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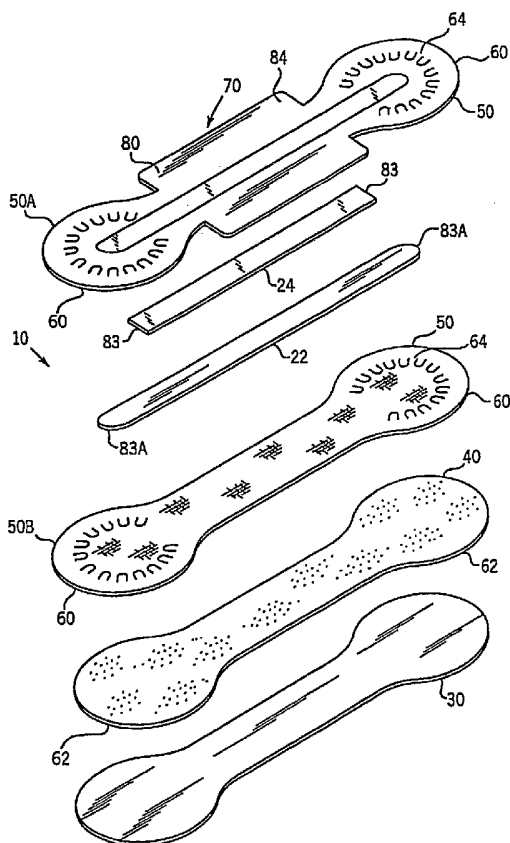
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(54) Title: DRESSING AND AN EPIDERMAL POSITIONING MECHANISM AND METHOD FOR USING SAME



(57) Abstract: A dressing and an epidermal lifting mechanism for use with an application to a predetermined epidermal surface and methods of using same. The epidermal lifting mechanism comprises a strip of material having a first end portion of a predetermined shape, a second end portion of a predetermined shape, and middle portion coupling the first end portion to the second end portion. The first end portion and the second end portion each include a side including an adhesive layer. An overlaying, nonadhesive barrier layer may be located between a portion of the adhesive layer and an end portion.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/10715

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 17/08; A61F 15/00, 5/08, 13/00; A61M 15/00, 16/00; A62B 23/02, 29/00, 18/08
 US CL : 128/200.24, 207.18, 204.13, 205.27, Dig. 26, 206.11, 206.25, 206.24, 888, 889; 606/213, 214, 215, 216
 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. : 128/200.24, 207.18, 204.13, 205.27, Dig. 26, 206.11, 206.25, 206.24, 888, 889; 606/213, 214, 215, 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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,611,333 A (JOHNSON) 18 March 1997, figures 2a-22, coulmn 7, lines 5-14	10,12
X	US 5,843,025 A (SHAARI) 01 December 1998, column 4, lines 6-27	88,89,91,98,99-101,103,104
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Y		69-71,80,82,83
X	US 5,116,675 A (NASH-MORGAN) 26 May 1992, figures 1-3, column 2, lines 41-45	26,104,118
X	US 5,534,010 A (PETERSON) 09 July 1996, figures 1-10	36-40
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Y		42,47,49,118-124
X	US 4,742,826 A (MCLORG) 10 May 1988, figures 1-5, column 4, lines 10-38.	69,72,73
X	US 3,811,438 A (ECONOMOU) 21 May 1974, figures 1-6, coulmn 4, lines 59-65.	69,74,75
Y	US 5,820,578 A (JOHANSEN) 13 October 1998, figures 1-7	14,15

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"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
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"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	

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	5,234,462 A (PAVLETIC) 10 August 1993, figures 1-4, column 2, line 64 and lines 59-61, column 4, lines 6-27, 35-39	55,56,63,64,58,92-94,119-122,146-149,151,152,154-156
Y	US 5,244,523 A (TOLLINI) 14 September 1993, figures 7, 8, and 11	55,66,67
Y	US 5,156,641 A (WHITE) 20 October 1992, figures 1-3	69,81
X	US 5,052,381 A (GILBERT) 01 October 1991, figures 1-14	13,18
X	US 4,742,826 A (MCLORG) 10 May 1988, figures 1-5, column 4, lines 10-38	69,72,73
Y	US 1,230,445 A (TEED et.al.) 19 June 1917, figures 1-5, column 3, lines 29-34	19-25

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/10715

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claim 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. Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
Please See Continuation Sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
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.:

Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I, claim(s) 1-12, drawn to an epidermal lifting mechanism, classified in class 128, subclass 207.18 for use and application to a nose of human being and method of use.

Group II, claim(s) 13-15, 107-122, 158, 159, drawn to epidermal positioning mechanism for positioning the epidermis, classified in class 606, subclass 213.

Group III, claim(s) 26-54, drawn to dressing mechanism, classified in class 602, subclass 54.

Group IV, claims 55-68 and 146-157, drawn to a dressing, classified in class 602, subclass 54.

Group V, claims 69-87 and 123-145, drawn to method of using a dressing mechanism, classified in class 602, subclass 54.

Group VI, claims 88-106, drawn to method for using a dressing, classified in class 602, subclass 54.

The inventions listed as Groups I-VI do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: because

Group I, claims 1-12 is an epidermal lifting mechanism for use and application to a human nose, used for opening a nasal passageway of a user.

Group II, claims 13-25, 107-122, 158, and 159 is used for positioning the epidermis and providing a medicinal material, not specific to open the nasal cavity of Group I.

Group III, claims 26-54, is a dressing mechanism, a different invention from Group I and not specific to Group II.

Group IV, claims 55-68 and 146-157, is a dressing, a different invention from Group I (lifting mechanism) and II (positioning the epidermis), not specific to Group III (dressing mechanism).

Group V, claims 69-87 and 123-145, is a method for using a dressing mechanism, a different invention from Group I (lifting mechanism and method of using), Group II (epidermis positioning mechanism), Group III (dressing mechanism). And Group IV (dressing).

Group VI, claims 88-106, is a method for using a dressing, a different invention from Group I (lifting mechanism for use and application to a human nose), Group II (an epidermis positioning mechanism), Group III (dressing mechanism), Group IV (dressing) and Group V (a method of using a dressing mechanism).