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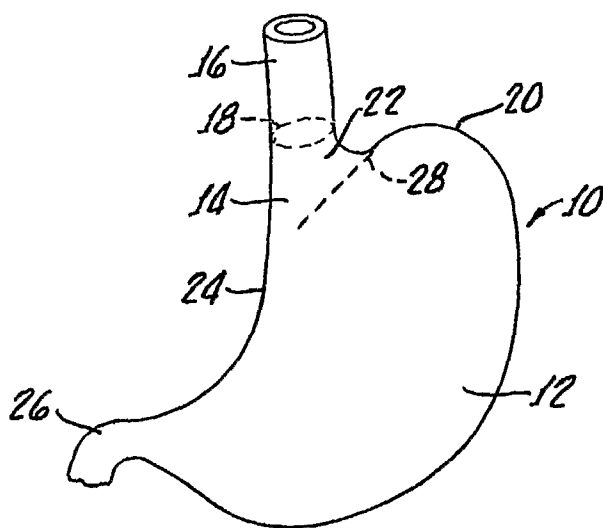
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PARTITIONING AN ORGAN WITHIN THE BODY



(57) Abstract: The preferred methods and devices described herein relate to devices and methods for joining segments of soft tissue together. More particularly this invention relates to partitioning a body cavity or organ by joining together portions of the organ interior walls. This securement is particularly useful in gastric volume reduction surgery whereby the volume of the stomach is reduced by partitioning the stomach into a smaller pouch.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US06/30363

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61B 17/08 (2007.01)

USPC - 606/153

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)

IPC(8) - A61B 17/08 (2007.01)

USPC - 606/119, 120, 138, 142-144, 151-153, 157, 158

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)

USPTO EAST System (US, USPG-PUB, EPO, DERWENT), MicroPatent, IP.com, DialogPro

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2004/0225305 A1 (EWERS et al) 11 November 2004 (11.11.2004) entire document	1-5, 12-14, 21-29
X	US 6,773,440 B2 (GANNOE et al) 10 August 2004 (10.08.2004) entire document	1, 4-10
A	US 3,825,012 A (NICOLL) 23 July 1974 (23.07.1974) entire document	1-29

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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