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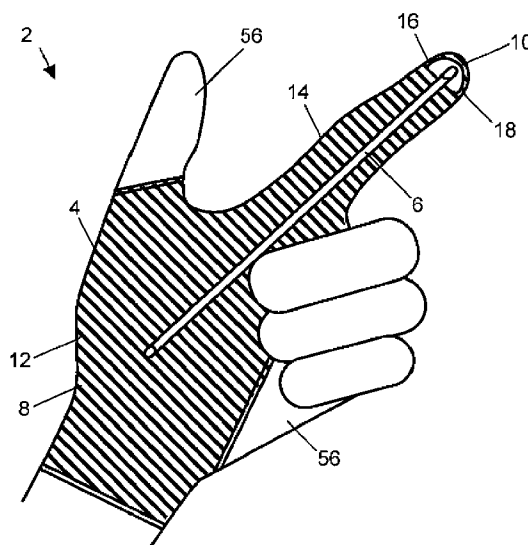
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(54) Title: SURGICAL IMPLANTATION DEVICE AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A surgical implantation device comprising: a flexible conduit having a proximal end and a distal end; a means for securing the flexible conduit to an operator's hand over a surgical glove such that the position of the conduit may be adjusted by the movement of one of the operator's fingers; a tissue anchor configured to enter the opening in the proximal end, be advanced through the conduit, and exit the opening in the distal end where it can be deployed beyond the surface of a target tissue layer; a suture element connected to the tissue anchor, the suture element configured to extend from the tissue anchor through the conduit; and a flexible rod having a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end of the rod configured to advance the tissue anchor through the conduit and deploy the tissue anchor beyond the surface of the target tissue layer.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 07/65715

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61B 17/10, B65G 7/12 (2008.01)

USPC - 294/25, 606/139

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)

IPC8 : A61B 17/10, B65G 7/12 (2008.01)

USPC : 294/25, 606/139

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

IPC8 : A61B 19/04, A61B 17/00, A61B 17/04, A61B 17/06, A61B 17/062 (2008.01)

USPC : 606/148, 606/151, 606/167, 606/222, 606/223, 606/232

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

PubWEST (PGPB,USPT,EPAB,JPAB), Google Scholar

mesh, fabric, sheet, frame, rim, border, shape memory, tissue anchor, fastener, suture, wear, conduit, lumen, tube, channel, stylet, lancet, needle, rod, finger, hand, guided, steer, direct, glove, mit, gauntlet, compress, collapse, expand

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,947,922 A (MACLEOD) 7 September 1999 (07.09.1999) see especially col 10, ln 10-47, fig 6	1-20
Y	US 2006/0030884 A1 (YEUNG et al) 9 February 2006 (09.02.2006) see especially para [0191], [0193], [0206], [0217], [0233]	1-20
Y	US 2003/0028213 A1 (THILL et al) 6 February 2003 (06.02.2003) see especially para [0028]-[0039] figs 11-23	9-15

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* Special categories of cited documents:

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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

"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

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