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Declarations under Rule 4.17:
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

Published:
— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: NECKLIFT PROCEDURE AND INSTRUMENTS FOR PERFORMING SAME

(Fig. 12)

Abstract: Instruments used in a method for threading a suture in a patient's body. The method includes the steps of providing a suture, providing a threading device comprising an elongated rod having a suture tie-off location, tying the suture to the suture tie-off location, inserting the elongated rod through a first opening in the patient's skin, passing the first end subcutaneously to a second opening in the patient's skin, pulling the first end and the suture through the second opening, without turning the elongated rod around, and passing the second end of the elongated rod subcutaneously to an opening in the patient's skin. At one point during the method the first end extends out of the first opening and the second end of the elongated rod extends through the second opening. In a preferred embodiment, the first and second ends of the threading device are each lighted.
before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(8) - A61M 25/00 (2010.01)
USPC - 604/264
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(8) - A61M 25/00 (2010.01)
USPC - 604/264

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
604/19, 48, 93.01.174, 175, 272; 606/1, 108

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
PubWEST(UISP_T,PGP,B,EPAB,JPAB); Google Scholar;
Search Terms Used: neck lift, necklift, chin lift, chinlift, cosmetic, reconstructive, plastic, surgery access port, skin port, flange, tube, rotai$, flod, arms, actual, skin,

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>Y</td>
<td>US 2005/0118388 A1 (KINGSFORD) 02 June 2005 (02.06.2005) para[0004], [0039].</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

Date of the actual completion of the international search
15 March 2010 (15.03.2010)

Date of mailing of the international search report
09 APR 2010

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. 571-273-3201

Authorized officer: Lee W. Young
PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300
PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 2009)
### Box No. 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.:
   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 6.4(a).

### Box No. 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:

-- Please see extra sheet --

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 additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

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.: 1-4, 25-44

### Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet (2)) (July 2009)
Continuation of Box No. III, Observations where unity of invention is lacking:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I: Claims 1-4, 25-44 pertain to a method of performing neck surgery by inserting skin ports and creating a suture matrix therein, and more specifically, the novel enabling skin ports

Group II: Claims 5-11, 85-94, a surgical kit and a method of performing general surgery by inserting skin ports and creating a suture matrix therein, additionally utilizing a pre surgical tape, performing liposuction and utilizing a generic threading device

Group III: Claims 12-16, 95-112: A pre-surgical tape and method for marking surgical sites

Group IV: Claims 17-24: A lancet device

Group V: Claims 45-84, 113-164: A surgical fiber optic handset, combined with a fiber optic threading device, fiber optic knot positioning device and a fiber optic clearing device for manipulating sutures, namely braided fiber optic sutures

The inventions listed as Groups I - IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

Groups I-V loosely share the general concept of performing a facial soft tissue rearrangement procedure (namely, facelift) with sutures under the skin. However (regarding groups I, II, IV and V), facelift procedures utilizing skin ports, threading devices, fiberoptics and puncturing devices and other such tools are known in the art (US 20040133216 A1 to Wulc: See abstract, para[0031]-[0040]). Furthermore (regarding group III), it is known in the art to utilize tape to mark incision sites more precisely during surgery (US 3963678 A to Kawchitch). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to utilize the tape to mark sites for any surgery, including a surgery of the face.

As such, each group pertains to separate instruments, that each have full autonomous utility. They lack a shared inventive concept, because the use of such tools in facial surgery is known in the art (see above). Accordingly, unity of invention is lacking under PCT Rule 13.1.