

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
15 November 2007 (15.11.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/131177 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:

A61B 1/005 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2007/068258

(22) International Filing Date: 4 May 2007 (04.05.2007)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

60/746,435 4 May 2006 (04.05.2006) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every

kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every

kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, 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, LV, MC, MT, 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).

Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

2 May 2008

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VISUALIZATION OF A FLEXIBLE BODY

(57) Abstract: A plurality of sensors (110) are disposed at least adjacent to portions of a flexible body (100) such as a catheter or endoscope that can be inserted into a cavity (123). Each sensor (110) is capable of sensing at least five degrees of freedom from the point of the flexible body (100) to which it is attached. A computing device (115) operatively connected to the plurality of tracking sensors (110) receives signals from the sensors (110) such that the computing device (115) may determine a shape and/or visualization (130) of the flexible body (100) and overlay it with various images of at least a portion of the cavity (123). The sensed portions of the flexible body (100) may be used to automatically determine the portions of the cavity (123) to image.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US07/68258

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: **A61B 1/005**(2006.01)

USPC: 600/433,466

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. : 600/433,466

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.
Y	US 2003/0132895 A1 (Berstis) 17 July 2003 (17. 07. 2003), Para [0050]	7,10,11
X	US 2005/0085720 A1 (Jascob et al) 21 April 2005 (21. 04. 05), Para [0014], [0080], [0089]	1-6,8,9,12-17
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Y		7,10,11

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☐ See patent family annex.

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"&"

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

04 December 2007 (04.12.2007)

Date of mailing of the international search report

05 FEB 2008

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