

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
23 February 2006 (23.02.2006)

PCT

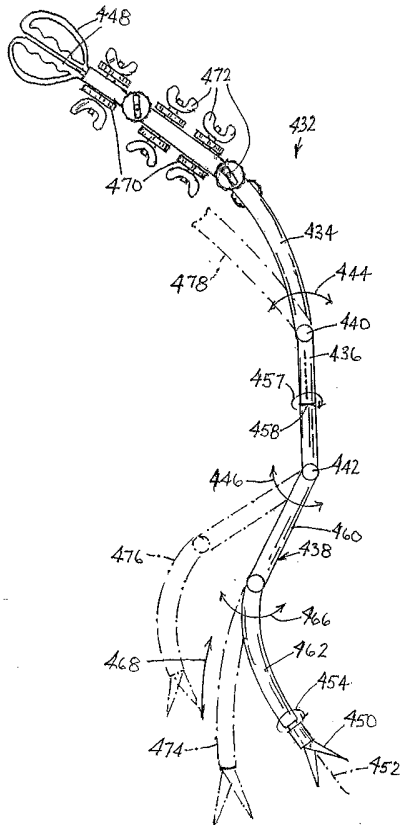
(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/019723 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification:
A61M 25/16 (2006.01) A61F 11/00 (2006.01)
A61M 25/00 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/024636
- (22) International Filing Date: 12 July 2005 (12.07.2005)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
10/895,546 21 July 2004 (21.07.2004) US
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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, LV, 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).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: LAPAROSCOPIC INSTRUMENT AND CANNULA ASSEMBLY AND RELATED SURGICAL METHOD



(57) Abstract: A laparoscopic port assembly includes a cannula unit including three cannulas each extending at an acute angle relative to a base. The cannulas are flexible for receiving respective angulated laparoscopic instruments. The cannula unit is rotatably received in a port holder for rotation about a longitudinal axis of the holder, the holder being disposable in an opening in a patient's skin.

WO 2006/019723 A3



Published:

- *with international search report*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

2 November 2006

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/24636

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC: **A61M 25/16(2006.01);25/00(2006.01);A61F 11/00(2006.01)**

USPC: 604/539,523;606/108
 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. : 604/539, 523; 606/108; 604/528, 533, 164.01, 164.04, 164.07, 164.09, 164.11, 165.01, 165.02, 165.04, 174, 175

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,269,772 A (Wilk) 14 December 1993 (14.12.1993), see whole document and Figs 1-9.	1-17, 19-23, 26-28
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Y		18, 24
X	US 5,651,771 A (Tangherlini et al) 29 July 1997 (29.07.1997), see Figs 1, 2, 3, 4A, 4B and related text including the Summary.	1, 7-13
X	US 5,395,367 A (Wilk) 7 March 1995 (07.03.1995), see Summary, Figs 4 and 5 and related text.	1, 7-10, 14, 26-28
X	US 5,549,637 A (Crainich) 27 August 1996 (27.08.1996), see Summary, Fig 1 and related text.	29-35
X	US 5,575,799 A (Bolanos et al) 19 November 1996 (19.11.1996), see Summary, Fig 1, 2, 11 and related text.	29-35
X	US 5,395,327 A (Lundquist et al.) 7 March 1995 (07.03.1995), see Fig 21-24, 34 and related text.	26, 38-41, 43-46

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search
 20 June 2006 (20.06.2006)

Date of mailing of the international search report
 05 SEP 2006

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US05/24636

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/0114832 A1 (Kohler et al.) 19 June 2003 (19.06.2003), see Figs 8-10 and related text.	36, 38-41, 43-46