

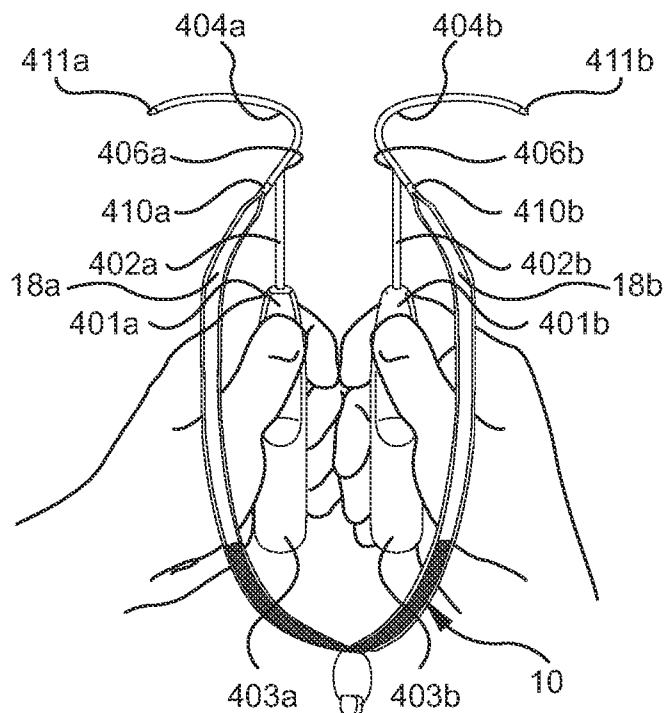


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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):  
**ETHICON, INC.** [US/US]; U.S. Route 22, Somerville, NJ 08876 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **NGUYEN, Steven** [US/US]; 48 Aspen Drive, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 (US). **ELBERT, Katrin** [US/US]; 133 St. Paul Street, Westfield, NJ 07090 (US). **SMITH, Daniel, J.** [US/US]; 12 Garfield Court, Dayton, NJ 08810 (US).
- (74) Agents: **JOHNSON, Philip, S.** et al.; Johnson & Johnson, One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, NJ 08933 (US).
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CENTERING AID FOR IMPLANTABLE SLING

FIG. 4



(57) Abstract: A surgical implant and method for its use. The surgical implant includes a biocompatible mesh having first and second ends, a length greater than a width, and a centering device including a solid, button-like element having opposing first and second surfaces and a peripheral outer edge extending therebetween. The centering device further includes a filamentary element having first and second ends fixedly secured to the peripheral edge of the button-like element so as to form a loop therebetween. The filamentary element is woven through the mesh at its longitudinal center in a direction perpendicular to the length of the mesh.



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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61F 2/04 (2011.01)

USPC - 600/30

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(8) - A61F 2/02, 2/04, 2/48, 6/14, 6/16, 6/18 (2011.01)

USPC - 600/29, 30, 574; 623/23.64, 23.65, 23.66, 902

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)

PatBase, Google Scholar

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 2003/0065402 A1 (ANDERSON et al) 03 April 2003 (03.04.2003) entire document	1-9, 11-16, 18-22 ----- 10, 17, 23
Y	US 2008/0139877 A1 (CHU et al) 12 June 2008 (12.06.2008) entire document	10, 17, 23
A	US 2002/0099258 A1 (STASKIN et al) 25 July 2002 (25.07.2002) entire document	1-23

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

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"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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05 December 2011

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P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. 571-273-3201

Authorized officer:

Blaine R. Copenheaver

PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300

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