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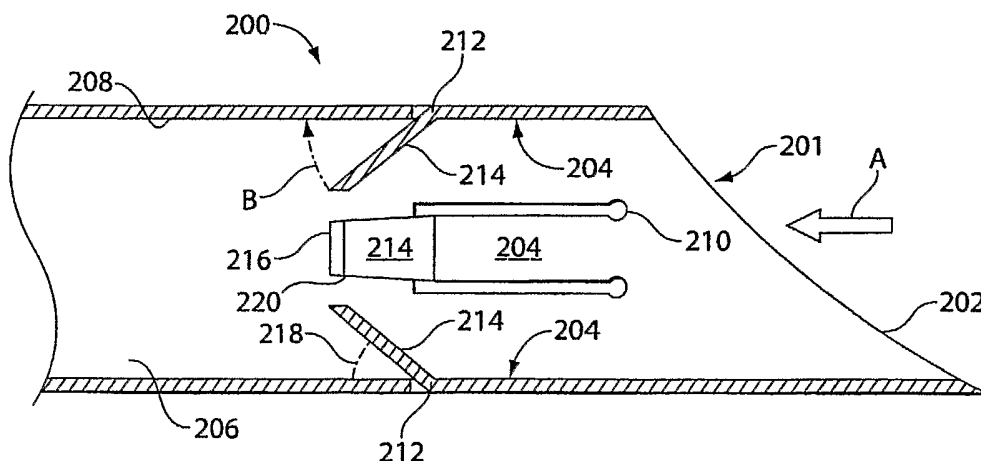
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(54) Title: BIOPSY NEEDLE



(57) Abstract: A biopsy needle includes tissue capture elements within the needle lumen to help hold a tissue sample within the needle and maintain its integrity. According to one aspect, several flexible members form a structure that allows tissue to enter the lumen during advancement of the needle into tissue, and prevents the tissue sample from exiting the needle during retraction of the needle. The flexible members may, in some embodiments, include cutting edges configured to cut the tissue sample from the target tissue mass at the start of needle extraction.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US06/03222

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: A61B 10/00(2006.01),17/32(2006.01)

USPC: 600/562,564,567;606/167,170

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. : 600/562,564,567;606/167,170

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.
X --- Y	US 5,885,226 A (RUBINSTEIN et al) 23 March 1999 (23.03.1999), whole document	1-3, 6-23, 27, 28, 31, 36, 42, 44-51 ----- 4, 5, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 37-41, 43
Y	US 4,651,752 A (FUERST) 24 March 1987 (24.03.1987), whole document	4, 37-39, 43
Y	US 2003/0097079 A1 (GARCIA) 22 May 2003 (22.05.2003), whole document	5
Y	US 5,829,976 A (GREEN) 03 November 1998 (03.11.1998), whole document	25, 26
Y	US 2003/0144605 A1 (BURBANK et al) 31 July 2003 (31.07.2003), whole document	40

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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.
Y	US 6,709,408 B2 (FISHER) 23 March 2004 (23.03.2004), whole document	41
Y	US 6,277,083 B1 (EGGERS et al) 21 August 2001 (21.08.2001), whole document	29