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With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

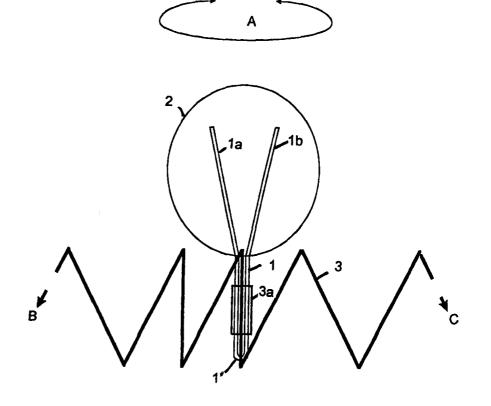
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(54) Title: IMPLANTABLE VALVE FOR BLOOD VESSELS

(57) Abstract

Implantable valve for use in blood vessels, particularly veins, more particularly venous confluences comprising a first supporting element and a second operative element; said first supporting element can be in the form of a bent body or of a cut sheet; and said operative element can be joined to the first one, by known means, e.g., glueing, soldering, sewing, embedding, embodying, etc., or be integral with said first element. In the former case, the operative element can be made from a number of suitable materials, such as plastics, biological materials and of the same material as the first element; in the latter case such operative element is of the same material as the first element. A catheter-based tool for remotely removing/rescuing the eventually misplaced/mislodged valve, comprising a stiff operative probe-guide, thermally pre-shaped starting from a thermoreactive alloy wire, able to hook up the valve and to withdraw it from the body.



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Interrational Application No PCI/EP 98/03656

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 6 A61F2/24

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 6 A61F

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)

20 126 A (CAMILLI SANTE) ember 1992 lumn 2, line 2 - line 26; figures 07 516 A (GIRAUX JEAN) ember 1976 lumn 2, line 2 - line 26; figures	1-4,6, 13,26 17 1-4,6, 13,26
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ust 1995 in the application Jumn 4, line 22 - column 5, line 44;	1-3,5,6, 10-13, 17,19,26
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9	567 133 A (CAMILLI SANTE) gust 1995 in the application olumn 4, line 22 - column 5, line 44; es/

X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family members are listed in annex.		
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but 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	"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 "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 27 October 1998	Date of mailing of the international search report 28.01.1999		
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer NEUMANN, E		

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Inter Tonal Application No
PC1/EP 98/03656

C.(Continua	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 994 077 A (DOBBEN RICHARD L) 19 February 1991	1-3,5,6, 10-13, 16,26,34
	see the whole document	
Α	DE 195 32 846 A (BERG GEORG DR) 13 March 1997 see the whole document	1-3,13, 14,26
A	US 5 332 402 A (TEITELBAUM GEORGE P) 26 July 1994	1,3,5,6, 10, 13-15, 26,28, 32,33
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A	EP 0 145 166 A (RAYCHEM CORP) 19 June 1985	1,13-15, 26,28, 32,33
	see page 10, line 1 - page 11, line 34	1

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national application No.

PCT/EP 98/03656

Boxi	Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This Inte	ernational Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. X	Claims Nos.: 29-31 because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2.	Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3.	Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II	Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This Int	ternational Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
1.	As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2.	As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3.	As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. X	No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1-23, 26, 28, 32, 33, 34
Rema	The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

1. Claims: 1-23,26,28,32,33,34

Implantable valve comprising a supporting element and an operative element joined to or being integral with the supporting element and both made of the same material

2. Claims: 24,25,27

Catheter-based tool for remote removing of implanted valves comprising a probe-guide made from shape memory material and being inside a working catheter whereby the tool is inserted in a larger transport catheter and slides forwards and backwards due to pushing / pulling means

information on patent family members

Inter onal Application No
PCT/EP 98/03656

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