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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available):

AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: INSERTABLE SLEEVE FOR SPECULUM AND USE THEREOF

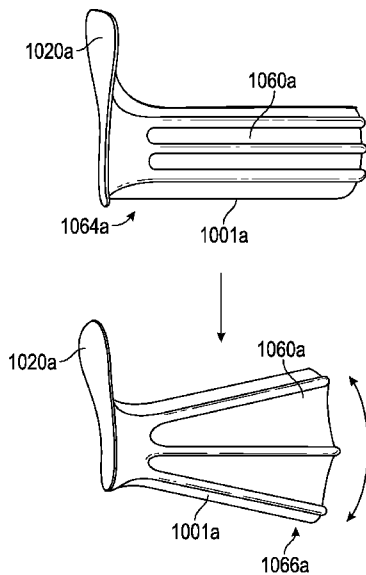
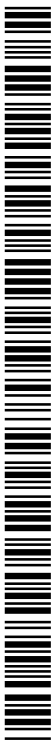


FIG 8H

(57) Abstract: An insertable sleeve accessory and a method for use is provided. The insertable sleeve includes a cylindrical sleeve body. The cylindrical sleeve body includes an outer surface and an inner surface, the inner surface defining a hollow sleeve channel, and at least one open end. The cylindrical sleeve body is configured to be inserted into a vaginal cavity of a patient. The sleeve body is further configured to receive an insertion portion of a medical speculum in the hollow sleeve channel subsequent to being inserted into the vaginal cavity.



(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
10 August 2017

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2016/069047

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 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.: 30-40
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

2. Claims Nos.: 17
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:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

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 No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 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 fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

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.:
2-6, 10-18(completely); 1(partially)

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2016/069047

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61B1/303 A61B1/32 A61B1/00
ADD.
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)
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 practicable, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 716 329 A (DIETER MICHAEL A [US]) 10 February 1998 (1998-02-10) figures 1,4,5,9-12 column 1, line 65 - column 2, line 20 column 3, lines 22-32 column 6, lines 14-18 claims 2,5,7	1,11,16
X	----- WO 2011/024901 A1 (UNIV OSAKA [JP]; TOP KK [JP]; NAKAJIMA KIYOKAZU [JP]; SOUMA YOSHIHITO) 3 March 2011 (2011-03-03) figures 1-3,8	1
X	----- US 5 865 729 A (MEEHAN ALYCE A [US] ET AL) 2 February 1999 (1999-02-02) figures 2,4 column 7, lines 37-43 ----- -/--	1

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"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 8 May 2017	Date of mailing of the international search report 11/07/2017
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Olapinski, Michael
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2016/069047

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2005/124860 A1 (MOHAJER POONEH [US]) 9 June 2005 (2005-06-09) figures 1-5 paragraphs [0020] - [0024] -----	1-6, 10-16,18
X	US 6 432 048 B1 (FRANCOIS M RONY [US]) 13 August 2002 (2002-08-13) figures 2,5,6 claims 8,12 -----	1-5, 10-16,18
X	US 6 036 638 A (NWAJKA CHUDI C [US]) 14 March 2000 (2000-03-14) column 3, lines 24-42 column 6, lines 1-8; figures 2-4 -----	1-6, 10-16,18

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/US2016/069047

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5716329	A	10-02-1998	NONE

WO 2011024901	A1	03-03-2011	JP 5521195 B2 11-06-2014
			JP 2011067598 A 07-04-2011
			WO 2011024901 A1 03-03-2011

US 5865729	A	02-02-1999	NONE

US 2005124860	A1	09-06-2005	NONE

US 6432048	B1	13-08-2002	AU 4716599 A 10-01-2000
			US 6432048 B1 13-08-2002
			WO 9966827 A1 29-12-1999

US 6036638	A	14-03-2000	AU 1298499 A 24-05-1999
			US 6036638 A 14-03-2000
			WO 9922637 A1 14-05-1999

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. claims: 2-6, 10-18(completely); 1(partially)

directed to specifications of the inner surface of the sleeve body related to improved adherence (cl. 6)

2. claims: 7, 8(completely); 1(partially)

directed to specifications of the structure of the sleeve body for rendering it insertable by itself, i.e. folds, fluting, webbing or ribs (cl. 7) or a stiffening tab (cl. 8) to provide sufficient stiffness

3. claims: 9(completely); 1(partially)

directed to a pocket configured for tucking over a top edge of a speculum

4. claims: 19-29(completely); 1(partially)

directed to a special applicator for and/or (compressed) packaging of the sleeve

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 30-40

Claims 30-40 are directed to methods for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery for which search and/or international preliminary examination is not required (Rules 39.1(iv) and 67.1 (iv) PCT). Claims 30-40 comprise steps of inserting a sleeve and of inserting a speculum into the vaginal cavity. Such a step is considered to represent an invasive endoscopic interaction involving substantial health risks, which qualifies as surgery in the sense of Rules 39.1(iv) and 67.1 (iv) PCT.

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 17

Claim 17 is vague and unclear, because it refers to unspecified "components" and unclear product-by-process features. The subject-matter of this claim is thus excessively broad and so unclear that no meaningful search and/or opinion can be given.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guidelines C-IV, 7.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.