

(19)



Octrooi Centrum
Nederland

(11)

2012120

(12) **C OCTROOI**

(21) Aanvraagnummer: **2012120**

(51) Int.Cl.:
A61B 17/326 (2006.01)

(22) Aanvraag ingediend: **22.01.2014**

(43) Aanvraag gepubliceerd:
-

(47) Octrooi verleend:
23.07.2015

(45) Octrooischrift uitgegeven:
29.07.2015

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(54) **Device and method for executing a circumcision on a human's penis.**

(57) Method and device for executing a circumcision on a man's penis, comprising the placement of a tubular inner ring underneath the penis' foreskin; placing an elastic element circumferentially around the foreskin's outer side opposite to the inner ring; and entrapping the foreskin between the inner ring and the elastic element to prevent blood flowing to the foreskin, wherein the elastic element is embodied as a spring with at least one complete closed turn that fully envelopes the foreskin, and the spring is provided with two legs at opposite sides of the spring's turn or turns, which legs are releasably connectable to each other, wherein the turn or turns of the spring are first placed in position opposite to the inner ring while the legs are disconnected from each other, whereafter the said legs are connected to each other so as to press the turn or turns towards the inner ring so as to fully entrap the foreskin between the inner ring and the spring's turn or turns and prevent any blood from flowing to the foreskin.

Device and method for executing a circumcision on a human's penis

The invention relates to a device for executing a
5 circumcision on a human's penis, comprising a tubular inner
ring for placement underneath the penis' foreskin, and an
elastic element for placement circumferentially around the
foreskin's outer side opposite to the inner ring so as to en-
10 trap the foreskin between the inner ring and the elastic ele-
ment to prevent blood flowing to the foremost part of the
foreskin. The invention also relates to a method for executing
a circumcision on the human's penis. Circumcision is defined
as circumferential excision of the foreskin or prepuce at or
15 near the level of coronal sulcus, with minimal amount of pre-
putial skin remaining.

A known device for circumcision of a human's penis is
the Alisclamp known from the Turkish utility model TR 2011
06553 U.

According to Wikipedia other known devices for cir-
20 cumcision, particularly with infants, are the Gomco clamp, the
Plastibell and the Mogen clamp. They share a common procedure
of application. First, the amount of foreskin to be removed is
estimated. The surgeon opens the foreskin via the preputial
orifice to reveal the glans underneath and ensures it is nor-
25 mal before separating the inner lining of the foreskin from
its attachment to the glans. The surgeon then places the cir-
cumcision device, which remains until blood flow has stopped.
Finally, the foreskin is amputated.

For adults circumcision is often performed without
30 clamps. A non-surgical alternative is known from the report
"Use of devices for adult male circumcision in public health
HIV prevention programmes: Conclusions of the Technical Advi-
sory Group on Innovations in Male Circumcision" published by
the World Health Organization March 2012. This publication re-
35 ports on the results and recommendations of using an elastic
ring controlled radial compression device, known under the
name PrePex. The report particularly deals with applying cir-
cumcision for the prevention of HIV infection.

Pre-Pex is a single use, disposable device for cir-
40 cumcision of adult men. The report mentions that such an elas-

tic ring controlled radial compression device can be used by mid-level providers and that in Rwanda, where a field study with this device has been completed, physicians and mid-level providers (nurses) who are appropriately trained and deemed competent can perform the placement and removal of the device for men 18 years and older, with careful monitoring during phased implementation in actual practice in different types of settings.

The known PrePex device is embodied with a plastic inner ring for placement on the penis underneath the foreskin, and comprises an elastic band for placement circumferentially around the foreskin's outer side opposite to the inner ring. The placement of the elastic band requires the use of an additional ring-shaped tool provided with freely extending legs around which the elastic band must be provided in order to assist its placement around the foreskin's outer side opposite to the inner ring.

It is an object of the invention to further simplify circumcision, requiring less education, equipment and material.

It is a further object of the invention to ensure a low risk of infection when executing a circumcision, so as to relax the requirements on sterility.

It is a further object of the invention to be able to perform a circumcision at a fast pace; notably maximum 5 to 10 minutes.

It is still a further object of the invention to avoid as much as possible the requirement for aftercare.

Still a further object of the invention is to provide circumcised penises that are aesthetically more attractive, with less scar tissue.

It is a further object of the invention to avoid as much as possible pain and swelling's as a result of the circumcision.

These and other objectives of the invention which may become apparent from the following disclosure are promoted with the device and method according to one or more of the appended claims.

