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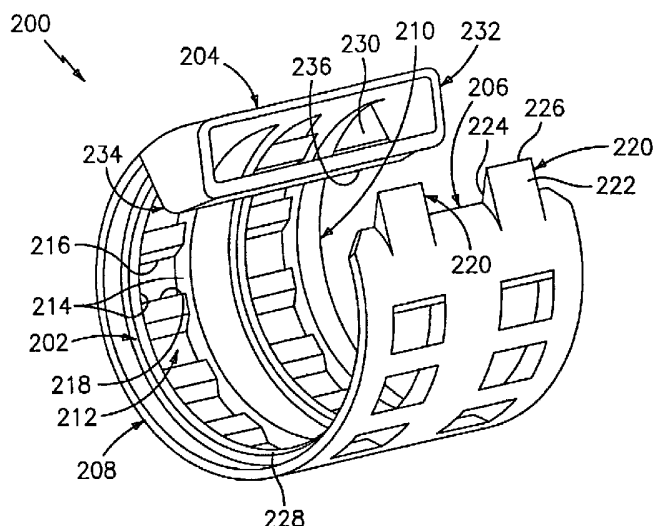
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ANASTOMOSIS INCLUDING ANNULAR JOINING MEMBER



(57) Abstract: Apparatus and methods for performing a surgical anastomotic procedure are disclosed herein. Apparatus according to the present disclosure include a tubular body having a distal end and a proximal end and defining a longitudinal axis, the tubular body including an expandable anchor provided near the distal end thereof and an expandable cuff provided near the distal end of the tubular body and proximal of the expandable anchor, and a joining member (200) configured and adapted to be received about the expandable cuff of the tubular body, the joining member having an annular body portion (202) including a pair of opposed terminal edges (204, 206). The joining member has a retracted position in which the pair of opposed terminal edges overlap by a predetermined amount and an expanded position in which the pair of opposed terminal edges overlap by an amount less than the predetermined amount.



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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US 03/11693

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61B17/11

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 7 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)

EP0-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 540 701 A (SHARKEY HUGH R ET AL) 30 July 1996 (1996-07-30) figures 11-13	1
A	US 6 090 136 A (MCDONALD EDWARD A ET AL) 18 July 2000 (2000-07-18) figures 4,7,8	1

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

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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

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"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

3 December 2003

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19. 07. 2004

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 03/11693

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5540701	A	30-07-1996	NONE	
US 6090136	A	18-07-2000	US 5728150 A	17-03-1998
			US 5676697 A	14-10-1997
			AU 5452098 A	10-06-1998
			EP 1006941 A1	14-06-2000
			JP 2002513302 T	08-05-2002
			WO 9822045 A1	28-05-1998
			US 6261320 B1	17-07-2001
			US 6120535 A	19-09-2000
			AU 4046997 A	20-02-1998
			WO 9804212 A1	05-02-1998

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 03/11693

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 20-25
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 International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

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. ☒ 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.:

1-19

Remark on Protest

- ☐ 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

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-19

An apparatus for performing a surgical anastomosis,
comprising
a tubular body including an expandable anchor and an
expandable cuff; and
a joining member.

2. claims: 26-32

A joining member comprising at least one annular array of
openings and at least one locking tab.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.1

Claims Nos.: 20-25

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery