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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR VASCULAR ACCESS

(57) Abstract: A vascular access device comprises a bridge having first and second bores therethrough, a dilator in the first bore, and a needle guide in the second bore. The second bore is at an angle with respect to the first bore such that the needle guide is at the angle with respect to the dilator. The device is useful, for example to achieve dual site entrance to a blood vessel.

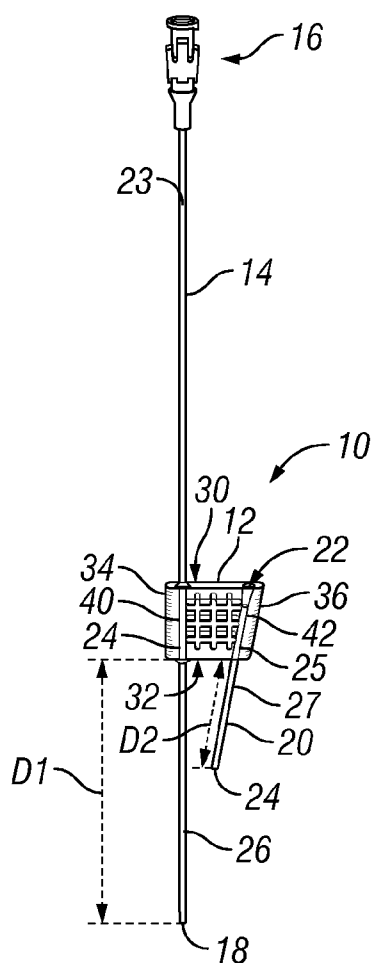


FIG. 1



EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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MC, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

13 August 2009

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2008/081782**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER***A61B 17/34(2006.01)i, A61B 17/00(2006.01)i*

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 A61B

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

Korean Utility models and applications for Utility models since 1975

Japanese Utility models and applications for Utility models since 1975

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

eKIPASS(KPA, PAJ, FPD, USPATFULL) in KIPO, CA online, google & keywords: vascular access, needle, guide, dilator, angle, bore

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X A	EP 1543858 A1 (UNOMEDICAL LIMITED) 22 June 2005 See the abstract; paragraphs [0030], [0033]-[0036]; figures 1-15; claims 1-9, 18-21	1-5, 7-17 6
X A	EP 1247541 A1 (RADHAKRISHNA et al.) 10 September 2002 See the abstract; figures 1-3; claims 1-3	1, 12 2-11, 13-17
A	US 05735813 A (LEWIS) 07 April 1998 See the abstract; figures 1-3; claims 1,2	1-17
A	US 2001-0012946 A1 (MACKENZIE et al.) 09 August 2001 See the abstract; figures 1-4; claims 1,13, 26,39	1-17
A	US 04808156 A (DEAN) 28 February 1989 See the abstract; figures 1,2; claim 1	1-17
A	US 05328480 A (MELKER et al.) 12 July 1994 See the abstract; figure 1; claim 1	1-17



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* 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 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

25 JUNE 2009 (25.06.2009)

Date of mailing of the international search report

25 JUNE 2009 (25.06.2009)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR

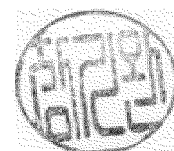
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2008/081782**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.: 18-20
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Claims 18-20 pertain to methods for treatment of human by surgery or therapy, and thus relate to a subject matter which this International Searching Authority is not required, under Article 17(2)(a)(i) of the PCT and Rule 39.1(iv) of the Regulations under the PCT, to search.
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:

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.:

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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2008/081782

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 1543858 A1	22.06.2005	EP 1696991 A1 EP 1696991 B1 WO 2005-061040 A1	06.09.2006 23.04.2008 07.07.2005
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US 05328480 A	12.07.1994	None	