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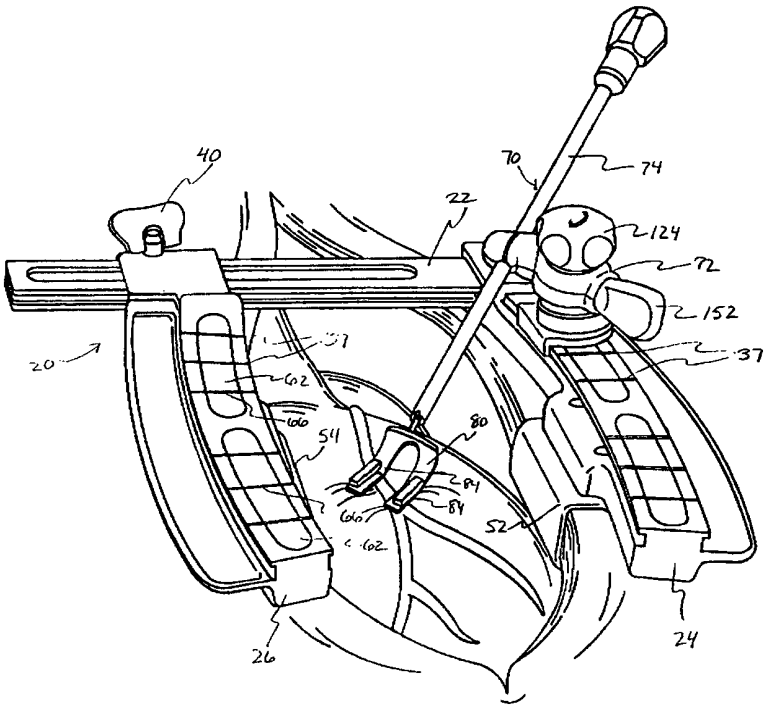
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR CARDIAC SURGERY



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a stabilizer (20) having foot (24, 26) to stabilize a patient's heart. The stabilizer (20) has a first foot (24) which is larger than a second foot (26). The first foot (24) has lateral surfaces (54, 54) which are used to retract other parts of the heart while contact surfaces stabilize the target artery.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/02815

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 17/02
US CL : 600/232

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. : 600/232,201,205,227,231,233,234,235,210

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

none

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

none

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	US 6,099,468 A (Santilli et al) 8 August 2000, see entire document.	1-19
X,P	US 6,102,854 A (Cartier et al.) 15 August 2000, see entire document.	1-19
X	US Re.34,150 A (Santilli et al) 29 December 1992, see entire document.	1-19
A,E	US 6,213,941 A (Benetti et al) 10 April 2001, see entire document.	1-19
A,P	US 6,102,853 A (Scirica et al.) 15 August 2000, see entire document.	1-19
A	US 5,976,080 A (Farascioni) 2 November 1999, see entire document.	1-19

☐ 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 document 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		

Date of the actual completion of the international search 10 APRIL 2001	Date of mailing of the international search report 16 JUL 2001
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer PEDRO PHILOGENE Telephone No. (703) 308-2252

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)★

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/02815

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

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 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 Extra 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.:
1-19

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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BOX II. OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION WAS LACKING
This ISA found multiple inventions as follows:

The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

FIGS. 1-15 and 36-41 relating to claims 1-19.
FIGS. 16-35 relating to claims 20-48.

The following claims are generic: none

The species listed above do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: in the first species, applicant claimed a apparatus for stabilizing a epicardial surface of the heart comprising a shaft and a foot coupled to the shaft, the foot having a first arm, a second arm, and a space therebetween. In the second species, applicant claimed a flexible arm for holding a medical instrument comprising a plurality of links each having a hole therethrough and an elongated extending through the holes and a frictional element. Therefore, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features.