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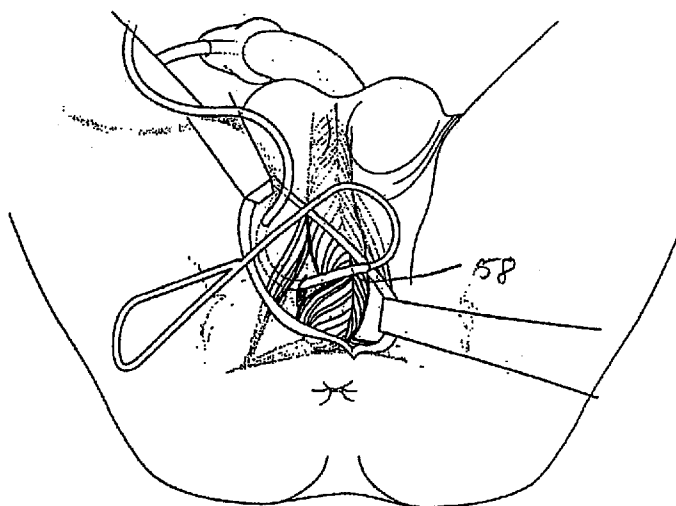
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4 December 2008

(54) Title: TOOLS FOR USE IN TREATMENT OF MALE URINARY INCONTINENCE



(57) Abstract: A transobturator technique was developed for treating male urinary incontinence. This approach helped to design specific instruments to pass around the ischio-pubic branches of the male pelvis from inside to outside (i.e from the suburethral space to the thigh fold). The inside-out transobturator sling technique uses specific instruments and a polypropylene mesh with two arms that are passed inside to outside through the obturator foramina, pulled for compressing the bulbar urethra upward, and tied to each other across the midline. The mesh passes around the ischio-pubic branch before being tied under the bulbar urethra where it brings tension and support.

Figure



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/EP2007/061582

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

INV. A61B17/04 A61F2/00  
ADD. A61B17/00 A61B17/06

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)  
A61B A61F

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/212305 A1 (ANDERSON KIMBERLY A [US] ET AL) 13 November 2003 (2003-11-13) figures 15,15a.39 paragraphs [0011], [0115], [0122], [0123], [0174], [0175] claims 4-6	6,7, 12-14
Y	-----	8-11
Y	WO 2006/084167 A (AMS RES CORP [US]; ARNAL KEVIN R [US]; GOZZI CHRISTIAN [IT]; REHDER PE) 10 August 2006 (2006-08-10) page 14, lines 16-19 page 28, line 7 - page 29, line 16 figures 2a-2c	8-11
Y	----- -/--	6-14

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
- \*E\* earlier document 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.
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

10 June 2008

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/EP2007/061582

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 2004/133217 A1 (WATSCHKE BRIAN P [US]) 8 July 2004 (2004-07-08) figure 8 paragraphs [0031], [0032], [0034]	6,7,13, 14
Y	US 2004/097974 A1 (DE LEVAL JEAN [BE]) 20 May 2004 (2004-05-20) figures 3c,3d,4a-4c,5a-5c paragraphs [0055] - [0060]	6-14
X	US 2005/075660 A1 (CHU MICHAEL S. H. [US] ET AL) 7 April 2005 (2005-04-07) figures 7,8 paragraphs [0055], [0057] - [0059], [0068]	6,7
A	US 5 935 138 A (MCJAMES II WILLIAM C [US] ET AL) 10 August 1999 (1999-08-10) column 3, lines 9-22 abstract figure 1	6

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/EP2007/061582

## 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.: 1-5  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
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:

see additional sheet

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an 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.:

6-14

### 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.

**FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210**

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 6-14

Claims 6-14 directed to surgical passer for treating male urinary incontinence with a handle , a segment extending from said handle and a spiral needle with four parts.

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2. claims: 15-18

Claims 15-18 directed to a guide for a passer used in treating male urinary incontinence with a semi-cylindrical gutter with two offset ends and two wings at its distal end.

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3. claims: 19-24

Claims 19-24 directed to a support structure used in treating male urinary incontinence comprising a mesh structure with a central part and two lateral arms.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/EP2007/061582

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