## (19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau



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#### (43) International Publication Date 5 January 2006 (05.01.2006)

(10) International Publication Number WO 2006/002353 A3

(51) International Patent Classification: A61B 5/02 (2006.01) G06K 9/00 (2006.01) G06F 17/50 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2005/022420

23 June 2005 (23.06.2005) (22) International Filing Date:

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data: 23 June 2004 (23.06.2004) 60/582,128

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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

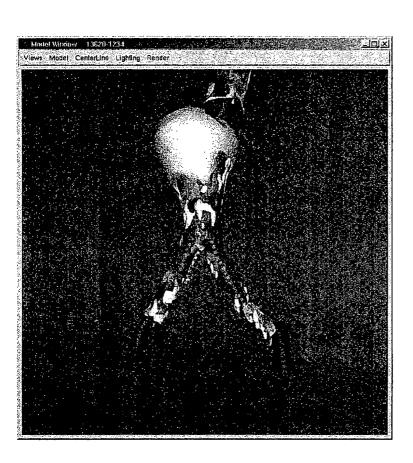
#### **Published:**

with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report: 24 January 2008

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ANATOMICAL VISUALIZATION AND MEASUREMENT SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: In another preferred form of the present invention, there is provided a method for determining the risk of rupture of a blood vessel using an appropriate set of 2-D slice images obtained by scanning the blood vessel, the method comprising: generating a mesh model of the blood vessel using the set of 2-D slice images; conducting finite element stress analysis on the mesh model to calculate the level of stress on different locations on the mesh model; and determining the risk of rupture of the blood vessel based on the calculated levels of stress on different locations on the mesh model. In another preferred form of the present invention, there is provided an apparatus for determining the risk of rupture of a blood vessel using an appropriate set of 2-D slice images obtained by scanning the blood vessel, the apparatus comprising: apparatus for generating a mesh model of the blood vessel using the set of 2-D slice images; apparatus for conducting finite element stress analysis on the mesh model to calculate the level of stress on different locations on the mesh model; and apparatus for determining the risk of rupture of the blood vessel based on the calculated levels of stress on different locations on the mesh model.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/22420

USPC: 382/128;600/480,482,485,500;716/20  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.: 382/128; 600/480,482,485,500; 716/20  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)  ACM, IEEE Xplore, SPIE  C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT  Category * Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim N  Y US 6,511,426 B1 (HOSSACK et al) 28 January 2003(28.01.2003), figures 1 & 8; column 19, lines 21-45  Y US 5,731,817 (HAHS JR et al) 24 March 1998 (24.03.1998), column 1, lines 11-21 and 55-57  Y US 6,447,454 B1 (CHENAL et al) 10 September 2002 (10.09.2002), column 14, line 15-column 15, line 7  Y US 4,945,478 (MERICKEL et al) 31 July 1990 (31.07.1990), figures 3, 7-13; column 1, line 66-column 2, line 17  Y US 6,456,289 B1 (O'BRIEN et al) 24 September 2002 (24.09.2002), figures 1, 5, 6A, 6B, 120-15A-15D; column 5, lines 27-32  Y US 5,987,236 (YONEDA) 16 November 1999 (16.11.1999), figure 13; column 4, lines 17-22, 29; column 11, lines 49-52  Y US 2002/0043111 A1 (TAKAGI et al) 18 April 2002 (18.04.2002), page 2, paragraph 27  23				
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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US05/22420

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