

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
5 July 2007 (05.07.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2007/075981 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification:  
*A61B 17/12* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2006/048962

(22) International Filing Date:  
21 December 2006 (21.12.2006)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
11/318,246 22 December 2005 (22.12.2005) 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, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, 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),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DEVICES, SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR RETRACTING, LIFTING, COMPRESSING, SUPPORTING OR REPOSITIONING TISSUES OR ANATOMICAL STRUCTURES

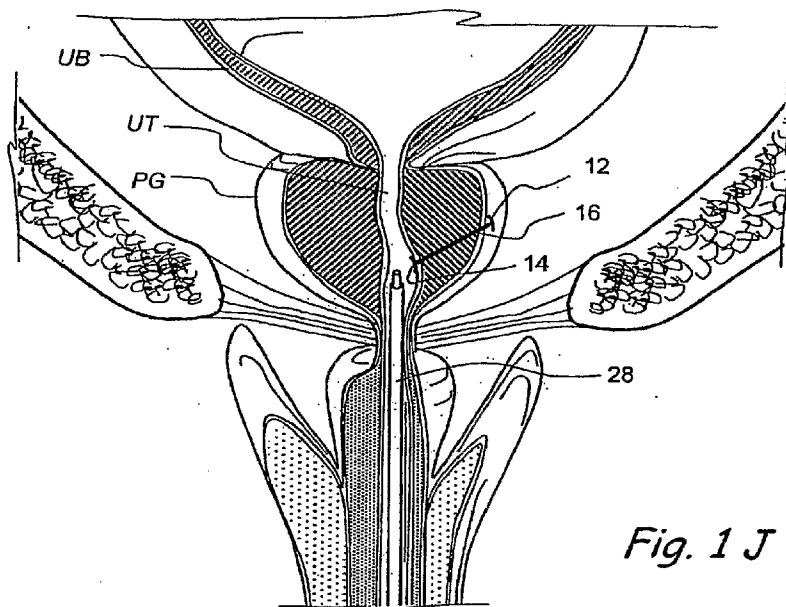


Fig. 1 J

(57) Abstract: Devices, systems and methods for retracting, lifting, compressing, supporting or repositioning tissues, organs, anatomical structures, grafts or other structures within the body of human or animal subjects for the purpose of treating a disease or disorders and/or cosmetic or reconstructive purposes and/or for research and development purposes or other purposes.



WO 2007/075981 A3



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).

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

**Published:**

— *with international search report*

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

5 February 2009

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US06/48962

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61B 17/12 (2008.04)

USPC - 606/139,144

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 17/12 (2008.04)

USPC - 606/139,144

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)

USPTO EAST System (US, USPG-PUB, EPO, DERWENT), MicroPatent.

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,287,317 B1 (MAKOWER et al) 11 September 2001 (11.09.2001) entire document	52,53,61
Y		1-39,54-60, 62-69
Y	US 6,596,013 B2 (YANG et al) 22 July 2003 (22.07.2003) entire document	1-39,54-60, 62-69
Y	US 6,517,569 B2 (MIKUS et al) 11 February 2003 (11.02.2003) entire document	11,21,26
Y	US 2003/0109769 A1 (LOWERY et al) 12 June 2003 (12.06.2003) entire document	12-14,35,37

☐ 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

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"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

"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

"&amp;" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

02 December 2008

Date of mailing of the international search report

10 DEC 2008

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. 571-273-3201

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PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US06/48962

## Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
  
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

Group I, claims 1-39, 52-69 drawn to a system for retracting, lifting, compressing, supporting or repositioning of an organ or tissue within the body of a human or animal subject  
 Group II, claims 40-51, drawn to a device useable to anchor an elongate member to tissue of a human or animal subject  
 Group III, claims 70-71, drawn to device for stenting a lumen or cavity in the body of a human or animal  
 Group IV, claims 72-78, drawn to a suture-anchoring member assembly comprising  
 Group V, claims 79, drawn to a system for altering the shape of a lumen in the body of a human

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:  
1-39, 52-69

### Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.