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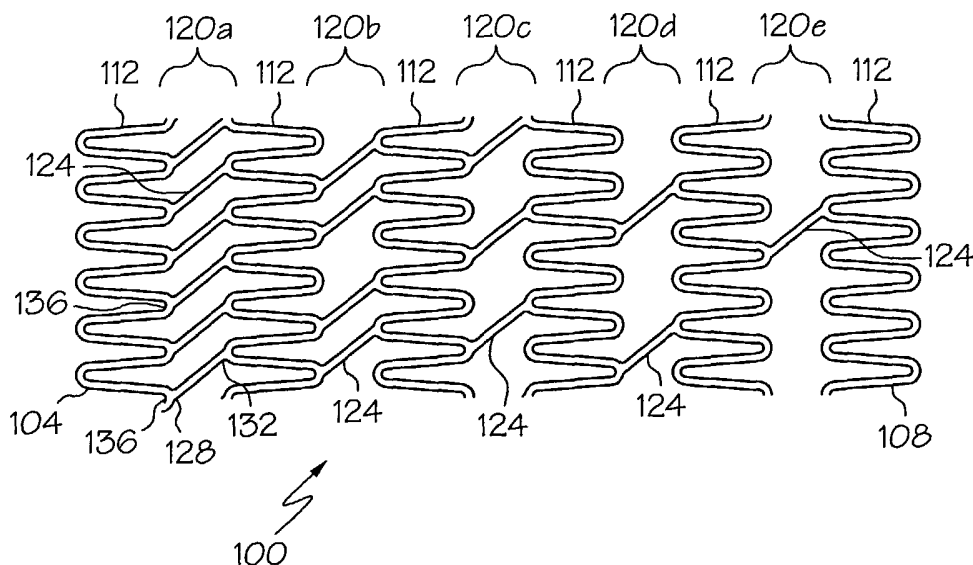
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ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: STENT WITH TAPERED FLEXIBILITY



(57) Abstract: A stent comprises a plurality of serpentine circumferential bands, and a plurality of connector columns. Each connector column is located between two adjacent circumferential bands and comprises one or more connector struts. Each connector strut is connected at one end to one serpentine circumferential band and at another end to another serpentine circumferential band. The number of connectors per connector column decreases from the first free end of the stent to the second free end of the stent.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US2004/011764

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A61F2/06

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 7 A61F

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)

EP0-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 461 380 B1 (COX DANIEL L) 8 October 2002 (2002-10-08) column 3, line 30 - column 4, line 67 -----	1-7
P, X	US 2003/144729 A1 (BICEK ANDREW D ET AL) 31 July 2003 (2003-07-31) paragraph [0046] -----	1-7
X	US 2002/042647 A1 (JANG G DAVID) 11 April 2002 (2002-04-11) paragraph [0057] -----	1-7
X	US 2001/027339 A1 (BRUMMETT KIMBERLY D ET AL) 4 October 2001 (2001-10-04) paragraph [0085] -----	1-7

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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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.
PCT/US2004/011764

Box 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 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 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.:

1-7

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

International Application No. PCT/ US2004/ 011764

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. claims: 1-7

A sent with a number of connectors per connector column decreasing from the first free end of the stent to the second free end of the stent.

2. claims: 8-26

A sent with the width of the connectors in a connector column decreasing from the first free end of the stent to the second free end of the stent.

3. claims: 27-31

A sent wherein the thickness of serpentine circumferential bands decreases from the first free end of the stent to the second free end of the stent.

4. claims: 32-38

A sent wherein the flexibility of the stent about the longitudinal axis near the endpoint is greater than the flexibility of the stent about the longitudinal axis near the midpoint.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Intern

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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