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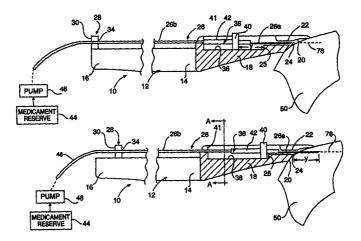
With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

30 March 2000 (30.03.00)

(54) Title: INJECTION APPARATUS



(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to an apparatus and method for using the apparatus for injecting an agent into a tissue, particularly into thin tissues such as the sclera of the eye. The invention provides an apparatus and method for effectively imbedding a needle into a tissue at a predetermined penetration approach angle and penetration distance thereby reducing the risk of penetrating the full thickness of the tissue. The invention includes a support element and a needle guide platform disposed on the support element with an external support surface and a channel extending therethrough and terminating in an aperture at the support surface. A needle disposed in the channel is axially movable along an axis of injection through the channel. The needle is movable from a first retracted position to an extended position corresponding to the penetration distance, along the axis of injection. In one aspect, the needle includes a sidewall defining an outlet in the needle such that when an agent is inserted into the tissue through the outlet it is in an orientation towards one of a first and second surface of the tissue. The axis of injection preferably forms a penetration approach angle of up to about 60° with a tangent of the support surface at a point of intersection of the axis of injection with the projection of the support surface across the aperture.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61F9/007 A61F A61M5/46 A61M25/04 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 7 A61F A61M 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 practical, 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 WO 95 07722 A (NORTH SHORE LABORATORIES) 1-14,16,23 March 1995 (1995-03-23) 17 Υ the whole document 15, 31-36, 46,47 Y US 4 759 746 A (J.G. STRAUS) 15 26 July 1988 (1988-07-26) abstract; figures Υ US 5 409 457 A (M. DEL CERRO ET AL.) 30 25 April 1995 (1995-04-25) cited in the application abstract Υ US 3 890 970 A (R.L. GULLEN) 30 24 June 1975 (1975-06-24) abstract; figures -/-χ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Patent family members are listed in 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 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but in the art. later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 04.02.2000 25 January 2000 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Wolf, C Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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C.(Continua	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	WO 95 32756 A (MEDTRONIC, INC.) 7 December 1995 (1995-12-07) abstract	30
<i>t</i>	US 5 674 240 A (P.M. BONUTTI ET AL.) 7 October 1997 (1997-10-07) column 7, line 62 -column 8, line 21; figures 18-21	30
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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. X Claims Nos.: 18-29,37-45 because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
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 6.4(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: see additional sheet
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. X No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-17

Injector comprising : support, needle guide, platform, needle, with injection axis less than 60° to tangent of support surface

2. Claim: 30

Catheter with inflation member, medicament reservoir and needle

3. Claims: 31-36,46,47

Support with needle platform, needle with a side wall outlet

Information on patent family members

In ational Application No
PCT/US 99/17381

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