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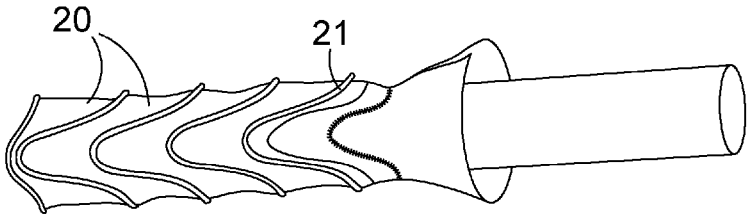

FIG. 2A

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a stent device comprising a sleeve formed with a plurality of compactable spring ring elements (21) arranged along its length, the sleeve having compacted and expanded states. Each said ring element has an undulating profile at the surface of the sleeve so that adjacent ring elements at least partially overlap along the longitudinal extent of the device, the ring elements being compactable against their natural resilience to reduce the outer diameter of the sleeve for allowing housing of the compacted stent device in a frangible sheath, with adjacent ring elements being inter-coupled so as to substantially maintain their axial spacing between the compacted and expanded states.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/GB2019/053239

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61F2/07
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)
A61F

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.
X	EP 3 115 022 A1 (PTMC INST [JP]) 11 January 2017 (2017-01-11) paragraphs [0051] - [0054]; figures 3,4 -----	1-10
X	GB 2 517 689 A (VASCUTEK LTD [GB]) 4 March 2015 (2015-03-04) page 6, line 24 - page 7, line 20; figures 1,2,7 -----	1-10
X	WO 2018/211242 A1 (VASCUTEK LTD [GB]; KOELBEL TILO [DE]) 22 November 2018 (2018-11-22) page 20, line 19 - page 21, line 15; figure 3 -----	1-10

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

[X] 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
16 June 2020	24/06/2020

Name and mailing address of the ISA/	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Espuch, Antonio

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2019/053239

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 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.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

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 No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 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 fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

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 and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

☒ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

☐ 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: 1-10

   stent with adjacent inter coupled elements

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2. claims: 11-14

   stent with soft tip

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 2 491 477 A (VASCUTEK LTD [GB]) 5 December 2012 (2012-12-05) page 14, line 13 - page 15, line 22; figures 1-3	1-10
X	US 2003/176911 A1 (IANCEA OCTAVIAN [US] ET AL) 18 September 2003 (2003-09-18) paragraphs [0076], [0060]; figures 16a,16b	11-14
X	EP 3 323 385 A1 (COOK MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC [US]) 23 May 2018 (2018-05-23) paragraphs [0066] - [0068]; figure 12	11-14
X	WO 2004/017866 A1 (COOK INC [US]; COOK WILLIAM A AUSTRALIA [AU]; COOK WILLIAM EUROP [DK]) 4 March 2004 (2004-03-04) page 6, paragraph 1 - page 7, paragraph 1; figures 1,2	11-14

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
PCT/GB2019/053239

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