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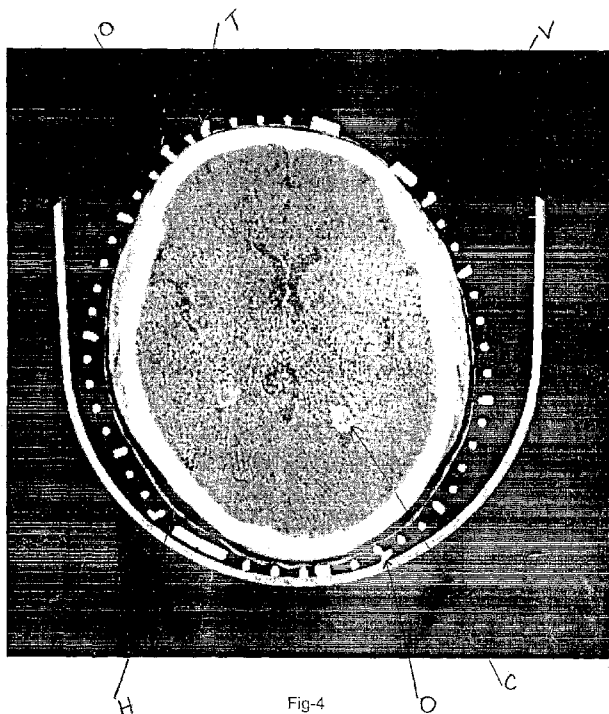
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(54) Title: A NOVEL DEVICE FOR EXTREMELY MARKING THE LOCATION OF ORGANS ON SKIN DURING A CAT SCAN



(57) Abstract: This invention relates to a novel device for marking location of organs on skin as per CAT scan comprising of a sheet having a plurality, of vertical, horizontal and oblique lines wherein the sheet is provided in the form of a mesh. The device of the proposed application can be used for radiotherapy of head to localize point of radiotherapy, for other parts of body to localize/ mark organs on skin after CAT scan and also for surgery of Brain to localize tumors.

TITLE

A novel device for externally marking the location of organs on skin during a CAT scan.

FIELD OF INVENTION

This invention relates to a novel device for externally marking the location of organs on skin during a CAT scan.

BACKGROUND/PRIOR ART OF INVENTION

In today's medical world Computerized Tomography scanning (a CT or CAT scan) is known to be very common investigation procedure, which provides a cross sectional view of the body. CAT scans are used to locate organs and anatomical features or abnormalities such as lesions and tumors within the organs. Conventional X-ray generates only two dimensional flat view of organs. However, use of a CAT scan provides for viewing of organs in three dimensional form as well.

For planning a medical procedure such as surgical operation or radiation therapy, identifying the location of anatomical features such as organs, defects, lesions or tumors by reference to a location on the surface of the body (skin) is very important.

There are several methods for marking the location of organs externally on skin. The oldest and most common method involves identifying body landmarks from which the distance to organs is calculated, followed by marking the location. However such method has its own possibility of errors.

Another method involves the use of radio-opaque markings on skin followed by CAT scan. However, it may need multiple scan to delineate an organ with the possibilities of errors. This is because the exact position of the organ cannot be located accurately just by placing the marker randomly. Thus, there are fair chances of involvement of the errors.

Another method involves carrying out the CAT scan with sheets comprising of oblique radio-opaque lines. In this method, the resultant image must be processed through a special computer program and translated on to specialized equipment called stereo-tactic device. Thus, the drawback associated with this method include that it requires special computer program and stereo-tactic frame (equipment), which is very expensive and requires special training.

Hence, there is a need to develop a novel device for marking location of organs on skin as per CAT scan to assist medical persons, which can address the aforesaid problems. In particular, such devices should not require the use of expensive specialized equipment so that it is more readily available. The device and method should also result in accurate and reproducible CAT scans. With the help of this device a medical person can easily mark on skin location of organs as per CAT scan.

OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

The primary object of the present invention is to provide a novel device for externally marking the location of organs on skin during a CAT scan.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a novel device for externally marking the location of organs on skin during a CAT scan which is efficient and reliable.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to this invention, there is provided a novel device for marking on skin the location of organs and anatomical features identified in a CAT scan. The device is a flexible sheet having a plurality of lines wherein the sheet comprises an x-ray opaque material, for example

barium sulphate, and is provided in the form of a mesh. The sheet can be made of soft bendable plastic such as low density polyethylene. The lines can be a series of vertical, horizontal and/or oblique lines. The vertical lines and/or the oblique lines may be thicker than the horizontal lines. The vertical lines can be arranged in a pattern of thick and thin lines at regular intervals, for example every fifth vertical line can be thicker than the intervening vertical lines. The x-ray opaque material may be impregnated within or coated on the flexible sheet.

