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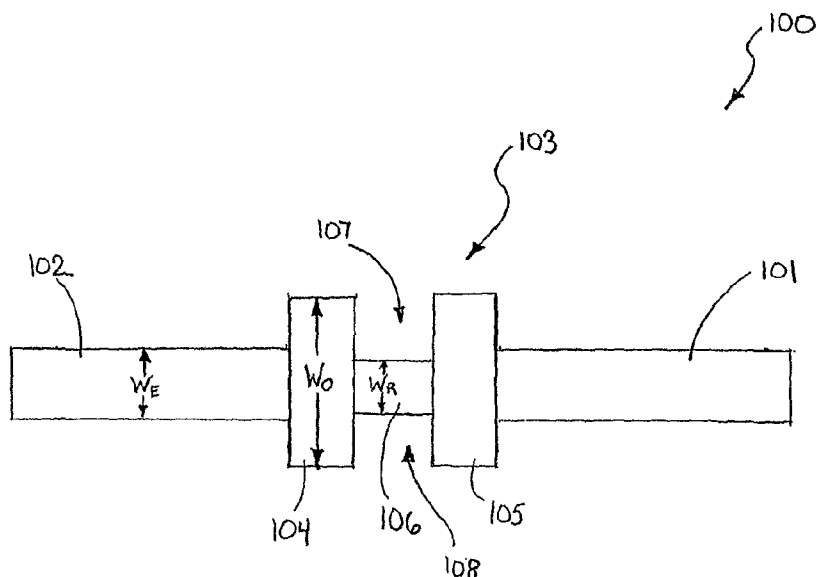
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(54) Title: SLING FOR SUPPORTING AND OCCLUDING A TISSUE AND METHOD OF USING THE SAME



(57) Abstract: A method and sling for supporting a tissue or other lumen in a body. When the sling is used to support the urethra of a female, it is effective in treating urinary incontinence. In one embodiment, the invention is a sling comprising a first end portion and a second end portion; and a support section intermediate the first and second end portions for supporting a tissue (preferably a urethra), the support section having first and second occluding portions and a relief portion intermediate the first and second occluding portions. In another aspect, the invention is a method of using the sling to support and occlude a urethra.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A41C 3/00, 1/06; A41F 1/00, 3/02, 5/00 (2007.01)

USPC - 450/6, 10; 2/336, 338; 602/4,6

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)

IPC(8) - A61C 3/08; A61F 3/02, 19/00, 5/00 (2007.01)

USPC - 450/31; 2/340, 341; 602/21, 22

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)

USPTO EAST System (US, USPG-PUB, EPO, DERWENT), MicroPatent, IP.com, DialogPro

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,514,120 B1 (HASS) 04 February 2003 (04.02.2003) entire document	1-2, 6-7, 9, 16-18
Y		3-5, 8, 10-15, 19-20
Y	US 2002/0138025 A1 (GELLMAN et al) 26 September 2002 (26.09.2002) entire document	3-5, 8, 10-15, 19-20
A	US 2002/0072694 A1 (SNITKIN et al) 13 June 2002 (13.06.2002) entire document	1-20
A	US 5,820,444 A (MCGAUGHEY) 13 October 1998 (13.10.1998) entire document	1-20

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