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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: BIPOLAR CARDIAC ABLATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

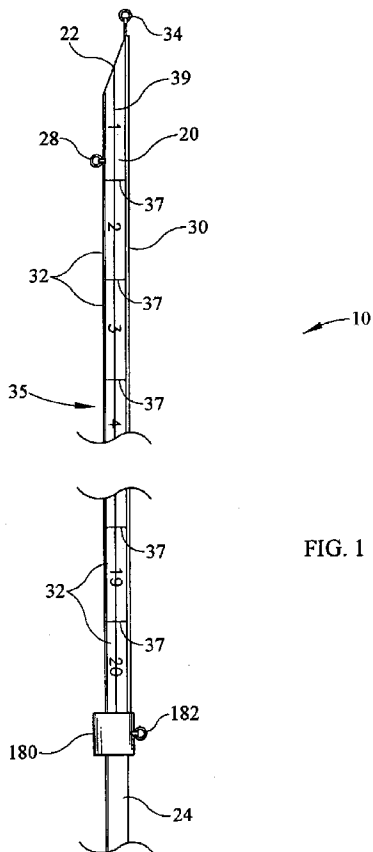


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: An apparatus for bipolar radio frequency ablation of heart tissue includes a flexible epicardial lead having an interior surface along a portion thereof comprising an electrically conductive surface to be placed in contact with tissue to be ablated. Additionally, the epicardial lead includes an integral fastener disposed proximate a distal end thereof and a sliding lock collar having an aperture therein through which said epicardial lead passes. A complementary fastener may be secured thereto for engaging the fastener of said epicardial lead, thereby securing said lead in place around tissue to be ablated. The apparatus further includes an endocardial ablation lead placed in the left atrial chamber via transfemoral insertion for conduction of radio frequency energy between the ablating lead and the ablating surface of the epicardial lead.



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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No  
PCT/US2008/001484

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
INV. A61B18/14

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)  
A61B A61N

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**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01/72234 A (BOSTON SCIENT LTD [BB]; THOMPSON RUSSELL B [US]) 4 October 2001 (2001-10-04) abstract; figures 1B,2,5,6B,8B,13B page 1, line 3 - line 5 page 3, line 6 - line 13 page 4, line 9 - line 15 page 5, line 4 - line 11 page 9, line 30 - page 10, line 31 page 11, line 18 - line 28 page 12, line 11 - page 13, line 9 page 17, line 7 - line 20 page 17, line 30 - page 18, line 8 claim 1	1,2,17, 20-22
Y	----- -/--	3,16,18, 23,24

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international 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)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*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
- \*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
- \*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.
- \*Z\* 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/US2008/001484

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Y	US 2005/267460 A1 (ROOP JOHN A [US] ET AL ROOP JOHN AVI [US] ET AL) 1 December 2005 (2005-12-01) paragraph [0039]	16
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A	WO 2007/001981 A (ABLATION FRONTIERS [US]; ROMAN RICHARDO D [US]; ASCONDEGUY ALEXANDER J) 4 January 2007 (2007-01-04) the whole document	1-3, 16-18, 20-24
A	US 2006/161237 A1 (CAWTHRA JAMES K JR [US]) 20 July 2006 (2006-07-20)  the whole document	1-3, 16-18, 20-24
A	EP 1 042 990 A (MEDTRONIC INC [US]) 11 October 2000 (2000-10-11)  the whole document	1-3, 16-18, 20-24
A	EP 0 868 922 A (MEDTRONIC INC [US]) 7 October 1998 (1998-10-07)  the whole document	1-3, 16-18, 20-24

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US2008/001484

## Box No. 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.: 26-36  
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  
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by therapy
2.  Claims Nos.: 4-15, 19, 25  
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:  
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
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 No. 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:

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 fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
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 and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 26-36

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

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

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Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 4-15,19,25

Lack of clarity of the term "mitral valve slide" (Article 6 PCT). The "mitral valve" is a part of the human heart, and it makes no sense that a "slide" of such organ be included in the epicardial lead. Moreover, no parts of human body can be within the disclosed subject-matter.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2)PCT declaration be overcome.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2008/001484

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