This invention also discloses another type of craniomapper, which is called craniomapper coronal. This is used for obtaining coronal section. So that, location of lesions in vertex area can be marked.

The invention is also a method of identifying the location of an internal anatomical feature during a CAT scan comprising placing the flexible sheet on a surface of the body, performing the CAT scan; identifying the internal anatomical feature to be located; and identifying the location of the anatomical feature by reference to the position on the flexible sheet.

The anatomical feature can be, for example, an organ, a defect, a lesion or a tumor. The surface of the body to which the sheet is applied can be the head.

The invention thus provides a device for marking location of organs on skin as per CAT scan which is simple to use by common medical persons.

The invention has the advantage of marking location of organs on skin as per CAT scan which is cost effective. In addition, the device is easy to use and convenient to manufacture.

STATEMENT OF INVENTION

According to this invention, there is provided a device for identifying the location of internal anatomical features by externally marking on skin during a CAT scan comprising a flexible sheet having a plurality of lines wherein the sheet comprises an x-ray opaque material and is provided in the form of a mesh.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCOMPANYING DRAWINGS

Further objects and advantages of this invention will be more apparent from the ensuing description when read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings indicating exemplary embodiments of the present invention and wherein:

Fig. 1 shows a front view of device according to an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 2 shows a horizontal cross section of device according to an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 3 shows a vertical cross section of device according to an embodiment of the invention.

Fig. 4 illustrates a CAT scan of a head obtained with the device on both sides.

Fig. 5: shows: CAT scan oblique to line of the device.

Fig. 6 shows: craniomapper coronal of the present invention.

Fig. 7 shows: CAT scan with craniomapper coronal according to the present invention.

DETAIL DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION WITH REFERENCE TO THE ACCOMPANYING DRAWINGS:-

The invention is directed to a device for marking location of organs on skin used with a CAT scan. In exemplary embodiments, the device can be used for CAT scans of the head, for example for use in for neurosurgery. As shown in Fig. 1, the device is made of flexible material, such as a plastic, although other suitable materials readily apparent to persons skilled in the art may be used. The flexible material is impregnated or coated with a x-ray opaque material such as Barium Sulphate, Bismuth

Subcarbonate, Bismuth oxychloride, Zirconium oxide, wherein Barium Sulphate is most commonly used material. The invention is not restricted to the use of examples given and other x-ray opaque materials used in the art are understood to be within the scope of the invention. An exemplary flexible material is any bendable or soft plastic such as Low Density Polyethylene. In an exemplary method of making the inventive device x-ray opaque heavy metal substance, such as Barium Sulphate, can be impregnated into the flexible material by mixing with the plastic prior to molding in order to impart radio-opacity. In other embodiments, the x-ray opaque material is coated onto the flexible material after molding.

In one embodiment, the device provides a mesh that creates a plurality of horizontal lines, vertical lines and oblique lines. According to an exemplary embodiment, the horizontal lines (indicated in the figures with letters A-L) are evenly spaced and relatively thin. The vertical lines (indicated with numbering) are also evenly spaced and are thicker than the horizontal lines. To improve the ability to define reference points in the scans resulting from use of the device, thicker vertical lines can be created in regular intervals. For example, in the exemplary embodiment shown in Figs. 1-3, every fifth vertical line is thicker than intervening four lines. For example, the vertical lines can be spaced at 1 cm intervals and the thicker lines spaced at five cm intervals. Oblique lines can also

be present and as illustrated can be provided as thicker lines (relative to the horizontal lines), similar in thickness to the vertical lines. Other patterns can be created that provide accurate regular placement of the reference device. For example, oblique lines may be of different angles and various patterns of thin and thick lines used. Any pattern that improves marking and identifying of location in the CAT scan may be utilized.

As also shown in Figs. 1-3, the device can be rectangular with band. However, other shapes such as circular or elliptical can be used. Various shapes may be used for application to different parts of the body. As illustrated, the device is essentially flat. However, the invention is not limited to such a flat device and can be molded in any suitable shape depending on use and application.

