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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MAINTAINING AND/OR RESTORING VIABILITY OF ORGANS

(57) Abstract

An organ perfusion apparatus and method for monitoring, sustaining and/or restoring the viability of the organ and for preserving the organ for storage and/or transport perfuse the organ at normothermic temperatures (normothermic perfusion mode), preferably prior to and followed by organ perfusion at hypothermic temperatures (hypothermic perfusion mode) for transport and/or storage of the organ. The restoring of organ viability is accomplished by restoring high energy nucleotide (e.g., ATP) levels in the organ, which were reduced by warm ischemia time, by perfusing the organ with a medical fluid, such as an oxygenated cross—linked hemoglobin—based bicarbonate medical fluid, at normothermic temperatures. In the normothermic perfusion mode, organ perfusion pressure is preferably controlled in response to a sensor disposed in an end of tubing placed in the organ, by a pneumatically pressurized medical fluid reservoir which may be used in combination with a stepping motor/cam valve which provides for perfusion pressure fine tuning, preventing overpressurization and providing emergency flow cut—off. In the hypothermic mode, the organ is perfused with a medical fluid, preferably a simple crystalloid solution augmented with antioxidants, intermittently or at a slow continuous flow rate. The medical fluid may be fed into the organ by gravity from an intermediary tank which has alow pressure head so overpressurization of the organ is avoided. In either mode, preventing overpressurization prevents and/or reduces damage to the vascular endothelial lining and to the organ tissue in general. Also, viability of the organ may be automatically monitored in either mode, preferably by monitoring fluid characteristics of the medical fluid that has been perfused through the organ, such fluid characteristics being indicative of organ viability. The perfusion process can be automatically controlled using a control program.

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A. CLASSI IPC 7	IFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER A01N1/02		
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Minimum do IPC 7	ocumentation searched (classification system followed by classification and A01N	ation symbols)	
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Electronic d	ata base consulted during the international search (name of data b	ease and, where practical,	search terms used)
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X Furth	er documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family m	nembers are listed in annex.
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	ctual completion of the international search March 2000	1	e international search report
Name and m	ailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Klaver,	J

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International application No. PCT/US 99/22582

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 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:	
Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:	
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 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:	
see additional sheet	
As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.	
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. X 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: 1 - 39, 65 - 71

Method of maintaining or restoring viability of an organ comprising: a) perfusing the organ with an oxygenated medical fluid, preferably at a temperature of $> 15^{\circ}$ C, optionally and preferably followed by a perfusion at a lower temperature with a second medical fluid. b) storing and transporting the organ in an organ cassette including a portale housing, supporting surface and tubing.

Apparatus for use in the method of claims 1 - 39

2. Claims: 40 - 44, 54 - 61

Method for perfusing an organ utilizing at least one medical fluid reservoir and a perfusion pressure controller. Appratus for use in this method.

3. Claims: 45 - 53

Method for transporting an dstoring an organ comprising a. perfusing at normothermic temperature, preferably with oxygenated fluid b. perfusing at hypothermic temperature, preferably with non-oxygenated fluid c. transporting and storeing organ at hypothermnic temperature d. perfusing at normothermic temperature to repair damage of step c.

4. Claims: 62 -64

Apparatus for perfusing an organ comprsing reservoir, pathway, one or more heat exchangers and control device for regulating heat exchanger(s), preferably a microprocessor.

5. Claims: 72 - 83

Perfusion solution kit comprising a sealable package containing a first container holding a first (preferably oxygenated) perfusion solution and a second container holding a different perfusion solution.

6. Claims: 84 - 109

Control system for controlling perfusion of an organ comprising: input, perfusion mode selector, flow control

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

selector and -controller, detector, comparator and indicator. Method of controlling perfusion of an organ by using this system.

7. Claims: 110 - 122

Recording medium for storing control program for use in perfusion system. $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right)$

Information on patent family members

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