

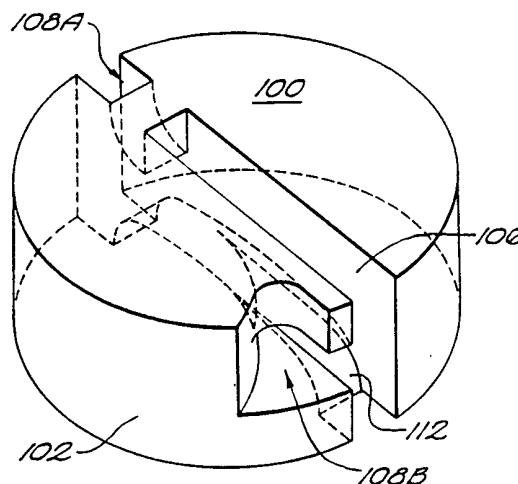


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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/08008 (22) International Filing Date: 13 April 1999 (13.04.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/114,685 13 July 1998 (13.07.98) US (71) Applicant: AXYA MEDICAL, INC. [US/US]; Suite 444C, 100 Cummings Center, Beverly, MA 01915 (US). (72) Inventors: EGAN, Thomas, D.; 12 South Street, Marblehead, MA 01945 (US). TAYLOR, Daniel, C.; 4 Elysian Drive, Andover, MA 01810 (US). (74) Agents: LAPPIN, Mark, G. et al.; Lappin & Kusmer LLP, Two Hundred State Street, Boston, MA 02109 (US).		(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i> (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 17 August 2000 (17.08.00)

(54) Title: SUTURE GUIDE AND FASTENER**(57) Abstract**

A suture guide, and fastener (100) includes a suture retaining device (102) which orients, secures one or more suture strands (104) therein, receives energy applied to the strands (104) to bond them within the suture retaining device (102). The fastener becomes integral with the bonded sutures, and may be made of a material similar to the suture material which melts upon the application of energy thereto. Alternatively, the fastener (100) may be made of a different material which remains intact upon application of bonding energy to the sutures. When ultrasonic energy is applied, the fastener (100) may function as a stationary ultrasonic weld anvil. Other types of energy, such as laser, thermal or chemical, may be applied to the suture strands (104) to effect bonding.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :A61B 17/04

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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. : 606/220, 228, 232

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,593,425 A (BONUTTI et al.) 14 January 1997, entire document.	1-10, 12

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

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