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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: STOMA CLOSURE

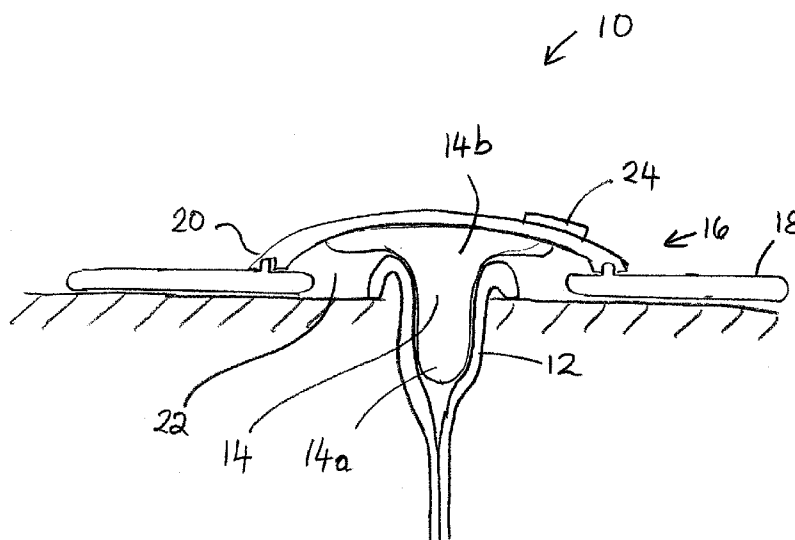


FIG 1

(57) Abstract: A stoma closure that includes a conformable portion for conforming to an individual's stoma. The conformable portion includes a sack containing particles. The conformable portion may include a gel that may be loose or be at least partly contained in a sack. The conformable portion may include foam. The conformable portion may be configured to permit venting of flatus, while obstructing the passage of liquid/solid stool.

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FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL,
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Published:

- *with international search report*
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- *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 08/59625

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61F 2/02 (2008.04)

USPC - 600/32

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)

IPC(8): A61F 2/02 (2008.04)

USPC: 600/32

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
USPC: 600/29, 30, 31; 604/317, 327, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Dialog Classic (JPO, EPO, WIPO, US Patents Full Text, etc.); WEST (PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB; PLUR); Google Patents (<http://www.google.com/patents>); Free Patents Online (<http://www.freepatentsonline.com/>). Search terms: ostomy, particle, gel, etc.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X -- Y	US 5,009,648 A (ARONOFF et al.) 23 April 1991 (23.04.1991) col 1, ln 37-45; col 2, ln 10-24; col 3, ln 14-17; col 5, ln 32-40; col 7, ln 27-43; col 10, ln 63-65	1-3 -- 4-17
X -- Y	US 2006/0058577 A1 (DAVIES et al.) 16 March 2006 (16.03.2006) para [0008], [0009], [0012], [0013], [0015], [0017], [0022], [0044], [0055], [0058]-[0060]; claim 1, 15, 26	18-21 -- 4-5, 16-17 and 22-30
Y	US 6,395,955 B1 (ROE et al.) 28 May 2002 (28.05.2002) col 7, ln 22-27; col 35, ln 20-27; col 36, ln 56-58; col 46, ln 29-39; col 47, ln 14-17; col 47, ln 26-31	6-9 and 13-15
Y	US 5,531,724 A (YOUNG et al.) 02 July 1996 (02.07.1996) col 1, ln 23-26; col 2, ln 23-28; col 2, ln 56-59; col 3, ln 8-14; col 3, ln 40-44; col 4, ln 28-49; col 4, ln 61-64; col 5, ln 7-11; col 5, ln 28-37; fig. 2	10-11 and 22-30
Y	US 4,210,131 A (PERLIN) 01 July 1980 (01.07.1980) col 5, ln 31-49; col 8, ln 15-26; col 9, ln 47-48; claim 6	12
Y	US 2004/0078219 A1 (KAYLOR et al.) 22 April 2004 (22.04.2004) para [0036], [0117], [0207], [0219], [0277], [0310]	24-26

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international 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)

"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

"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

"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

"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

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 08/59625

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.:
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 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:

Group I: Claims 1-17; directed to a conformable stoma closure comprising a particle-filled flexible chamber.

Group II: Claims 18-21; directed to a conformable stoma closure made of a foam material.

Group III: Claims 22-30; directed to a conformable stoma closure made of gel material.

The inventions listed as Groups I - III 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: The special technical feature of Group I is particle-filled flexible chamber, which is not present in Group II or III. The special technical feature of Group II is a foam material, which is not present in Group I or III. The special technical feature of Group III is a gel material, which is not present in Group I or II. The sole element of commonality between the groups is that of a conformable stoma closure, which is known in the prior art (ref. US 4,693,236 A to Leprevost, col 4, ln 30-40). Accordingly, unity of invention is lacking under PCT Rule 13.1.

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 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.