non-conducting surface of probe 204 which, in an embodiment, can be insulating tube 325, or the gap between adjacent contacts 300_i and 310_j in FIG.s 18 (A,B) and 19, can have longitudinal span (I_s).

[102] One or more components may be referred to herein as "configured to," "configured by," "configurable to," "operable/operative to," "adapted/adaptable," "able to," "conformable/conformed to," etc. The terms (e.g. "configured to") can generally encompass active-state components and/or inactive-state components and/or standby-state components, unless context requires otherwise.

[103] While in the foregoing specification the surgical cranial drape, microelectrodes for mapping brain of a subject and their methods of use have been described in relation to certain

preferred embodiments, and many details are set forth for purpose of illustration, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that the disclosure of the surgical cranial drape, microelectrodes for mapping brain of a subject and their methods of use are susceptible to additional embodiments and that certain of the details described in this specification and as are more fully delineated in the following claims can be varied considerably without departing from the basic principles of this invention.

We Claim:

1. A surgical drape comprising:
 - a. a film having an upper surface area and a lower surface area, the film configured to provide a sterile barrier between the upper surface and lower surface;
 - b. a plurality of electrodes operably coupled to said film, wherein at least one of said plurality of electrodes being in contact with a subject's organ;
 - c. optionally, a locator coupled to the upper surface, the lower surface or both the upper surface and the lower surface; and
 - d. optionally, a sensor, a transducer, or their combination operably coupled to the film,wherein each of the plurality of electrodes having redundant number of leads connecting the electrode to a signal processor.
2. The surgical drape of claim 1, wherein the film is a laminated film.
3. The surgical drape of claim 1, wherein the film and the leads are resilient.
4. The surgical drape of claim 1, wherein the plurality of electrodes is integrally formed within said film, removably coupled to the film or a combination comprising the foregoing.
5. The surgical drape of claim 1, further comprising a transceiver configured for a wired communication or wireless communication with each of said plurality of electrodes and wherein each of said plurality of electrodes is configured to transmit their positioning to said transceiver.
6. The surgical drape of claim 1, wherein the upper surface further comprises a lateral right locator peelably coupled to the upper surface via a strip, configure to extend beyond the upper surface area border, a left lateral locator peelably coupled to the upper surface via a strip, configure to extend beyond the upper surface area border configured to be positioned perpendicular to the nasion-inion line and between the right and left preauricular points of the subject.
7. A method of obtaining electrophysiological signal from an area of interest on a patient in need thereof, comprising:
 - a. positioning the surgical drape of claim 1 over an area of a subject where the electrophysiological signal is sought to be obtained;

b. fenestrating the film thereby exposing the area of interest, whereby at least one of the redundant leads remains coupled to at least one electrode in contact with the area of interest; and

c. activating the signal processor, obtaining a signal

8. A brain mapping system, comprising:

a. a first probe having a proximal end and a distal end and a longitudinal axis, the probe comprising a plurality of contacts operably coupled thereto, disposed along the longitudinal axis, wherein at least one contact is selectively operable for stimulating physiological evoked response; recording physiological evoked response, or both;

b. an electrode operable for stimulating physiological evoked response or recording evoked response; and

c. an analysis module operative for providing segmentation of the brain into a plurality of physiologically active brain regions, the analysis module being in communication with the electrode or probe recording the physiological response.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein stimulating electrophysiological response, recording electrophysiological evoked response comprises stimulating unipolar signal, bipolar signal or both unipolar and a bipolar signal, recording single ended signal, differential signal or both stimulating and recording.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein at least two of the contacts are macro-contacts configured to selectively perform localized stimulation; record evoked response, non-evoked response or both evoked and non-evoked response; short at least a pair of contacts; or a combination of the foregoing.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein localized stimulation is configured to take place between two adjacent macro-contacts, recording evoked response, non-evoked response or both evoked and non-evoked response is configured to be performed by recording a differential of a local field potential (LFP) between the two macro contacts, wherein one contact is a reference to the other and shorting the two macro contacts is affected by an external shorting element.

12. A method of mapping a plurality of physiologically functional brain regions in a subject, implementable in the system of claim 8 comprising:

a. contacting the plurality of physiologically functional brain regions with at least one probe;

- b. selectively operating a contact to stimulate a first physiologically active brain region thereby evoking physiological response;
- c. selectively operating an electrode to record the evoked response in a second region;
- d. using the analysis module, analyzing the evoked response; and
- e. based on the analysis of the evoked response, segmenting the brain to physiologically active regions, thereby mapping the brain.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein at least two of the contacts are macro-contacts configured to selectively perform localized stimulation; record evoked response, non-evoked response or both evoked and non-evoked response; short at least a pair of contacts; or a combination of the foregoing.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of stimulating is not affected by any contact on the probe and wherein the second region is not in the subject's brain.

15. A brain mapping probe having a proximal end, a distal end and a longitudinal axis, comprising

- a. a probe housing; and
- b. a plurality of electrode contacts, configured to selectively provide localized stimulation between at least two of the plurality of contacts, differentially measure local field potential between at least two of the plurality of contacts, short at least two of the plurality of contacts, or a combination comprising one or more of the foregoing.

16. The probe of claim 15, wherein the electrodes are telescopically extendable wherein each electrode is separated from an adjacent electrode by a retractable insulation tube.

17. The probe of claim 15, wherein the contact span (C_S) is between about 0.5 mm and about 2.5 mm, and wherein a non-conducting span (I_S) between any two contacts configured to selectively provide localized stimulation, differentially measure local field potential, be shorted, or a combination comprising one or more of the foregoing is between about 0.25 mm and about 1.5 mm.

18. The probe of claim 15, further coupled to a switching module, the switching module configured to selectively operate the contacts to provide localized stimulation, differentially

measure local field potential, be shorted and stimulate through the shorted contacts, or a combination comprising one or more of the foregoing.

19. A kit comprising:

- a. a plurality of the probes of claim 17, wherein at least one probe has a different contact span (C_S) and non-conducting span (I_S) than another probe;
- b. optionally instructions; and
- c. optionally packaging.

20. A method for mapping of functional brain region in a subject, comprising:

- a. using a stimulating electrode positioned in a first region of the body of the subject, evoking electrophysiological response in the brain of the subject;
- b. using a recording electrode positioned in a second region of the body of the subject, recording the evoked response, thereby establishing an evoked potential (EP) baseline;
- c. simultaneously using the probe of claim 15 operably configured to provide stimulation, stimulating a plurality of regions in the brain of the subject;
- d. determining the effect of the stimulation on the established evoked potential (EP) baseline; and
- e. determining which of the plurality of locally stimulated regions affected the evoked potential baseline

wherein the evoked potential is SEP, MEP, AEP, VEP, or a combination thereof.

