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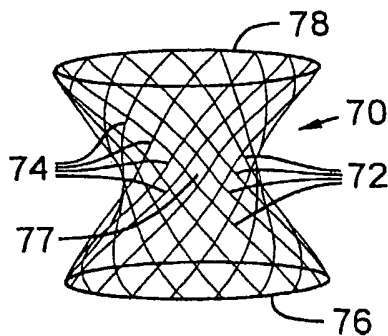
**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**  
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

**Published:**  
— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
16 February 2006

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: INTERFACIAL STENT AND METHOD OF MAINTAINING PATENCY OF SURGICAL FENESTRATIONS



(57) Abstract: A method according to one embodiment for maintaining patency of an opening inside the human body comprises introducing a radially self-expanding hollow stent into the opening through an endoscope that radially compresses the stent, wherein the stent has enlarged ends and a reduced intermediate portion. The stent is introduced into the opening such that its intermediate portion extends through the opening and the enlarged ends are positioned outside of the opening. Once deployed, the stent expands such that the enlarged ends of the stent abut against opposing faces of the opening to resist dislodgement of the stent from the opening after expansion. The stent is preferably biodegradable, such that it is eliminated from the surgical site over a period of weeks to months, by which time the patency of the opening is more assured. The method can be used in combination with, for example, an endoscopic surgical method such as endoscopic third ventriculostomy for treating hydrocephalus of a brain.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/US2005/016350

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 A61F2/06

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

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)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/135268 A1 (DESAI ASHVIN) 17 July 2003 (2003-07-17) paragraph '0042! - paragraph '0060!; claims; figure 2b	30-43
X	US 5 876 418 A (KARLHEINZHAUENSTEIN ET AL) 2 March 1999 (1999-03-02)  column 3, line 6 - column 4, line 16; figure 1a	30, 31, 33-37, 39, 42, 43
X	US 2003/208263 A1 (BURMEISTER PAUL H ET AL) 6 November 2003 (2003-11-06)  paragraph '0032! - paragraph '0058!; figures 1,6	30, 31, 33, 34, 39-43

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international 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)
- \*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

- \*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 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.
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 September 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

12/10/2005

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No .  
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 766 239 A (COX ET AL) 16 June 1998 (1998-06-16) the whole document -----	1

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US2005/016350

## Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 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.  Claims Nos.: 1-29  
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
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 6.4(a).

## Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 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.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

International Application No  
PCT/US2005/016350

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2003135268 A1	17-07-2003	US 2002007222 A1	17-01-2002
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