

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
21 March 2002 (21.03.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/021992 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61B 18/18**

(21) International Application Number: PCT/IL01/00837

(22) International Filing Date:
5 September 2001 (05.09.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/231,940 12 September 2000 (12.09.2000) US

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, 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, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, 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, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

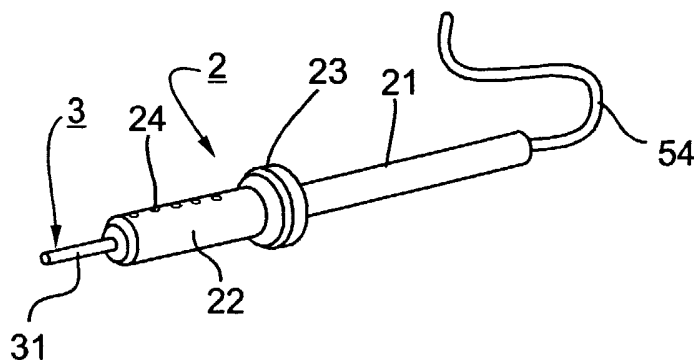
Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
14 August 2003

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: SURGICAL CAUTERIZING INSTRUMENT PARTICULARLY USEFUL AS A CAUTERIZING SCALPEL



(57) Abstract: A surgical instrument having a handle (21) at one end, a metal cauterizing element, e.g., a cutting blade (31), at the opposite end, and an electrical heater (4) for electrically heating the cauterizing element; the electrical heater including at least one positive temperature coefficient (PTC) heater which heats the cauterizing element and maintains a relatively constant temperature therein despite variations in the thermal load, such that the electrical power consumed by the surgical instrument automatically changes with changes in pressure applied to the cauterizing element.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IL01/00887

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 18/18

US CL : 606/028

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. : 606/028

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	US 3,768,482 A (SHAW) 30 October 1973, see entire document.	1-20
Y	US 5,716,366 A (YATES) 10 February 1998, see entire document.	1-20

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

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"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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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"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	

Date of the actual completion of the international search 19 JUNE 2002	Date of mailing of the international search report 23 APR 2003
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