In a first aspect of the invention the elastic element is embodied as a spring. Preferably the spring is of

steel without elements such as chromium which are known to induce allergic reactions with humans. Such a spring can be manufactured at very low cost and can be applied for circumcision in combination with the said tubular inner ring which is intended for placement underneath the penis' foreskin.

Circumcision can be performed effectively when the spring comprises at least one completely closed turn which in use fully envelopes the foreskin.

Preferably the spring is embodied with two legs at opposite sides of the spring's turn or turns, which legs are releasably connectable to each other. This makes placement of the spring very easy, particularly by arranging that the legs have free extremities and are releasably connectable to each other at said extremities.

Placement of the spring can therefore easily be carried out by arranging that the legs have an open position and a closed position wherein the open position corresponds to disconnected legs and the closed position corresponds to connected legs.

Also removal of the spring is thus simplified; there are no specific or additional tools required for releasing the legs from each other, and the removal can be done by the adult who is being circumcised himself, or if it concerns a circumcision with a young child it can for instance be done by one of his parents.

The functionality of the device of the invention is ensured by arranging that the spring's turn or turns have a diameter that depends on the connection or disconnection of the legs such that said diameter is smaller with connected legs than with disconnected legs. Being placed at its smallest diameter it must press off the blood veins in the foreskin entrapped between the inner ring and the spring.

The invention is also embodied in a method for executing a circumcision on a man's penis making use of the device of the invention.

The method of the invention comprises the placement of a tubular inner ring underneath the penis' foreskin; placing an elastic element circumferentially around the foreskin's outer side opposite to the inner ring; and entrapping the foreskin between the inner ring and the elastic element to

prevent blood flowing to the foreskin, wherein the elastic element is provided as a spring with at least one complete closed turn that fully envelopes the foreskin, and wherein the spring is provided with two legs at opposite sides of the spring's turn or turns, which legs are releasably connectable to each other, and wherein after placement of the inner ring underneath the penis' foreskin the turn or turns of the spring are placed in position opposite to the inner ring while the legs are disconnected from each other, whereafter the said legs are connected to each other so as to press the turn or turns towards the inner ring so as to fully entrap the foreskin between the inner ring and the spring's turn or turns and prevent any blood from flowing to the foremost part of the foreskin.

In the method of the invention the foreskin is substantially immediately removed after connecting the legs to each other. The tubular inner ring and the spring are removed at least five days after placement.

The invention will hereinafter be further elucidated with reference to the drawing of a nonlimiting exemplary embodiment of the device of the invention.

In the drawing:

-figure 1a shows a side view of a tubular inner ring forming part of the device of the invention;

-figure 1b shows a side view of the elastic element forming part of the device of the invention in its open position; and

-figure 2 shows a side view of the elastic element of figure 1b when placed in its closed position.

Whenever in the figures the same reference numerals are applied, these numerals refer to the same parts.

The drawing shows in figure 1a and figure 1b the constituent parts of the device of the invention, notably in figure 1a a side view of a tubular inner ring 1 for placement underneath the penis' foreskin, and in figure 1b an elastic element 2 for placement circumferentially around the foreskin's outer side opposite to the inner ring 1 so as to entrap the foreskin between the inner ring 1 and the elastic element 2 to prevent blood flowing to the foremost part of the foreskin.

The elastic element 2 is embodied as a spring 3,

wherein figure 1b shows that the spring 3 comprises one complete closed turn which in use fully envelopes the foreskin. Theoretically it is possible to apply the spring 3 with more than one turn, but this will increase the force required for placing the spring 3 into position. The manner of placement will be discussed hereinafter.

Preferably the spring 3 is a spring embodied in steel suitable for contact with human tissue, that is avoiding elements such as chromium which might induce an allergic reaction.

Figure 1b shows further that the spring 3 is embodied with two legs 4, 5 at opposite sides of the spring's turn or turns. The legs 4, 5 have free extremities 4', 5' that are releasably connectable to each other. The situation that the legs 4, 5 are connected to each other at their extremities 4', 5' is shown in figure 2. The legs 4, 5 thus have an open position corresponding to disconnected legs 4, 5 which is shown in figure 1b; and a closed position corresponding to connected legs 4, 5 which is shown in figure 2. Correspondingly the spring's turn or turns have a diameter that depends on the connection or disconnection of the legs 4, 5 such that said diameter A'' is smaller with connected legs 4, 5 as shown in figure 2 than the value of the diameter A' with disconnected legs 4, 5 which is shown in figure 1b.

