**Title:** APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR TREATING FEMALE URINARY INCONTINENCE

**Abstract:** Apparatus (20) and methods are provided for treating female urinary incontinence by applying a form of energy to tissue in the vicinity of the urethra and/or bladder outlet to change tissue compliance without substantially narrowing the urethral and/or bladder outlet lumen. The apparatus (20) comprises an elongated shaft (22) having a means (41-44) for treating urethral tissue and an expandable member (55) deployable distal of the means for treating. The expandable member is configured to be anchored against the bladder outlet to dispose the means for treating at a desired treatment site in the urethra using only tactile feedback. The means for treating may include a needleless RF electrode, an ultrasound transducer, or a cryogenic probe configured to be advanced through a hollow needle.
Published:
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(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 1 July 2004

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.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : A61B 18/18
US CL : 607/10
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)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X,P</td>
<td>US 6,463,331 B1 (EDWARDS) 08 October 2002 (08.10.2002), col. 5, line 57-col. 7, line 13; col.11, line 45-col. 13, line 13; Figs. 3, 8A, 8B.</td>
<td>1-2, 8-10, 12, 18, 19, 22-23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y,P</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>3-5, 13, 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 6,254,598 B1 (EDWARDS et al) 03 July 2001 (03.07.2001), whole document.</td>
<td>3-5, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,957,920 A (BAKER) 28 September 1999 (28.11.1999), whole document.</td>
<td>1-23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 10 November 2003 (10.11.2003)

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