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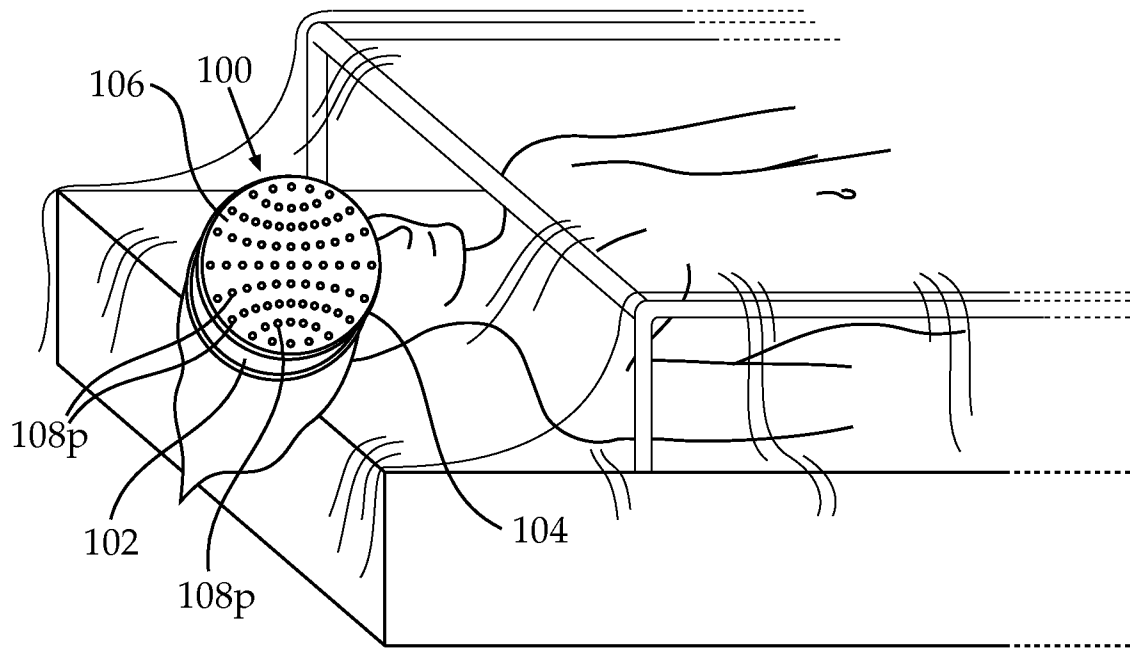


