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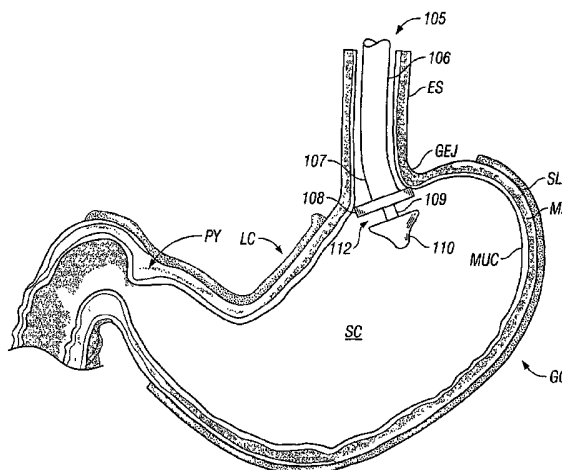
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(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR USE IN ENDOSCOPIC ORGAN PROCEDURES



(57) Abstract: Methods and devices for use in tissue approximation and fixation are described herein. The present invention provides, in part, methods and devices for acquiring tissue folds in a circumferential configuration within a hollow body organ, e.g., a stomach, positioning the tissue folds for affixing within a fixation zone of the stomach, preferably to create a pouch or partition below the esophagus, and fastening the tissue folds such that a tissue ring, or stoma, forms excluding the pouch from the greater stomach cavity. The present invention further provides for a liner or bypass conduit which is affixed at a proximal end either to the tissue ring or through some other fastening mechanism. The distal end of the conduit is left either unanchored or anchored within the intestinal tract. This bypass conduit also includes a fluid bypass conduit which allows the stomach and a portion of the intestinal tract to communicate.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61M 11/00, 5/00, 31/00; A61B 17/08, 19/00; A61F 2/04
US CL : 606/108, 153; 604/8, 9, 264, 527; 623/23.65, 23.71; 128/898

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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : Please See Continuation Sheet

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

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
East: gastric bypass; gastroplasty; stomach bypass; stomach reduction

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4,716,900 A (RAVO et al.) 05 January 1998 (05.01.1998), See entire document.	1-81
X	US 5,306,300 A (BERRY) 26 April 1994 (26.04.1994), See entire document.	1, 4,6-8,16-23,18-30,40-42,75-81
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Y		2,3,9-15,24-27,31-39,43-61
Y	US 5,458,131 A (WILK) 17 October 1995 (17.10.1995), See entire document.	28-61
X	US 5,820,584 A (CRABB) 13 October 1998 (13.10.1998), See entire document.	1,4,6-8,16-23,28-30,40-42,75-81
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Y		2,3,9-15,24-27,31-39,43-61
Y	US 5,676,659 A (McGURK) 14 October 1997 (14.10.1997), See entire document.	2,3,24-27



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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"E"	earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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
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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 1:

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