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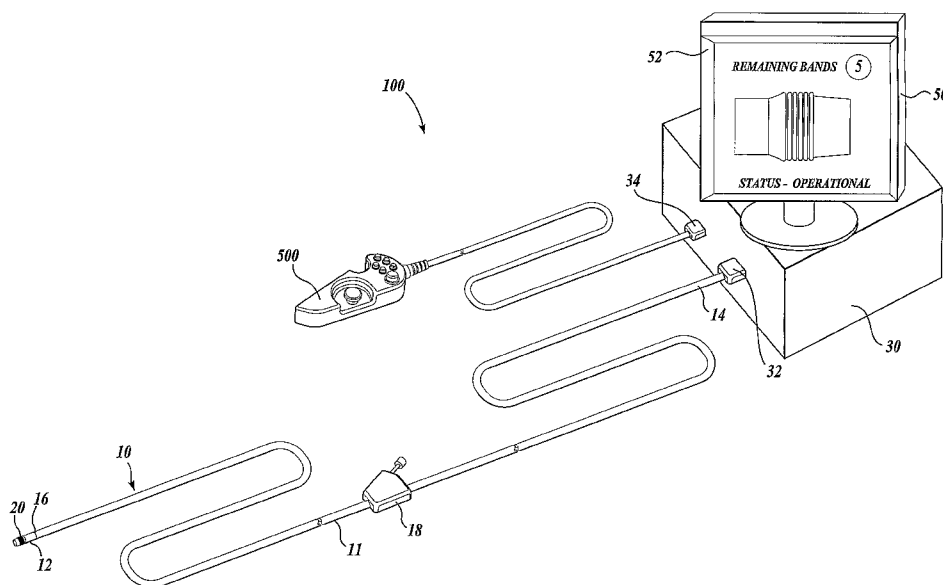
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(54) Title: ENDOSCOPIC APPARATUS WITH INTEGRATED VARICEAL LIGATION DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A variceal banding endoscope includes an elongated shaft having a distal end and a proximal end that is removably connected to a control unit. The endoscope includes a variceal banding apparatus fixedly attached to the distal end of the endoscope and capable of receiving a plurality of ligation bands. A trigger cable extends from the proximal end to the distal end of the shaft and is digitally actuated by an actuator in the control unit or handle of the scope in response to a user input device.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61B1/012
ADD. A61B19/00 A61B1/018 A61B17/12

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)
A61B

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, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 066 145 A (WURSTER HELMUT [DE]) 23 May 2000 (2000-05-23) column 1, line 1 - column 2, line 63; figures 1-5 column 3, line 26 - column 8, line 20	1-28
X	EP 1 147 744 A2 (ENSURG INC [US]) 24 October 2001 (2001-10-24)	1,3,6-9, 11, 13-15, 17-22, 25,28
A	paragraph [0002] - paragraph [0016]; figures 1-12 paragraph [0038] - paragraph [0059] paragraph [0019] - paragraph [0025] ----- -/--	2,4,5, 10,12, 16,23, 24,26,27

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

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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

"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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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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05/12/2006

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2006/018139

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 6 059 719 A (YAMAMOTO TETSUYA [JP] ET AL) 9 May 2000 (2000-05-09)	1-3,6,7, 11-15, 17-20, 22,25-28
A	column 2, line 1 - line 29; figures 1-6,33,34 column 6, line 1 column 6, line 6 - column 9, line 59 column 12, line 7 - line 17 column 23, line 4 - line 39 column 35, line 55 - column 36, line 20 column 37, line 56 - column 38, line 21 -----	4,5, 8-10,16, 21,23,24
A	WO 00/10456 A (SUPER DIMENSION LTD [IL]; GILBOA PINHAS [IL]; BLECHER DANNY [IL]) 2 March 2000 (2000-03-02) page 1, line 5 - page 14, line 22 -----	4,5,24
A	US 2005/075538 A1 (BANI MICHAEL S [US] ET AL) 7 April 2005 (2005-04-07) paragraph [0006] - paragraph [0011]; figures 1-7,31-33 paragraph [0053] - paragraph [0063] paragraph [0193] -----	1,12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2006/018139

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.: 29, 30
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/US2006/018139

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