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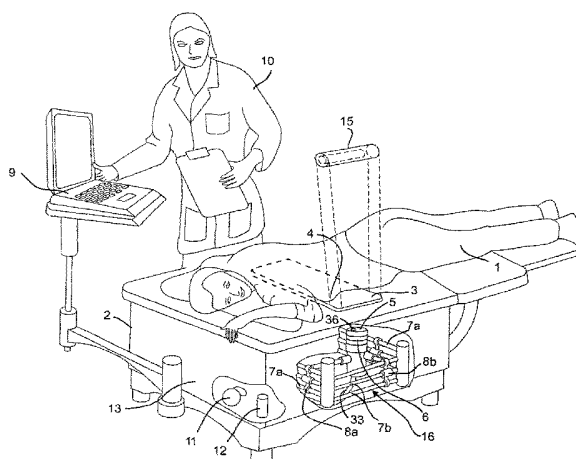
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR DIAGNOSING BREAST-CANCER INCLUDING EXAMINATION TABLE



(57) Abstract: A microwave breast cancer imaging method that includes an examination table (2) that is both comfortable and reliable is provided that includes a support system and an orientation system such that breasts (4) can remain in a fixed position to allow for scanning. A horizontal microwave and optically transparent scan plate (3) forms part of the top of the examination table (2). The imprint of the breasts (4) on the scan plate (3) may be visually displayed to aid in the orienting of each breast (4) such that all volumes within the breast (4) are scanned. Microwave power is then scanned upward through the scan plate (3) to develop a microwave response that is indicative of the presence of a lesion. After scanning, the visual imprint of the breast (4) is recorded. As needed, microwave equipment can be included within a microwave shielded enclosure (16) that also forms part of the scan table (2).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/25139

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 5/00
US CL : 600/407,425,430

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. : 600/407,425,430; 5/601

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	US 6,470,217 A (FENN et al) 22 October 2002, see entire document	46,49,52,53
X	US 5,983,124 A (CARR) 09 November 1999, see entire document	1,6,17-20,22-27,46,48,49,51-53
A	US 5,841,288 A (MEANEY et al) 24 November 1998, see entire document	1-53

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

☐ See patent family annex.

* 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 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

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claim Nos.: 12-16
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:
The claims are vague and indefinite in that many of the terms lacks antecedent basis.
3. ☐ Claim 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.