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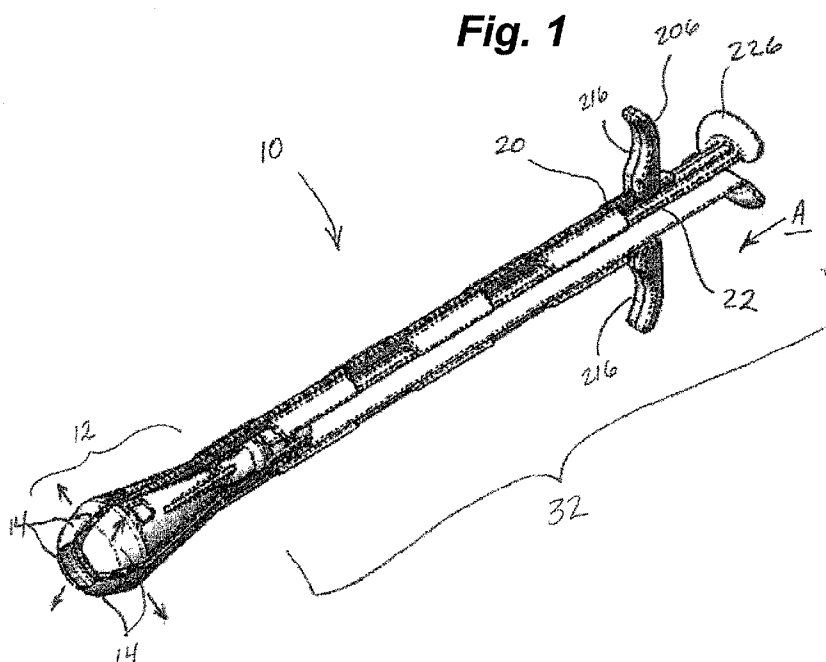
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(54) Title: CIRCULAR STAPLER ANVIL INTRODUCER



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for delivering and positioning the anvil component of a circular stapler within the body, and particularly useful for an anvil having a buttress material positioned thereon. The apparatus provides the ability to releasably engage the anvil component, and in turn, to deliver the engaged anvil component into the body and to the desired position within a tissue intended to make up an anastomotic joint, and once positioned, to then release the engaged anvil component in its delivered position, thereby permitting the apparatus itself to be removed from the site.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 08/51430

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61B 17/04; A61B 17/10 (2008.4)

USPC - 227/175.1, 901, 902

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)

IPC(8): A61B 17/04; A61B 17/10 (2008.4)

USPC: 227/175.1, 901, 902

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

IPC(8): B31B 1/00, A61B 17/04 (2008.01)

USPC: 227/19, 175.1

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

PubEAST(USPT,PGPB,EPAB,JPAB); GoogleScholar

Search Terms: anastomotic, anastomosis, intraluminal, circular stapler, staple, surgical, anvil, jaws

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 7,144,405 B2 (VARGAS et al.) 5 December 2006 (05.12.2006) entire document, especially Abstract and col 7, ln 25-30	1-23
Y	US 2004/0093024 A1 (LOUSARARIAN et al.) 13 May 2004 (13.05.2004) entire document, especially Abstract and para[0098]	1-23
Y	US 2005/0228446 A1 (MOORADIAN et al.) 13 October 2005 (13.10.2005) entire document, especially para[0018]	3-4, 11-21 and 23
Y	US 5,605,080 A (PFEFFERLE et al.) 25 February 1997 (25.02.1997) entire document, especially col 9, ln 15-25	5, 10 and 15

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"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 invention

"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

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