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Place, Arnold, MD 21012 (US). **CORTEZ, Felino, V., Jr.**
[US/US]; 14805 Arabian Lane, Bowie, MD 20715 (US).

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(74) Agents: **COHEN, Joshua, L.** et al.; Ratner & Prestia,
301 Westlakes (Berwyn), P.O. Box 980, Valley Forge, PA
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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*):
VAPOTHERM, INC. [US/US]; 163 Conduit Street,
Annapolis, MD 21401 (US).

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(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **SCHROEDER,**
Gary [US/US]; 24 Seasons Lane, Londonderry, NH 03053
(US). **TEN BROECK, Dirk** [US/US]; 35 Taschereau
Boulevard, Nashua, NH 03062 (US). **BAMFORD, Owen,**
S. [GB/US]; 9 Coronet Drive, Linthicum Heights, MD
21090 (US). **NILAND, William, F.** [US/US]; 955 Nelson

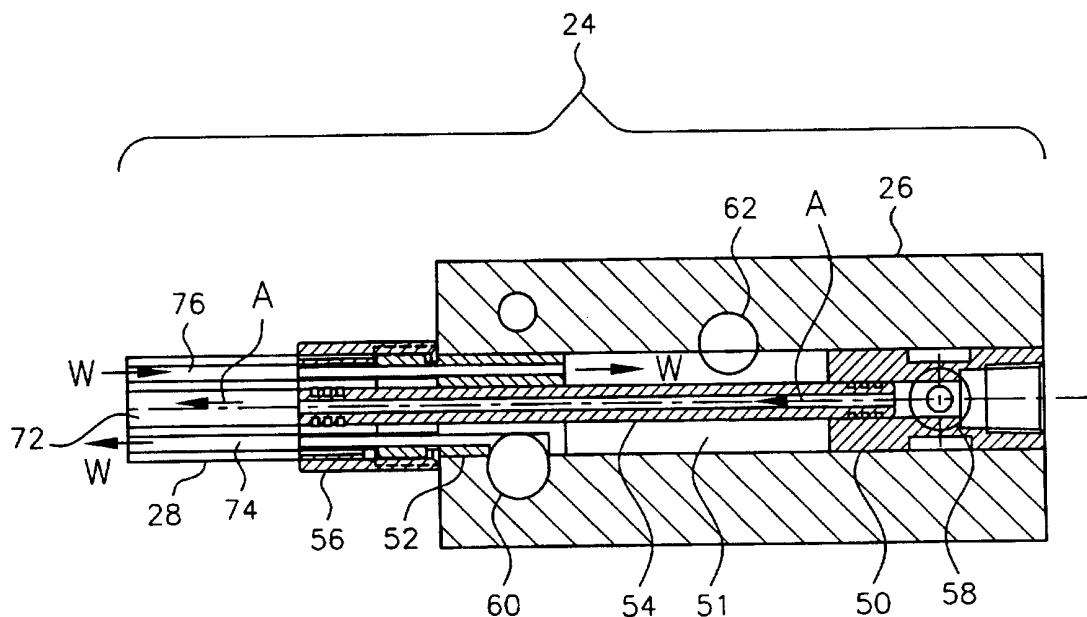
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR RESPIRATORY TRACT THERAPY



(57) Abstract: An apparatus is provided for delivering heated and humidified air to the respiratory tract of a human patient for respiratory tract therapy and treatment. The apparatus includes a supply unit (11) and a delivery tube (28) that can be releasably connected to the supply unit (11). Methods of respiratory tract therapy and treatment are also provided.

WO 01/41854 A3



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

II. International Application No

PCT/US 00/33346

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61M16/08 A61M16/10

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)

IPC 7 A61M

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.
X	US 3 871 373 A (JACKSON RICHARD R) 18 March 1975 (1975-03-18)	40-44, 51
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A	page 3, line 22 -page 4, line 23; figure 1	1
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ 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

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

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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

29 May 2001

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

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

Authorized officer

Zeinsträ, H

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. l. Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 062 913 A (FRESENIUS AG) 20 October 1982 (1982-10-20) page 6, line 10 -page 10, line 12; figures 1,2	26,27, 29,35
A	page 11, line 29 - line 36 ----	33
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A	US 4 324 238 A (GENESE JOSEPH N ET AL) 13 April 1982 (1982-04-13) figure 2 ----	26
X	EP 0 359 531 A (MINNESOTA MINING & MFG) 21 March 1990 (1990-03-21) column 5, line 50 -column 6, line 11; figure 2 ----	26-28, 33,34
A	US 4 372 306 A (GENESE JOSEPH N ET AL) 8 February 1983 (1983-02-08) figure 2 -----	26

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

I. International Application No

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

international application No.
PCT/US 00/33346

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. ☒ Claims Nos.: 36-39, 45-47, 48, 49, 50
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 therapy
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:

see additional sheet

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.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-25, 40-44, 51

Tubing assembly for delivering gas to a patient.

(Problem: heating the gas (see the description at page 3, lines 3-5))

2. Claims: 26-35

Bubble trap.

(Problem: removing air from a circulating liquid (see the description at page 3, lines 13-14))

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

In International Application No

PCT/US 00/33346

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