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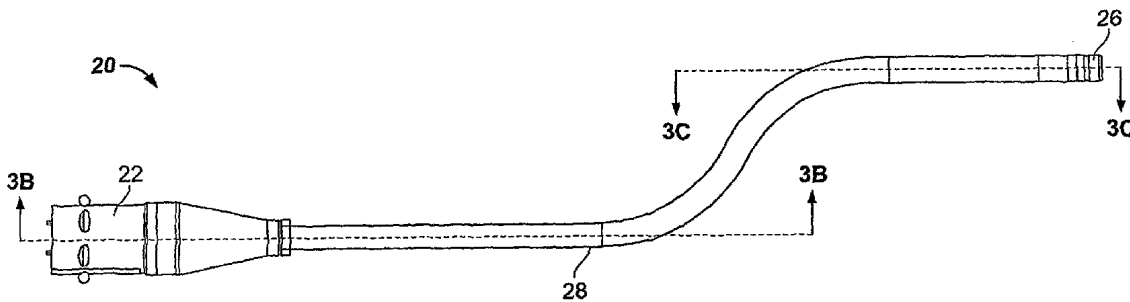
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(54) Title: SHAFT, E.G., FOR AN ELECTRO-MECHANICAL SURGICAL DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A shaft being, e.g., flexible, that includes an elongated outer sheath, at least one drive shaft disposed within the outer sheath and a ring non-rotatably mounted on the at least one rotatable drive shaft and at least one light source mounted within the shaft, such that, upon rotation of the at least one rotatable drive shaft, the ring alternately blocks and allows light from the light source to be detected. The shaft may also include a moisture sensor disposed within the outer sheath of the shaft and configured to detect moisture within the outer sheath. The shaft may include couplings that connect a distal end of the outer sheath to a surgical attachment and a proximal end of the outer sheath to a remote power console.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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 USPC: 606/1;600/118,129,130,133,137,138,139,140,141,160,179,180
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED
 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : 606/1; 600/118,129,130,133,137,138,139,140,141,160,179,180
 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)
 USPAT, US-PGPUG, USOCR, EPO, JPO

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,371,909 B1 (Hoeg et al.) 16 April 2002 (16.04.2002), see entire document	1-3, 10, 13-18
Y	US 5,427,087 (Ito et al.) 27 June 1995 (27.06.1995), column 2, lines 41-68, column 3, lines 1-68	4-6, 8, 9
Y	US 5,762,603 (Thompson) 09 June 1998 (09.06.1998), column 1, lines 20-22, column 2, lines 47-53	7, 11
Y	US 5,301,061 (Nakada et al.) 05 April 1994 (05.04.1994), column 11, lines 60-68, column 12, lines 1-68	19
Y	US 2004/0111012 (Whitman) 10 June 2004 (10.06.2004), see entire document	12, 20-22

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Authorized officer Linda C Dvorak <i>[Signature]</i> Telephone No. 571-272-3700 <i>[Signature]</i>