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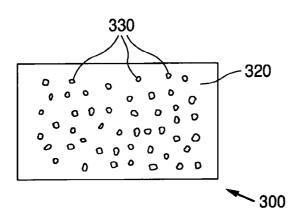
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(54) Title: POLYMER COMPOSITE STENT WITH POLYMER PARTICLES



(57) Abstract: Polymer composite implantable medical devices, such as stents, comprising a structural element including a composite having a plurality of polymer particles dispersed within a polymer matrix and methods of manufacturing such devices are disclosed.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. A61L27/26 A61L27/48 A61L31/04 A61L31/12 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) A61L 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) EPO-Internal, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. χ EP 1 607 109 A (BIORETEC OY [FI]) 1,5,8, 21 December 2005 (2005-12-21) 10,12 page 2, paragraph 1 page 3, paragraph 11 page 4, paragraph 21 - page 5, paragraph page 9, paragraph 59 claims 1-8 figure 1 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. X See patent family annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance earlier document but published on or after the international *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "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 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 24 June 2008 14/07/2008 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 Van den Bulcke, H

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