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- [Continued on next page]*

(57) Abstract: Ablation devices and associated methods are provided for use in ablating the margin of a cavity such as a surgical or body cavity. The ablation apparatus includes an integral or connected elongate probe and an elongate sleeve. Suction can be applied with a vacuum source operably connected to the proximal end region of the sleeve, whereby tissue of the surgical cavity is drawn against the surface of the sleeve. The probe includes one or more electrodes disposed at the probe's distal end region, for ablating tissue when the electrode(s) are activated to create an ablated margin of tissue at least partially surrounding the surgical cavity.



(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, 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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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/US06/10923

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: A61B 18/18(2006.01)

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)
U.S. : 606/41,42,45-50; 607/101,102,116

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

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,258,087 B1(EDWARDS et al) 10 July 2001 (10.07.2001), Figures 65-71	1-5, 11-15, 17-20
A	US 6,514,250 B1 (JAHNS et al) 04 February 2003 (04.02.2003), whole document	1-5,11-15,17-20
A	US 6,652,518 B1 (WELLMAN et al) 25 November 2003 (25.11.2003) , whole document	1-5,11-15,17-20



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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