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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TISSUE SAMPLING

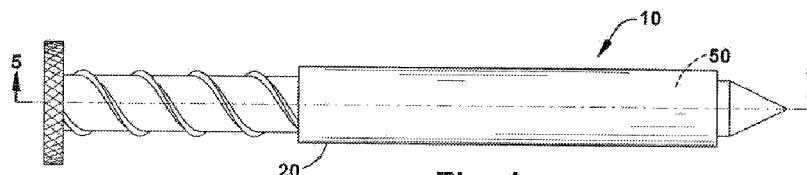


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: A tissue sampling device (10) includes a sheath (20) having an inner surface having a proximal end and a distal end, and an inner surface defining a passage. An inner tube (50) is disposed within the passage. The inner tube has an inner surface defining a passage, and an outer surface radially spaced outward from the inner surface. A cutting needle is pivotally mounted to the inner tube and pivots between a first position radially inward of the inner surface of the sheath and a second position substantially radially outward of the outer surface of the inner tube. Relative movement between the inner tube and the sheath causes the cutting needle to move between the first position and the second position. Rotation of the inner tube relative to the sheath when the cutting needle is in the second position causes the cutting needle to remove tissue in a helical path.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2008/084192

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61B10/02

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

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2007/142852 A1 (LEE ROBERTA [US] ET AL) 21 June 2007 (2007-06-21) page 1, paragraphs 3,7 page 2, paragraph 28 - page 4, paragraph 41 figures 1A-1D	1-3,9-12
Y		4-8
X	US 6 344 026 B1 (BURBANK FRED H [US] ET AL) 5 February 2002 (2002-02-05) column 1, lines 11-13 column 2, lines 34-47 column 8, line 49 - column 12, line 40 figures 1-4	1-3,9-12

☒ 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
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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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International application No

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2002/115943 A1 (BURBANK FRED H [US] ET AL) 22 August 2002 (2002-08-22) page 1, paragraphs 2,3 page 4, paragraph 50 - page 5, paragraph 51 figures 3-5	1,3
Y	US 5 660 186 A (BACHIR JOSEPH S [US]) 26 August 1997 (1997-08-26) column 3, line 50 - column 4, line 63 column 5, line 45 - column 9, line 11 figures 1,2,10	4-8
A		1,10
Y	US 2 850 007 A (LINGLEY ROBERT C) 2 September 1958 (1958-09-02)	6,7
A	the whole document	1,4
A	EP 0 829 239 A (ECLIPSE SURGICAL TECH [US]) 18 March 1998 (1998-03-18) column 4, lines 12-34 column 5, line 5 - column 6, line 19 column 7, lines 8-23 figure 3A	1,10-12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2008/084192

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.: 13-18
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
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 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 allsearchable 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 reportcovers 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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2008/084192

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