Ablative Cardiac Catheter System

Abstract: An ablative apparatus that can be used to treat atrial fibrillation and other cardiac arrhythmias by ablating cardiac tissue is disclosed. When the distal end of the apparatus reaches the tissue to be ablated, an ablation probe driven by a transducer vibrates. Scratching the tissue with abrasive members, the vibrating ablation probe is capable of mechanically ablating tissues. This mechanical ablation may be utilized to penetrate epicardial fat, thereby exposing the underlying myocardium. The ablative apparatus may then be used subject the exposed myocardium to mechanical ablation, cryoablation, ultrasonic ablation, and/or any combination thereof.
ENINTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US07/75487

A CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: A61B 18/04 (2006.01)
USPC: 601/2,3;606/20-49
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.: 601/2,3;606/20-49

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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 5,139,496 A (Hed) 18 August 1992 (18.08.1992), columns 3-15</td>
<td>1-25</td>
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See patent family annex.

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 14 July 2008 (14.07.2008)

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