FIG. 1

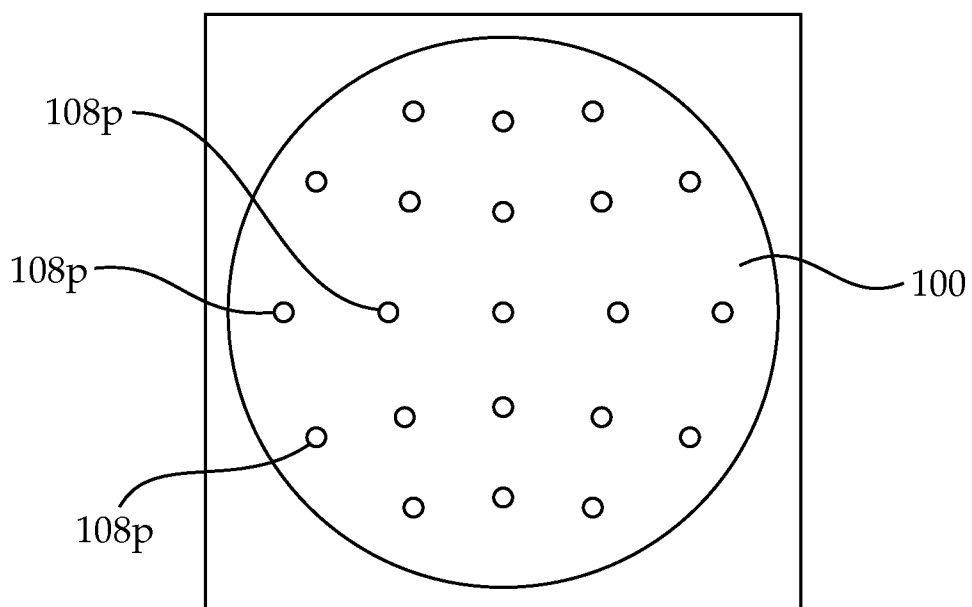


FIG. 2

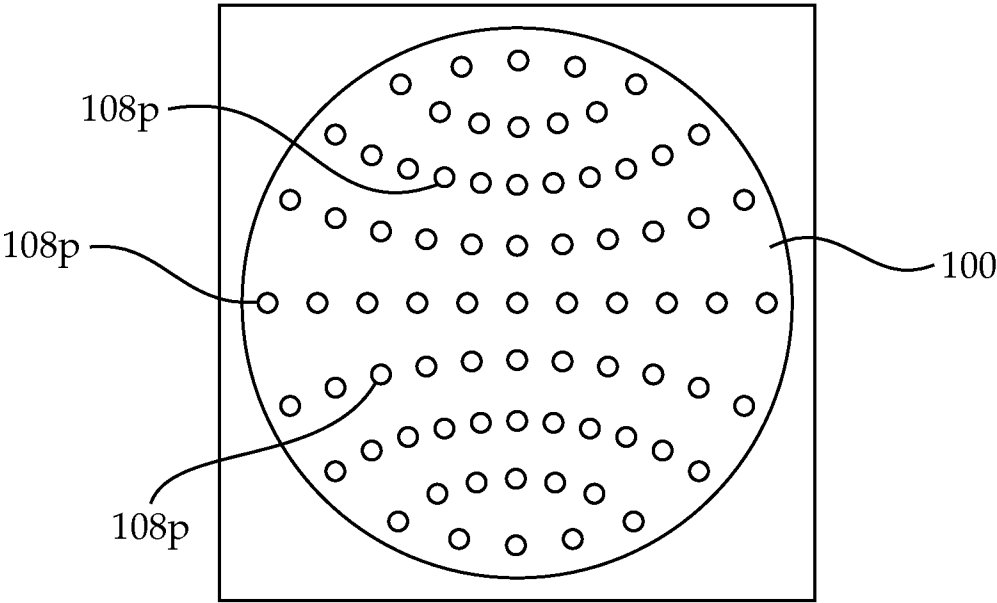


FIG. 3

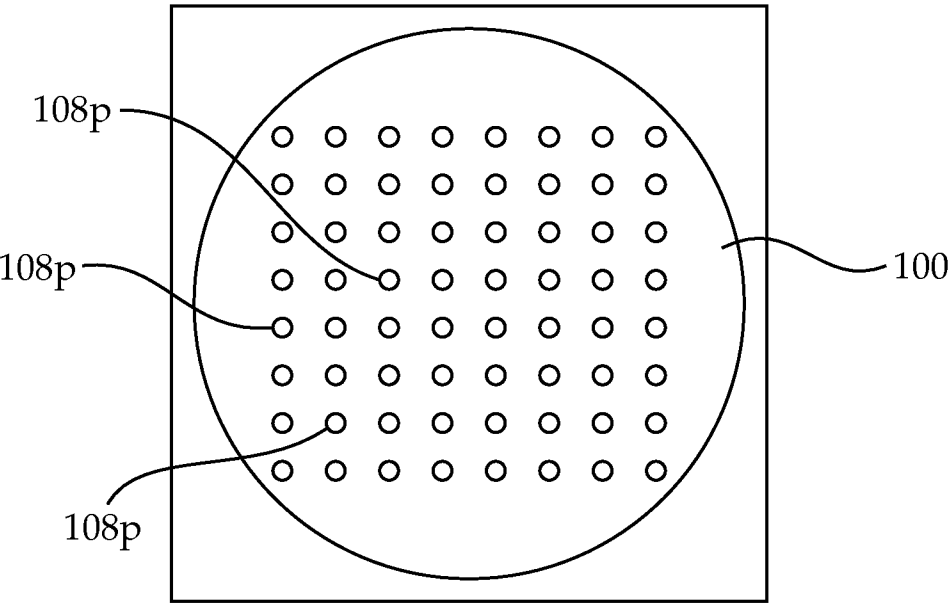


FIG. 4

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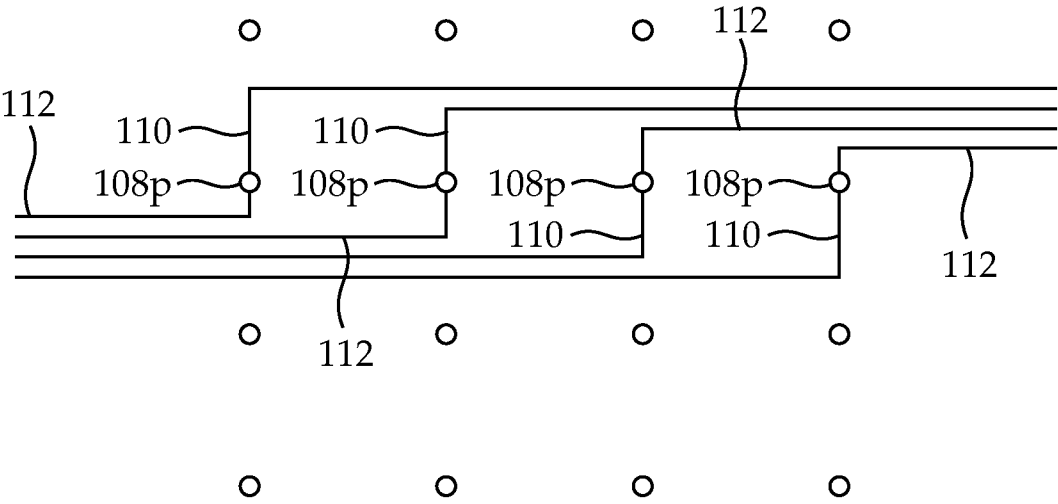


FIG. 5

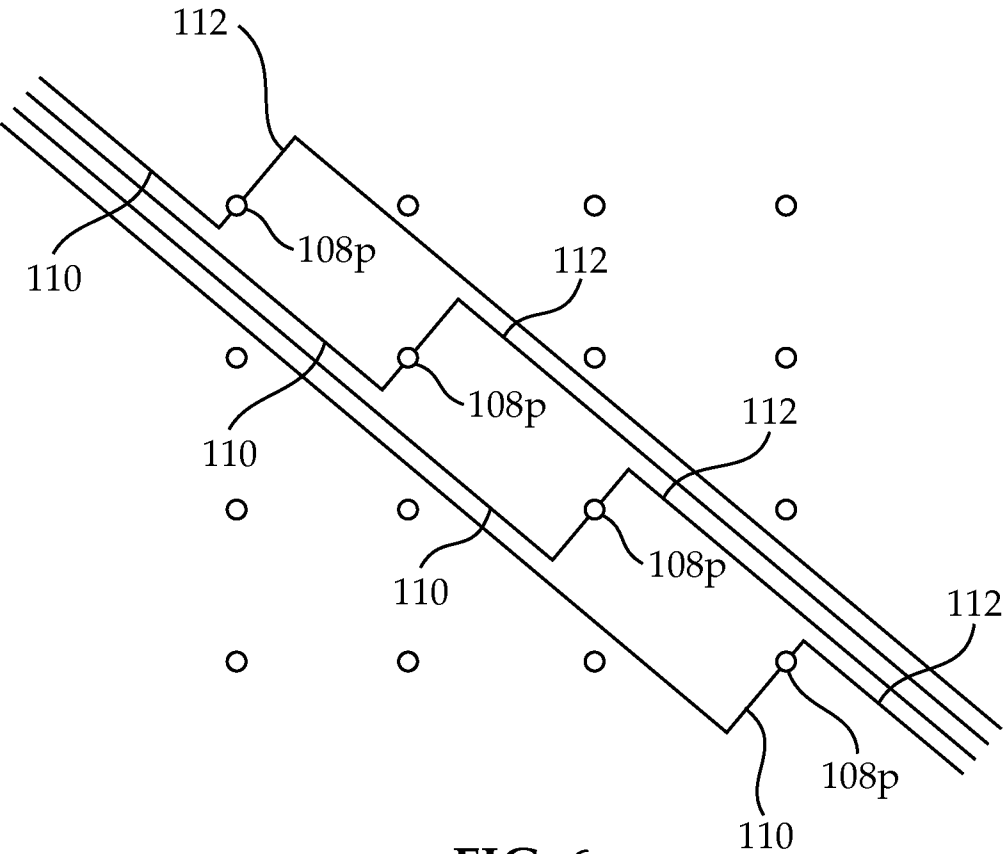


FIG. 6

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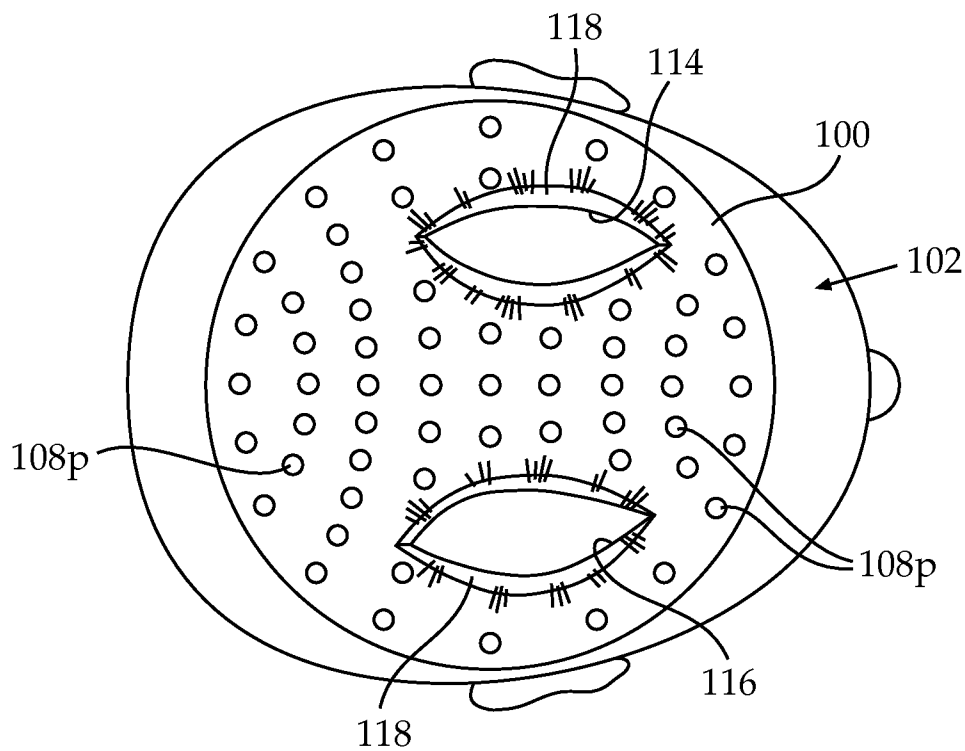


