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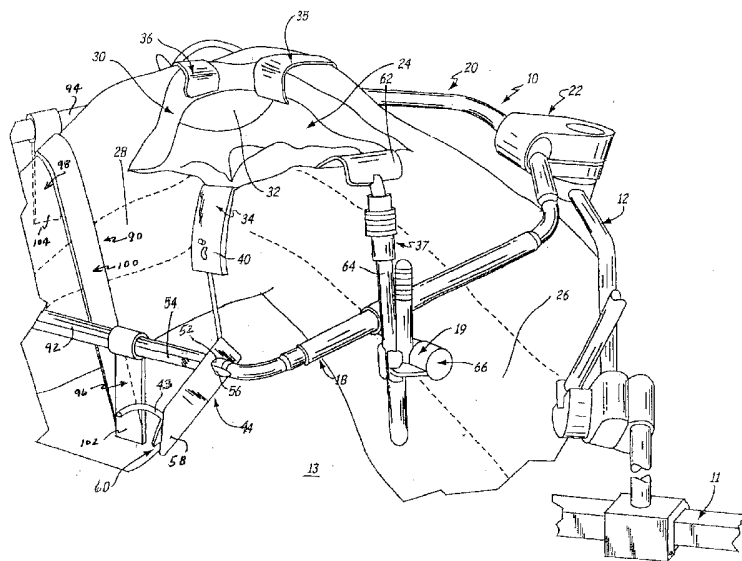
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REPLACING A KNEE-JOINT



(57) Abstract: The present invention includes a method of performing knee joint replacement surgery. The tibia (28) and femur (26) are positioned such that knee joint (24) is disposed in a bent position. An incision (30) is made over or adjacent patella (32) to expose knee joint (24). A retractor support (12) is extended along at least opposite sides of knee joint (24). The skin flesh layers proximate knee joint (24) are retracted utilizing a plurality of retractors (34,36) that are attached to retractor support (12). At least one of retractors (34,36) is attached to retractor support (12) such that the retractor may be flexed sufficiently for movement of knee joint (24) during surgery without having to reposition retractors (34,36).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/22567

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 1/32
US CL : 600/227

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. : 600/227, 184, 201, 206, 208, 210, 213, 215, 217, 219, 220, 228, 229, 230, 231, 233, 234, 235

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4,813,401 A (GRIESHABER) 21 March 1989 (21.03.1989), Figure 1, column 1, lines 9-44, column 5, lines 16-68 and column 6, lines 1-14.	9-16
Y	US 5,662,300 A (MICHELSON) 2 September 1997 (02.09.1997), column 1, lines 11-14 and lines 30-40, column 2, lines 25-49 and column 9, lines 42-46.	9-16
X	US 4,526,355 A (MOORE et al.) 2 July 1985 (02.07.1985), Figures 1 and 4, column 1, lines 6-11, column 2, lines 46-68, column 3, lines 1-25 and lines 66-68 and column 4, lines 1-13.	19
X	US 5,645,079A (ZAHIRI et al), 8 July 1997 (08.07.1997), Figures 1 and 2, column 6, lines 31-40, column 7, lines 45-65 and column 8, lines 41-52.	19

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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