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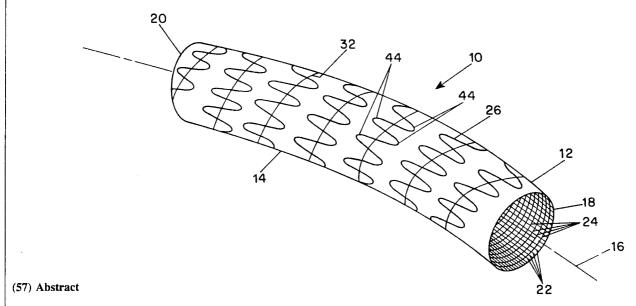
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(54) Title: WOVEN STENT/GRAFT STRUCTURE



A combined stent/graft structure for repair of a body tube in a living body. The structure includes a textile graft adapted to enhance fluid integrity of the body tube and a stent expandable between a first position permitting easy insertion of the stent into the body tube and a second position wherein the stent presses securely against the inside surface of the body tube. The stent includes a first elongate wire–shaped stent member with both a stent member global axis and a stent member local axis, and is integrally secured to the graft by at least one graft yam of which the graft is formed. Substantial portions of the first stent member global axis form a non–orthogonal angle with the graft main portion axis when projected into a plane containing the graft main portion axis. This permits repeatable, reliable manufacturing and allows the stent member to extend over substantially the whole length of the structure to provide uniform flexural properties and support throughout. Embodiments wherein the first stent member global axis forms an orthogonal angle with the graft main portion axis are also contemplated. A method of forming a textile with an undulating wire is also provided. Further, a woven textile is also part of the invention as is a method of manufacturing such a woven textile, which can be used to produce stent/graft structures according to the invention. Inventive weaving shuttles suitable for manufacturing structures in accordance with the invention are also set forth. Methods utilizing shape–memory stent members for ease in manufacturing are also disclosed.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter onal Application No PCT/US 99/17646

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61F2/06 D031 D03J5/00 D03D13/00 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) A61F D03D D03J IPC 7 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) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category 31 - 33,38WO 92 16166 A (ALBANY RESEARCH) X 1 October 1992 (1992-10-01) 1-6,20,the whole document 23-27, 34 - 37WO 97 21403 A (PROGRAFT MEDICAL, INC.) 1-6,20,Υ 19 June 1997 (1997-06-19) 23-27, 34 - 3728 the whole document A 1,17,21 WO 97 25002 A (MEDTRONIC, INC.) A 17 July 1997 (1997-07-17) the whole document EP 0 263 392 A (MEIDAI CHEMICAL CO.) 39,46 Α 13 April 1988 (1988-04-13) the whole document Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X ° 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 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to 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) 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 "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or in the art. document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 17 April 2000 26.04 2000 Authorized officer Name and mailing 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 Boutelegier, C

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter onal Application No PCT/US 99/17646

	tion) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	T. GIOTAIN TO GIARRI 190.
A	EP 0 536 735 A (D.I.M.A. RICERCHE TECNOLOGISCHE S.R.L.) 14 April 1993 (1993-04-14) the whole document	39,46
A	GB 935 908 A (IMATEX) 4 September 1963 (1963-09-04) figures 1,2,5	47,48
A	DE 144 171 C (TOBLER) 23 September 1902 (1902-09-23) the whole document	47,53

Inte...ational application No. PCT/US 99/17646

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box I	Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This Inten	national Search 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:
	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:
з. 🔲	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 Inter	mational Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
	see additional sheet
1. X	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	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: 1-46,58-66

1.1 Claims 1-30,58-62: A combined stent/graft tubular structure and method of forming a textile.

1.2 Claims 31-38,63,64 : A woven textile.

1.3 Claims 39-46,65,66: A method of forming a woven textile.

2. Claims: 47-57

A weaving shuttle

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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