FIG. 7

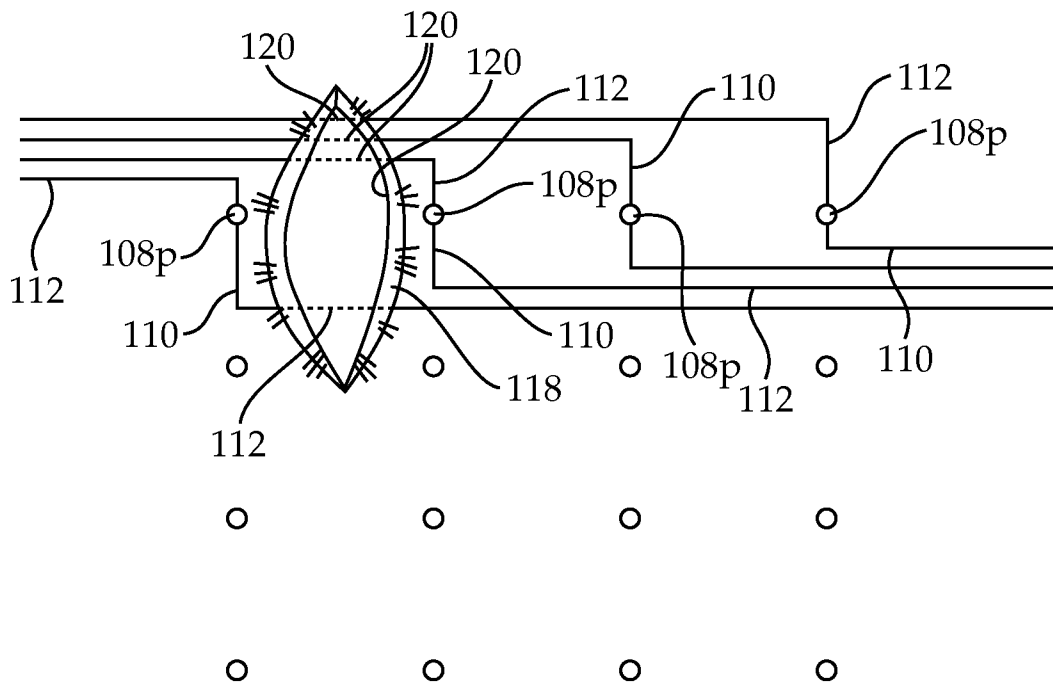


FIG. 8

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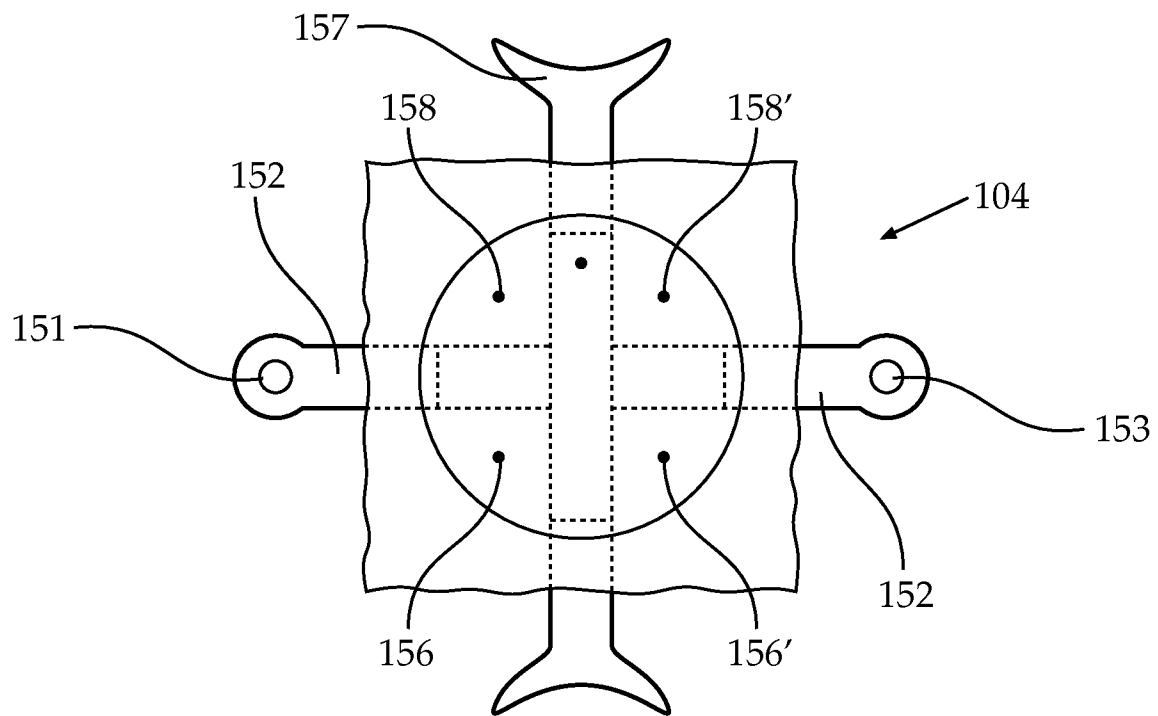


