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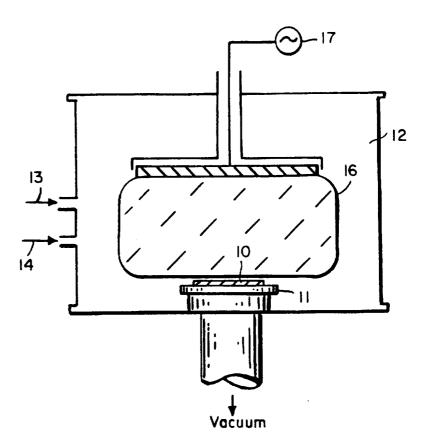
Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

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(54) Title: SURFACE MODIFICATION OF MEDICAL IMPLANTS

(57) Abstract

A method of obtaining a porous titanium surface suitable for medical implants is provided. The titanium surface is exposed to a plasma comprising a reactive plasma gas, the reactive plasma gas comprising an active etching species and a sputtering gas. The plasma conditions are effective to modify the titanium surface and provide surface porosity. The plasma conditions are effective to non-uniformly etch and sputter the titanium surface.



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Interr 'nnal Application No PC₁/US 97/01005

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
1PC 6 A61L27/00 A61F2/30 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) A61L A61F IPC 6 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) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Category Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages 1-17, Y WO 86 06617 A (PLASMAINVENT AG) 20 19 - 42November 1986 see the whole document Y EP 0 447 744 A (REPENNING DETLEV) 25 1-17, 19-42 September 1991 see claims WO 94 25637 A (ETEX CORP) 10 November 1994 1-17. Y 19-42 see claims & US 5 543 012 A cited in the application 1-17. EP 0 606 566 A (NOBELPHARMA AB) 20 July Α 19-42 1994 see claims -/--X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in 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 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to 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) 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 docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means in the art. *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed '&' document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report

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ESPINOSA, M

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rnational application No.

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Box i	Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This Inu	ernational Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
4	Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: Remark: Although claim(s) 18 is(are) directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
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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 II	Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This Inte	ernational Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
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 fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
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.:
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Remark o	The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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