

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
17 April 2008 (17.04.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2008/045929 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:
A61B 18/14 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2007/080929

(22) International Filing Date: 10 October 2007 (10.10.2007)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/828,939 10 October 2006 (10.10.2006) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, **DK**, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, **IS**, **IT**, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, **RO**, SE, **SI**, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, **BJ**, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, **MR**, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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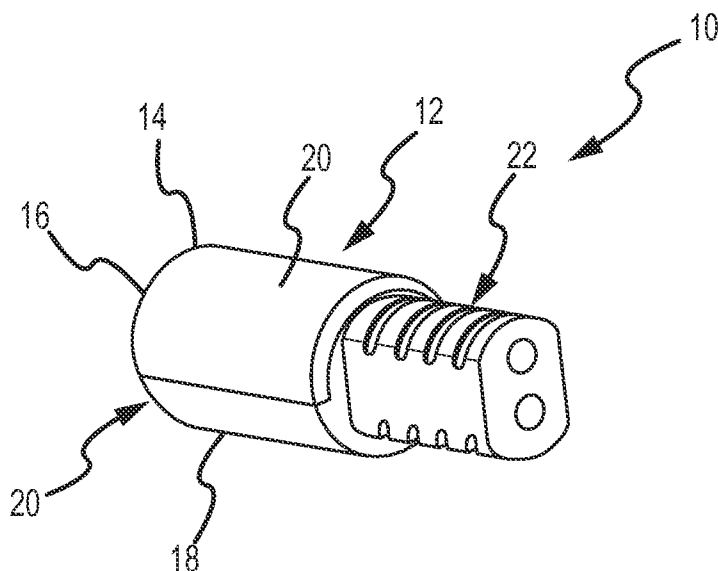
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- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(Hi))

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
14 August 2008

(54) Title: ABLATION ELECTRODE AND CATHETER SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides various embodiments of electrodes (10) for use in connection with ablation catheters and ablation catheter systems. In an embodiment, an electrode (10) is provided that comprises an electrode body (12) including an outer surface (14), a top portion (16) and a bottom portion (18). The top portion (16) of the electrode body (12) includes an insulated portion (20) to protect adjacent tissue from ablation. The bottom portion (18) is adapted to direct energy in a downward direction towards the target tissue. Moreover, embodiments of several types of electrodes (10) and catheter assemblies, which may include positioning, orientation, protective shielding, cooling, and deflecting of surrounding tissue features (30, 38, 40, 50), whether provided individually or in various combinations, are also disclosed.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2007/080929

A CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - A61 B 18/14 (2008.04) USPC - 606/41 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) IPC(8) - A61B 17/00, 18/00, 18/14 (2008 04) USPC - 606/41; 607/122, 128/898 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) PatBase		
C DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
X --- Y Y	US 2004/0030331 A1 (THOMAS et al) 12 February 2004 (12 02 2004) entire document US 2003/0050637 A1 (MAGUIRE et al) 13 March 2003 (13 03 2003) entire document	1-5, 11-15 ----- 6-10, 16-20 6-10, 16-20
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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 01 April 2008	Date of mailing of the international search report 23 JUN 2008	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P O Box 1450, Alexand πa, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No 571-273-3201	Authorized officer Blame R Copenheaver PCT H01pdesk 571-272-4300 PCTOSP 571-272-7774	