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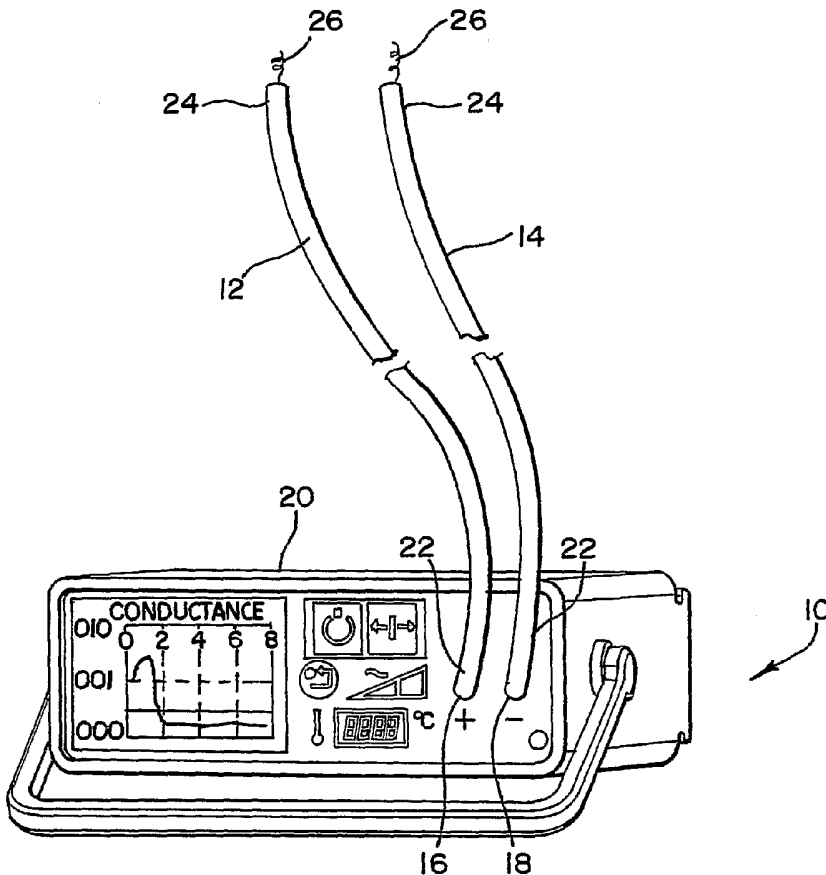
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(54) Title: ELECTRODE AND BIPOLAR ABLATION METHOD USING SAME



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method and apparatus for creating transmural ablations in heart tissue which, for example, may include two or more electrodes adapted to be connected to opposite poles of a bipolar RF generator so as to energize the electrodes to ablate cardiac tissue between the electrodes. A first electrode may be inserted into cardiac tissue at a first location and a second electrode may be inserted into cardiac tissue at a second location which is spaced from the first location. At least one of the electrodes may be adapted to provide a sufficiently low current density in the vicinity of the electrode to avoid substantial tissue desiccation when energized. Alternatively, the apparatus may include at least one bipolar ablation electrode which comprises an elongated conductive member of spiral shape having a pitch sufficiently small to provide sufficient surface area to avoid substantial desiccation of tissue when energized by a bipolar RF generator.

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International application No.

PCT/US05/12419

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC: **A61B 18/18**( 2006.01)

USPC: 606/41

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. : 606/41, 42-50; 607/101,102,105,106,115,116,119

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.
Y	US 6669691 B1(TAIMISTO) 30 December 2003, column 3 line 57 - column 9 line 26.	1-15
Y	US 6497704 B2(EIN-GAL) 24 December 2002, column 7 line 22 - column 12 line 3.	1-15
Y	US 6491689 B1 (ELLIS et al) 10 December 2002, column 5 line 16 - column 15 line 35.	1-15

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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