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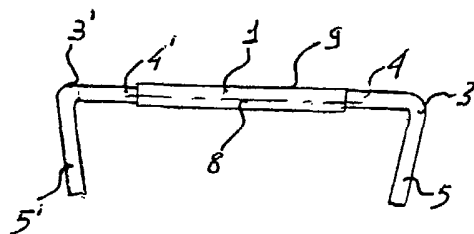
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ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: STAPLE FOR THE SUTURE OF THE STERNUM



(57) Abstract: A staple for the suture of the sternum having a central body (1) with right and left threaded ends (2, 2') in which two teeth (3, 3') are screwed able to be introduced into suitable holes made astride a median sternotomy performed on a patient. Rotating the central body (1) draws the teeth (3, 3') together or apart, thus tightening the two halves of the sternum with appropriate tension. The staple is suitable to be tightened by means of an apparatus provided with friction, to give the correct tightening tension. Also described are a method for the suture of the sternum and punch cutter forceps suitable to be used in such operation.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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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)

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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 practical, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 723 540 A (GILMER JR RAYMOND E) 9 February 1988 (1988-02-09) column 2, line 61 - column 3, line 14; figures 2,4 column 4, line 42 - line 47; figure 5 figures 6-9	1,2,6-8
Y	---	3,4
A	---	12
Y	US 6 348 054 B1 (ALLEN DREW) 19 February 2002 (2002-02-19) column 7, line 46 - line 52; figures 14,15	3,4
Y	DE 295 20 481 U (LOEPRECHT HENNING PROF DR MED ;STORM GERALD (DE)) 5 June 1997 (1997-06-05) claim 1; figures 1,2 ---	9,10
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☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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International Application No
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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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