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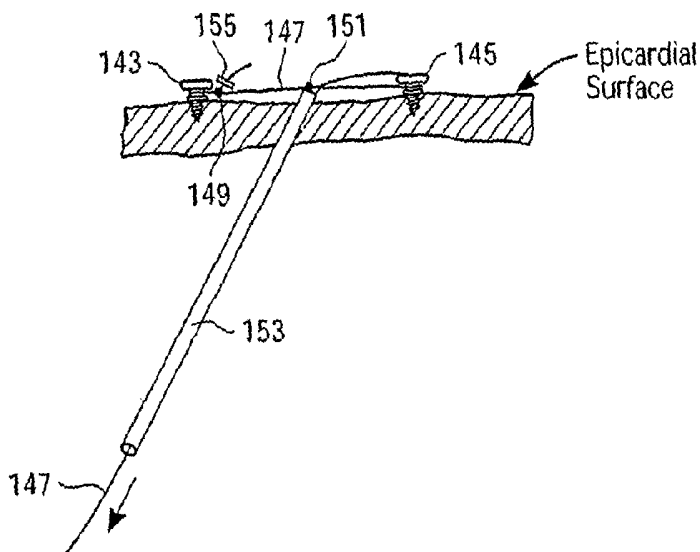
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ENDOSCOPIC SUBXIPHOID SURGICAL PROCEDURES



(57) Abstract: Endoscopic subxiphoid surgical procedures provide intrapericardial access for placement of epicardial tacks about the annulus of the mitral valve for supporting a tensioned suture or band that decreases the size of the mitral annulus to repair a regurgitative mitral valve.



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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 606/142

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. : 606/142,139,143,144,213,232

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

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,437,680 A (YOON) 01 August 1995 (01.08.1995), Column 7, lines 1-64.	1-11
X	US PG-PUB 2002/0035361 A1 (HOUSER et al) 21 March 2002 (21.03.2002), FIGS. 24A-26	1-5,8

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

☐ See patent family annex.

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"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

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