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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM FOR RELEASABLY ATTACHING A DISPOSABLE DEVICE TO A DURABLE DEVICE

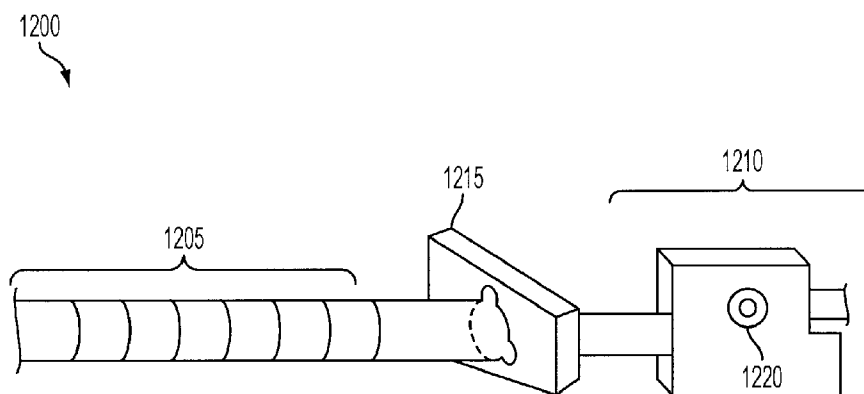


FIG. 12A

(57) Abstract: A system for releasably attaching a steerable disposable multi-linked device to a durable device may include a disposable portion and a durable portion. The disposable portion may include a connecting member connected to the disposable portion and the durable portion and a steerable multi-linked device. The steerable multi-linked device may include a first link, a plurality of intermediate links, a second link movably coupled to a second one of the intermediate links, and a cable which passes through the first link and intermediate links and extends beyond a first end of the first link. A first one of the intermediate links may be movably coupled to the first link. The durable portion may include an axial member which defines an opening therethrough and a feeder mechanism.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61B 1/00 (2008.04)

USPC - 600/136

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): A61B 1/00 (2008.04)

USPC: 600/136

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
USPC: 600/101,114,132,136-144,149

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Electronic Databases Searched: PubWEST(USPT,PGPB,EPAB,JPAB); Google Patents, Google, WIPO database

Search terms: Disposable, steerable, flexible, segmented, disposable segment, tethered endoscope, sheath, screw, feeder mechanism, links, axial, detach from housing, mounted, base, steerable device, disposable endoscope,etc.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2006/0058582 A1 (Maahs et al.) 16 March 2006 (16.03.2006), para [0009]; para [0037]-[0040]; para [0048].	1-10
Y	US 7,087,013 B2 (Belson et al.) 08 August 2006 (08.08.2006), col 5, ln 43-47; col 6, ln 35-46; col 9, ln 1-3, 10-15; col 13, ln 4-9.	1-10
Y	US 6,960,163 B2 (Ewers et al.) 01 November 2005 (01.11.2005), col 26, ln 22-26; col 28, ln 61-67; col 30, ln 23-39.	7-10

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



* 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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"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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