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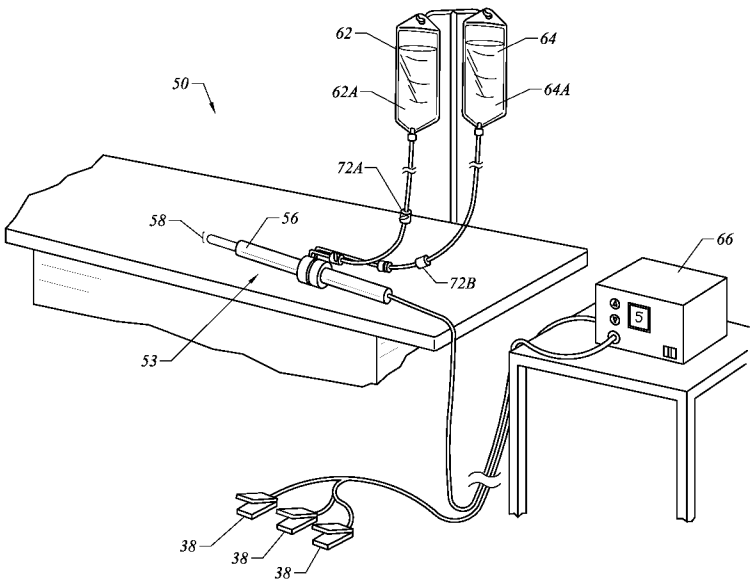
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(54) Title: HARD TISSUE ABLATION SYSTEM



(57) **Abstract:** An electrosurgical system or method for treating hard or soft tissues in the body comprises a shaft (36), a first distal end section (58), an active electrode (60) associated with the distal end section, a first fluid supply (62) adapted to deliver a first electrically conductive fluid (62A) to the target site, and a second fluid supply (64) adapted to deliver a second electrically conductive fluid (64A) to the active electrode. The system is adapted to treat a wide variety of hard tissues such as, for example, bones, calcified structures, calcified deposits, teeth, plaque, kidney-stones, gall-stones, and other types of tissue by generating plasma in the vicinity of the active electrode, and applying the plasma to the tissue or structures.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US07/69856

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC: **A61B 18/14**(2006.01)

USPC: 606/32,41
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)
U.S. : 606/32,41

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)

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 6,409,722 A (HOEY et al) 25 June 2002 (25.06.2002), see column 9, lines 12-32 and column 35, lines 9-57.	35-39 --- 40-41
Y	US 6,296,638 A (DAVISON et al) 02 October 2001 (02.10.2001), see Figure 27.	40-41

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

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