In use, the device is applied externally to the location of body where the CAT scan will be obtained, for example around a head, before taking the CAT scan. Marking accuracy of this device is in the range of +/- 5mm.

A CAT scan taken while utilizing the device according to the invention is illustrated in Fig. 4 indicating the following:-

1. Oblique line (O)
2. Thick vertical line (T)
3. Vertical Line (V)
4. Horizontal line (H)
5. Oblique line (O)
6. Calcified choroid plexus (C).

As can be seen, the identifying and marking of a location is apparent and very easy. The position of the oblique lines (O) indicate vertical position and combination of thin vertical lines (V) and thick vertical lines (T) shows horizontal position. Crossing of these two position shows exact location of organ.

For procedures such as surgical & radiotherapy, localizing and marking location of different organs on skin is very important. CAT scan gives rise to a sectional view of organs, but it is difficult to mark location of organs on skin after CAT scan. However, the present invention helps in accurately localizing and marking the organs visible in CAT Scan.

Device of the instant invention is made of a radio-opaque grid. This grid is visible in CAT scan as dots in a circular manner around the head. The dots are small for each 1cm and bigger for each 5cm distance. Further, there is a plurality of dots inside the circle of dots. These dots are of

oblique lines. Dots of oblique lines show vertical position. Position of dot of oblique line indicates vertical position of slice. Sometimes the CAT scan may be oblique to line of the device. In this case, vertical position of anterior part and posterior part will be different as shown in fig. 5 indicating the following:-

1. Points of oblique line -P
2. Division of 5-D.
3. Level A-A
4. Level B-B.
5. Level C- C.

Instructions for application of device

1. Apply the device around the head.
2. Thread hook & loop fastener (or other suitable fastener) through the hole.
3. Lightly tighten it and press against itself to lock it.
4. On the front side it should be at the level of lower ridge of frontal bone.
5. In the middle it should rest on the ear lobule.
6. To correlate precisely position of device may be marked on skin.
7. Frontal and side marking.

The above describes craniomapper transverse which is used for transverse section of skull, wherein top of skull is not well defined. Only front, back and sides of skull are covered. Lesions present in vertex area of skull are not visible clearly in the transverse CR scan. To visualize this area, coronal section is required. Therefore, another type of craniomapper is provided, which is called craniomapper coronal. This is used for marking location of lesions in vertex area.

Said craniomapper coronal is also made of radio-opaque grid. Reference may be made to fig. 6, wherein the craniomapper coronal is same as craniomapper transverse in terms of construction. However, a cut is provided at two ends for resting on the ears while using.

In said craniomapper coronal, top of skull and sides are well defined, wherein the slices are cut by CT scan parallel to face.

Further, the craniomapper is provided with a plurality of bands as shown in fig. 6. The bands comprising of back head band and shape band.

Instructions for application of Craniomapper coronal

- Apply the craniomapper on the head covering top and sides of head.

- Snap join back head band.
- Thread hook and loop fastener through the buckle and fastener
- Join shape band on the front and back side to maintain shape of craniomapper
- On the front side, measure the height of sides of craniomapper from tip of nose with a special scale.
- Make sure to keep position of craniomapper from lobule of ear identical on both sides of head.
- To correlate precisely, position of craniomapper may be marked on side.

Now, reference may be made to fig. 7 indicating CAT scan using the craniomapper coronal, wherein, division of 5 (D) and lines indicating level of section (L₁) are shown.

This grid is visible in CAT scan as dots in a circle around the head. The dots are small for each 1 cm and bigger for each 5 cm distance. There are lines between the dots. These lines change position in each section.

Each picture of CT scan is a 2 dimensional picture. Position of lines between dots quantify third dimension. It implies that, in a two dimensional picture third dimension is also present.

Application

- For radiotherapy of head, the point of radiotherapy is localized.
- For other parts of body: Localization/marketing of organs on skin after CAT scan. For ex: fixing the device on chest to mark and localize lung tumors on skin. Here, the device is fixed on body by means of adhesive tapes. Its position is marked on skin with a marker. So that, correlation can be done after CAT Scan.
- For surgery of Brain to localize tumors:

The device helps in exact localization of pathology during surgery.

It is to be noted that the present invention is susceptible to modifications, adaptations and changes by those skilled in the art. Such variant embodiments employing the concepts and features of this invention are intended to be within the scope of the present invention, which is further set forth under the claims that follow.

