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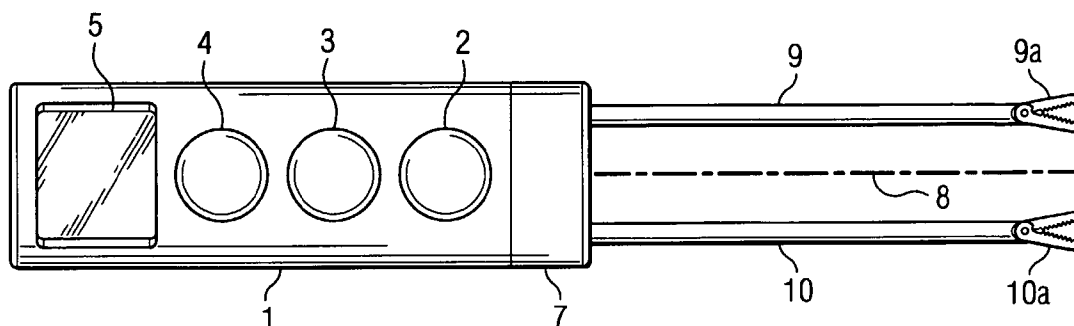
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(54) Title: SEMI-ROBOTIC SUTURING DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A semi-robotic apparatus and methods of use thereof for suturing body tissue, wherein the apparatus includes a housing; at least two distal arms connected to and extending distally from the housing, wherein the at least two distal arms are independently both extendable and retractable; a suture needle clasp connected to a distal end of each of the at least two distal arms, wherein the suture needle clasp is radially rotateable orthogonal to the longitudinal axis of the distal arm to which it is connected; and at least one controller operable for controlling at least a portion of the extension or retraction of the at least two distal arms, the rotation of the suture clasps and the opening and closing of the suture needle clasps.

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| <b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>   |   |  |
| Category *  | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No.  |
| X   | US 5,993,466 A (YOON) 30 November 1999 (30.11.1999), Figures 1-3B , column 6, line 37 to column 8, line 4 and Figure 8, column 17, lines 35-60                      | 1,2,3,5,6,8,11,13,14,16, 17,19,21, and 22  |
| Y   | US 6,206,894 B1 (THOMPSON et al.) 27 March 2001 (27.03.2001), Figures 1, 3-6, column 6, lines 1-8 and column 13, lines 1-54.  | 4,7,9,10,12,15,18,20, and 21   |
| A   | US 4,635,638 A (WEINTRAUB et al.) 13 January 1987 (13.01.1987), see entire reference  | 1-22   |
| A   | US 6,071,289 A (STEFANCHIK et al.) 06 June 2000 (06.06.2000), see entire reference.   | 1-22   |
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