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(54) **SYSTEMS FOR DYNAMIC DRUG THERAPY RESPONSE TO BLOOD PRESSURE INCIDENTS**

SYSTEME FÜR DYNAMISCHE ARZNEIMITTELTHERAPIEREAKTIONEN AUF BLUTDRUCKVORFÄLLE

SYSTÈMES D'ADMINISTRATION D'UN MÉDICAMENT EN RÉPONSE À UNE PRESSION SANGUINE ANORMALE

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Description

BACKGROUND

[0001] The present application relates, in general, to antihypertensive drug therapy. In particular, the application relates to controlling hypertension episodes round the clock.

[0002] Hypertension is an inevitable disease of all populations in their second half-century of life, no matter who or where they may be. Moreover, hypertension assertedly creeps-up linearly with time, and soon enough becomes the major cause of morbidity and mortality. Severe hypertension insidiously damages the central nervous system - even in a victim barely into his or her second half-century. See e.g., New England Journal of Medicine.

[0003] Increased blood pressures are associated with increased chances of having a stroke, heart attack, kidney failure or heart failure and a whole host of other maladies or health complications. Medical classification of hypertension is based on blood pressure ranges. An exemplary blood pressure classification in common use is as follows:

Blood Pressure Classification Table

115	75	Desireable
120-139	80-89	Prehypertension
140-159	90-99	Hypertension Stage 1
160 or over	100 or over	Hypertension Stage 2

[0004] As the blood pressures rise above 115/75 there is an increased incidence of the above-mentioned complications. This increased incidence worsens as the blood pressure increases above 115/75 (i.e., mean arterial pressures above 95 mm Hg) are linearly bad. Deterioration of the vascular beds of several heavily vascularized vital organs (e.g., kidneys, heart and brain) appears to be linear with the time-integral of mean arterial pressure above a desirable threshold of 95 mm Hg. On top of general vascular bed-rot, macro problems such as various flavors of myocardial 'remodeling', heart failure, etc. occur.

[0005] A problem with current diagnosis and treatment of hypertension is that they are usually based on only an individual or few measurements of blood pressure without taking into account of hypertensive episodes or excursions that may contribute to a higher time-integral of mean arterial pressure above the desirable threshold of 95 mm Hg. See e.g., Powers B, et al "Measuring blood pressure for decision making and quality reporting: where and how many measures?" Ann Intern Med 2011; 154: 781-788, and Appel L, et al "Improving the measurement of blood pressure: Is it time for regulated standards?" Ann Intern Med 2011; 154: 838-839. Both of these references and all other references cited in this disclosure

are incorporated by reference herein in their entireties.

[0006] Consideration is now given to ways to promptly treat blood pressure increases in an individual toward reducing the time-integral of mean arterial pressure above a desirable threshold of 95 mm Hg.

[0007] US 2010/030111 discloses (see the Abstract) an automatic and miniaturized injector and sample-taker device for medical use that comprises an enclosure and at least one needle movable relative to said enclosure. The injector and sample-taker device includes a detector system suitable for detecting the presence of a blood vessel in a predetermined volume; a control unit suitable for controlling the displacement of the needle as a function of information provided by said detector system; and at least one reservoir for containing a substance for injection or to be taken.

[0008] US 2002/038101 discloses (see the Abstract) devices for facilitating transdermal passage of materials. In a preferred embodiment, a device for delivering a substance to skin of a subject is provided. A substance storage unit is adapted to store the substance. An analysis unit is adapted to receive a portion of a body fluid of the subject, to analyze the portion, and to generate a signal responsive to the analysis of the portion. One or more electrodes are adapted to be placed at respective sites on the skin. A substance delivery unit is adapted to receive the signal, and, responsive thereto, to drive at least some of the one or more electrodes to apply to respective ones of the sites on the skin a current capable of ablating stratum corneum epidermidis of the skin, so as to facilitate delivery of the substance from the storage unit through the skin at the respective ones of the sites.

SUMMARY

[0009] The subject matter claimed herein is defined in the claims.

[0010] Systems are provided for treating blood pressure excursions in an individual. The systems and methods rely on real or near real time measurement of any blood pressure excursions in an individual and prompt drug therapy to address the blood pressure excursions.

[0011] The systems involve automatically detecting when hypertension has commenced in an individual, and to promptly medicating so as to robustly suppress it. The automatic detection of is based on use of suitable sensors attached to the individual to noninvasively monitor blood pressure over extended periods of time. A sensor-informed controlled drug delivery system dispenses a physician-specified dosing of at-least-one hypertension medication into the body of the individual to maintain blood pressure(s) below physician-specified level(s).

[0012] The systems provide means of hypertension-suppression to everyone in a real-time monitored-&-adjusted manner, so as to accommodate individual needs and life demands. The systems and methods provide quasi-real-time coupling between blood pressure measurement and medication in order to provide low-latency,

high-authority negative feedback as blood pressure can fluctuate greatly over a time-scale of a few hours.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0013] In the accompanying drawings:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating components of an exemplary device for dynamically suppressing hypertension, in accordance with the principles of the solutions described herein;

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating a drug-delivery skin patch with a built-in blood pressure measurement sensor, in accordance with the principles of the solutions described herein;

FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating a blood pressure-measurement system having an inflatable cuff with a built in automated drug delivery device, in accordance with the principles of the solutions described herein;

FIG. 4 is an illustration of the auscultatory method of measuring blood pressure that has been traditionally deployed in doctors' offices and clinics for over a century;

FIG. 5 is a flow diagram illustrating exemplary method for dynamically treating hypertension or other blood pressure incidents, in accordance with the principles of the solutions described herein;

FIG. 6 is a flow diagram illustrating exemplary method for dynamically treating hypertension or other blood pressure incidents, in accordance with the principles of the solutions described herein; and

FIG. 7 is a flow diagram illustrating exemplary method for dynamically treating hypertension or other blood pressure incidents, in accordance with the principles of the solutions described herein.

[0014] Throughout the figures, unless otherwise stated, the same reference numerals and characters are used to denote like features, elements, components, or portions of the illustrated embodiments.

DESCRIPTION

[0015] In the following description of exemplary embodiments, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which form a part hereof. It will be understood that embodiments described herein are exemplary, but are not meant to be limiting. Further, it will be appreciated that the solutions described herein can be practiced or implemented by other than the described embodiments. Modified embodiments or alternate embodiments may

be utilized.

[0016] One approach is directed to automated monitoring of blood pressures and real time or near real time drug therapy upon indications of hypertension or other excursions in blood pressure values.

[0017] FIG. 1 shows an exemplary device 100 for automated monitoring of blood pressures and real time or near real time drug therapy of hypertension. Device 100 includes a blood pressure sensor 110 coupled to a drug-delivery device 120. The two are integrated together as a unit attachable to the individual (e.g., using straps or adhesive). Device 100 may be adapted to be attached to a skin portion of the individual and/or fully or partially implanted in the individual. Device 100 may include a processing circuit 130 configured to process blood pressure data and other data. Processing circuit 130 may include a memory to store one or more measured blood pressure values. Processing circuit 130 may also include a microprocessor programmed to execute drug-dispensing instructions based on blood pressure values.

