Title: DEVICE FOR DISPLACEMENT OF ANTERIOR ABDOMINAL WALL

Abstract: A laparoscopic procedure includes positioning a patient in a position for surgery. A tool is selected having a distal end and a proximal end separated by a tool body. An expandable member is provided at the distal end. The distal end is inserted through an anterior abdominal wall of a patient and into an abdominal space defined between the anterior abdominal walls. The insertion is continued until the expanded member resides within said abdominal space and the proximal end resides external to the space. The expandable member is expanded within the abdominal space. The proximal end is drawn away from the patient by an amount for the expandable member to urge the anterior abdominal wall away from the posterior abdominal wall to expand the abdominal space. The expansion of the abdominal space may be enhanced by admission of a gas under pressure to the abdominal space.
### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**
- IPC(8) - A61M 37/00
- USPC - 604/96.01

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)

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)
- Science Direct®, PubMed, Google Scholar

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category*</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 5,195,506 A (HULFISH) 23 March 1993 (23.03.1993) part 24</td>
<td>1-12, 14 and 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>STANY et al. 'Laparoscopic Exposure in Obese High-Risk Patients With Mechanical Displacement of the Abdominal Wall' Obstet Gynecol 2004; 103: 383-6. entire document</td>
<td>5-8, 13 and 16-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,238,373 A (DE LA TORRE et al) 29 May 2001 (29.05.2001) entire document</td>
<td>1-20</td>
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</table>

* 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 application or patent 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)
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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: 26 January 2006
Date of mailing of the international search report: 07 APR 2006

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