Abstract: In one embodiment, an introducer system includes an introducer needle having a proximal end and a distal end and defining an inner lumen, the introducer needle further having an opening that provides access to the inner lumen, and a snare having an implant coupling element, the snare being configured to be positioned within the inner lumen of the introducer needle, wherein the snare is extendable from the introducer needle opening to an extended position in which the implant coupling element is positioned outside of the inner lumen and retractable to a retracted position in which the implant coupling element is positioned within the inner lumen.
Published:

— with international search report
### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

**INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION**

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

**IPC:** A61B 17/10 (2006.01)

**USPC:** 606/139

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

### FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S.: 606/139

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic database consulted during the international search (name of database and, where practicable, search terms used)

EAST - snare, needle, suture, mesh

### DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 6,210,416 B1 (Chu et al.) 03 April 2001 (03.04.2001), entire document.</td>
<td>1-5 and 7-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td></td>
<td>6 and 15-21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 5,499,991 A (Garman et al.) 19 March 1996 (19.03.1996), entire document.</td>
<td>22-31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

**See patent family annex.**

- **A** document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- **E** earlier application or patent 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

**Date of the actual completion of the international search**

10 June 2008 (10.06.2008)

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**Date of mailing of the international search report**

12 AUG 2008

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