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(54) Title: BIPOLAR ELECTROSURGICAL PROBE HAVING INSULATED OVERLAPPING CONDUCTIVE ELEMENTS

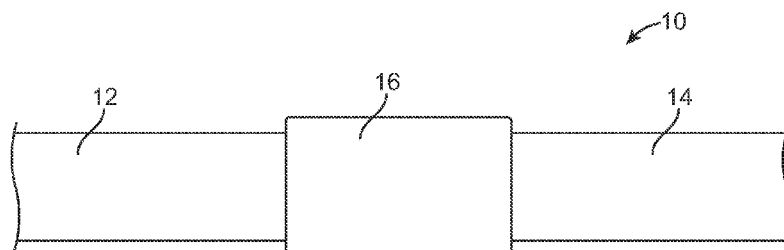


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A bipolar electrosurgical probe includes electrodes separated by an insulation member. One end of an electrode is inserted into an aperture of the other electrode. An insulation material is disposed between e.g., injected into, a space between a bottom surface of one electrode and a top surface of another electrode so that at least a portion of the insulation member is disposed between overlapping ends of the electrodes.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2008/081864

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61B18/14

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)
A61B

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, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2006/100619 A1 (MCCLURKEN MICHAEL E [US] ET AL) 11 May 2006 (2006-05-11) abstract figures 1,12-14 paragraphs [0057], [0085], [0086], [0125]	1,11-14, 29-31
X	US 6 723 094 B1 (DESINGER KAI [DE]) 20 April 2004 (2004-04-20) abstract figures 20,21 column 15, line 46 - line 65	1,11-14, 29-31
A	US 2006/047276 A1 (YOUNG KIMBOLT [US] ET AL) 2 March 2006 (2006-03-02) abstract figures 1-3 paragraphs [0004], [0012], [0013]	1

☐ 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 document but published on or after the international filing date
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- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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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:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an 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 reportcovers 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, 11-14, 29-31

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.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1, 11-14, 29-31

A bipolar electrosurgical probe with an insulation member disposed between overlapping ends of a first and a second electrode.

2. claims: 6, 10, 15-17, 25, 26, 32, 37, 38, 42-44, 51-57

Means and method for alignment of two electrodes, joining the distal end of the first electrode and the proximal end of the second electrode.

3. claims: 2-5, 7-9, 27-28, 39-41

An electrode with a wall having a thickness at the proximal end and a different thickness at the distal end.

4. claims: 18-24, 33-36 and 45-50

An electrode with an aperture extending through a wall of the electrode.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

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