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(21) International Application Number: PCT/IB00/00263 (22) International Filing Date: 21 January 2000 (21.01.00) (30) Priority Data: 09/235,355 21 January 1999 (21.01.99) US (71) Applicant: VISION-SCIENCES, INC. [US/US]; 6 Strathmore Road, Natick, MA 01760 (US). (72) Inventors: AILINGER, Robert; 118 Albermarle Road, Norwood, MA 02062 (US). MARTONE, Stephen; 27 Crown Road, Westford, MA 01886 (US). (74) Agents: BULCHIS, Edward, W. et al.; Dorsey & Whitney LLP, US Bank Center, 1420 5th Avenue, Suite 400, Seattle, WA 98101 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 2 November 2000 (02.11.00)
(54) Title: FORMING THIN-WALLED ELASTIC COMPONENTS FROM AN ELASTOMERIC MATERIAL (57) Abstract <p>A thin-walled elastic sheath that can be stretched axially over an elongated imaging device to closely conform to the device and isolate the device from an external environment, and a method of forming such a sheath, are shown and described. The method includes the steps of heating at least a portion of a sheet of an elastomeric material to an elevated temperature to form a malleable heated portion of the sheet, pressing an elongated forming tool against the sheet at a location central with respect to the heated portion of the sheet, stretching the heated portion of the elastomeric material with the forming tool until an elastic conforming portion of the sheet is conformed to at least a portion of the length of the forming tool, and removing the forming tool from the conforming portion of the sheet to leave the thin-walled, elastic sheath having a wall thickness approximately equal to or less than 0.006 inches.</p>		

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/IB 00/00263

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 B29C55/24 A61B1/00 A61M25/00

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)

IPC 7 B29C A61B A61M

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	US 5 337 734 A (M.A. SAAB) 16 August 1994 (1994-08-16)	1-8
X	column 4, line 25 - column 5, line 12	12-19
X	column 6, line 1 - line 10	23-29
X	column 7, line 10 - line 58	36-38
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A	column 10, line 10 - line 29	1, 2, 12, 13, 23

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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A	column 7, line 33 - line 47	15,17,23
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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