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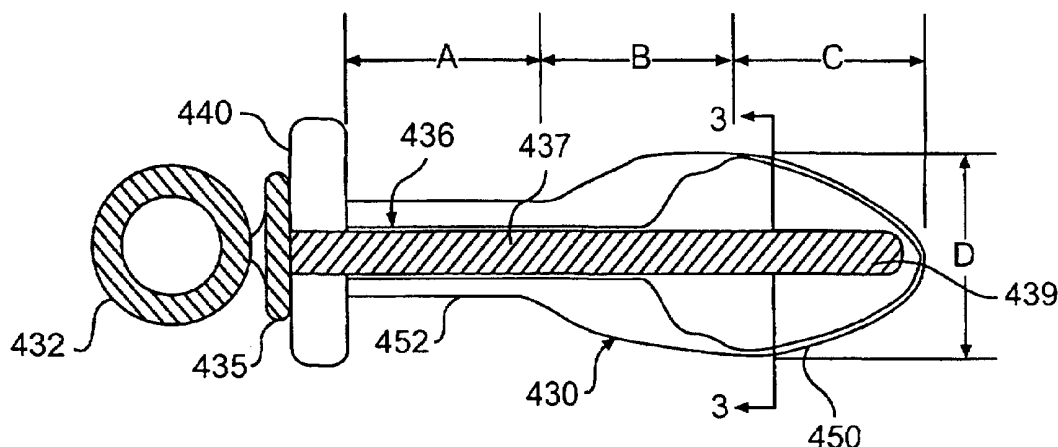
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(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR INTRA-URETHRAL INCONTINENCE



(57) Abstract: An intra-urethral device that can be used to inhibit leakage of urine due to incontinence is provided. The intra-urethral device can include a urethral plug (430) made from a biocompatible, flexible material, and can be formed into an oblong shape so as to better correspond to the contours of the female urinary tract. In some instances, the intra-urethral device can also include an insertion element (436) that can facilitate self-insertion and the ability of a fluid seal to form between the urethral plug (430) and the walls of the urethra. Furthermore, in some instances, various mechanisms can be provided to keep the intra-urethral device substantially sterile throughout the insertion process.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US0107117

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :A61F 2/00

US CL :600/30

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. : 600/29-32; 128 Dig 25

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 5,813,974 A (GUARDIA) 29 September 1998, see entire document.	1-9,15,26-27,35-38
Y,P	US 6,142,928 A (ZUNKER ET AL) 07 November 2000, see entire document.	1-9,15,26-27,35-38



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"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
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
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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	

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