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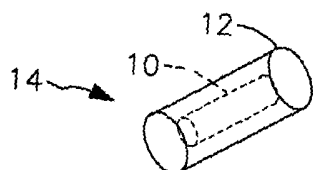
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(54) Title: BIODEGRADABLE POLYMER FOR MARKING TISSUE AND SEALING TRACTS



(57) Abstract: A tissue marker (14) formed of a biodegradable polymer (10) having drug-delivery capabilities is combined with a sealant (12) that encapsulates the tissue marker and which serves to help anchor the tissue marker against migration. The sealant (12) is delivered to a site in dehydrated form and moisture inherent in tissue at the site expands the sealant. The expanded sealant is formed of a hydrogel and is therefore more compatible to the surrounding tissue than the material of the tissue marker. The sealant and the tissue marker are both bioabsorbed over time.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/12652

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 17/08, 19/00
 US CL : 600/431

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. : 600/414, 420, 426, 431, 562-567, 1-3; 606/116, 213, 214, 216

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)
 Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,E	US 6,699,205 B2 (FULTON, III et al) 02 March 2004 (02.03.2004), see entire document.	1-11,15-18,21-30
X,E	US 6,592,608 B2 (FISHER et al) 15 July 2003 (15.07.2003), see entire document.	1-11,15-29,34-38
X	US 6,371,904 B1 (SIRIMANNE et al) 16 April 2002 (16.04.2002), see entire document.	1-11
A,P	US 6,427,081 B1 (BURBANK et al) 30 July 2002 (30.07.02), see entire document.	1-49

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"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
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US03/12652

Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST

search terms: bioabsorbable, polymer, hydrogel, sealant, marker, drugs, contrast, hydrophobic, liver, artery, bladder, prostate, biliary, fallopian