APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MAINTAINING FLOW THROUGH A VESSEL OR DUCT

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.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7): A61F 9/06, 11/00.
US CL: Please See Extra Sheet.
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.: 625/1.15, 1.11, 1.10, 1.18, 1.19, 1.90, 1.29, 1.49; 606/108, 191, 192, 194, 196, 198.

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)
EAST, search term: stent, graft, elastomer, polymer, balloon.

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 5,522,881 A (LENTZ) 04 JUNE 1996, Figs. 2 and 7; col. 3, lines 2-53 and col. 4, lines 4-42.</td>
<td>1-6, 9, 14-15, 20, 35-36, 41-42, 47-49, 51, 53-54.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td>11-13, 16-19, 21-23, 38-40, 43-46, 50N.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 4,655,771 A (WALLSTEN) 07 APRIL 1987, Fig. 11.</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

* Special categories of cited documents:
- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "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: 25 AUGUST 2002
Date of mailing of the international search report: 2DEC 2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231
Facsimile No. (703) 505-9250
Authorized officer: [Signature]
Telephone No. (703) 506-3420

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:
US CL :
625/1.15, 1.11, 1.12, 1.18, 1.19, 1.20, 1.23, 1.49; 606/108, 191, 192, 194, 195, 198.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box I  Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(6)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 64(a).

Box II  Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant’s protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet(1)) (July 1998)★