I CLAIM:

1. A device for identifying the location of internal anatomical features by externally marking on skin during a CAT scan comprising a flexible sheet having a plurality of lines wherein the sheet comprises an x-ray opaque material and is provided in the form of a mesh.
2. The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sheet is made of soft bendable plastic.
3. The device as claimed in claim 1, comprising vertical and horizontal lines.
4. The device as claimed in claim 3, further comprising oblique lines.
5. The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the vertical lines are thicker than the horizontal lines.
6. The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the oblique lines are thicker than the horizontal lines.
7. The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the vertical lines are arranged in a pattern of thick and thin lines at regular intervals.
8. The device as claimed in claim 7, wherein every fifth vertical line is thicker than the intervening vertical lines.
9. The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the x-ray opaque material is impregnated within the flexible sheet.

10. The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the x-ray opaque material is coated on the flexible sheet.
11. The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the x-ray opaque material is such as barium sulphate.
12. The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the soft bendable plastic comprises low density polyethylene.
13. The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the flexible sheet is provided with a cut at both ends for resting on ears while using on the head and sides.
14. The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein a plurality of bands comprising of back head band and shape band is provided.
15. A method of identifying the location of an internal anatomical feature during a CAT scan comprising:
 - placing a flexible sheet comprising a plurality of lines and a x-ray opaque material and in the form of a mesh on a surface of the body;
 - performing a CAT scan on the body;
 - identifying the internal anatomical feature to be located; and
 - identifying the location of the anatomical feature by reference to the position on the flexible sheet.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the anatomical feature is an organ, a defect, a lesion or a tumor.
17. The method of claim 15, wherein the surface of the body is a head for example.

