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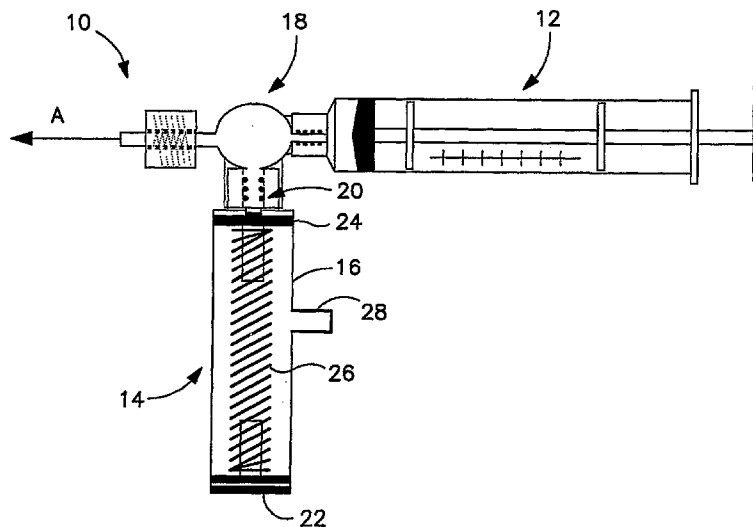
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REGULATING PRESSURE DURING MEDICAL PROCEDURES



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus are provided for regulating pressure applied during a medical procedure, including an inelastic housing enclosing an inner volume, a housing having a first and second end; an aperture in the housing, the aperture for coupling to an element for applying a pressure during a medical procedure, the element having an inner volume communicated with the inner volume of the housing; and a pressure-operated valve coupled to the housing for providing access to the inner volume of the housing when pressure in the housing is above a threshold, whereby the valve releases pressure from within the inner volume of the housing. The method and apparatus are particularly useful in preparation of conduits such as veins and arteries during grafting procedures.

WO 2004/062473 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/00043

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: **A61M 1/00**(2007.01);**A61F 2/04**(2007.01);**G05D 11/00**(2007.01)

USPC: 604/118;600/36;137/115.28

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. : 604/118; 600/36; 137/115.28; 604/33, 123, 127, 129, 246, 247, 249; 417/385; 137/71

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 --- Y	US 4,403,988 A (Binard et al) 13 September 1983 (13.09.1983), see Figs 9-11 and related text including col 2, lns 5-8 and col 5, lns 30-64.	1-8, 13-18 ----- 9-12, 19-20
X --- A	US 4,623,335 A (Jackson) 18 November 1986 (18.11.1986), see Figs 1-4 and related text including col 4, lns 19-col 6 lns 24.	1-7, 13-17, 19-20 ----- 8-12, 18
Y	US 3,958,557 A (Sharp et al) 25 May 1976 (25.05.1976), see Figs 1-2 and related text including Summary and col 3, lns 9-46.	9-12

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
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"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	"&"	document member of the same patent family

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