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(71) Applicant: RADIOTHERAPEUTICS CORPORATION [US/US]; 1508 BORREGAS AVENUE, Sunnyvale, CA 94089 (US).

(72) Inventor: BEHL, Robert, S.; 361 Tioga Court, Palo Alto, CA 94066 (US).

(74) Agents: HESLIN, James, M. et al.; Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111-3834 (US).

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SHIELDING TISSUE DURING TUMOR ABLATION

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides improved methods, systems and kits for protecting body tissues which are adjacent to tissues undergoing thermal treatment. Thermal treatment is often prescribed for tumors and other disease conditions within body organs and other tissue masses. The methods, systems, and kits are particularly useful for treating tumors which lie at or near the surface of an organ. One risk of treating such tumors is the possibility of mistargeting the tumor and penetrating a delivery cannula or portions of a treatment device beyond the surface into adjacent tissue. In the case of RF treatment, healthy surrounding tissue may be ablated. There is also a possibility of thermal damage to surrounding, non-targeted tissue. The above risks may be lessened or avoided with the use of an interface shield (20) between the target region and adjacent body tissues to shield surrounding organs (D) and tissue from treatment effects.
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(7) : A61B 18/18
US CL  : 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)
U.S. : 606/41, 32,35,46,48,50; 607/152; 128/908

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>
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<tr>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>US 5,827,276 A (LEVEEN et al) 27 October 1998 (27.10.1998), See entire document.</td>
<td>18-20,23,24</td>
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<td>X</td>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search: 14 November 2001 (14.11.2001)

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer
Linda Dvorak
Telephone No. (703) 308-1148

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