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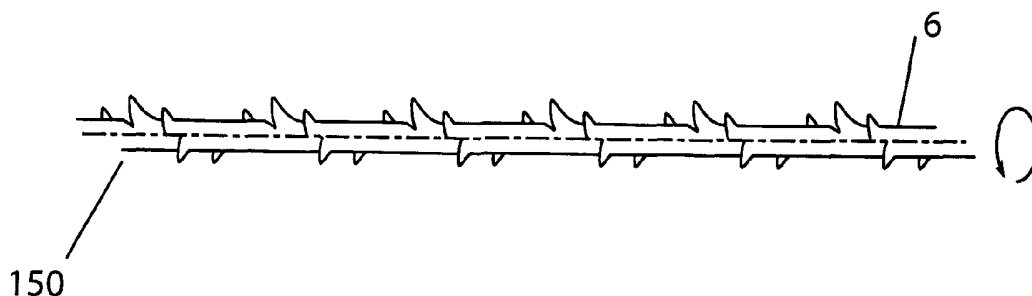
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(54) Title: METHOD OF FORMING BARBS ON A SUTURE AND APPARATUS FOR PERFORMING SAME



(57) Abstract: A method of making a barbed suture by varying the blade geometry and/or the movement of the blade when cutting a suture is disclosed. The method can also be accomplished with a cutting device to create a plurality of barbs on the exterior of surgical suture. The barbs produced using the method with the cutting device can be the same or random configurations.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/US 02/27525

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 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)

IPC 7 A61B

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 A	US 5 931 855 A (BUNCKE HARRY J) 3 August 1999 (1999-08-03) cited in the application column 8, line 6 -column 9, line 10; figures 13,15	1-12, 15-17, 35,37 18-34
X	EP 1 075 843 A (SULAMANIDZE MARLEN ANDREEVICH ;MIKHAILOV GEORGY MARLENOVICH (RU)) 14 February 2001 (2001-02-14) claim 3; figure 2	1-4,6-8, 10,11, 15-17, 35,37



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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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.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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