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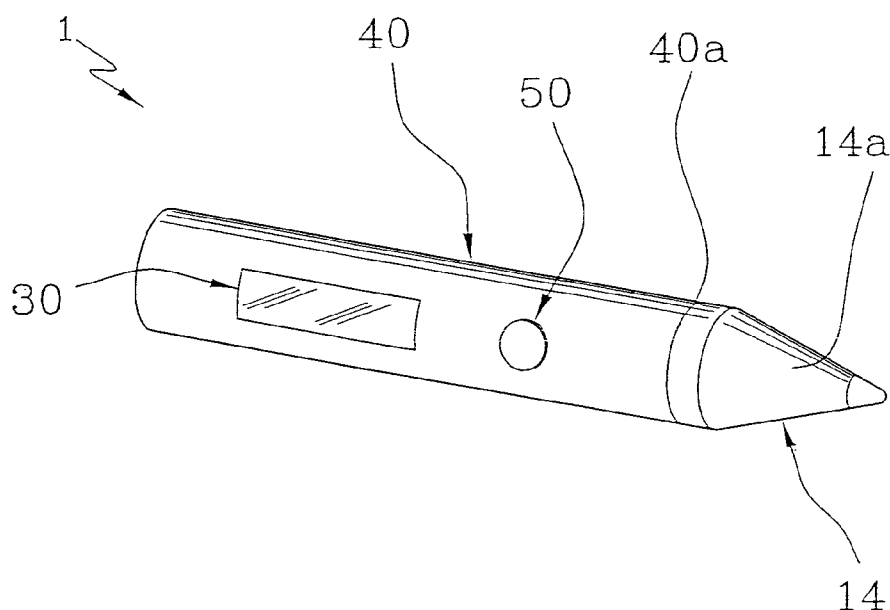
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MEASURING THE CUTANEOUS ELECTRICAL IMPEDANCE OF AN INDIVIDUAL



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for measuring the cutaneous electrical impedance of an individual, comprising an oscillator (10) operatively associable with a first skin portion (21) of the individual, and tuning means (11) for carrying out tuning of an oscillation frequency of said oscillator (10) with a characteristic frequency of the nervous rete innervating the first skin portion (21), thereby obtaining a corresponding tuned frequency (f). The apparatus (1) further comprises an output block (30) connected to the oscillator (10) to generate, as a function of the tuned frequency (f), an output signal (31) representative of the electrical impedance (Zeq) of the first skin portion (21). Also described is a method of measuring the electrical impedance of an individual.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A61B

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	DE 102 17 765 A1 (HTI GMBH [DE]; SLT GMBH [DE]; KLINGBEIL FURCH AGNES [DE]) 20 November 2003 (2003-11-20) paragraphs [0018] - [0028]	1,13
X	US 5 063 937 A (EZENWA BERTRAM N [US] ET AL) 12 November 1991 (1991-11-12) column 1, line 66 - column 2, line 61 column 5, line 10 - column 7, line 8 ----- -/--	1,13

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

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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

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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.
A	<p>FUKUMOTO T ET AL: "A basic study about multi channel measurment of skin impedance vector loci on the acupunctur points" PROCEEDINGS OF THE 23RD. ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE IEEE ENGINEERING IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY SOCIETY. 2001 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS. (EMBS). INSTANBUL, TURKEY, OCT. 25 - 28, 2001, ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE IEEE ENGINEERING IN M, vol. VOL. 1 OF 4. CONF. 23, 25 October 2001 (2001-10-25), pages 3392-3395, XP010593835 ISBN: 0-7803-7211-5 the whole document</p> <p>-----</p>	1,13
A	<p>FRADEN J: "Active acupuncture point impedance and potential measurements" AMERICAN JOURNAL OF ACUPUNCTURE, ACUPUNCTURE RESEARCH PUBL. CO., FELTON, CA, US, vol. 7, no. 2, June 1970 (1970-06), pages 137-144, XP002158561 ISSN: 0091-3960 the whole document</p> <p>-----</p>	1,13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 10217765	A1	20-11-2003	NONE
US 5063937	A	12-11-1991	NONE