FIG. 9

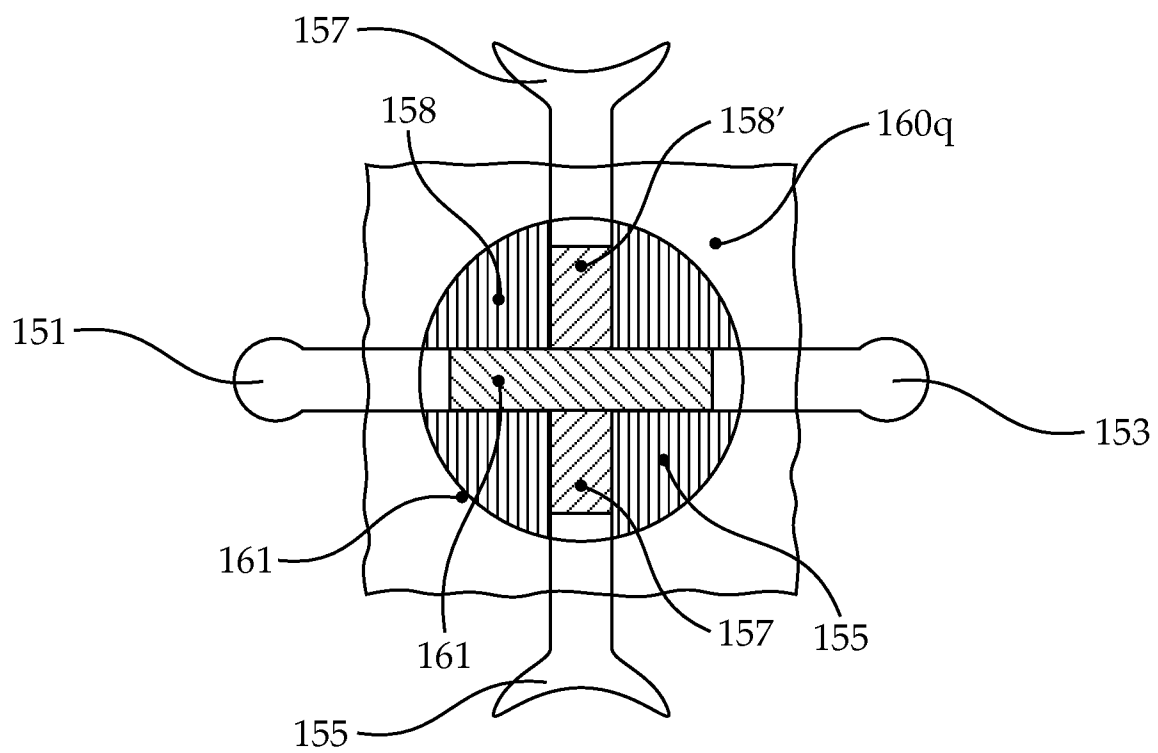


FIG. 10

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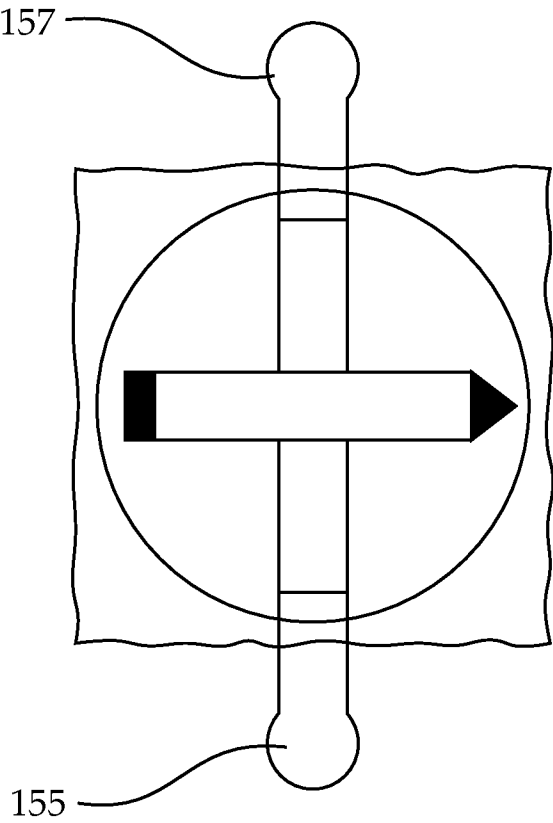


FIG. 11

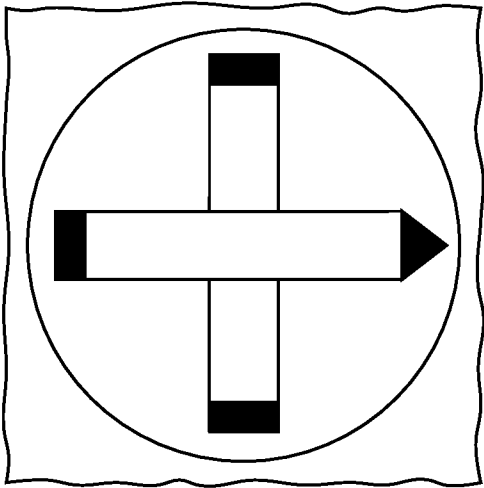


FIG. 12

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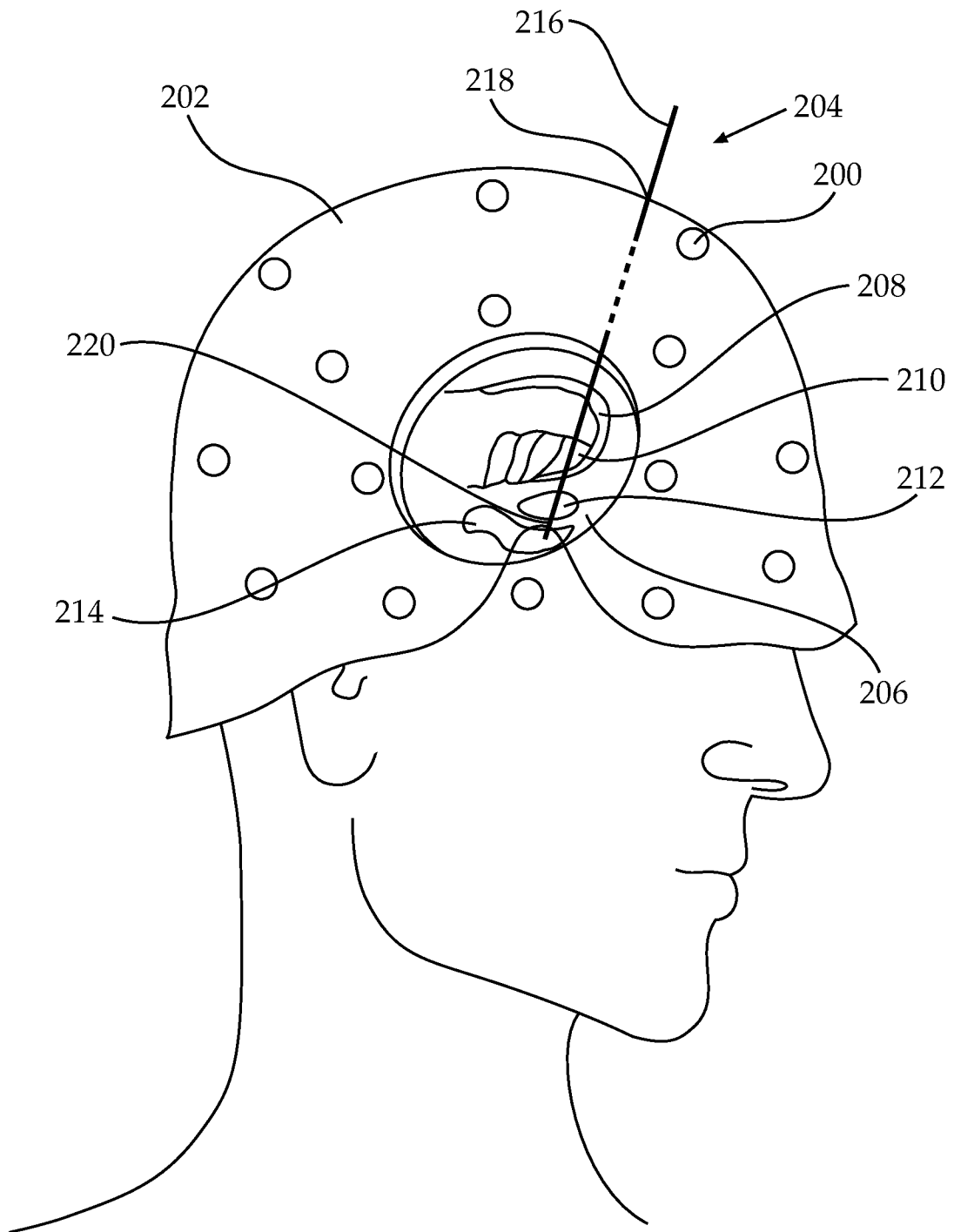


