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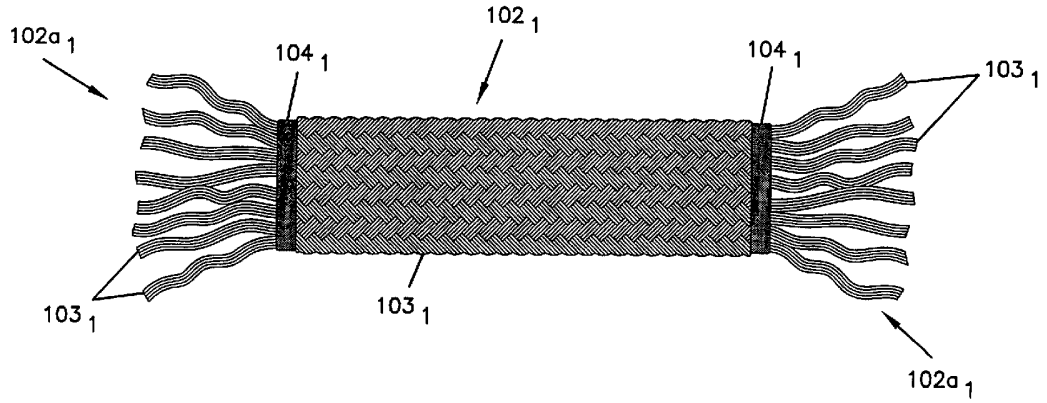
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1 May 2003

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: BRAIDED PALATAL IMPLANT FOR SNORING TREATMENT



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for treating snoring of a patient includes providing an implant (102) for altering a dynamic response of a soft palate (SP) of the patient to airflow past the soft palate. The implant is embedded in the soft palate to alter the dynamic response. The implant has multiple fibers (103) braided along a length of the implant. The braid includes unbonded ends and/or air-textured yarns.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte nal Application No
PCT/US 02/07966

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61F5/56

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 7 A61F

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 practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	US 2001/054428 A1 (KNUDSON MARK B ET AL) 27 December 2001 (2001-12-27) figures 40,41 page 7, paragraph 109 ---	8-11
A	US 5 176 618 A (FREEDMAN GEORGE) 5 January 1993 (1993-01-05) figure 1 column 5, line 67 -column 6, line 3 ---	8-21
A	WO 98 23233 A (CHRAP R P LTD ;GINDIS ROMAN (IL)) 4 June 1998 (1998-06-04) figure 3 page 1, line 1 - line 7 ---	8-21
A	US 5 979 456 A (MAGOVERN GEORGE J) 9 November 1999 (1999-11-09) claim 5 ---	8-21

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
23 October 2002	08/11/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Josten, S

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte al Application No
PCT/US 02/07966

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication,where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 669 459 A (PASKOW HERBERT ET AL) 2 June 1987 (1987-06-02) figure 1 claim 1 -----	8-21

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 02/07966

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 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. [X] Claims Nos.: 1-7
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery

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 II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

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 an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

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.:

Remark on Protest

[ ] The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

[ ] No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/US 02/07966

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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