Overall, the document describes methods and systems for electrosurgical tissue treatment. It involves applying a high frequency voltage in the presence of an electrically conductive fluid to create a low-temperature plasma for ablation of tissue adjacent to, or in contact with, the plasma. A catheter or probe is positioned adjacent to the target site to deliver the voltage and create plasma in the presence of the conductive fluid. The high frequency voltage is then applied, generating plasma adjacent to the active electrode, which removes or ablates tissue. The process is repeated until the target tissue is ablated.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : A61B 18/04, 18/18
US Cl. : 606/32, 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. : 606/32, 41

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 5,697,882 A (EGGERS ET AL.) 16 December 1997, see figs. 20-22 and spacers 48a and b.</td>
<td>1, 2, 6, 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,374,261 A (YOON) 20 December 1994, see entire document.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

Date of the actual completion of the international search
17 May 2005 (17.05.2005)

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)