Making use of this difference in diameter A', A'' of the spring 3 in two different situations, the invention is also embodied in a method for executing a circumcision on a man's penis, comprising the placement of the tubular inner ring 1 underneath the penis' foreskin, followed by placing spring 3 (when it is in its open position shown in figure 1b) circumferentially around the foreskin's outer side opposite to the inner ring 1. In this open position the legs 4, 5 are disconnected from each other. The diameter A' of the spring 3 is then larger than the outer diameter B of the inner ring 1 including the thickness of the foreskin covering the inner ring 1.

After initial placement of the spring 3 into position as meant in the previous paragraph, the foreskin is entrapped between the inner ring 1 and the spring 3 to prevent blood flowing to the foremost part of the foreskin by arranging that

the two legs 4, 5 of the spring 3 are connected to each other so as to press the turn or turns of the spring 3 towards the inner ring 1. This fully entraps the foreskin between the inner ring 1 and the spring's turn or turns and prevents that any blood will further flow to the foremost part of the foreskin. After connecting the legs 4, 5 to each other the foreskin is substantially immediately removed. The tubular inner ring 1 and the spring 3 are removed at least five days after their placement on the concerning human penis.

Although the invention has been discussed in the foregoing with reference to an exemplary embodiment of the device and method of the invention, the invention is not restricted to this particular embodiment which can be varied in many ways without departing from the gist of the invention. The discussed exemplary embodiment shall therefore not be used to construe the appended claims strictly in accordance therewith. On the contrary the embodiment is merely intended to explain the wording of the appended claims without intent to limit the claims to this exemplary embodiment. The scope of protection of the invention shall therefore be construed in accordance with the appended claims only, wherein a possible ambiguity in the wording of the claims shall be resolved using this exemplary embodiment.

CONCLUSIES

1. Inrichting voor het uitvoeren van een besnijdenis van een menselijke penis, omvattende een buisvormige binnenring (1) voor plaatsing onder de voorhuid van de penis, en een elastisch element (2) voor plaatsing in de omtreksrichting
5 rond de buitenzijde van de voorhuid tegenover de binnenring (1) teneinde tussen de binnenring (1) en het elastische element (2) de voorhuid op te sluiten ter voorkoming dat bloed naar de voorhuid stroomt, **met het kenmerk**, dat het elastische element (2) is uitgevoerd als een veer (3).

10 2. Inrichting volgens conclusie 1, **met het kenmerk**, dat de veer (3) ten minste één volledig gesloten wikkeling omvat welke tijdens gebruik de voorhuid geheel omgeeft.

3. Inrichting volgens conclusie 1 of 2, **met het kenmerk**, dat de veer (3) is uitgevoerd in staal.

15 4. Inrichting volgens één der conclusies 1 - 3, **met het kenmerk**, dat de veer (3) is uitgevoerd met twee benen (4, 5) aan tegenover gelegen uiteinden van de wikkeling of wikkelingen van de veer, welke benen (4, 5) losneembaar met elkaar verbindbaar zijn.

20 5. Inrichting volgens conclusie 4, **met het kenmerk**, dat de benen (4, 5) vrije uiteinden (4', 5') bezitten en losneembaar met elkaar verbindbaar zijn ter plaatse van de genoemde uiteinden (4', 5').

25 6. Inrichting volgens conclusie 4 of 5, **met het kenmerk**, dat de benen (4, 5) een open positie en een gesloten positie bezitten, waarbij de open positie correspondeert met niet verbonden benen (4, 5) en de gesloten positie correspondeert met verbonden benen (4, 5).

30 7. Inrichting volgens één der conclusies 4 - 6, **met het kenmerk**, dat de wikkeling of wikkelingen van de veer een diameter bezitten die afhankelijk is van de verbinding of het ontbreken van een verbinding tussen de benen (4, 5) zodanig dat genoemde diameter (A'') kleiner is met verbonden benen (fig. 2) dan de diameter (A') met niet verbonden benen (fig.
35 1b).

