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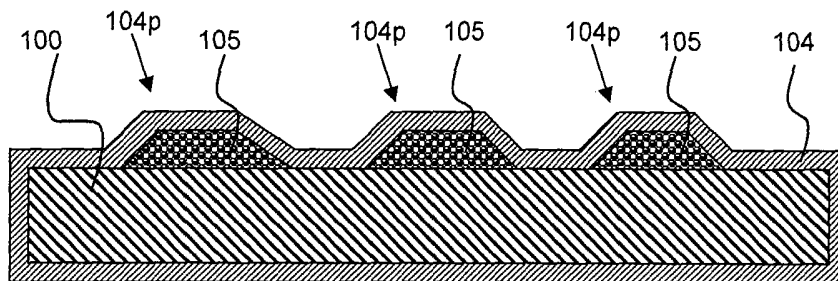
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(54) Title: MEDICAL ARTICLES WITH POLYELECTROLYTE MULTILAYER COATINGS



(57) Abstract: The medical articles which comprise the following: (a) a ceramic or metallic region whose surface comprises a plurality of depressions, (b) a multilayer coating region comprising multiple polyelectrolyte layers deposited over the surface of the ceramic or metallic region; and (c) a therapeutic agent disposed beneath or within the multilayer coating region. According to another aspect of the present invention, medical articles are provided, which comprise: (a) a ceramic or metallic region, (b) a multilayer coating region comprising multiple polyelectrolyte layers deposited over a surface of the ceramic or metallic region, the multilayer coating region comprising a plurality of protuberances; and (c) a therapeutic agent disposed within regions beneath the protuberances. Also described herein are methods of making such medical articles, and methods of administering a therapeutic agent to a patient using such medical articles.

WO 2005/089825 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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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)

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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, PAJ

C. 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	WO 02/32347 A (CONOR MEDSYSTEMS, INC; SHANLEY, JOHN F) 25 April 2002 (2002-04-25) figures claims	1-31
Y	US 6 254 632 B1 (WU STEVEN Z ET AL) 3 July 2001 (2001-07-03) figures claims	32
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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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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.
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