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#### **Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

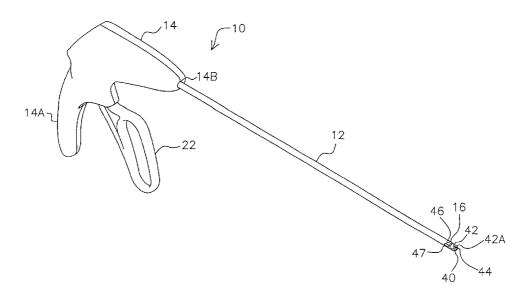
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(54) Title: INSTRUMENT FOR ASSISTING IN THE REMOTE PLACEMENT OF TIED SURGICAL KNOTS AND TRIMMING OF SUTURE AWAY FROM THE KNOT AND METHOD OF USE



(57) Abstract: An instrument (10) is provided having a shaft (12) extending to a distal end (16). The distal end (16) has a distal tip member (40) having a cavity (42, 83), and a passageway (44, 80) extending to the cavity through which a first suture end (48A) of a loop of suture (48) extends from a tissue site to facilitate a user looping a second suture end (48B) around the first suture end (48A) between the distal tip member (40) and the tissue site to form a knot (48C). Advancing of the distal tip rrember (40) while drawing the first suture end (48A) through the passageway (44, 80) pushes the knot (48C) for placement at the tissue site.





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

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)							
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT							
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where ap	ppropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.				
X	US 5,792,151 A (HECK et al) 11 April 1998 (11.0	4.1998), See entire document.	1-8,10,18-22				
Α	US 6,152,934 A (HARPER et al) 28 November 2000 (28.11.2000), See entire document.						
Α	US 5,846,254 A (SCHULZE et al) 08 December 1998 (08.12.1998).						
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