[0018] Further, device 120 may include an input/output communications interface 140 that may, for example, be used to communicate blood pressure values, device actions and/or device status to, or receive data or instructions from an external point via the input/output communications interface. Processing circuit 130/interface 140 may be configured to receive parameters relating drug dispensation requirements and blood pressure values, and/or other instructions from an external source.

[0019] Blood pressure sensor 110 is configured to make one or more ultrasonic measurements of an individual's blood pressure. Blood pressure sensor 110 may be battery powered. Blood pressure sensor 110 may be any suitable ultrasonic transducer that provides fast, accurate blood pressure readings. Sensor 110 may, for example, be a piezo electric transducer (such as of the type sold under the name Arterial Pressure Transducer by MTC ElectroCeramics, 232 Forbes Road, Bedford, Ohio 44146-5418 USA) or a thin film transducer (such as of the type described by Tsubai M., et al. "Development of an Ultrasonic Probe with Measurement of Contact Pressure Distribution," SICE-ICASE, 2006. International Joint Conference, 18-21 Oct. 2006, pp.3827 - 3830). Sensor 110 may be a Doppler ultrasound device that allows both blood flow and blood pressure to be measured. See e.g., Kazamias et al. "Blood pressure measurement with Doppler ultrasonic flowmeter," J Appl Physiol 1971;30:585-588. and "Toward Noninvasive Blood Pressure Assessment in Arteries by Using Ultrasound, Ultrasound in Medicine & Biology," Volume 37, Issue 5, May 2011, pages 788-797.

[0020] In general, ultrasound sensor 110 may be one of a broad angle ultrasound sensor, a directed beam ultrasound sensor, a bistatic ultrasound sensor and a phased array ultrasound sensor. In a version of device 100, sensor 110 may be configured to make Doppler measurements of a blood flow in the individual by correlating blood velocity and pressure. Sensor 110 may be

configured to locate a blood vessel and make one or measurements of blood pressure in the located blood vessel. Further, sensor 110 may be configured to measure dynamic changes in a blood vessel size or elasticity that are indicative of the blood pressure. Sensor 110 may be configured to apply sufficient energy to jostle blood in a blood vessel or walls of the blood vessel and to measure the blood pressure response to the applied energy.

[0021] Drug delivery device 120, which is responsive to sensor 110 is configured to dispense or apply a drug to the individual in response to the measured blood pressure. In general, drug delivery device 120 may be configured to dispense or apply a drug to the individual in response to current, average and/or cumulative blood pressure values. In a version of device 100, drug delivery device 120 is configured to dispense the drug in response to changes in blood pressure values and/or in projected blood pressure values. Drug delivery device 120 may be configured to dispense the drug in response to parameters or characteristics of the blood pressure profile including pulse shape, and/or systolic/diastolic blood pressure values. Drug-delivery device 120 may include one or more needles and/or, microjets for delivery of the drug to the individual. Alternately or additionally, drug-delivery device 120 may be configured to use iontophoresis and/or sonophoresis for delivery of the drug to the individual.

[0022] Drug delivery device 120 may include or be supplied by a drug reservoir 150. Drug reservoir may be disposed ex-vivo or in-vivo (e.g., sub-dermal or buccal). The drug may be delivered, for example, into the gastrointestinal tract or the vasculature of the individual to suppress the hypertensive excursions and toward maintaining blood pressure(s) in physician-specified ranges. The dispensed drug may be any suitable drug or combination of drugs that are prescribed for treatment of blood pressure conditions. Common drugs prescribed treatment of blood pressure conditions include, for example, diuretics, angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs), beta blockers, calcium channel blockers (CCBs), blood vessel dilators, alpha blockers and nervous system inhibitors. Medical quantities of interest for several pertinent medications may be in the range of a few mg to a few dozen mg daily. Thus a modest capacity of reservoir 150 may readily suffice for multi-month intervals between refilling. Drug delivery device 120 may be configured to dispense the drug to dynamically regulate the individual's blood pressure. The dispensed drug may be intended to lower or raise the individual's blood pressure, and/or to reach or maintain a target blood pressure or range. Alternatively or additionally, the dispensed drug may be intended to treat a condition sensitive to a result and/or effect of the individual's blood pressure.

[0023] A further version of device 120 may include an altitude-sensing device (e.g., an accelerometer) configured to determine an altitude of blood pressure sensor 110. Device 100 may use processing circuitry 130 or other circuits to correct a blood pressure measurement for

a relative height or altitude of blood pressure sensor 110. For example, device 100 may be configured to distinguish blood pressures measurements made when the individual is sitting from those made when the individual is standing.

[0024] FIG 2. shows an exemplary system 200 utilizing a skin patch 210 to deliver drugs for real or near real-time treatment of hypertension or other blood pressure excursions in an individual. Skin patch 210 has a blood pressure sensor 220 structurally integrated therein. The integrated structure 210/220 is configured to be attached to a skin portion of an individual. Blood pressure sensor 220 is configured to determine a blood pressure of the individual and skin patch 210 is configured to needlelessly deliver a drug dermally or transdermally to the individual in response to the determined blood pressure.

[0025] Blood pressure sensor 220, which is integrated with skin patch 210, may be any suitable type of device for measuring blood pressure. For example, blood pressure sensor 220 may be a mechanical, optical, and/or electric sensor. Blood pressure sensor 220, like sensor 110, may be an ultrasonic sensor (e.g., a broad angle, a directed, a bistatic sensor, or a phased array ultrasound sensor). Blood pressure sensor 220 may be battery powered.

[0026] Blood pressure sensor 220 may be configured to locate a blood vessel in the vicinity of the applied skin patch and make one or measurements of blood pressure in the located blood vessel. Blood pressure sensor 220 may be further configured to measure a blood pressure response to applied energy the blood pressure sensor may be configured to apply sufficient energy to jostle blood in a blood vessel or the blood vessel itself. Blood pressure sensor 220 may be configured to measure dynamic changes in a blood vessel size or elasticity that are indicative of the blood pressure. Blood pressure sensor 220 may be configured to make Doppler measurements of a blood flow in the individual by correlating blood velocity and pressure. Skin patch 210 may include a microprocessor 216 for processing blood pressure data and drug-delivery instructions.

[0027] Skin patch 210 may include electrical circuits to deliver the drug to the individual using iontophoresis and/or electroporation. Alternatively or additionally, skin patch 210 may include suitable electronic or mechanical drivers to deliver the drug using iontophoresis, sonophoresis, microjets, and/or needle-less injection. The electrical circuits/drivers may be configured to deliver the drug in response to current, average and/or cumulative blood pressure values, in response to trends in blood pressure values and/or to projected blood pressure values, and/or in response to parameters or characteristics of the blood pressure profile including pulse shape, and/or systolic/diastolic blood pressure values.

