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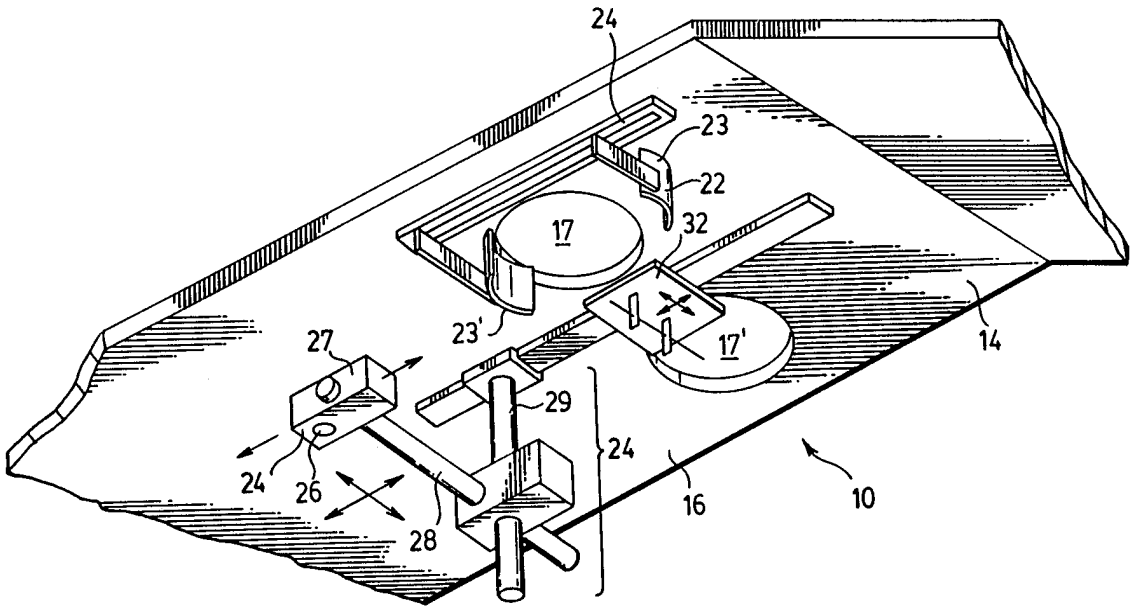
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND PROCESS FOR PERFORMING PERCUTANEOUS BIOPSY WITHIN THE BREAST USING THREE-DIMENSIONAL ULTRASONOGRAPHY



(57)Abstract

There is provided a system and process for performing percutaneous biopsy within a breast using three-dimensional ultrasonography comprising: a breast positioning means (14); a breast immobilization means (22); an ultrasonographic imaging means (24); a biopsy instrument positioning means (32); the breast immobilizations means, the three-dimensional ultrasonographic imaging means positioned in a known relationship relative to each other; the breast immobilization means being employed to immobilize the breast and a lesion contained therein for imaging by the three-dimensional ultrasonographic imaging means; and the three-dimensional ultrasonographic imaging means being employed to assist an operator in positioning the biopsy instrument positioning means relative to the lesion and guiding a biopsy instrument percutaneously to the lesion.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Interr. nal Application No
PCT/CA 97/00572

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 A61B17/34 A61B10/00 A61B8/08

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)
IPC 6 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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 95 11627 A (NEOVISION CORP.) 4 May 1995 see page 12, line 34 - page 13, line 3 see page 13, line 31-35 see page 19, line 11-21 see page 20, line 3-15; claim 13 ---	1-3,7-9, 13
X	WO 95 21582 A (HUSSMAN) 17 August 1995 see page 18, line 3-29 see page 38, line 36 - page 39, line 2 see page 57, line 25-36 ---	1-3,8,9
X	WO 83 02053 A (THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA C/O DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH) 23 June 1983 see page 7, line 4-7 ---	1-3,8,9

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
26 January 1998	18.02.98

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
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	Glas, J

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern .ıal Application No
PCT/CA 97/00572

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication,where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 981 142 A (DACHMAN) 1 January 1991 see column 2, line 54 - column 3, line 19 see column 4, line 54-59; claims 1,6	1-3,8,9
A	DE 28 26 277 B (SIEMENS AG) 8 November 1979 see column 3, line 46 - line 51	1,3,4, 8-10
A	DE 41 40 054 A (FUJI PHOTO OPTICAL CO.,LTD.) 4 June 1992 see claims 1,2	5,6,11, 12

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA 97/00572

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 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. [X] Claims Nos.: 14
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery

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 II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

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 an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

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.

[ ] No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Intern nal Application No
PCT/CA 97/00572

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