FIG. 13

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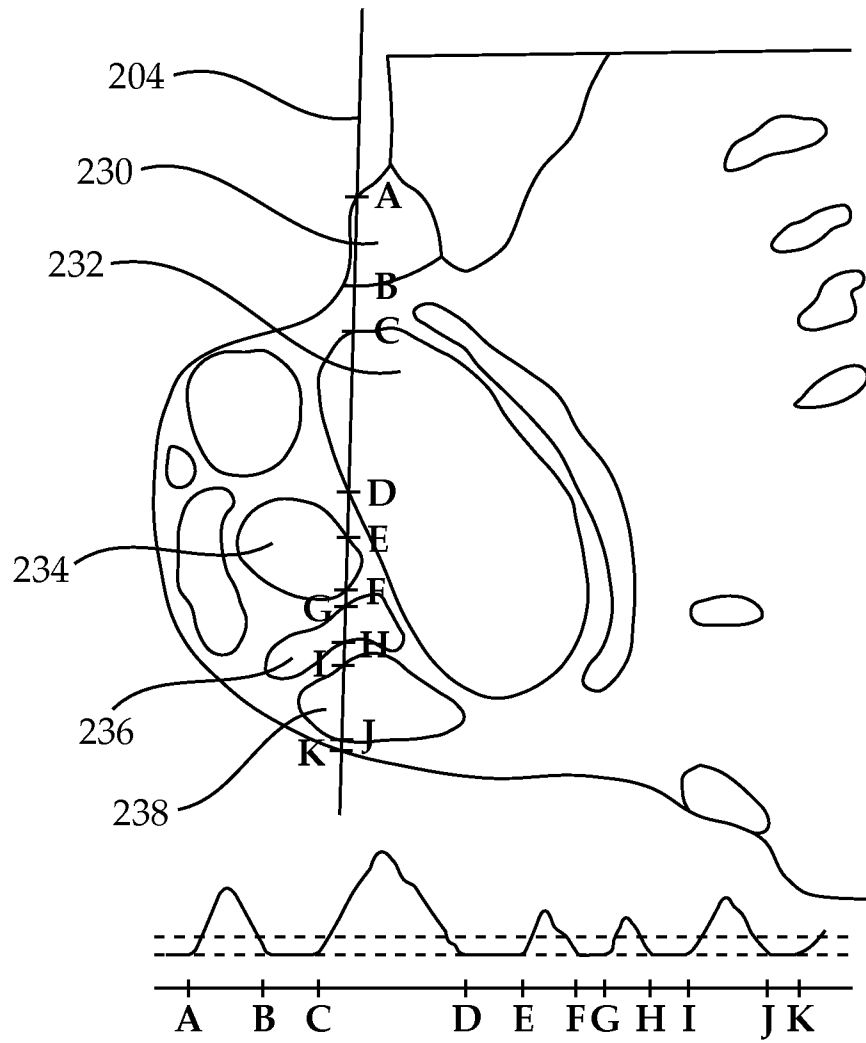


FIG. 14

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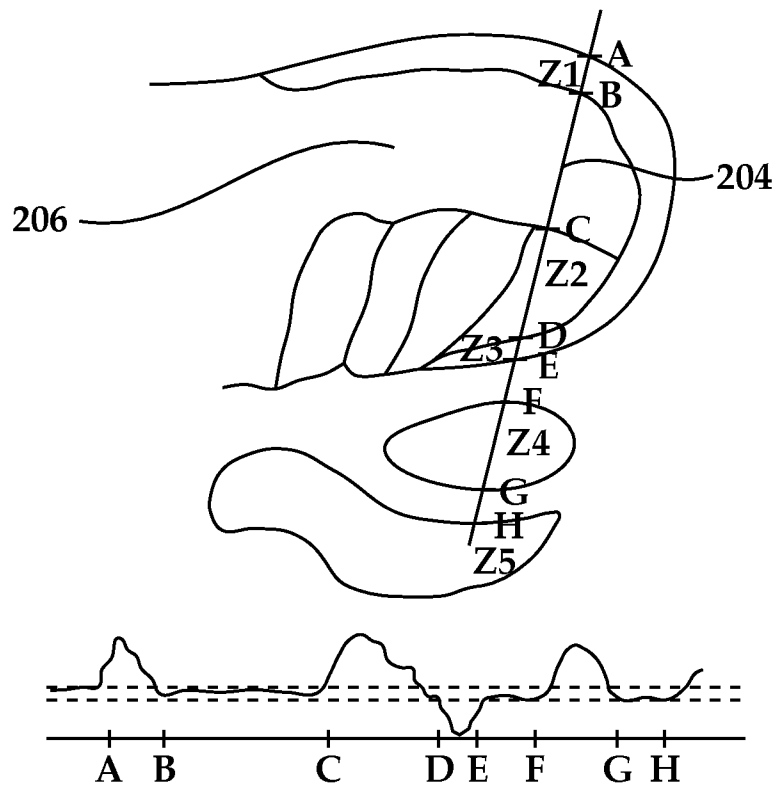


FIG. 15A

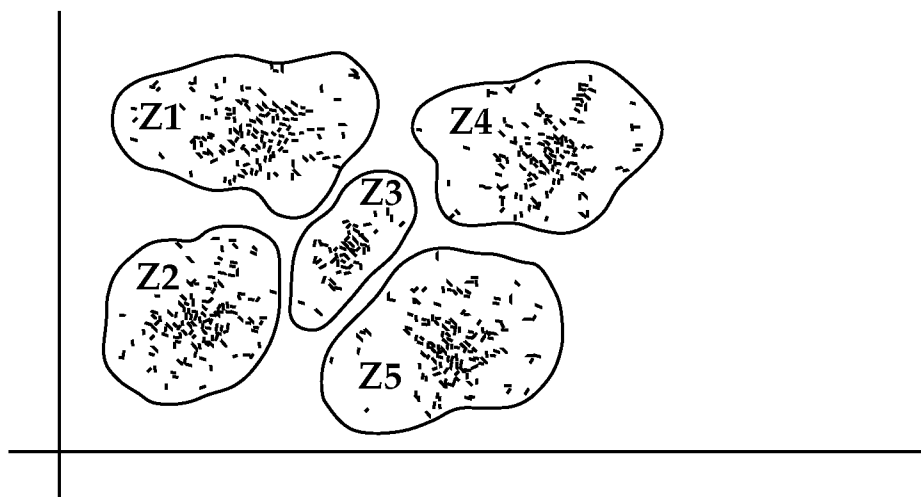


FIG. 15B

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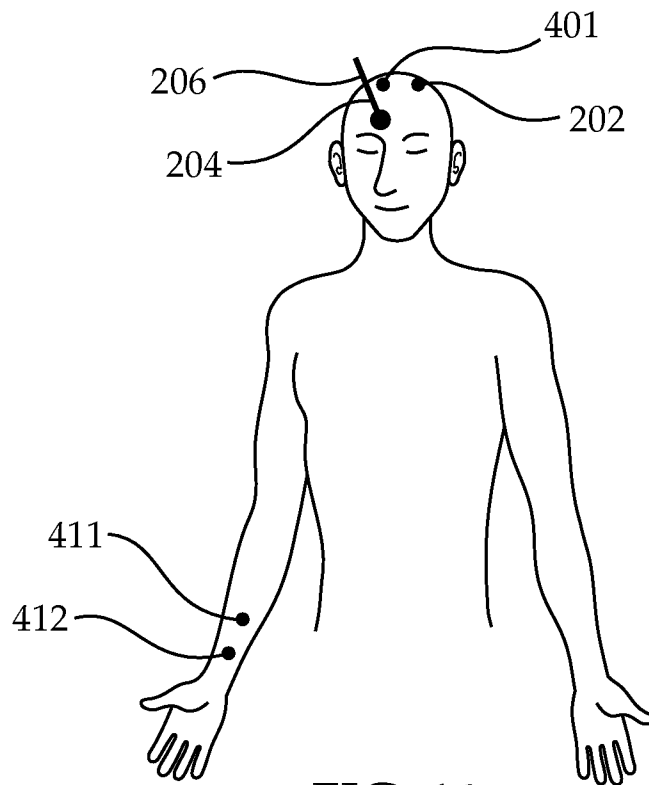