[0028] A version of skin patch 210 may include an input/output communications interface 250 for communicating blood pressure values, system actions and/or system status with an external point via the input/output com-

munications interface.

[0029] A further version of system 200 may include an altitude-sensing device 212 (e.g., an accelerometer configured to determine an altitude of blood pressure sensor 220. Skin patch 210 may include suitable processing circuitry to correct a blood pressure measurement for a relative height or altitude of blood pressure sensor 220. For example, system 200 may be configured to distinguish blood pressures measurements made when the individual's arm is lowered (e.g., while sitting) from those made when the arm is raised or higher while standing.

[0030] System 200 may be configured so that skin patch 210 delivers the drug to dynamically regulate the individual's blood pressure. The type and amount of drug dispensed may be to lower or raise the individual's blood pressure, or reach or maintain a target blood pressure or range. Skin patch 210 may additionally or alternatively deliver a drug to treat a condition sensitive to a result and/or effect of the individual's blood pressure.

[0031] FIG. 3 shows another exemplary blood pressure measurement and treatment system 300, system 300 includes an inflatable cuff 310, a pressure-measuring device 320 and a drug-delivery device 330 that is integrated or built into inflatable cuff 310.

[0032] Inflatable cuff 310 generally has the same or similar construction as inflatable cuffs that are commonly used in conventional home, clinic or doctor's office blood pressure measurement systems. See e.g. Thede, Roger C. U.S. Patent No. 6,932,773 Wrist type blood pressure meter cuff; Itonaga, Kazunobu et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,336,901 Sphygmomanometer cuff achieving precise measurement of blood pressure; Sionell Goran U.S. Patent No. 4,572,205 Method at blood pressure measurement and a blood pressure cuff for carrying out the method; Nishibayashi, Hideo U.S. Patent Nos. 6,969,356 Inflatable cuff for blood pressure measurement; Knoblich, Stanley M. U.S. Patent No. 5,069,219 Self snugging universal blood pressure cuff; Williams U.S. Patent No. 4,117,835 Method and apparatus for blood pressure measurements; Gorelick, Donald E. U.S. Patent No. 4,116,230 Blood pressure cuff automatic deflation device; Speidel, Blasius U.S. Patent No. 4,116,217 Deflation valve for blood pressure measuring devices; Affeldt, et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,112,929 Method for measuring the blood pressure of a patient; Keller U.S. Patent No. 4,109,646 Automatic blood pressure cuff applicator; Aldridge, et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,108,310 Blood pressure testing kit; Ueda U.S. Patent No. 4,106,499 Sphygmomanometer cuff; and Williams et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,105,021 Method and arrangement for measuring blood pressure.

[0033] In system 300, inflatable cuff 310 like conventional blood pressure measurement cuffs includes a flexible tape, band or strip 312 that can be wrapped and secured around an individual's limb (e.g. arm, leg or finger). An inflatable bag or bladder 314 made of the same or other materials is built into tape, band or strip 312. When blood pressure is measured, cuff 310 is inflated,

automatically or manually, to constrict an artery so that no blood flows through. Since the pressure in the cuff is greater than the pressure in the artery, the artery is closed off and no blood flows through. As the cuff pressure is gradually released, but the artery is still partially constricted, blood flow resumes. In the auscultatory method of measuring blood pressure that has been traditionally deployed in doctors' offices and clinics, the sounds can be heard with a stethoscope because the blood flows turbulently, causing audible sounds. When enough cuff pressure is released to fully open the artery, the blood flows freely and the sounds disappear because smooth flowing blood does not create sounds. (See FIG. 4). As the cuff is deflated and blood flow resumes through the partially constricted artery, the first sounds correspond to systolic pressure and the end of sounds correspond to diastolic pressure.

[0034] Automated or electronic oscillometric blood pressure monitors do not rely on sound detection but instead depend on analysis of pressure pulses or waves. They measure mean arterial pressure (MAP) and use oscillometric detection to calculate systolic and diastolic values. When the cuff starts to deflate, blood resumes flowing, causing the artery walls to vibrate. The cuff senses these vibrations and a blood pressure meter recognizes this as the systolic pressure. When the blood resumes normal flow, vibrations cease. The blood pressure meter recognizes this as the diastolic pressure. Other methods, for example, include ultrasound (used mainly to detect systolic pressure) and the finger cuff method of Penaz, which can record beat-to-beat arterial pressure noninvasively from the finger. See e.g., Booth, J (1977). "A short history of blood pressure measurement". Proceedings of the Royal Society of Medicine 70 (11): 793-9.

[0035] In system 300, inflatable cuff 310 is coupled to a suitable electronic blood pressure measuring device 320 for measuring or deriving blood pressures from physical changes (i.e., arterial constriction and deconstriction) resulting from the inflation/deflation of cuff 310. Device 320 may utilize any suitable non invasive technique to measure or derive blood pressure values. The suitable technique may, for example, be based on mechanical, audio, ultrasound, or optical detection of cuff pressure responses and behaviors. Correspondingly, device 320 may include suitable mechanical, audio, ultrasound, optical, and/or electric sensors and processors. The technique utilized may involve actual pressure measurements or microprocessor analysis of pressure oscillations or waves. Further, the measured or derived blood pressure values may correspond to the systolic pressure or diastolic pressure, mean arterial pressure or any other indicia of blood pressure behavior of the individual. For convenience in description, all of these measured or derived blood pressure values may be referred to herein as "the measured pressure(s) corresponding to the individual's diastolic and/or systolic blood pressures."

[0036] With renewed reference to FIG. 3, system 300 further includes drug-delivery device 330 integrated with

inflatable cuff 310 and coupled to electronic blood pressure measuring device 320. Drug-delivery device 330 is configured to automatically deliver a drug (e.g. dermally or transdermally) to the individual in response to the measured blood pressure(s).

[0037] System 300 may be suitably adapted to be used by an ambulatory individual to monitor and treat blood pressure excursions in real or near real time. Inflatable cuff 310 worn by the individual may be configured for manual or automatic inflation/deflation. An automatically inflating cuff 310 may be configured to automatically inflate and deflate more than once according to a predetermined schedule (e.g., once every one or two hours).

[0038] Drug-delivery device 330 may include or have access to a drug reservoir, depot, or store of suitable medication for treating blood pressure excursions or conditions of the individual.

[0039] In general drug delivery device 330 may utilize any known technique for drug delivery. Drug-delivery device 330 may, for example, include suitable electrical or electronic circuits to deliver the drug using iontophoresis, sonophoresis and/or electroporation. Other versions of drug-delivery device 330 may, for example, include suitable mechanisms to deliver the drug using abrasion, ablation, microneedles and/or perforation. Yet other versions of drug-delivery device 330 may, for example, include pneumatic or mechanical drivers to deliver the drug into the individual using microjets, and/or needle-less injection.

