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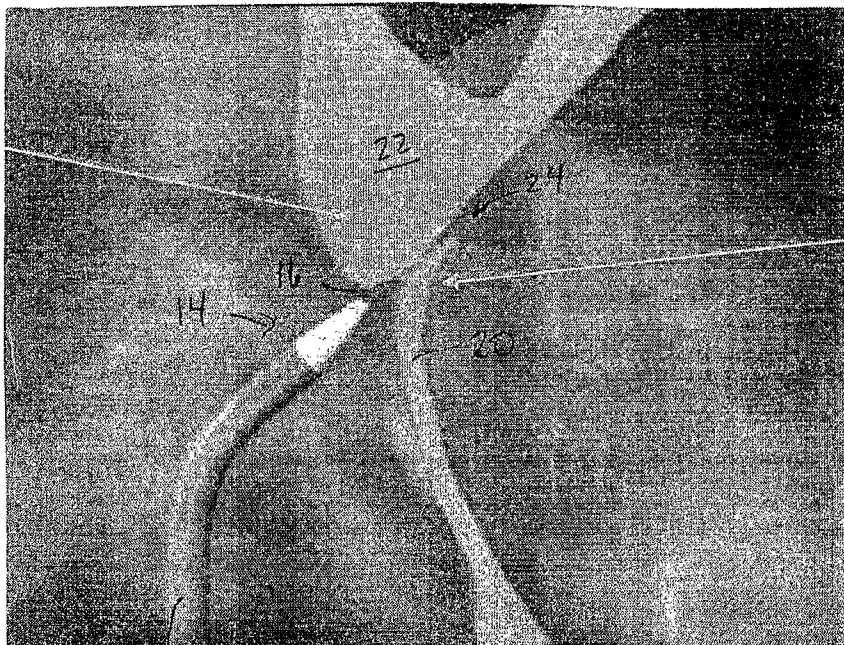
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING AND ACHIEVING CLOSURE OF PATENT FORAMEN OVALE



(57) Abstract: A method for detecting and closing the patent foramen ovale including the steps of locating a His bundle, plane of the interatrial septum, and coronary sinus ostium in a patient; identifying a fossa ovalis on the basis of one or more predetermined distances between the fossa ovalis and the His bundle, the plane of the interatrial septum, and the coronary sinus ostium; locating a patent foramen ovale by probing the junction between the fossa ovalis and a limbus of the fossa ovalis; and causing injury to the surfaces of at least one of a septum primum and a septum secundum within the patent foramen ovale. Another method includes the steps of locating a tunnel of a patent foramen ovale by probing the junction between a fossa ovalis and a limbus of the fossa ovalis and causing injury to the surfaces of at least one of a septum primum and a septum secundum within the tunnel of the

patent foramen ovale by applying energy to at least one of the septum primum and the septum secundum. Apparatuses to perform these methods are also provided.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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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 practicable, search terms used)

Patbase, Google Scholar

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2004/0193147 A1 (MALECKI et al) 30 September 2003 (30.09.2003) entire document	15, 16
Y		1-14
Y	US 2004/0220462 A1 (SCHWARTZ) 04 November 2004 (04.11.2004) entire document	1-14
Y	US 2005/0080405 A1 (BISCHOF et al) 14 April 2005 (14.04.2005) entire document	8, 9
Y	US 5,919,200 A (STAMBAUGH et al) 06 July 1999 (06.07.1999) entire document	6, 7, 14
Y	US 2002/0107573 A1 (STEINBERG) 08 August 2002 (08.08.2002) entire document	12

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