Title: FOLLICULAR EXTRACTION METHOD AND DEVICE

Abstract: A method and device for the extraction of follicular units from a donor area on a patient. The method includes scoring the outer skin layers with a sharp punch (214), and then inserting a blunt punch (215) into the incision to separate the hair follicle from the surrounding tissue and fatty layer.
(15) Information about Correction:  
Previous Correction:  
see PCT Gazette No. 32/2006 of 10 August 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.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US05/11923

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC: A61B 17/50 (2006.01), 17/14 (2006.01)
USPC: 606/133,184
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)
U.S.: 606/133,184

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 practicable, search terms used)

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>X</td>
<td>US 5,895,403 A (COLLINSWORTH) 20 April 1999 (20.04.1999), figures 1-3, column 3 lines 40-55.</td>
<td>18-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,439,475 A (BENNETT) 08 August 1995 (08.08.1995), entire document.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family 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 application or patent 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
  "R" 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
  "U" 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: 23 February 2007 (23.02.2007)
Date of mailing of the international search report: 28 MAR 2007

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2005)
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

**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.: 1-15 and 17 because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: Claims 1-15 and 17 are drawn to methods for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy and will not be examined as set for in PCT Rule 67.1(iv).

2. **✗** Claims Nos.: 16 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: Claim 16 does not recite any structure or technical feature and is therefore indefinite under PCT Rule 6.3.

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 Continuation 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 any 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.:

**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.
BOX 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 1, claim(s) 18-37, drawn to a tool with a sharp scoring punch and a blunt dissecting punch.

Group 2, claim(s) 38-41, drawn to a dual function tool with splines.

The inventions listed as Groups 1 and 2 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: the special technical feature of group 2, specifically the splines having a sharp leading end and a blunt trailing end, is not found in group 1.