[0040] System 300 may include a suitable controller 332 (e.g., a microprocessor based controller) configured to process blood pressure data and other data. Controller 332 may be configured to activate drug delivery device 330 to deliver prescribed amounts of the medication to treat the measured blood pressure excursions or conditions of the individual. Controller 332 may be configured to activate drug delivery device 330 to deliver the drug to the individual in response to one or more of, for example, current, average and/or cumulative blood pressure values, changes in blood pressure values and/or in projected blood pressure values. In a version of system 300, controller 332 may be configured to activate drug delivery device 330 to deliver the drug to the individual in response to parameters or characteristics of the blood pressure profile including pulse shape, and/or systolic/diastolic blood pressure values.

[0041] System 300 may further include a memory unit 334 to store blood pressure data and drug-delivery instructions. System 300 may also include an input/output communications interface 336. Controller 332 may, for example, communicate blood pressure values, system actions, and/or system status to, or receive drug delivery instructions from, an external source over wired or wireless links via input/output communications interface 336. Controller 332 and other electrical or electronic components of system 300 may be battery powered.

[0042] A version of system 300 may include an altitude-sensing device (e.g., an accelerometer) configured to de-

termine an altitude of inflatable cuff 310 as worn by an individual during a blood pressure measurement. Controller 332 or other suitable processing circuitry included in system 300 may be configured to correct the blood pressure measurement for a relative height or altitude of inflatable cuff 310. For example, controller 332 may be configured to distinguish blood pressure measurements made when the individual's arm is lowered when sitting from those made when the arm is raised.

[0043] System 300 may be configured to deliver the prescribed drug to dynamically regulate the individual's blood pressure. System 300 may be configured to deliver the prescribed drug to lower or raise the individual's blood pressure(s), or to reach or maintain a target blood pressure or range. System 300 may also be configured to deliver to deliver a drug to treat a condition sensitive to a result and/or effect of the of the individual's blood pressure.

[0044] FIGS. 5-7 show exemplary methods 500-700 for promptly treating blood pressure incidents in an individual on real time or near real time.

[0045] Method 500 (FIG. 5) includes providing a blood pressure monitoring unit having a built-in ultrasound sensor and a drug delivery device (510) that can be attached to an individual. The blood pressure monitoring unit may be adapted to be attached to a skin portion of the individual and/or to be fully or partially implanted in the individual. The ultrasound sensor may be configured to locate a blood vessel in operation and make one or measurements of blood pressure in the located blood vessel.

[0046] Method 500 further includes making one or more blood pressure measurements of the individual with the ultrasound sensor in the attached unit (520), and using the attached drug-delivery device to dispense a drug to the individual in real time or near real time response to the measured blood pressure measurements as prescribed or appropriate to treat the individual's condition (530).

[0047] In method 500, providing a blood pressure monitoring unit having a built-in ultrasound sensor and a drug delivery device (510) may include providing a unit having a processing circuit configured to process blood pressure data and other data. Further, providing a blood pressure monitoring unit having a built-in ultrasound sensor and a drug delivery device (510) may include providing a drug-delivery device configured to dispense the drug to dynamically regulate the individual's blood pressure, to lower or raise the individual's blood pressure, reach or maintain a target blood pressure or range and/or to treat a condition sensitive to a result and/or effect of the individual's blood pressure.

[0048] Further in method 500, providing a blood pressure monitoring unit having a built-in ultrasound sensor and a drug delivery device (510) may include providing one of a broad angle sensor, a directed beam sensor, a bistatic sensor and a phased array ultrasound sensor. The sensor may be configured to make Doppler measurements of a blood flow in the individual by correlating

blood velocity and pressure.

[0049] In a version of method 500, providing a blood pressure monitoring unit having a built-in ultrasound sensor and a drug delivery device (510) may include providing a sensor configured to measure dynamic changes in a blood vessel size or elasticity that are indicative of the blood pressure. In another or same version of method 500, providing a blood pressure monitoring unit having a built-in ultrasound sensor and a drug delivery device (510) may include providing a unit configured to apply sufficient energy to jostle blood in a blood vessel or the blood vessel itself and a sensor configured to measure the blood pressure response to the applied energy.

[0050] In a version of method 500, providing a blood pressure monitoring unit having a built-in ultrasound sensor and a drug delivery device (510) may include providing a drug-delivery device having one or one or more needles and/or , microjets for delivery of the drug to the individual and/or uses iontophoresis and/or, sonophoresis for delivery of the drug to the individual.

[0051] In method 500, using the attached drug-delivery device to dispense a drug to the individual in response to the measured blood pressure measurements as prescribed or appropriate to treat the individual's condition (530) may include, for example, dispensing the drug in response to current, average and/or cumulative blood pressure values, changes in blood pressure values and/or in projected blood pressure values, and/or in response to parameters or characteristics of the blood pressure profile including pulse shape, and/or systolic/diastolic blood pressure values.

[0052] Method 500 may further include providing the blood pressure monitoring unit with an input/output communications interface, a memory unit and/or a microprocessor. The memory unit may be configured to store one or more measured blood pressure values and/or drug-dispensation instructions. The microprocessor may be programmed to execute drug dispensing instructions, for example, based on blood pressure values. The input/output communications interface may be a signal or data interface configured to receive parameters relating drug dispensation requirements and blood pressure values, and/or other instructions from an external source. Method 500 may further include communicating blood pressure values, device actions and/or device status with an external point or source via the input/output communications interface.

[0053] A version of method 500 may further include providing an altitude sensing device (e.g., an accelerometer) configured to determine an altitude of the ultrasound sensor, and a circuit.

[0054] Method 600 (FIG. 6) includes providing a drug-delivery skin patch having a structurally integrated or built-in blood pressure sensor (610). The drug-delivery skin patch is adapted to be attached to a skin portion of an individual to needle-lessly deliver a drug dermally or transdermally to the individual. The built-in blood pressure sensor is configured to locate a blood vessel in op-

eration and make one or measurements of blood pressure in the located blood vessel.

[0055] Method 600 further includes configuring the skin patch to needle-lessly deliver a drug dermally or transdermally to the individual as may be prescribed or appropriate in response to blood pressure determinations with the built-in blood pressure sensor (620).

[0056] In method 600 includes providing a drug-delivery skin patch having a structurally integrated or built-in blood pressure sensor (610) may include providing a mechanical, optical, ultrasonic, and/or electric blood pressure sensor. The ultrasonic sensor may be one of a broad angle, a directed, a bistatic and/or a phased array ultrasonic sensor. The ultrasonic sensor may be configured to make Doppler measurements of a blood flow in the individual by correlating blood velocity and pressure.

[0057] Further, in method 600 providing a drug-delivery skin patch having a structurally integrated or built-in blood pressure sensor (610) may include providing a blood pressure sensor that is configured to measure dynamic changes in a blood vessel size or elasticity that are indicative of the blood pressure. The blood pressure sensor may be configured to apply sufficient energy to jostle blood in a blood vessel or the blood vessel itself and to measure a blood pressure response to applied energy.