8. Werkwijze voor het uitvoeren van een besnijdenis van een menselijke penis, omvattende de plaatsing van een

buisvormige binnenring (1) onder de voorhuid van de penis; plaatsing van een elastisch element (2) die de voorhuid aan de buitenomtrekszijde omgeeft tegenover de binnenring (1), en opsluiten van de voorhuid tussen de binnenring (1) en het elastisch element (2) ter voorkoming dat bloed stroomt naar de voorhuid, **gekenmerkt** door het uitvoeren van het elastisch element (2) als een veer (3) met ten minste één volledig gesloten wikkeling die de voorhuid volledig omgeeft, en er in voorzien dat de veer (3) twee benen (4, 5) aan tegenover gelegen zijden van de wikkeling of wikkelingen van de veer bezit, welke benen (4, 5) losneembaar met elkaar verbindbaar zijn, waarbij na plaatsing van de binnenring (1) onder de voorhuid van de penis, de wikkeling of wikkelingen van de veer (3) in positie geplaatst worden tegenover de binnenring (1), terwijl de benen (4, 5) niet met elkaar verbonden zijn, waarna de genoemde benen (4, 5) met elkaar verbonden worden teneinde de wikkeling of wikkelingen in de richting van de binnenring (1) te drukken en de voorhuid geheel op te sluiten tussen de binnenring (1) en de wikkeling of wikkelingen van de veer teneinde te voorkomen dat enig bloed stroomt naar het meest vooraan liggend deel van de voorhuid.

9. Werkwijze volgens conclusie 8, **met het kenmerk**, dat na het met elkaar verbinden van de benen (4, 5) de voorhuid in essentie direct wordt verwijderd.

10. Werkwijze volgens conclusie 8 of 9, **met het kenmerk**, dat de buisvormige binnenring (1) en de veer (3) ten minste vijf dagen na plaatsing verwijderd worden.

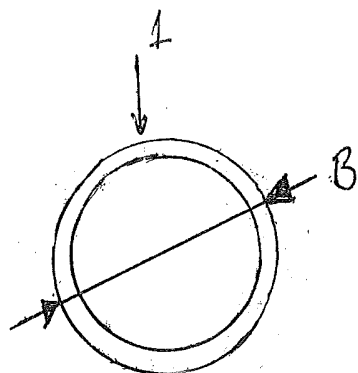


Fig. 1a

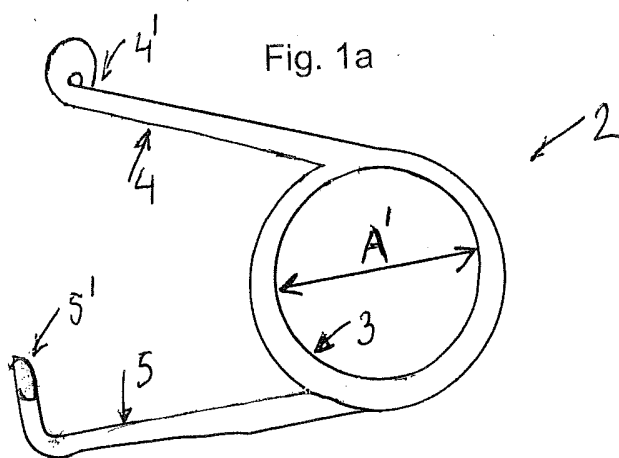


Fig. 1b

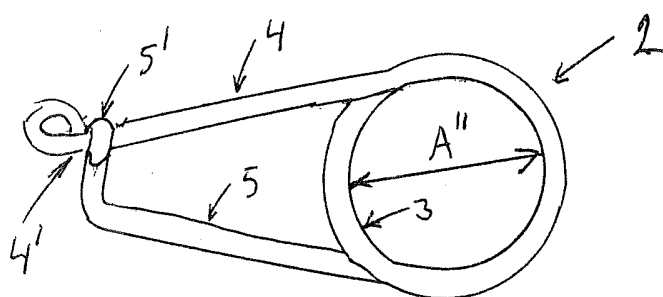


Fig. 2

SAMENWERKINGSVERDRAG (PCT)

