

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
14 April 2005 (14.04.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/032403 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61F 2/06**

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2004/028179

(22) International Filing Date: 30 August 2004 (30.08.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
10/661,361 12 September 2003 (12.09.2003) 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, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, 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, IT, 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).

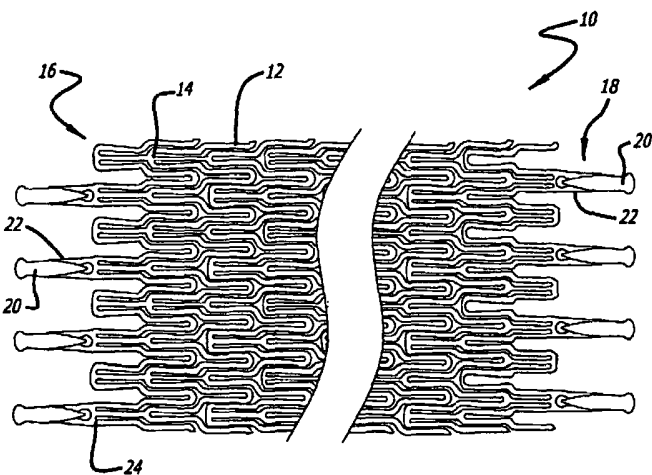
Published:

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

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
1 December 2005

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.

(54) Title: RADIOPAQUE MARKERS FOR MEDICAL DEVICES



(57) Abstract: An implantable medical device includes a structural body made from a superelastic material and includes one or more marker holders integrally formed on the structural body. Each marker holder is designed to hold a radiopaque marker which has a level of radiopacity greater than the superelastic material. The radiopaque marker can be made from a nickel-titanium alloy which includes a ternary element. The ternary element can be selected from the group of elements consisting of iridium, platinum, gold, rhenium, tungsten, palladium, rhodium, tantalum, silver, ruthenium, and hafnium. In one form, the marker holder includes a pair of projecting fingers connected together at a notched region to cooperatively create a particular-shaped opening. This opening, in turn, is adapted to receive a similarly shaped portion formed on the radiopaque marker. In one form, the radiopaque marker includes an inner core which is

partially, or completely, encased by an outer layer. This inner core can be made from a highly radiopaque material while the outer layer is formed from a material that is easier to weld to the marker.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/28179

<p>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : A61F 2/06 US CL : 623/1.34 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>												
<p>B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 623/1.34, 1.15</p> <p>Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched</p> <p>Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)</p>												
<p>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category *</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>US 6,334,871 A (DOR ET AL.) 01 JANUARY 2002, COL. 2, LINE 66 TO COL. 4, LINE 32.</td> <td>1-7 AND 23-33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>US 6,503,271A (DUERIG ET AL.) 07 JANUARY 2003, COL. 10, LINES 11-43.</td> <td>8-22</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X	US 6,334,871 A (DOR ET AL.) 01 JANUARY 2002, COL. 2, LINE 66 TO COL. 4, LINE 32.	1-7 AND 23-33	X	US 6,503,271A (DUERIG ET AL.) 07 JANUARY 2003, COL. 10, LINES 11-43.	8-22	
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<p>Date of the actual completion of the international search 06 September 2005 (06.09.2005)</p>		<p>Date of mailing of the international search report 13 OCT 2005</p>										
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