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11/614,900 21 December 2006 (21.12.2006) US
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[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR STERILIZATION**

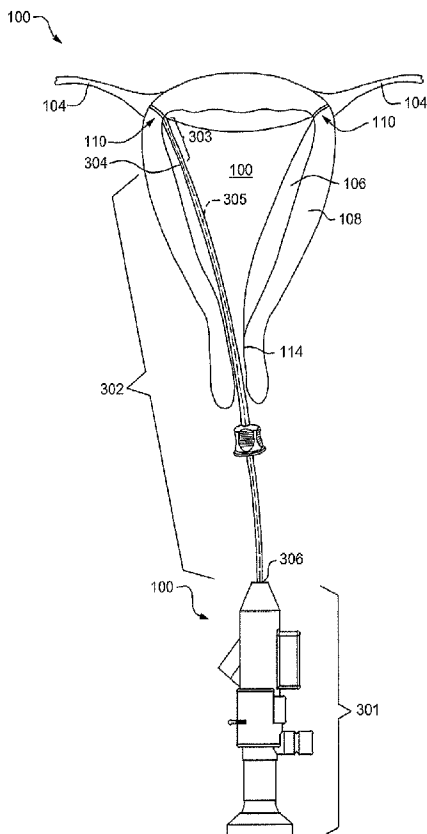


FIG 8A

(57) **Abstract:** A medical device and procedure is described for sterilizing a female. A two-part procedure includes an immediate sterilization part and a permanent, sterilization part. The immediate sterilization part provides immediate sterility that endures at least until the permanent effects of a tubal occlusion procedure provide permanent sterility.

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**Previous Correction:**

see Notice of 14 August 2008

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No  
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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 INV. A61B18/14 A61F6/22  
 ADD. A61B17/42 A61B17/12

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)  
**A61B A61F**

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

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 568 325 A (ADIANA INC [US]) 31 August 2005 (2005-08-31)	37-40, 46
Y	paragraphs [0013], [0014], [0018] - [0024], [0033] - [0039]; figures 2, 3, 5a-d, 7, 14	41-45
Y	US 2006/135956 A1 (SAMPSON RUSSEL M [US] ET AL) 22 June 2006 (2006-06-22) claims 11-14; figures 2-4	42-45
Y	US 5 979 446 A (LOY RANDALL A [US]) 9 November 1999 (1999-11-09) abstract; figure 1	41
A	US 2004/255958 A1 (HARRINGTON DOUGLAS C [US] ET AL) 23 December 2004 (2004-12-23) abstract; figure 5	37-46

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P1" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y1" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

**13 March 2008**

Date of mailing of the international search report

**30/07/2008**

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/US2007/087864

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No. .
A	US 4 700 701 A (MONTALDI DAVID H [US]) 20 October 1987 (1987-10-20) abstract; figure 3A -----	37-46
A	US 2005/155608 A1 (PAVCNIK DUSAN [US] ET AL) 21 July 2005 (2005-07-21) paragraph [0069]; figure 21 -----	37-41
A	US 2004/172051 A1 (RAVIKUMAR SUNDARAM [US]) 2 September 2004 (2004-09-02) abstract; figures 2,3 -----	37-41
A	WO 97/12569 A (MAGOS ADAM LASZLO [GB]) 10 April 1997 (1997-04-10) abstract; figure 2 -----	37-41
A	US 2005/085880 A1 (TRUCKAI CSABA [US] ET AL) 21 April 2005 (2005-04-21) abstract; figure 2 -----	42-46

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US2007/087864

## Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable. (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.: 1-36  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fee-s were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

see additi onal sheet(s)

### Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCTASA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 37-46

A system for fallopian tube occlusion comprising a tubal occlusion device and a radio frequency (RF) ablation device and a vacuum source wherein the bipolar electrodes of the ablation device comprise conductive metallised regions on a fabric sheath carried on a structural support member.

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2. claims: 47-55

A system for fallopian tube occlusion comprising a tubal occlusion device and a radio frequency (RF) ablation device wherein the ablation device comprises an elongate member including first and second lumens adapted to be coupled to a vacuum source and receive a hysteroscope respectively.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2007/087864

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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