FIG. 16

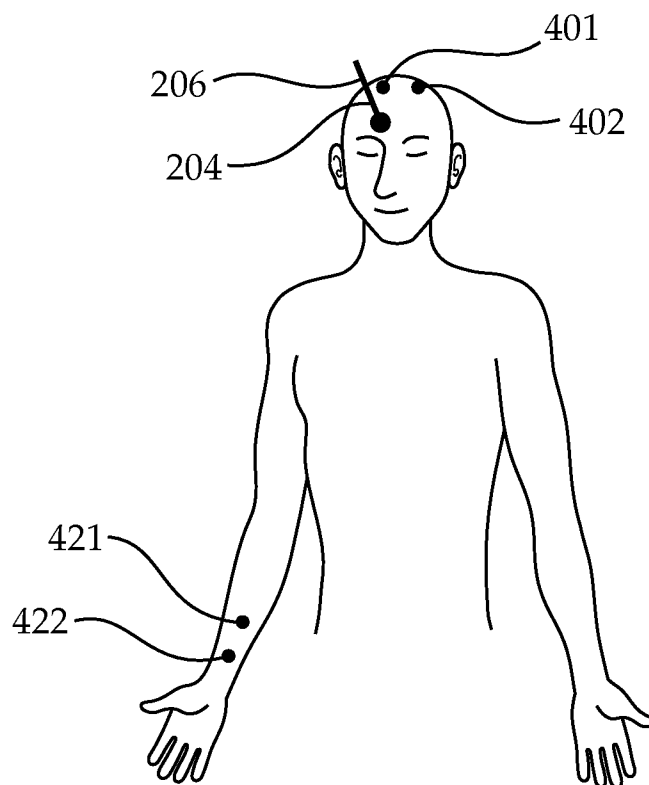


FIG. 17

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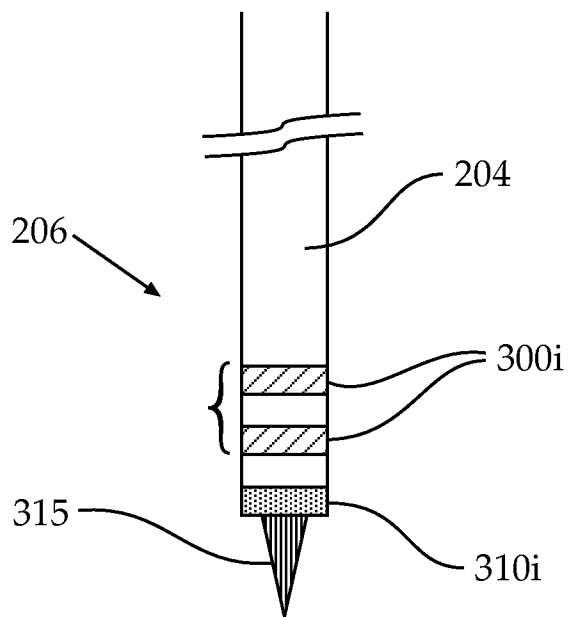


