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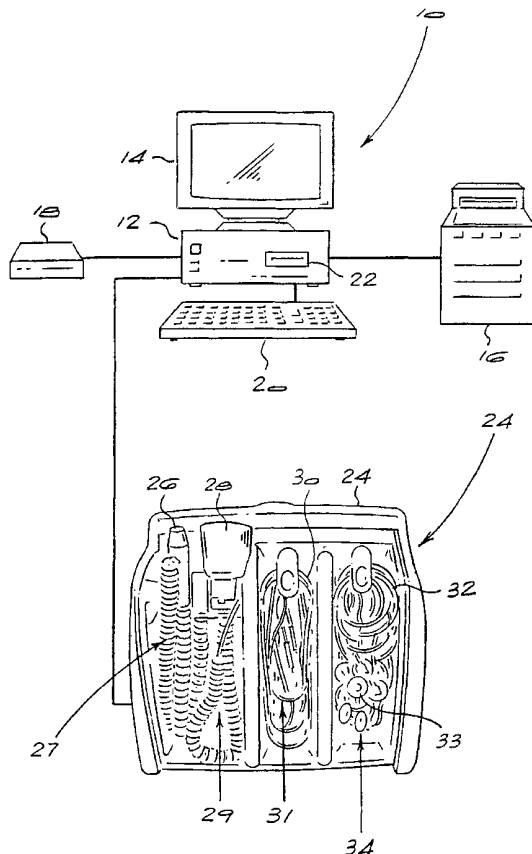
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ACQUIRING MEDICAL DATA FROM A PATIENT AND PROCESSING THE DATA



(57) Abstract: A diagnostic apparatus (10) for acquiring medical data from a patient and for processing such data includes a PC (12) and its standard peripherals, namely a monitor (14), a printer (16), an internet modem (18) and a keyboard (20). The PC (12) is linked to a diagnostic unit (24) incorporating diagnostic test hardware. The unit (24) is provided with a series of diagnostic modules, including a pneumotach (26) for measuring airflow and representing the front end of a spirometer module (27), a non-invasive blood pressure module (29), a body composition measurement module (31), and an ECG module (34). Raw data is transferred from the diagnostic unit (24) to the PC for further processing and display. The processed data is assessed and the raw data from which the processed data has been derived is then stored in a database associated with the PC for retrieval and processing at a later stage.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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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)

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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, INSPEC, WPI Data, PAJ, IBM-TDB, COMPENDEX

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 93 03449 A (NOVUS TECHNOLOGIES INC) 18 February 1993 (1993-02-18) page 3, line 15 -page 7, line 24 ---	1,2,9, 10,12,13
Y	WO 95 15521 A (PERCEPTION INC) 8 June 1995 (1995-06-08) page 26, line 3 - line 28 ---	1,2,9, 10,12,13
A	US 5 778 882 A (RAYMOND ET AL) 14 July 1998 (1998-07-14) column 1, line 40 -column 3, line 57 --- -/--	1-21

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

<p>*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>*E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>*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)</p> <p>*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>	<p>*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</p> <p>*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</p> <p>*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.</p> <p>*&* document member of the same patent family</p>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 29 June 2001	Date of mailing of the international search report 06/07/2001
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Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Schenkels, P
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International Application No PCT/IB 00/00880

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>KOHLI J: "MEDICAL IMAGING APPLICATIONS OF EMERGING BROADBAND NETWORKS" IEEE COMMUNICATIONS MAGAZINE,US,IEEE SERVICE CENTER. PISCATAWAY, N.J, vol. 27, no. 12, 1 December 1989 (1989-12-01), pages 8-16, XP000086637 ISSN: 0163-6804 page 11, left-hand column, line 12 -right-hand column, line 34 -----</p>	2,13
A	<p>PAVLOPOULOS S ET AL: "Design and development of a multimedia database for emergency telemedicine" ENGINEERING AND MEDICINE BRIDGING EAST AND WEST. 4TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ENGINEERING AND MEDICINE, WARSAW, POLAND, 1998, vol. 6, no. 2-3, pages 101-110, XP000910997 Technology and Health Care, Sept. 1998, IOS Press, Netherlands ISSN: 0928-7329 page 106, line 5 - line 22 -----</p>	3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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