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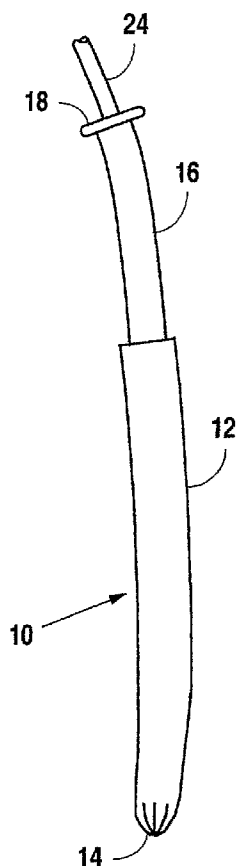
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: WOUND HEALING APPARATUS WITH BIOABSORBABLE MATERIAL AND SUCTION TUBES



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for placement in a wound to promote healing, and a method of treating wounds using such apparatus. The apparatus comprises a bioabsorbable fabric supported by a skeleton of impervious flexible members, such as Teflon™ tubes. When placed inside the wound, the bioabsorbable fabric absorbs into the body within about 5 to 10 days. As the fabric is being absorbed, it serves as a framework for fibroblasts to bridge the gap in the wounded tissue and thereby promote healing. The tubes serve as conduits to remove excess fluids from the wound, preferably under the power of a suction device to which the tubes are connected outside the body. After the fabric is absorbed by the body, the flexible tubes are removed. An expandable embodiment may be deployed into a wound cavity via an introducer tube and plunger. The apparatus may incorporate various sensors.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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 U.S. : 602/41

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- A	WO 2004/047649 A(SOLYMAR et al.) entire document	1-3, 10, 30, 35, 39-41, 44, 47-48 ----- 4-9, 11-29, 31-34, 36-38, 42, 43, 45, 46
A	US 6,356,782 B1 (SIRIMANNE et al.) 12 March 2002	1-48
A, E	US 6,855,153 B 2 (SAADAT) 15 February 2005	1-48
A	US 2002/0150604 A1 (YI et al.) 17 October 2002	1-48
A	US 6,126,675 (SHCHERVISNSKY et al.) 03 October 2000	1-48

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"
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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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