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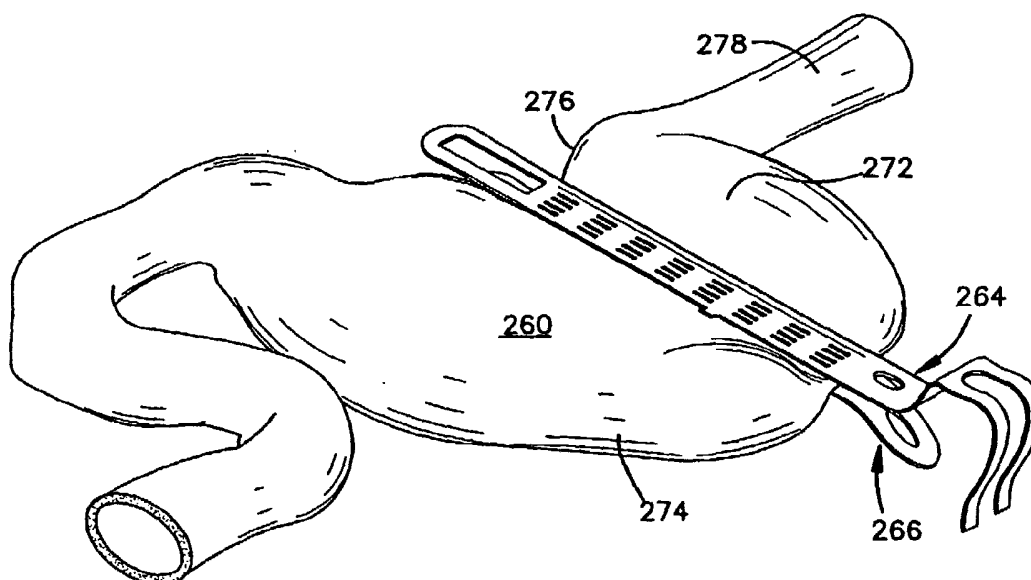
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(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 02/082975 A3**

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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: BIOLOGICAL TISSUE STRIP AND SYSTEM AND METHOD TO SEAL TISSUE



(57) Abstract: A strip (10, 50, 80, 100, 102, 170, 220, 222) for use with a surgical stapler (150, 200) facilitates sealing tissue of a patient, such as the lungs, stomach, etc. The strip (10, 50, 80, 100, 102, 170, 220, 222) includes retaining elements (20, 22, 62, 64, 70, 94, 96, 122, 124, 132, 134, 172, 186, 244, 246, 224, 234, 230, 244, 246) near opposed ends of the strip for connecting to associated parts of a surgical stapler device. An aperture (24, 60, 90, 176, 240) also extends through the strip at a location intermediate its opposed ends for receiving an alignment feature (178, 210) of the surgical stapler. In addition, a pair of strips (100, 102) may be connected together by a bridge (120) of material to facilitate selection and use of appropriate strips.



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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US02/11723

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(7) : A61B 17/00

US CL : Please See Extra Sheet.

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. : 606/151, 219; 227/176.1, 180.1

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)

E.A.S.T.

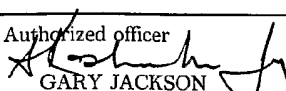
KEY WORDS: SURGICAL STAPLER, PERICADIUM, STRIP

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 98/38923 A1 (MYERS) 11 SEPTEMBER 1998, pg. 4, lines 17-29 & pg. 5, lines 1-9.	1-8,
X	US 6,099,551 A (GABBY) 08 AUGUST 2000, col. 3, lines 1-59.	1-13
A	US 5,503,638 A (COOPER et al) 02 April 1996, see the Abstract of the Disclosure	1-28.

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

* Special categories of cited documents:	"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
"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
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"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 18 SEPTEMBER 2002	Date of mailing of the international search report <b>03 APR 2003</b>
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 805-3230	Authorized officer  GARY JACKSON Telephone No. (703) 308-0857

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US CL :

606/151, 219; 227/176.1, 180.1