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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR TOPICAL NEGATIVE PRESSURE THERAPY

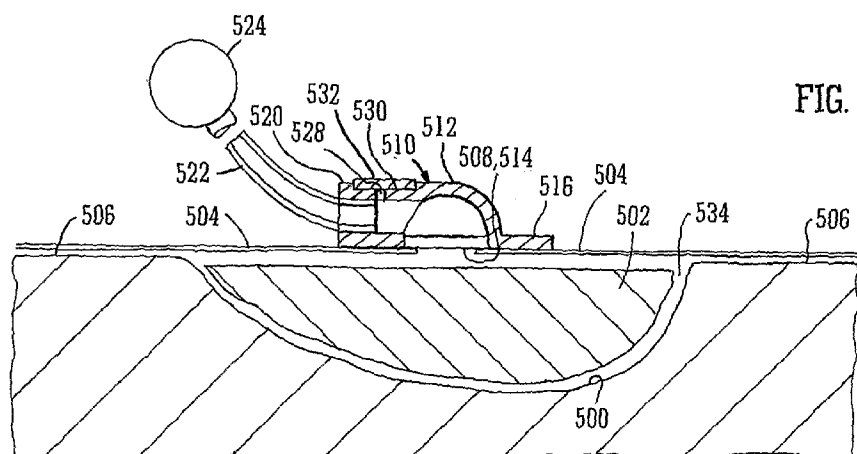


FIG. 5

(57) Abstract: Apparatus and a method for the provision of TNP therapy to a wound are described, the apparatus comprising: a sealing membrane (504) for covering a wound to form a wound cavity (500); one end of an aspirant conduit (522) operably associated with the wound cavity, vacuum means (524) provided at a distal end of the aspirant conduit for applying a vacuum to the wound cavity; and, air bleed means (510) in fluid communication with the wound cavity. Various embodiments of air bleed port members are also described.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/GB2008/051118

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61M1/00

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)

A61M

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	WO 2007/087810 A (COLOPLAST AS [DK]; LARSEN TRUELS STERN [DK]; JEPSEN ERIK LUND [DK]; HV) 9 August 2007 (2007-08-09) page 1, lines 3-9 page 3, lines 5-31 page 12, line 9 - page 13, line 5 figure 1	1-3,6
X	US 2007/179460 A1 (ADAHAN CARMELI [IL]) 2 August 2007 (2007-08-02) paragraphs [0095] - [0107] figures 1,3	1,2,7-18

☒ 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

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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 2007/016152 A1 (KARPOWICZ JOHN [US] ET AL) 18 January 2007 (2007-01-18)	1, 4, 5, 7-9, 14-17
Y	figures 2,5 paragraphs [0010] - [0014], [0026] - [0032]	10
X	----- WO 2007/013049 A (ADAHAN CARMELI [IL]) 1 February 2007 (2007-02-01) page 2, line 22 - page 3, line 2 page 6, lines 16-19 figures 1,2	1, 4, 5
Y	----- US 2006/100586 A1 (KARPOWICZ JOHN [US] ET AL KARPOWICZ JOHN [US] ET AL) 11 May 2006 (2006-05-11) paragraphs [0008], [0010] - [0014], [0021], [0022], [0024], [0031]; figure 3	10
Y	----- US 2007/219532 A1 (KARPOWICZ JOHN [US] ET AL) 20 September 2007 (2007-09-20) figure 2 paragraphs [0048] - [0053]	21-26
Y	----- WO 03/045492 A (HILL ROM SERVICES INC [US]; LOCKWOOD JEFFREY S [US]; PETROSENKO ROBERT) 5 June 2003 (2003-06-05) figures 17-19	21-26

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB2008/051118

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.: 27-33
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 therapy
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.:
1-26
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.:

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/SA/ 210

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

1. claims: 1-20

Apparatus for the provision of topical negative pressure therapy to a wound comprising a sealing membrane, an aspirant conduit, vacuum means and air bleed means.

2. claims: 21-26

An air bleed port member for topical negative pressure dressing comprising a base portion, a body portion, a socket portion, an air bleed hole adapted to receive a filter element.

3. claims: 34-38

An air bleed port member comprising a portion of filter material coated being partially coated with adhesive.

4. claim: 39

An air bleed port member comprising a portion of filter material welded to a flexible sealing membrane for defining an area of air bleed flow.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/GB2008/051118

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