FIG. 18A

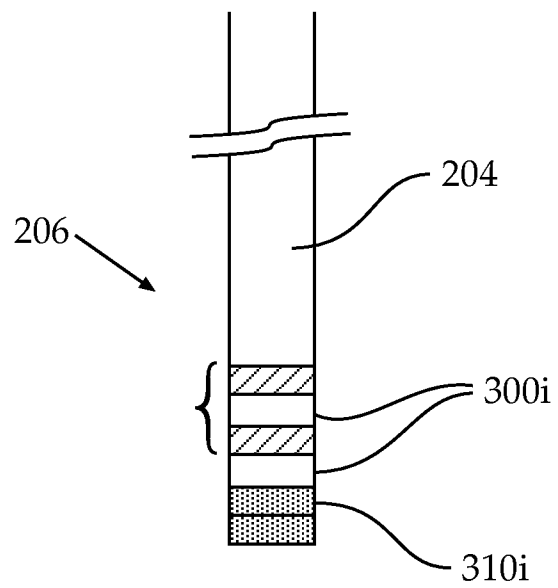


FIG. 18A

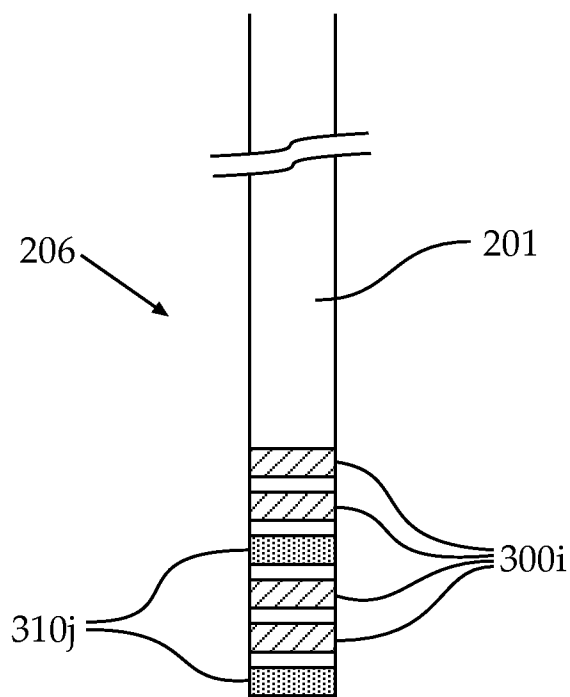


FIG. 19

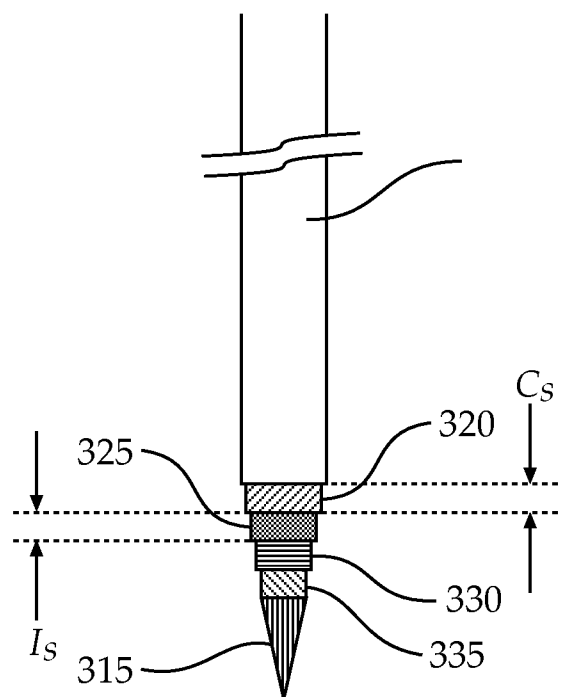


FIG. 20

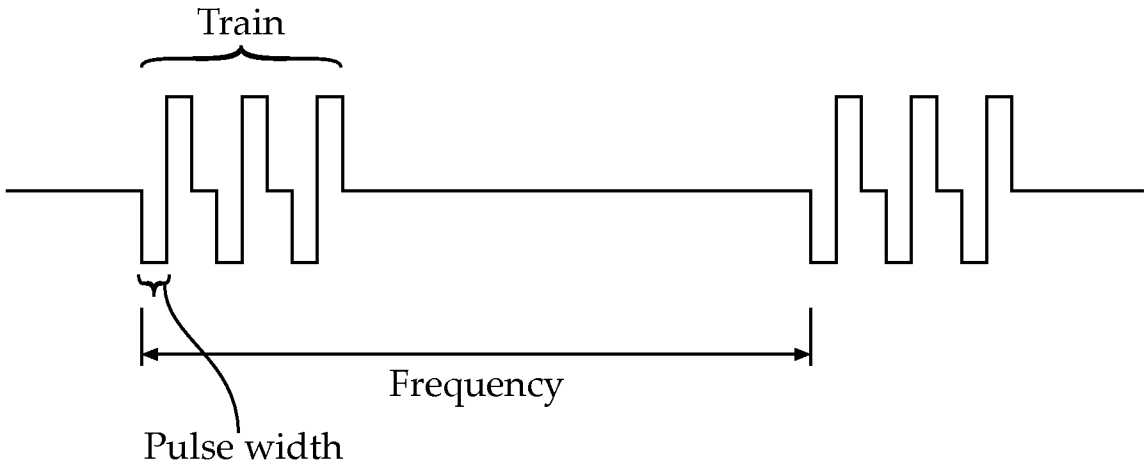


FIG. 21

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 15/48169

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61B 19/00; A61F 5/37 (2015.01)

CPC - A61B 19/08

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)

CPC: A61B 19/08 IPC(8): A61B 19/00; A61F 5/37 (2015.01)

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

USPC: 600/383, 386, 388, 389, 393; 607/152; 128/852, 853, 849

CPC: A61B 19/10 (keyword limited; terms below)

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

PatBase; Google Patents; Google

Search Terms Used: surgical, drape\$, sheet%, covering, peel*, remov*, tab%, strip%, extend%, resilient*, shape memory, niti, nitinol, electrode%, lead%, wire%, drapery, individual, separate, laminated, built in, sterile, barrier, skull, cap, brain, neuro

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,840,117 B2 (HUBBARD JR.) 11 January 2005 (11.01.2005) fig 2, 4, 5, 10, col 2, ln 56-58, col 3, ln 14-25, col 3, ln 56-59, col 4, ln 66 to col 5, ln 11, col 5, ln 48 to col 6, ln 35	1-2, 4-5
Y		6
A		3
Y	WO 2008/054312 A1 (MOELNLYCKE HEALTH CARE AB) 08 May 2008 (08.05.2008) fig 2, pg 5, ln 22-25	6
A	US 3,263,680 A (BURTON) 02 August 1966 (02.08.1966) col 1, ln 52-69	3
A	US 2010/0036230 A1 (GREENE et al) 11 February 2010 (11.02.2010) entire document	1-6
A	US 6,102,044 A (NAIDYHORSKI) 15 August 2000 (15.08.2000) entire document	1-6
A	US 2005/0267356 A1 (KUHNER) 01 December 2005 (01.12.2005) entire document	1-6

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.


* 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 application or patent 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

15 December 2015

Date of mailing of the international search report

09 FEB. 2016

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. 571-273-8300

Authorized officer:

Lee W. Young

PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300

PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 15/48169

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.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

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:
This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I: Claims 1-6, directed to a surgical drape.

Group II: Claim 7 directed to a method of obtaining electrophysiological signal from an area of interest on a patient in need thereof.

Group III: Claims 8-14, directed to a method and apparatus for mapping a plurality of physiologically functional brain regions in a subject

Group IV: Claims 15-20, directed to a method and apparatus for mapping of functional brain region in a subject.

----Continued on Supplemental Page----

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 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.:
1-6

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.

Continuation of Box III: Observations where unity of invention is lacking

The inventions listed as Groups I-IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

SPECIAL TECHNICAL FEATURES

The invention of Group II includes the special technical feature of a method of obtaining electrophysiological signal from an area of interest on a patient in need thereof, the method comprising:
fenestrating the film thereby exposing the area of interest, whereby at least one of the redundant leads remains coupled to at least one electrode in contact with the area of interest;
and c. activating the signal processor, obtaining a signal, not required by Groups I or III.

The invention of Group III includes the special technical feature of an electrode operable for stimulating physiological evoked response or recording evoked response; and
c. an analysis module operative for providing segmentation of the brain into a plurality of physiologically active brain regions, the analysis module being in communication with the electrode or probe recording the physiological response, not required by the claims of Groups I-II or IV.

The invention of Group IV includes the special technical feature of a plurality of electrode contacts, configured to selectively provide localized stimulation between at least two of the plurality of contacts, differentially measure local field potential between at least two of the plurality of contacts, short at least two of the plurality of contacts, or a combination comprising one or more of the foregoing, not required by the claims of groups I-III.

COMMON TECHNICAL FEATURES

Groups I and II are related as an apparatus (group I) and a method of using the apparatus (group II). The inventions of Groups I-II share the technical features of Claim 1. The apparatus is known in the prior art, as shown in US 6,840,117 B2 (HUBBARD JR.).

Regarding claim 1, Hubbard Jr. discloses a surgical drape comprising:

- a. a film (12) having an upper surface area (42) and a lower surface area (44, fig 2, col 4, ln 66 to col 5, ln 11), the film configured to provide a sterile barrier between the upper surface and lower surface (intended use, olefin film acts as a barrier);
- b. a plurality of electrodes (60 through 60-8) operably coupled to said film (fig 4, 5, col 5, ln 48-57; claim 17 identifies conductors as electrodes), wherein at least one of said plurality of electrodes being in contact with a subject's organ (intended use, device capable of being in contact with a patient);
- c. optionally, a locator coupled to the upper surface, the lower surface or both the upper surface and the lower surface (not taught); and
- d. optionally, a sensor, a transducer (20), or their combination operably coupled to the film (fig 1, col 3, ln 56-59), wherein each of the plurality of electrodes having redundant number of leads (62) connecting the electrode to a signal processor (fig 5, col 6, ln 25-35).

Groups I and III also share the common technical features of an electrode. However, this shared technical feature does not represent a contribution over prior art as being anticipated by Hubbard Jr., which teaches an electrode (claim 17).

As the common technical features were known in the art at the time of the invention, these cannot be considered special technical feature that would otherwise unify the groups.

Therefore, Groups I-IV lack unity under PCT Rule 13 because they do not share a same or corresponding special technical feature.