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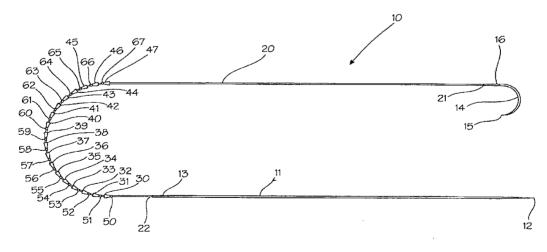
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(57) Abstract: A suture assembly includes an elongated flexible body which may be either a single filament for a multiple strand braided or woven body, supporting a plurality of shaped tissue- engaging elements in a generally spaced arrangement thereon. A curved body having a sharp point is joined to one end of the flexible body while a straight pointed body is joined to the remaining end of the flexible body. In alternate embodiments, the tissue-engaging elements define a variety of cross-section shapes. In a further alternate embodiment, the tissue-engaging elements are divided into first and second oppositely facing sets to provide a bidirectional suture. In a still further alternate embodiment, the elongated flexible body supports an elongated tissue- bonding sleeve.



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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 a	ppropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2004/0138683 A1 (Shelton et al.) 15 July 2004 (15.07.2004), paragraph 0052, 0056,	1-4, 18, 26
Y	0059, 0064, 0070, 0084; Figs. 1, 5, 7, 9, 13		5-17, 19-25, 27-33
Y	US 2003/0149447 A1 (Morency et al.) 07 August 2003(07.08.2003), paragraph 0046, 0048; Fig. 1, 4		5-9, 19-21, 27-29
Y	US 6,511,498 B1 (Fumex) 28 January 2003 (28.01.2003), column 3, lines 34-35		10-17, 22-25, 30-33
Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.			
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