RAPPORT BETREFFENDE NIEUWHEIDSONDERZOEK VAN INTERNATIONAAL TYPE

IDENTIFICATIE VAN DE NATIONALE AANVRAGE		KENMERK VAN DE AANVRAGER OF VAN DE GEMACHTIGDE	
		015783 NL-PD/VB	
Nederlands aanvraag nr.		Indieningsdatum	
2012120		22-01-2014	
		Ingeroepen voorrangsdatum	
Aanvrager (Naam)			
Genco Med B.V.			
Datum van het verzoek voor een onderzoek van internationaal type		Door de Instantie voor Internationaal Onderzoek aan het verzoek voor een onderzoek van internationaal type toegekend nr.	
01-03-2014		SN 61558	
I. CLASSIFICATIE VAN HET ONDERWERP (bij toepassing van verschillende classificaties, alle classificatiesymbolen opgeven)			
Volgens de internationale classificatie (IPC)			
A61B17/326			
II. ONDERZOCHETE GEBIEDEN VAN DE TECHNIEK			
Onderzochte minimumdocumentatie			
Classificatiesysteem		Classificatiesymbolen	
IPC		A61B	
Onderzochte andere documentatie dan de minimum documentatie, voor zover dergelijke documenten in de onderzochte gebieden zijn opgenomen			
III.	☒	GEEN ONDERZOEK MOGELIJK VOOR BEPAALDE CONCLUSIES (opmerkingen op aanvullingsblad)	
IV.	☐	GEBREK AAN EENHEID VAN UITVINDING (opmerkingen op aanvullingsblad)	

**ONDERZOEKSRAPPORT BETREFFENDE HET
RESULTAAT VAN HET ONDERZOEK NAAR DE STAND
VAN DE TECHNIEK VAN HET INTERNATIONALE TYPE**

Nummer van het verzoek om een onderzoek naar
de stand van de techniek
NL 2012120

A. CLASSIFICATIE VAN HET ONDERWERP
INV. A61B17/326
ADD.

Volgens de Internationale Classificatie van octrooien (IPC) of zowel volgens de nationale classificatie als volgens de IPC.

B. ONDERZOCHE GEBIEDEN VAN DE TECHNIEK

Onderzochte minimum documentatie (classificatie gevolgd door classificatiesymbolen)
A61B

Onderzochte andere documentatie dan de minimum documentatie, voor dergelijke documenten, voor zover dergelijke documenten in de onderzochte gebieden zijn opgenomen

Tijdens het onderzoek geraadpleegde elektronische gegevensbestanden (naam van de gegevensbestanden en, waar uitvoerbaar, gebruikte trefwoorden)

EP0-Internal, WPI Data

C. VAN BELANG GEACHTE DOCUMENTEN

Categorie °	Geciteerde documenten, eventueel met aanduiding van speciaal van belang zijnde passages	Van belang voor conclusie nr.
	ONVOLLEDIG ONDERZOEK zie aanvullingsblad C -----	
X	US 4 491 136 A (LEVEEN HARRY H [US]) 1 januari 1985 (1985-01-01) * kolom 3, regel 47 - kolom 4, regel 9; figuren 7-10 *	1-7
X	----- US 2012/203242 A1 (FUERST OREN [IL] ET AL) 9 augustus 2012 (2012-08-09) * alinea [0055]; figuren 1, 7a, 7d * * alinea [0088] - alinea [0089] *	1-3
X	----- CN 101 301 219 A (XIQUN YANG [CN]) 12 november 2008 (2008-11-12) * conclusie 1; figuren 1-3 *	1,2
	----- -/-	

☒ Verdere documenten worden vermeld in het vervolg van vak C.

☒ Leden van dezelfde octroofamilie zijn vermeld in een bijlage

° Speciale categorieën van aangehaalde documenten

"A" niet tot de categorie X of Y behorende literatuur die de stand van de techniek beschrijft

"D" in de octrooiaanvraag vermeld

"E" eerdere octrooi(aanvraag), gepubliceerd op of na de indieningsdatum, waarin dezelfde uitvinding wordt beschreven

"L" om andere redenen vermelde literatuur

"O" niet-schriftelijke stand van de techniek

"P" tussen de voorrangsdatum en de indieningsdatum gepubliceerde literatuur

"T" na de indieningsdatum of de voorrangsdatum gepubliceerde literatuur die niet bezwarend is voor de octrooiaanvraag, maar wordt vermeld ter verheldering van de theorie of het principe dat ten grondslag ligt aan de uitvinding

"X" de conclusie wordt als niet nieuw of niet inventief beschouwd ten opzichte van deze literatuur

"Y" de conclusie wordt als niet inventief beschouwd ten opzichte van de combinatie van deze literatuur met andere geciteerde literatuur van dezelfde categorie, waarbij de combinatie voor de vakman voor de hand liggend wordt geacht

"&" lid van dezelfde octroofamilie of overeenkomstige octrooipublicatie

Datum waarop het onderzoek naar de stand van de techniek van internationaal type werd voltooid

6 oktober 2014

Verzenddatum van het rapport van het onderzoek naar de stand van de techniek van internationaal type

Naam en adres van de instantie

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NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

