Abstract: Minimally invasive devices and methods for cutting a volume of soft tissue such as a biopsy or a therapeutic excision of cancer are disclosed. The device generally includes a probe, a cutting loop with sufficient elasticity, shape memory or superelastic property such that the loop returns to a cutting configuration when released from a storage configuration, and a loop holder to hold and rotate the cutting loop about a loop holder axis when the cutting loop is in the cutting configuration so as to adjust a loop angle between the probe axis and the cutting loop. The method generally includes positioning the tissue cutting device adjacent the volume of tissue, releasing the cutting loop from the storage configuration to the cutting configuration, rotating the cutting loop to adjust the loop angle, and moving the tissue cutting device to cut the volume of tissue.
# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

<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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 6,331,166 A (BURBANK et al) 18 December 2001, figures 1-19.</td>
<td>1-61</td>
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**Date of the actual completion of the international search**

**Date of mailing of the international search report**
14 FEB 2008

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