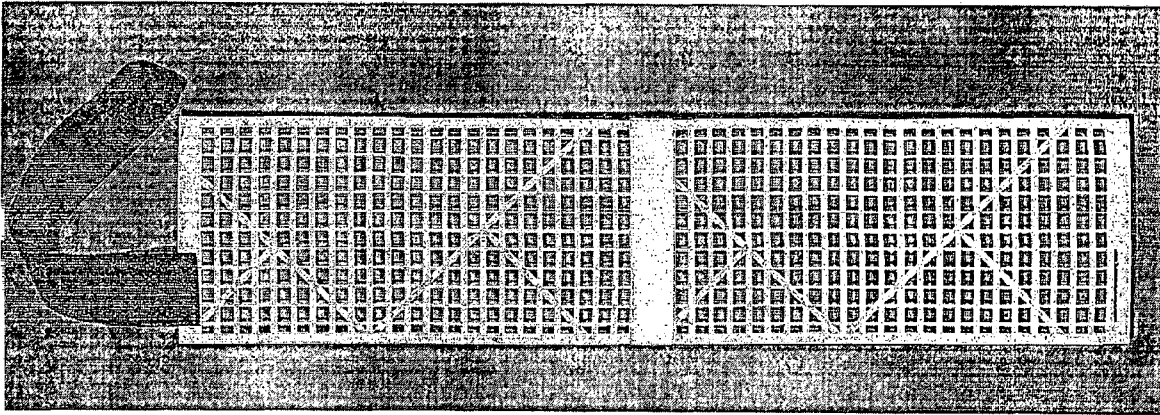


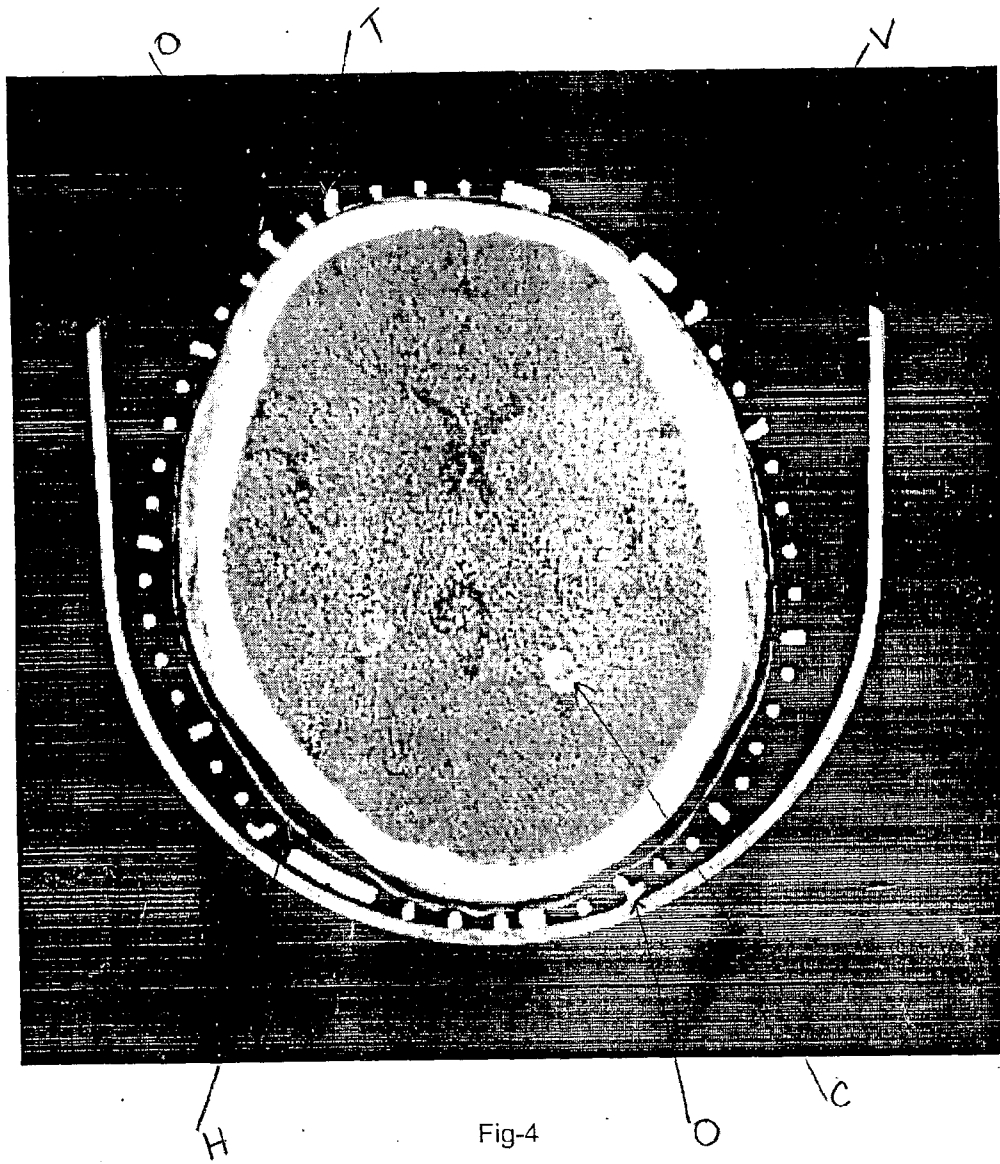
Fig-1



Fig-2



Fig-3



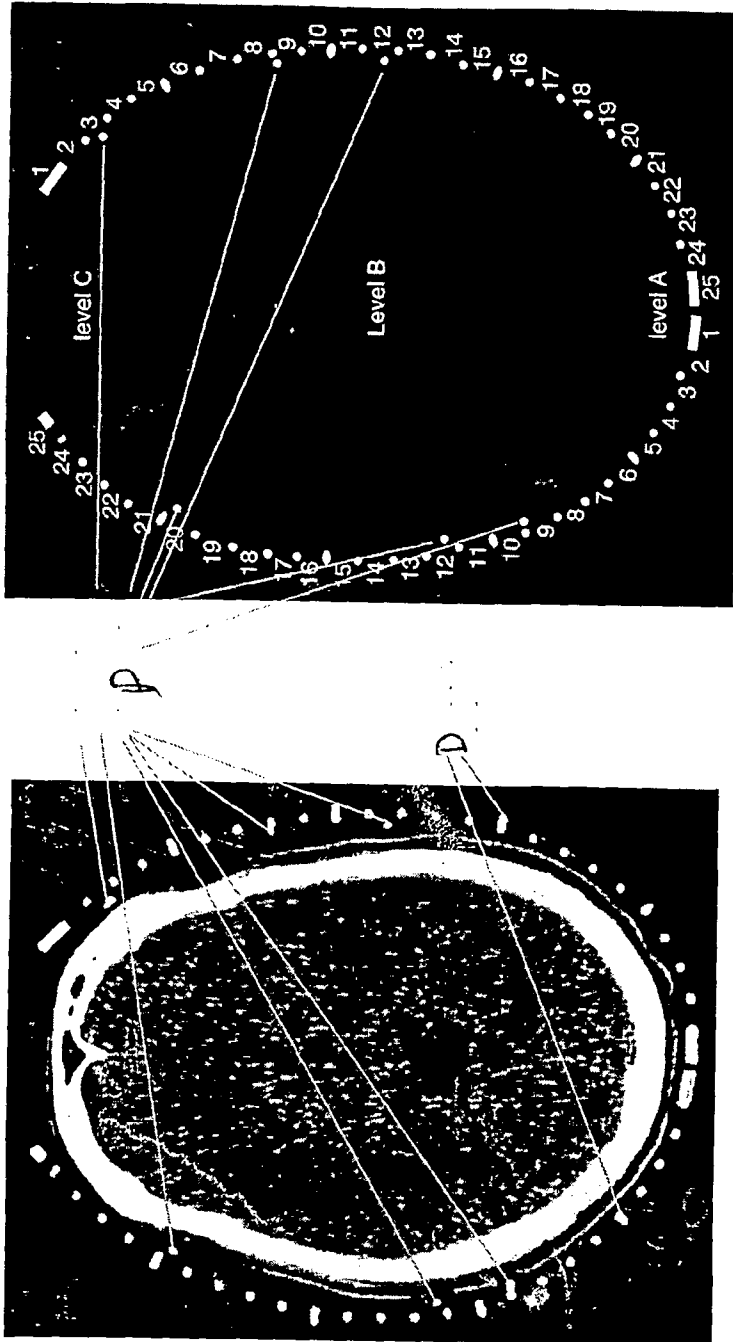


Fig-5

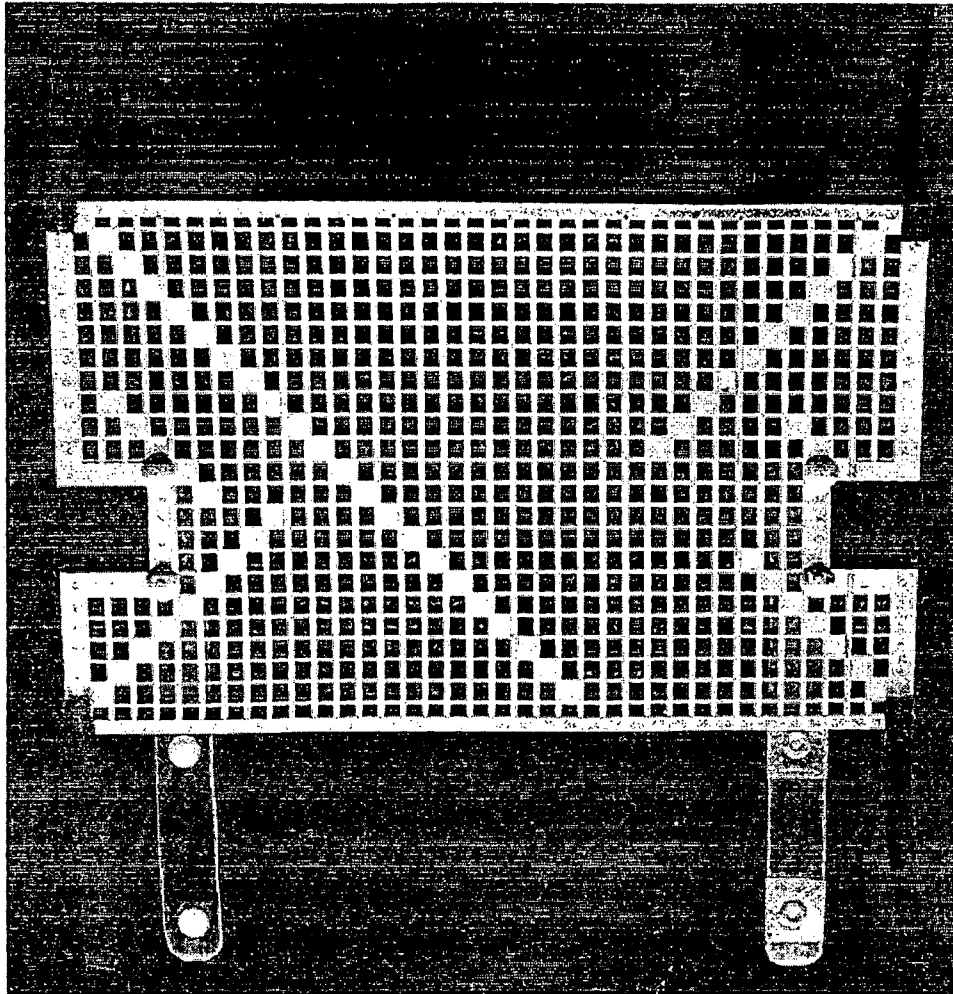


Fig-6

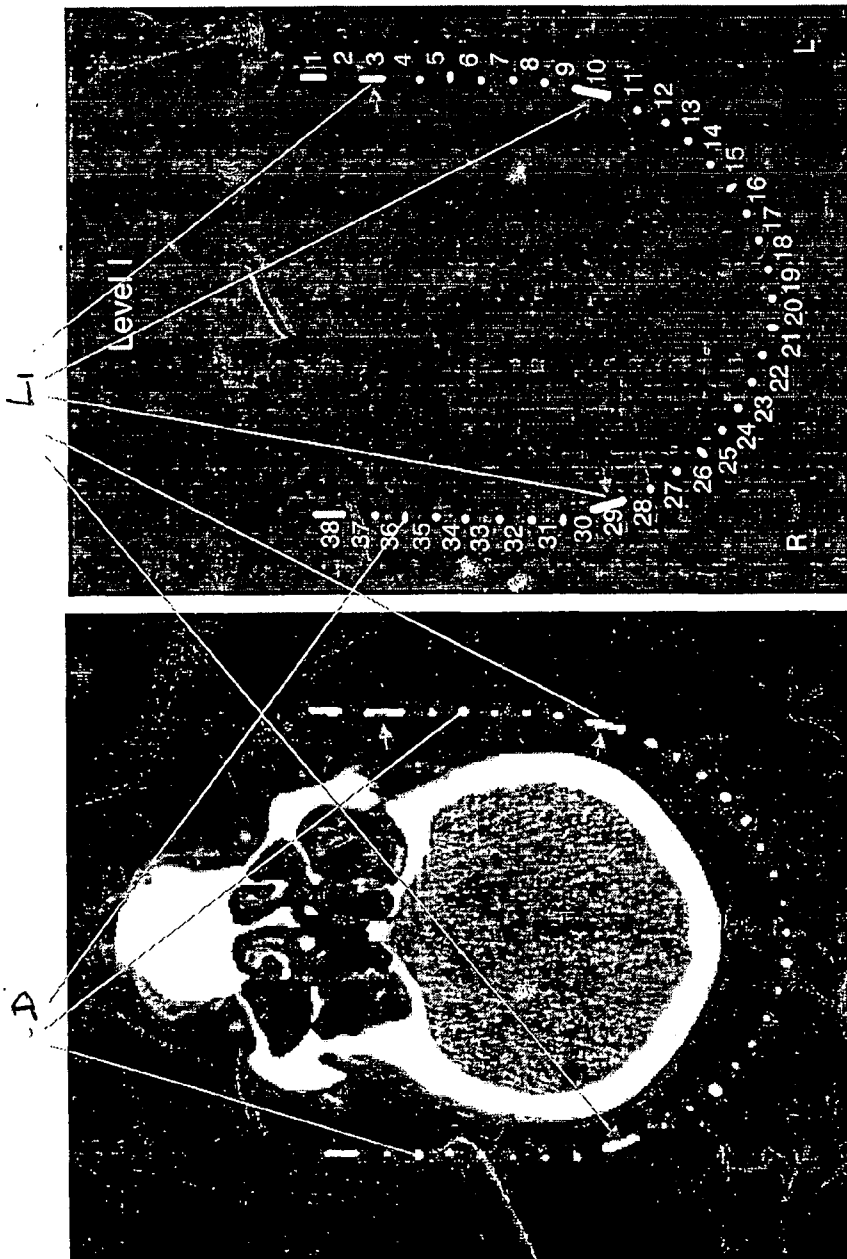


Fig-7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/IN2013/000414

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. A61B6/12 G03B42/04 A61B19/00 ADD.				
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) A61B G03B				
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) EPO-Internal, WPI Data				
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
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<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.</td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.</td> </tr> </table>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 but 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	Date of mailing of the international search report			
20 November 2013	29/11/2013			
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Daoukou, Eleni			

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