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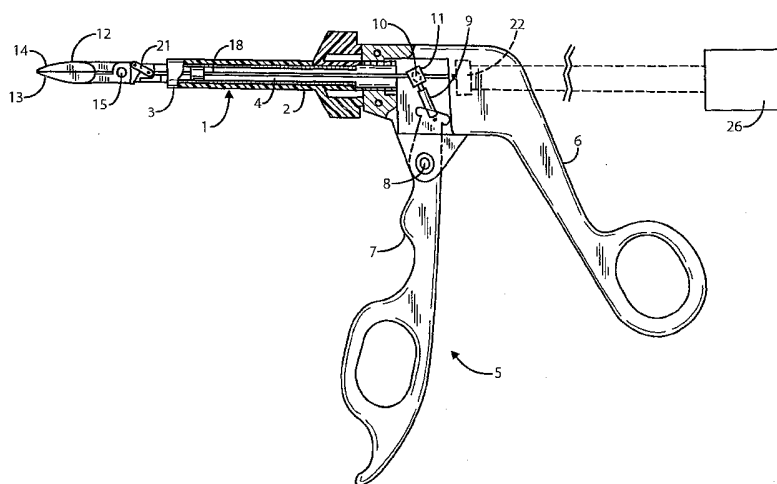
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(54) Title: AN ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT



(57) Abstract: A bipolar electrosurgical instrument comprises a handle (5), a body (1) joined to the handle, and a jaw assembly (12) joined to the body and arranged such that manipulation of the handle allows first and second opposed jaws (14 and 13) of the jaw assembly to be opened and closed with respect to one another. The first jaw (14) has at least a first coagulating electrode, and the second jaw (13) has at least a second coagulating electrode and a cutting electrode (16) separated from the second coagulating electrode by an insulating member (17). The instrument is manipulated at the surgical site such that the jaws (14 and 13) of the jaw assembly (12) are open with respect to one another, with the cutting electrode (16) and at least one of the first and second coagulating electrodes contacting tissue at the surgical site. A radio frequency electrosurgical signal is supplied between the cutting electrode (16) and the at least one coagulating electrode, and the electrosurgical instrument is moved while maintaining the jaws (13, 14) in their open position so as to cut tissue at the surgical site.

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GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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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

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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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 287 788 A (GYRUS MEDICAL LIMITED) 5 March 2003 (2003-03-05) paragraph '0021! paragraph '0024! - paragraph '0029!; figures 3-5	1-5
X	US 2003/139741 A1 (GOBLE COLIN CHARLES OWEN ET AL) 24 July 2003 (2003-07-24) paragraph '0087!; figures 5-11 paragraph '0096! - paragraph '0104!; figure 15 paragraph '0119! - paragraph '0124!; figures 21,22	1-5

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in 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
- "P" 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
- "Y" 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

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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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.
X	US 6 270 497 B1 (SEKINO NAOMI ET AL) 7 August 2001 (2001-08-07) column 12, line 35 - column 13, line 46 column 16, line 38 - column 17, line 28 column 18, line 34 - line 51 -----	1-5
X	US 2004/006340 A1 (LATTERELL SCOTT T ET AL) 8 January 2004 (2004-01-08) paragraph '0019! - paragraph '0025! paragraph '0032! figures 1-7 -----	1-3
X	US 6 273 887 B1 (YAMAUCHI KOUJI ET AL) 14 August 2001 (2001-08-14) column 13, line 29 - column 14, line 16; figures 8,9 -----	1-3
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Y	US 2002/198525 A1 (SCHULZE DALE R ET AL) 26 December 2002 (2002-12-26) paragraph '0050!; figure 1 -----	6-12
Y	US 6 334 860 B1 (DORN JÜ ET AL) 1 January 2002 (2002-01-01) column 5, line 47 - column 6, line 41; figure 2 -----	6-12
A	EP 0 797 959 A (ETHICON ENDO-SURGERY, INC) 1 October 1997 (1997-10-01) figures 4-10 -----	6-12
A	WO 97/05829 A (CABOT TECHNOLOGY CORPORATION) 20 February 1997 (1997-02-20) page 8, line 21 - page 9, line 14; figures 7-10 -----	6-12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2005/000066

Box III 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.: 13-21
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 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 all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
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 fees 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.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. claims: 1-5

Bipolar electrosurgical instrument comprising
coagulating/cutting electrodes and a generator comprising
sources of RF.

Problem: how to cut and coagulate the tissue simultaneously

2. claims: 6-12

Bipolar electrosurgical instrument
comprising coagulating/cutting electrodes wherein the cutting
electrode is in the form of a longitudinal rail.

Problem: how to held tissues between the jaws

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2005/000066

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