[0058] In method 600 configuring the skin patch to needle-lessly deliver a drug dermally or transdermally to the individual as may be prescribed or appropriate in response to blood pressure determinations with the built-in blood pressure sensor (620) may providing electrical circuits and/or pneumatic or mechanical drivers to deliver the drug using iontophoresis, electroporation, sonophoresis, via microjets, and/or needle-less injection.

[0059] Further, in method 600 configuring the skin patch may include configuring the skin patch to deliver the drug in response to current, average and/or cumulative blood pressure values, in response to trends in blood pressure values and/or to projected blood pressure values, and/or in response to parameters or characteristics of the blood pressure profile including pulse shape, and/or systolic/diastolic blood pressure values.

[0060] Method 600 may further include providing a processing circuit (e.g., a microprocessor) and an input/output communications interface in the skin patch. The processing circuit may be configured to process blood pressure data and other data. The processing circuit may be further configured and to communicate blood pressure values, system actions and/or system status with an external source or point via the input/output communications interface.

[0061] Method 600 may also include providing an altitude sensing device (e.g. an accelerometer) configured to determine an altitude of the blood pressure sensor, and configuring the processing circuit or other circuits to correct a blood pressure measurement for a relative height of the sensor.

[0062] Method 600 may further include configuring the

skin patch to deliver the drug to dynamically regulate the individual's blood pressure, to lower or raise the individual's blood pressure, to reach or maintain a target blood pressure or range and/or to treat a condition sensitive to a result and/or effect of the individual's blood pressure.

[0063] Method 700 (FIG. 7) includes providing a blood pressure measurement system that can be attached to an individual (710). Providing a blood pressure measurement system that can be attached to an individual (710) includes providing an inflatable cuff configured to restrict a blood flow in the individual (712), and providing a pressure measuring device coupled to the inflatable cuff which device is configured measure pressure(s) corresponding to the individual's blood pressures (714). Providing a blood pressure measurement system that can be attached to an individual (710) further includes providing a drug delivery device integrated with the inflatable cuff and configuring the drug delivery device to automatically deliver a drug dermally or transdermally to the individual in response to the measured blood pressure(s) as prescribed or necessary (716).

[0064] In method 700, the inflatable cuff may be configured for may be for manual or automatic inflation. The inflatable cuff may, for example, be configured to automatically inflate and deflate more than once according to a predetermined schedule. Further, the pressure measuring device may include a mechanical, audio, optical, and/or electric sensor.

[0065] Further in method 700, providing a drug delivery device integrated with the inflatable cuff may include providing the drug delivery device with electrical circuits and other pneumatic or mechanical mechanisms or drivers to deliver the drug using one or more of iontophoresis, sonophoresis and/or electroporation, abrasion, ablation, microneedles, perforation, microjets, and/or needle-less injection.

[0066] Method 700 may further include configuring the drug delivery device to deliver the drug in response to current, average and/or cumulative blood pressure values, changes in blood pressure values and/or in projected blood pressure values, and/or in response to parameters or characteristics of the blood pressure profile including pulse shape, and/or systolic/diastolic blood pressure values.

[0067] Like method 600, method 700 may also include a processing circuit configured to process blood pressure data and other data. Method 700 may also further include providing an input/output communications interface and configuring the blood pressure measurement system to communicate blood pressure values, system actions, and/or system status with an external point via the input/output communications interface.

[0068] Method 700 may also include providing an altitude sensing device (e.g. an accelerometer) configured to determine an altitude of the pressure measuring device, and configuring the processing circuit or other circuits to correct a blood pressure measurement for a relative height of the sensor.

[0069] Method 600 may further include configuring the drug delivery device to deliver the drug to dynamically regulate the individual's blood pressure, to lower or raise the individual's blood pressure, to reach or maintain a target blood pressure or range and/or to treat a condition sensitive to a result and/or effect of the individual's blood pressure.

[0070] Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the foregoing specific exemplary processes and/or devices and/or technologies are representative of more general processes and/or devices and/or technologies taught elsewhere herein, such as in the claims filed herewith and/or elsewhere in the present application.

[0071] Those having skill in the art will recognize that the state of the art has progressed to the point where there is little distinction left between hardware, software, and/or firmware implementations of aspects of systems; the use of hardware, software, and/or firmware is generally (but not always, in that in certain contexts the choice between hardware and software can become significant) a design choice representing cost vs. efficiency tradeoffs. Those having skill in the art will appreciate that there are various vehicles by which processes and/or systems and/or other technologies described herein can be effected (e.g., hardware, software, and/or firmware), and that the preferred vehicle will vary with the context in which the processes and/or systems and/or other technologies are deployed. For example, if an implementer determines that speed and accuracy are paramount, the implementer may opt for a mainly hardware and/or firmware vehicle; alternatively, if flexibility is paramount, the implementer may opt for a mainly software implementation; or, yet again alternatively, the implementer may opt for some combination of hardware, software, and/or firmware. Hence, there are several possible vehicles by which the processes and/or devices and/or other technologies described herein may be effected, none of which is inherently superior to the other in that any vehicle to be utilized is a choice dependent upon the context in which the vehicle will be deployed and the specific concerns (e.g., speed, flexibility, or predictability) of the implementer, any of which may vary. Those skilled in the art will recognize that optical aspects of implementations will typically employ optically-oriented hardware, software, and or firmware.

[0072] In some implementations described herein, logic and similar implementations may include software or other control structures. Electronic circuitry, for example, may have one or more paths of electrical current constructed and arranged to implement various functions as described herein. In some implementations, one or more media may be configured to bear a device-detectable implementation when such media hold or transmit device detectable instructions operable to perform as described herein. In some variants, for example, implementations may include an update or modification of existing software or firmware, or of gate arrays or programmable hardware, such as by performing a reception of or a trans-

mission of one or more instructions in relation to one or more operations described herein. Alternatively or additionally, in some variants, an implementation may include special-purpose hardware, software, firmware components, and/or general-purpose components executing or otherwise invoking special-purpose components. Specifications or other implementations may be transmitted by one or more instances of tangible transmission media as described herein, optionally by packet transmission or otherwise by passing through distributed media at various times.

[0073] Alternatively or additionally, implementations may include executing a special-purpose instruction sequence or invoking circuitry for enabling, triggering, coordinating, requesting, or otherwise causing one or more occurrences of virtually any functional operations described herein. In some variants, operational or other logical descriptions herein may be expressed as source code and compiled or otherwise invoked as an executable instruction sequence. In some contexts, for example, implementations may be provided, in whole or in part, by source code, such as C++, or other code sequences. In other implementations, source or other code implementation, using commercially available and/or techniques in the art, may be compiled/implemented/translated/converted into a high-level descriptor language (e.g., initially implementing described technologies in C or C++ programming language and thereafter converting the programming language implementation into a logic-synthesizable language implementation, a hardware description language implementation, a hardware design simulation implementation, and/or other such similar mode(s) of expression). For example, some or all of a logical expression (e.g., computer programming language implementation) may be manifested as a Verilog-type hardware description (e.g., via Hardware Description Language (HDL) and/or Very High Speed Integrated Circuit Hardware Descriptor Language (VHDL)) or other circuitry model which may then be used to create a physical implementation having hardware (e.g., an Application Specific Integrated Circuit). Those skilled in the art will recognize how to obtain, configure, and optimize suitable transmission or computational elements, material supplies, actuators, or other structures in light of these teachings.