De bevoegde ambtenaar

Moers, Roelof

**ONDERZOEKSRAPPORT BETREFFENDE HET
RESULTAAT VAN HET ONDERZOEK NAAR DE STAND
VAN DE TECHNIEK VAN HET INTERNATIONALE TYPE**

Nummer van het verzoek om een onderzoek naar
de stand van de techniek

NL 2012120

C.(Vervolg). VAN BELANG GEACHTTE DOCUMENTEN

Categorie °	Geciteerde documenten, eventueel met aanduiding van speciaal van belang zijnde passages	Van belang voor conclusie nr.
A	US 2 294 852 A (SMITH EDWIN M) 1 september 1942 (1942-09-01) * bladzijde 1, kolom 2, regel 42 - bladzijde 2, kolom 1, regel 4; figuren 1-4 *	1
A	----- US 2010/298840 A1 (SCHWARTZ LYMAN D [US]) 25 november 2010 (2010-11-25) * alinea [0012] - alinea [0016]; figuren 1, 2 * -----	4-7

**ONVOLLEDIG ONDERZOEK
AANVULLINGSBLAD C**

Octrooiaanvraag Nr.:

SN 61558
NL 2012120

Volledig onderzoekbare conclusie(s):
1-7

Niet onderzochte conclusie(s):
8-10

Reden voor de beperking van het onderzoek (niet octrooieerbare
uitvinding(en)):

Methode van behandeling van het menselijke lichaam door chirurgische
ingrepen

**ONDERZOEKSRAPPORT BETREFFENDE HET
RESULTAAT VAN HET ONDERZOEK NAAR DE STAND
VAN DE TECHNIEK VAN HET INTERNATIONALE TYPE**

Informatie over leden van dezelfde octrooifamilie

Nummer van het verzoek om een onderzoek naar
de stand van de techniek

NL 2012120

In het rapport genoemd octrooigeschrift	Datum van publicatie	Overeenkomend(e) geschrift(en)	Datum van publicatie
US 4491136	A	01-01-1985	GEEN
US 2012203242	A1	09-08-2012	AU 2010272172 A1 08-03-2012 CA 2768231 A1 20-01-2011 CN 102548492 A 04-07-2012 EP 2453815 A2 23-05-2012 KR 20120052988 A 24-05-2012 MA 33556 B1 01-09-2012 US 2012203242 A1 09-08-2012 WO 2011007358 A2 20-01-2011
CN 101301219	A	12-11-2008	GEEN
US 2294852	A	01-09-1942	GEEN
US 2010298840	A1	25-11-2010	US 2010298840 A1 25-11-2010 WO 2010135056 A2 25-11-2010

WRITTEN OPINION

File No. SN61558	Filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 22.01.2014	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>)	Application No. NL2012120
International Patent Classification (IPC) INV. A61B17/326			
Applicant Genco Med B.V.			

This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☒ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the application

	Examiner Moers, Roelof
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WRITTEN OPINION

Application number
NL2012120

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. This opinion has been established on the basis of the latest set of claims filed before the start of the search.
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ on paper
 - ☐ in electronic form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the application in electronic form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION

Application number
NL2012120

Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step, or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of

☐ the entire application

☒ claims Nos. 8-10

because:

☐ the said application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require a search (*specify*):

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☒ no search report has been established for the whole application or for said claims Nos. 8-10

☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed as the sequence listing was either not available, or was not furnished in the international format (WIPO ST25).

☐ a meaningful opinion could not be formed without the tables related to the sequence listings; or such tables were not available in electronic form.

☒ See Supplemental Box for further details.

Box No. V Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty	Yes: Claims	7
	No: Claims	1-6
Inventive step	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-7
Industrial applicability	Yes: Claims	1-7
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

Claims 8-10 relate to methods of surgery.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The present application does not meet the criteria of patentability, because the subject-matter of claims 1-7 is not new or does not involve an inventive step.

Document **US 4 491 136 A (D1)** discloses (see col. 3, line 47 - col. 4, line 9; figs. 7-10):

a device for executing a circumcision on a human's penis comprising an inner ring 23 and an elastic outer element 21 embodied as a spring.

Thus, D1 takes away the novelty of claim 1.

Similar objections can be made in view of **US 2012/203242 A1 (D2)** (see paragraph [0055]; figs. 1, 7a, 7d; paragraph [0088] - paragraph [0089]) and **CN 101 301 219 A (D3)** (see claim 1; figs. 1-3).

Dependent claims 2-7 do not appear to contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of novelty and/or inventive step, these features are either already known from D1-D3 or they merely relate to minor modifications without any surprising technical effect.