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(71) Applicant and

(72) Inventor: **DIDCOTT, Colin, Charles** [ZA/ZA]; 44 Centre Road, Morningside, Sandton, 2057 Gauteng Province (ZA).

(74) Agent: **PILKINGTON, Donovan**; Institute of Inventors and Innovators, P.O. Box 286, 2132 Saxonwold (ZA).

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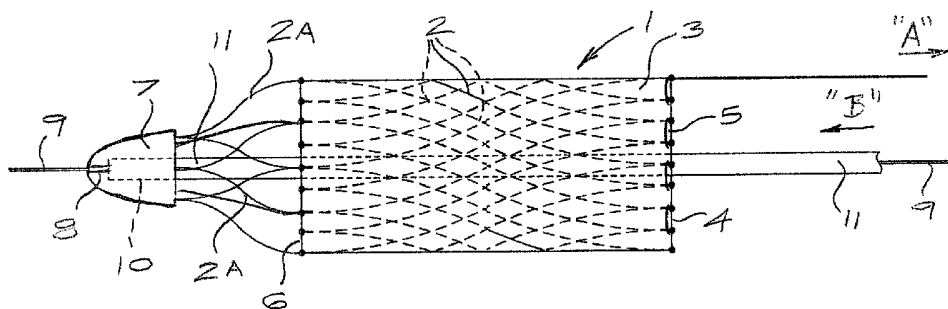
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(54) Title: DILATORS AND DILATOR ASSEMBLIES



(57) Abstract: A dilator (1, 13, 22) is provided of the general type comprising a radially resilient tabular lattice (2) supporting a flexible tabular sheath (3) such that the tabular lattice and sheath can be constricted to reduce the diameter thereof with a consequent elongation of the tabular lattice. The dilator has means (5, 2a, 14, 15, 23, 25) associated with both its proximal end (4, 16, 24) and distal end (6, 12, 26) for decreasing the diameter of both ends against the resilience of the dilator. The means for decreasing the diameter of the proximal and of the dilator is a generally a drawstring (5, 15, 23). The means for decreasing the diameter of the distal and may be either a series of radially extending elements (2a) connected to the distal end of the lattice and connected to each other by a leading end cap (7) carried by a control tube or a second drawstring arrangement (14, 25) wherein, for installation purposes, the drawstring or drawstrings pass through a small diameter control tube (17, 27).

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 7 A61M29/00 A61F2/06

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)

IPC 7 A61F A61M

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	US 2003/149475 A1 (HYODOH HIDEKI ET AL) 7 August 2003 (2003-08-07) paragraph '0146! - paragraph '0149!; figures 50A-c	1-3,6
Y	paragraph '0220!; figures 31,32 paragraph '0226! - paragraph '0271!; figures 3,4,25	7-10
X	----- WO 01/06952 A (MED INSTITUTE, INC; COOK INCORPORATED) 1 February 2001 (2001-02-01) page 4, line 10 - page 8, line 1; figures 1-6	1,3-6
X	----- US 2002/143387 A1 (SOETIKNO ROY M ET AL) 3 October 2002 (2002-10-03) paragraph '0022! - paragraph '0040!; figures 1A-5b	1-3,6
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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

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

Authorized officer

Jameson, P

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## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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