[0074] The foregoing detailed description has set forth various embodiments of the devices and/or processes via the use of block diagrams, flowcharts, and/or examples. Insofar as such block diagrams, flowcharts, and/or examples contain one or more functions and/or operations, it will be understood by those within the art that each function and/or operation within such block diagrams, flowcharts, or examples can be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, or virtually any combination thereof. In one embodiment, several portions of the subject matter described herein may be implemented via Application Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs), Field Pro-

grammable Gate Arrays (FPGAs), digital signal processors (DSPs), or other integrated formats. However, those skilled in the art will recognize that some aspects of the embodiments disclosed herein, in whole or in part, can be equivalently implemented in integrated circuits, as one or more computer programs running on one or more computers (e.g., as one or more programs running on one or more computer systems), as one or more programs running on one or more processors (e.g., as one or more programs running on one or more microprocessors), as firmware, or as virtually any combination thereof, and that designing the circuitry and/or writing the code for the software and or firmware would be well within the skill of one of skill in the art in light of this disclosure. In addition, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the mechanisms of the subject matter described herein are capable of being distributed as a program product in a variety of forms, and that an illustrative embodiment of the subject matter described herein applies regardless of the particular type of signal bearing medium used to actually carry out the distribution. Examples of a signal bearing medium include, but are not limited to, the following: a recordable type medium such as a floppy disk, a hard disk drive, a Compact Disc (CD), a Digital Video Disk (DVD), a digital tape, a computer memory, etc.; and a transmission type medium such as a digital and/or an analog communication medium (e.g., a fiber optic cable, a waveguide, a wired communications link, a wireless communication link (e.g., transmitter, receiver, transmission logic, reception logic, etc.), etc.).

[0075] In a general sense, those skilled in the art will recognize that the various embodiments described herein can be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by various types of electro-mechanical systems having a wide range of electrical components such as hardware, software, firmware, and/or virtually any combination thereof; and a wide range of components that may impart mechanical force or motion such as rigid bodies, spring or torsional bodies, hydraulics, electro-magnetically actuated devices, and/or virtually any combination thereof. Consequently, as used herein "electro-mechanical system" includes, but is not limited to, electrical circuitry operably coupled with a transducer (e.g., an actuator, a motor, a piezoelectric crystal, a Micro Electro Mechanical System (MEMS), etc.), electrical circuitry having at least one discrete electrical circuit, electrical circuitry having at least one integrated circuit, electrical circuitry having at least one application specific integrated circuit, electrical circuitry forming a general purpose computing device configured by a computer program (e.g., a general purpose computer configured by a computer program which at least partially carries out processes and/or devices described herein, or a microprocessor configured by a computer program which at least partially carries out processes and/or devices described herein), electrical circuitry forming a memory device (e.g., forms of memory (e.g., random access, flash, read only, etc.)), electrical circuitry forming a communications device

(e.g., a modem, communications switch, optical-electrical equipment, etc.), and/or any non-electrical analog thereto, such as optical or other analogs. Those skilled in the art will also appreciate that examples of electro-mechanical systems include but are not limited to a variety of consumer electronics systems, medical devices, as well as other systems such as motorized transport systems, factory automation systems, security systems, and/or communication/computing systems. Those skilled in the art will recognize that electro-mechanical as used herein is not necessarily limited to a system that has both electrical and mechanical actuation except as context may dictate otherwise.

[0076] In a general sense, those skilled in the art will recognize that the various aspects described herein which can be implemented, individually and/or collectively, by a wide range of hardware, software, firmware, and/or any combination thereof can be viewed as being composed of various types of "electrical circuitry." Consequently, as used herein "electrical circuitry" includes, but is not limited to, electrical circuitry having at least one discrete electrical circuit, electrical circuitry having at least one integrated circuit, electrical circuitry having at least one application specific integrated circuit, electrical circuitry forming a general purpose computing device configured by a computer program (e.g., a general purpose computer configured by a computer program which at least partially carries out processes and/or devices described herein, or a microprocessor configured by a computer program which at least partially carries out processes and/or devices described herein), electrical circuitry forming a memory device (e.g., forms of memory (e.g., random access, flash, read only, etc.)), and/or electrical circuitry forming a communications device (e.g., a modem, communications switch, optical-electrical equipment, etc.). Those having skill in the art will recognize that the subject matter described herein may be implemented in an analog or digital fashion or some combination thereof.

[0077] Those skilled in the art will recognize that at least a portion of the devices and/or processes described herein can be integrated into an image processing system. Those having skill in the art will recognize that a typical image processing system generally includes one or more of a system unit housing, a video display device, memory such as volatile or non-volatile memory, processors such as microprocessors or digital signal processors, computational entities such as operating systems, drivers, applications programs, one or more interaction devices (e.g., a touch pad, a touch screen, an antenna, etc.), control systems including feedback loops and control motors (e.g., feedback for sensing lens position and/or velocity; control motors for moving/distorting lenses to give desired focuses). An image processing system may be implemented utilizing suitable commercially available components, such as those typically found in digital still systems and/or digital motion systems.

[0078] Those skilled in the art will recognize that at

least a portion of the devices and/or processes described herein can be integrated into a data processing system. Those having skill in the art will recognize that a data processing system generally includes one or more of a system unit housing, a video display device, memory such as volatile or non-volatile memory, processors such as microprocessors or digital signal processors, computational entities such as operating systems, drivers, graphical user interfaces, and applications programs, one or more interaction devices (e.g., a touch pad, a touch screen, an antenna, etc.), and/or control systems including feedback loops and control motors (e.g., feedback for sensing position and/or velocity; control motors for moving and/or adjusting components and/or quantities). A data processing system may be implemented utilizing suitable commercially available components, such as those typically found in data computing/communication and/or network computing/communication systems.

[0079] Those skilled in the art will recognize that at least a portion of the devices and/or processes described herein can be integrated into a mote system. Those having skill in the art will recognize that a typical mote system generally includes one or more memories such as volatile or non-volatile memories, processors such as microprocessors or digital signal processors, computational entities such as operating systems, user interfaces, drivers, sensors, actuators, applications programs, one or more interaction devices (e.g., an antenna USB ports, acoustic ports, etc.), control systems including feedback loops and control motors (e.g., feedback for sensing or estimating position and/or velocity; control motors for moving and/or adjusting components and/or quantities). A mote system may be implemented utilizing suitable components, such as those found in mote computing/communication systems. Specific examples of such components entail such as Intel Corporation's and/or Crossbow Corporation's mote components and supporting hardware, software, and/or firmware.

