Title: CATHETER WITH ADJUSTABLE COLUMN STABILITY AND METHODS FOR ITS USE

Abstract: CATHETER WITH ADJUSTABLE COLUMN STABILITY AND METHODS FOR ITS USE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE. The catheter includes an inner column and an outer elastic member. The inner column is bendable wherein the column strength and flexibility of the inner column are adjusted by axially tensioning the outer elastic member. The inner column comprises a helical spring, slotted or slit tube, or individual links that, when axially compressed by advancement forces or by tensioning an elastic outer sheath, assume a straight or other pre-determined geometry. The column strength and flexibility of the catheter may be adjusted during introduction of the catheter into a body lumen as necessitated by the conditions encountered, as well as made highly flexible when left in position.

Diagram: FIG. 1
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2007/082889

A CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC(8) - A61M 25/08 (2008 04)  
USPC - 600/141  
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) - A61M 25/08 (2008 04)  
USPC - 600/141  

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic database consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 USPTO EAST System (US, USPG-PUB, EPO, DERWENT) MicroPatInt

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<tbody>
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<td>4-11, 14, 19, 21, 24, 26, 27, 32, 34, 38, 40-43</td>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>US 5,897 488 A (UEDA) 27 April 1999 (27 04 1999) entire document</td>
<td>4-11, 40-42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 2005/0027287 A1 (O'CONNOR et al) 03 February 2005 (03 02 2005) entire document</td>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search
09 April 2008

Date of mailing of the international search report
05 MAY 2008

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