

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
20 October 2005 (20.10.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/096766 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: A61N 5/067

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2005/011438

(22) International Filing Date: 4 April 2005 (04.04.2005)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/559,102 3 April 2004 (03.04.2004) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KM, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA,
MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM,
PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY,
TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU,
ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,
FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,
GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

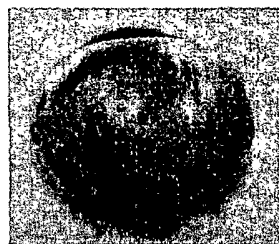
Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments

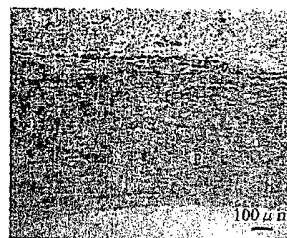
(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
22 December 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR TREATMENT OF OCULAR MELANOSIS



a



b

(57) Abstract: The invention entails a novel system and method for modifying scleral pigmentation. More particularly, the invention entails a novel system and method for treating Ocular Melanosis (OM). The invention contemplates a system and method for treating OM that uses lasers with modified pulse widths and low power to whiten the sclera without causing damage to the retina. Ultimately, a system has been developed that uses of low laser pulse fluences considerably less than those used for treating nevus of Ota on the skin. The system limits the risk of retinal injury by use of (a) a small exposure spot size and (b) a high numerical aperture (NA) optical beam with fluences of between about 0.5 J/cm² and 5.0 J/Am², significantly lower than many currently available laser treatments. In a preferred embodiment, the system of the invention uses a laser with a wavelength in the visible and near-infrared spectrum and a pulse width from about 1 ns - 100 microseconds.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/11438

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : A61N 5/067 US CL : 606/3 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. : 606/3, 10-13, 16-18; 607/88-90; 128/898 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.
X X X ---- Y	US 4,722,337 A (LOSCH et al) 02 February 1988 (02.02.1988) see the entire document US 6,659,999 B1 (ANDERSON et al) 09 December 2003 (09.12.2003) see the entire document US 6,702,838 B1 (ANDERSEN et al.) 09 March 2004 (09.03.2004) see the entire document	1, 8, 29 1-6, 8-13, 29-34 1-14, 29-35 ----- 15-28
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 02 October 2005 (02.10.2005)	Date of mailing of the international search report <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">27 OCT 2005</div>	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer <div style="text-align: center;"> david shay </div> Telephone No. 571-272-3700	