

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/IB2012/053829

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61C8/00
ADD.

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)
A61C

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)
EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 873 721 A (WILLOUGHBY ANDREW J M [BS]) 23 February 1999 (1999-02-23) figures 26, 27 -----	1-63,100
X	WO 92/10145 A1 (SULC JOSEPH M [US]) 25 June 1992 (1992-06-25) figures -----	1-63,100
X	DE 20 2006 012016 U1 (KLUMPEN HERMANN [DE]) 2 November 2006 (2006-11-02) figures -----	1-63,100
X	US 5 520 540 A (NARDI EZIO [IT] ET AL) 28 May 1996 (1996-05-28) figures -----	1-63,100
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

<p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"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)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>	<p>"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</p> <p>"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</p> <p>"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</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">21 January 2013</p>	Date of mailing of the international search report <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">30/01/2013</p>
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em;">Fouquet, Michèle</p>
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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	FR 2 085 013 A5 (AGA AB) 17 December 1971 (1971-12-17) figures -----	1-63,100
X	US 4 645 453 A (NIZNICK GERALD A [US]) 24 February 1987 (1987-02-24) cited in the application figures -----	1-63,100

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 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:

1. Claims Nos.: 64-99, 101
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery/therapy. Especially the steps a., b., e., f. of claim 64 but also additional method steps in the dependent claims 65-99 and 101 relate to the treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy.
2. Claims Nos.: 1-63, 100(all partially)
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:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
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 No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

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 fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
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 and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 64-99, 101

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery/therapy. Especially the steps a., b., e., f. of claim 64 but also additional method steps in the dependent claims 65-99 and 101 relate to the treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy.

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 1-63, 100(all partially)

Present claims 1-63, 101 relate to an extremely large number of possible devices. Support and disclosure in the sense of Article 6 and 5 PCT is to be found however for only a very small proportion of the devices claimed. Only the figures clearly define the invention. However, neither the claims, due to the lack of clear technical features in almost all the claims (in claim 1, an universal (?) dental implant abutment is defined by its result to be achieved, being adjustable and customizable with respect to angle, direction, length, geometry and shape according to an individual's morphology; without defining any of the technical features of this dental implant abutment) nor the description, due to the use of optionally and preferably, most preferably at the beginning of almost each paragraph, clearly and unambiguously define the invention. In case a claim defines some technical features for example claim 38, several alternatives are listed such that again no clear single invention is disclosed. Consequently, it is impossible to know for which features, combination of features as shown in the figures the Applicant would like to have patent protection. Also the claims 1-63, 101 as a whole are extremely confusing. In claim 1 a universal dental implant abutment is defined, whereas in claim 2, dependent on claim 1, an abutment assembly is defined. Also due to the use of "may be" in several claims (4, 5, 9...) no further restrictive features are defined. The non-compliance with the substantive provisions is to such an extent, that the search was performed taking into consideration the non-compliance in determining the extent of the search of claims 1-63, 101 (PCT Guidelines 9.19 and 9.23). The search of claims 1-63, 101 was restricted to those claimed devices which appear to be supported in the figures. The generalisation searched was directed to an abutment assembly comprising projection which is adjustable angularly, also a pivot projection couplet over a ball and socket arrangement was searched. It is to be noted, that any abutment can be adapted in its length or geometry and shape by milling.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/IB2012/053829

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5873721	A	23-02-1999	US 5873721 A 23-02-1999
			US 6126445 A 03-10-2000
			US 6283753 B1 04-09-2001

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			DE 69129039 T2 23-07-1998
			EP 0560889 A1 22-09-1993
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			JP H06505645 A 30-06-1994
			US 5195891 A 23-03-1993
			WO 9210145 A1 25-06-1992

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US 5520540	A	28-05-1996	NONE

FR 2085013	A5	17-12-1971	CA 958852 A1 10-12-1974
			DE 2114323 A1 14-10-1971
			FR 2085013 A5 17-12-1971
			GB 1352188 A 08-05-1974
			SE 328961 B 28-09-1970
			US 3732621 A 15-05-1973
			ZA 7101728 A 29-12-1971

US 4645453	A	24-02-1987	NONE