[0080] Those skilled in the art will recognize that it is common within the art to implement devices and/or processes and/or systems, and thereafter use engineering and/or other practices to integrate such implemented devices and/or processes and/or systems into more comprehensive devices and/or processes and/or systems. That is, at least a portion of the devices and/or processes and/or systems described herein can be integrated into other devices and/or processes and/or systems via a reasonable amount of experimentation. Those having skill in the art will recognize that examples of such other devices and/or processes and/or systems might include - as appropriate to context and application -- all or part of devices and/or processes and/or systems of (a) an air conveyance (e.g., an airplane, rocket, helicopter, etc.), (b) a ground conveyance (e.g., a car, truck, locomotive, tank, armored personnel carrier, etc.), (c) a building (e.g., a home, warehouse, office, etc.), (d) an appliance (e.g., a refrigerator, a washing machine, a dryer, etc.), (e) a communications system (e.g., a networked system, a tel-

ephone system, a Voice over IP system, etc.), (f) a business entity (e.g., an Internet Service Provider (ISP) entity such as Comcast Cable, Qwest, Southwestern Bell, etc.), or (g) a wired/wireless services entity (e.g., Sprint, Cingular, Nextel, etc.), etc.

[0081] In certain cases, use of a system or method may occur in a territory even if components are located outside the territory. For example, in a distributed computing context, use of a distributed computing system may occur in a territory even though parts of the system may be located outside of the territory (e.g., relay, server, processor, signal-bearing medium, transmitting computer, receiving computer, etc. located outside the territory).

[0082] A sale of a system or method may likewise occur in a territory even if components of the system or method are located and/or used outside the territory.

[0083] Further, implementation of at least part of a system for performing a method in one territory does not preclude use of the system in another territory.

[0084] One skilled in the art will recognize that the herein described components (e.g., operations), devices, objects, and the discussion accompanying them are used as examples for the sake of conceptual clarity and that various configuration modifications are contemplated. Consequently, as used herein, the specific exemplars set forth and the accompanying discussion are intended to be representative of their more general classes. In general, use of any specific exemplar is intended to be representative of its class, and the non-inclusion of specific components (e.g., operations), devices, and objects should not be taken limiting.

[0085] Although user is shown/described herein as a single illustrated figure, those skilled in the art will appreciate that user may be representative of a human user, a robotic user (e.g., computational entity), and/or substantially any combination thereof (e.g., a user may be assisted by one or more robotic agents) unless context dictates otherwise. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that, in general, the same may be said of "sender" and/or other entity-oriented terms as such terms are used herein unless context dictates otherwise.

[0086] With respect to the use of substantially any plural and/or singular terms herein, those having skill in the art can translate from the plural to the singular and/or from the singular to the plural as is appropriate to the context and/or application. The various singular/plural permutations are not expressly set forth herein for sake of clarity.

[0087] The herein described subject matter sometimes illustrates different components contained within, or connected with, different other components. It is to be understood that such depicted architectures are merely exemplary, and that in fact many other architectures may be implemented which achieve the same functionality. In a conceptual sense, any arrangement of components to achieve the same functionality is effectively "associated" such that the desired functionality is achieved. Hence, any two components herein combined to achieve

a particular functionality can be seen as "associated with" each other such that the desired functionality is achieved, irrespective of architectures or intermedial components. Likewise, any two components so associated can also be viewed as being "operably connected", or "operably coupled," to each other to achieve the desired functionality, and any two components capable of being so associated can also be viewed as being "operably couplable," to each other to achieve the desired functionality. Specific examples of operably couplable include but are not limited to physically mateable and/or physically interacting components, and/or wirelessly interactable, and/or wirelessly interacting components, and/or logically interacting, and/or logically interactable components.

[0088] In some instances, one or more components may be referred to herein as "configured to," "configurable to," "operable/operative to," "adapted/adaptable," "able to," "conformable/conformed to," etc. Those skilled in the art will recognize that such terms (e.g. "configured to") can generally encompass active-state components and/or inactive-state components and/or standby-state components, unless context requires otherwise.

[0089] While particular aspects of the present subject matter described herein have been shown and described, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art that, based upon the teachings herein, changes and modifications may be made without departing from the subject matter described herein and its broader aspects. It will be understood by those within the art that, in general, terms used herein, and especially in the appended claims (e.g., bodies of the appended claims) are generally intended as "open" terms (e.g., the term "including" should be interpreted as "including but not limited to," the term "having" should be interpreted as "having at least," the term "includes" should be interpreted as "includes but is not limited to," etc.). It will be further understood by those within the art that if a specific number of an introduced claim recitation is intended, such an intent will be explicitly recited in the claim, and in the absence of such recitation no such intent is present. For example, as an aid to understanding, the following appended claims may contain usage of the introductory phrases "at least one" and "one or more" to introduce claim recitations. However, the use of such phrases should not be construed to imply that the introduction of a claim recitation by the indefinite articles "a" or "an" limits any particular claim containing such introduced claim recitation to claims containing only one such recitation, even when the same claim includes the introductory phrases "one or more" or "at least one" and indefinite articles such as "a" or "an" (e.g., "a" and/or "an" should typically be interpreted to mean "at least one" or "one or more"); the same holds true for the use of definite articles used to introduce claim recitations. In addition, even if a specific number of an introduced claim recitation *is* explicitly recited, those skilled in the art will recognize that such recitation should typically be interpreted to mean *at least* the recited number (e.g., the bare recitation of "two recitations," without other modifiers, typ-

ically means *at least* two recitations, or *two or more* recitations). Furthermore, in those instances where a convention analogous to "at least one of A, B, and C, etc." is used, in general such a construction is intended in the sense one having skill in the art would understand the convention (e.g., "a system having at least one of A, B, and C" would include but not be limited to systems that have A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and/or A, B, and C together, etc.). In those instances where a convention analogous to "at least one of A, B, or C, etc." is used, in general such a construction is intended in the sense one having skill in the art would understand the convention (e.g., "a system having at least one of A, B, or C" would include but not be limited to systems that have A alone, B alone, C alone, A and B together, A and C together, B and C together, and/or A, B, and C together, etc.). It will be further understood by those within the art that typically a disjunctive word and/or phrase presenting two or more alternative terms, whether in the description, claims, or drawings, should be understood to contemplate the possibilities of including one of the terms, either of the terms, or both terms unless context dictates otherwise. For example, the phrase "A or B" will be typically understood to include the possibilities of "A" or "B" or "A and B."

[0090] With respect to the appended claims, those skilled in the art will appreciate that recited operations therein may generally be performed in any order. Also, although various operational flows are presented in a sequence(s), it should be understood that the various operations may be performed in other orders than those which are illustrated, or may be performed concurrently. Examples of such alternate orderings may include overlapping, interleaved, interrupted, reordered, incremental, preparatory, supplemental, simultaneous, reverse, or other variant orderings, unless context dictates otherwise. Furthermore, terms like "responsive to," "related to," or other past-tense adjectives are generally not intended to exclude such variants, unless context dictates otherwise.

