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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP** [US/US]; 195 McDermott Road, North Haven, CT (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **VIOLA, Frank, J.** [US/US]; 320 Great Quarter Road, Sandy Hook, CT 06482 (US). **KREHEL, Gregg** [US/US]; 70 Sugar Lane, Newtown, CT 06470 (US). **SOLTZ, Michael, A.** [US/US]; 4214 Avalon Haven Drive, Apt 4214, North Haven, CT 06473 (US). **DESANTIS, Robert, J.** [US/US]; 67 Sport Hill Road, Redding, CT 06896 (US). **HOLSTEN, Henry** [US/US]; 131 Farmstead Road, Apt. 15, Southington, CT 06489 (US). **HEINRICH, Russell** [US/US]; 11 Beaver Pond Road, Madison, CT 06443 (US).

(74) Common Representative: **TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP**; 195 McDermott Road, North Haven, CT 06473 (US).

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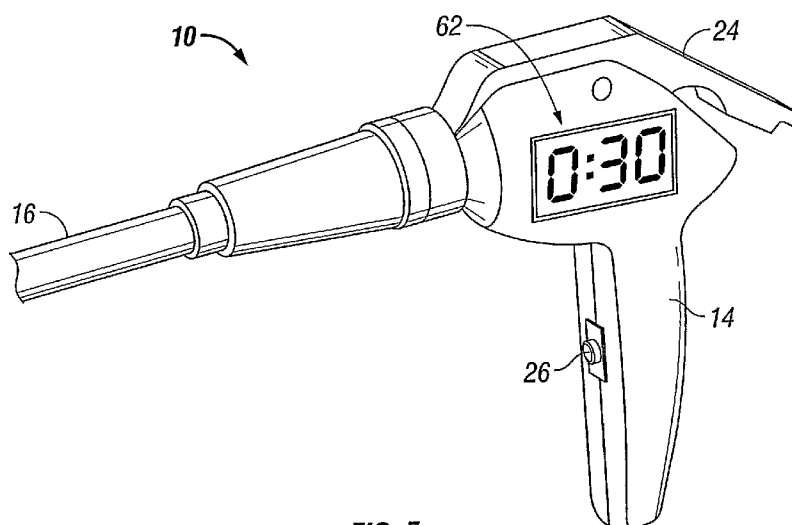


FIG. 5

(57) Abstract: A surgical apparatus has a clamp and a stapling mechanism. The clamp has a first jaw and a second jaw to clamp on a body tissue at a desired location for a stapling operation. The stapling mechanism is controlled by a trigger handle or a switch assembly. The surgical apparatus has a controller for providing a delay between clamping and actuating of the firing mechanism of the stapling mechanism. The delay provides for a desired amount of time for tissue compression producing a more uniform staple formation. The surgical apparatus also has an indicator. The indicator provides feedback about the status of the stapling mechanism and also displays a time of tissue compression by the clamp.

WO 2007/142625 A3

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US06/21524

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: **A61B 17/068**( 2006.01)

USPC: 227/175.1,176.1

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)

U.S. : 227/175.1, 176.1

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. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| A          | US 7,140,528 B2 (SHELTON, IV) 28 November 2006 (28.11.2006), figures 1-2, column 2 lines 52-55.  | 1-40                  |
| A          | US 7,246,734 B2 (SHELTON, IV) 24 July 2007 (24.07.2007), figure 1, column 1 lines 46-59, column 2 lines 31-57.                                     | 1-40                  |
| X          | US 6,981,941 B2 (WHITMAN et al) 3 January 2006 (03.01.2006), column 1 lines 33-47;   | 1-4 and 7-40          |
| ---        | column 2 lines 4-12; column 5 lines 4-54; column 14 lines 35-61; column 16 line 63-column  | -----                 |
| Y          | 17 line 67.  | 5 and 6               |
| Y          | US 6,443,973 B1 (WHITMAN) 3 September 2002 (03.09.2002), figures 1 and 3-5, column 5 lines 6-20, column 6 lines 37-55; column 7 lines 1-15, 46-52. | 1-40                  |
| A          | US 6,264,086 B1 (MCGUCKIN, JR.) 24 July 2001 (24.07.2001), figures 3, 18, 19 and 24.   | 1-4, 7-10 and 35-40   |
| A          | US 5,658,300 A (BITO et al.) 19 August 1997 (19.08.1997), figures 9, 11, 12, 16, 23 and 31.  | 1-40                  |

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

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Authorized officer

Rinaldi I. Rada

Telephone No. (571) 272-3750

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PCT/US06/21524**C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

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|------------|---|-----------------------|
| A          | US 5,411,508 A (BESSLER et al.) 2 May 1995 (02.05.1995), figure 1, column 15 lines 17-20. | 1, 5 and 6            |