[0091] While various aspects and embodiments have been disclosed herein, other aspects and embodiments will be apparent to those skilled in the art. The various aspects and embodiments disclosed herein are for purposes of illustration and are not intended to be limiting.

Claims

- 1. A device attachable to an individual, comprising:
 - a sensor (110; 220) configured to make one or more ultrasonic measurements of the individual's blood pressure;
 - a drug-delivery device (120) configured to dispense a drug in response to the measured blood pressure; and
 - a processing circuit (130; 216) configured to

process blood pressure data and other data, the processing circuit including a memory to store one or more measured blood pressure values and a microprocessor programmed to execute drug dispensing instructions based on blood pressure values; wherein the sensor, the drug-delivery device and the processing circuit are integrated as a unit attachable to the individual.

- 2. The device of claim 1, wherein the drug-delivery device is configured to dispense the drug to perform at least one of the following functions:
 - dynamically regulate the individual's blood pressure;
 - treat a condition sensitive to a result and/or effect of the individual's blood pressure.
- 3. The device of any of the preceding claims, wherein the sensor is one of a broad angle sensor, a directed beam sensor, a bistatic sensor and a phased array sensor.
- 4. The device of any of the preceding claims, wherein the sensor is further configured to perform at least one of:
 - making Doppler measurements of a blood flow in the individual by correlating blood velocity and pressure;
 - measuring dynamic changes in a blood vessel size or elasticity that are indicative of the blood pressure;
 - applying sufficient energy to jostle blood in a blood vessel or the blood vessel itself;
 - measuring the blood pressure response to applied energy;
 - locating a blood vessel and make one or measurements of blood pressure in the located blood vessel.
- 5. The device of any of the preceding claims, wherein the drug-delivery device comprises one or more needles and/or, microjets for delivery of the drug to the individual.
- 6. The device of any of the preceding claims, wherein the drug-delivery device is configured to use iontophoresis and/or, sonophoresis for delivery of the drug to the individual.
- 7. The device of any of the preceding claims, wherein the drug-delivery device is configured to dispense the drug in response to at least one of:
 - current, average and/or cumulative blood pressure values;

- changes in blood pressure values and/or in projected blood pressure values;
parameters or characteristics of the blood pressure profile including pulse shape, and/or systolic/diastolic blood pressure values.
8. The device of any of the preceding claims, further comprising at least one of:
- an input/output communications interface (140; 250);
 - a circuit configured to correct a blood pressure measurement for a relative height of the sensor;
 - a signal or data interface configured to receive parameters relating drug dispensation requirements and blood pressure values, and/or other instructions from an external source.
9. The device of claim 8, further configured to communicate blood pressure values, device actions and/or device status with an external point via the input/output communications interface.
10. The device of any of the preceding claims, which is adapted to be at least one of the following:
- attached to a skin portion of the individual; fully or partially implanted in the individual.
11. The device of claim 1, comprising a skin patch (210), wherein the blood pressure sensor (220) is structurally integrated or built into the skin patch, the integrated structure being configured to be attached to a skin portion of an individual, wherein the blood pressure sensor is configured to determine a blood pressure of the individual and the skin patch is configured to needle-lessly deliver a drug dermally or transdermally to the individual in response to the determined blood pressure.
12. The device of claim 11, further comprising at least one of:
- an altitude sensing device (212) configured to determine an altitude of the blood pressure sensor.
13. The device of claim 12, wherein the altitude sensing device includes an accelerometer.
14. The device of any of claims 11-13, wherein the skin patch is configured to deliver the drug to perform at least one of the following functions:
- lower or raise the individual's blood pressure;
 - reach or maintain a target blood pressure or range.
15. The device of any of claims 11 to 14, wherein the skin patch is configured to deliver the drug in response to at least one of:
- current, average and/or cumulative blood pressure values;
 - trends in blood pressure values and/or to projected blood pressure values;
 - parameters or characteristics of the blood pressure profile including pulse shape, and/or systolic/diastolic blood pressure values.
16. The device of any one of claims 11 to 15, wherein the skin patch is configured to deliver the drug to either:
- dynamically regulate the individual's blood pressure;
 - treat a condition sensitive to a result and/or effect of the individual's blood pressure.

Patentansprüche

1. Vorrichtung, die an ein Individuum anschließbar ist, umfassend:
- einen Sensor (110; 220), der konfiguriert ist, um eine oder mehrere Ultraschallmessungen des Blutdrucks des Individuums durchzuführen;
 - eine Arzneimittelabgabevorrichtung (120), die konfiguriert ist, um ein Arzneimittel als Reaktion auf den gemessenen Blutdruck abzugeben; und
 - einen Verarbeitungsschaltkreis (130; 216), der konfiguriert ist, um Blutdruckdaten und andere Daten zu verarbeiten, wobei der Verarbeitungsschaltkreis einen Speicher zum Speichern eines oder mehrerer gemessener Blutdruckwerte und einen Mikroprozessor umfasst, der programmiert ist, um Arzneimittelabgabebefehle aufgrund der Blutdruckwerte auszuführen; wobei der Sensor, die Arzneimittelabgabevorrichtung und der Verarbeitungsschaltkreis als eine Einheit integriert sind, die an das Individuum anschließbar ist.
2. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Arzneimittelabgabevorrichtung konfiguriert ist, das Arzneimittel abzugeben, um eine der folgenden Funktionen auszuführen:
- ein dynamisches Regulieren des Blutdrucks des Individuums;
 - ein Behandeln einer Bedingung, die auf ein Ergebnis und/oder auf einen Effekt des Blutdrucks des Individuums empfindlich ist.
3. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorhergehenden An-

- sprüche, wobei der Sensor einer eines Weitwinkelsensors, eines Strahlrichtungssensors, eines bistatischen Sensors und eines phasengesteuerten Feldsensors ist.
4. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, wobei der Sensor außerdem konfiguriert ist, um mindestens eine der folgenden Funktionen auszuführen:
- Durchführen von Doppler-Messungen eines Blutstroms in dem Individuum, indem die Blutgeschwindigkeit und der Blutdruck korreliert werden;
- Messen dynamischer Änderungen einer Blutgefäßgröße oder -elastizität, die den Blutdruck anzeigen;
- Anwenden einer ausreichenden Energie, um Blut in einem Blutgefäß oder das Blutgefäß selbst anzustoßen;
- Messen der Blutdruckreaktion auf eine angewandte Energie;
- Finden eines Blutgefäßes und Durchführen einer oder mehrerer Blutdruckmessungen in dem gefundenen Blutgefäß.
5. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Arzneimittelabgabevorrichtung eine oder mehrere Nadeln und/oder Mikrodüsen zum Abgeben des Arzneimittels an das Individuum umfasst.
6. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Arzneimittelabgabevorrichtung konfiguriert ist, um eine Iontophorese und/oder eine Sonophorese zum Abgeben des Arzneimittels an das Individuum zu verwenden.
7. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Arzneimittelabgabevorrichtung konfiguriert ist, das Arzneimittel als Reaktion auf eines der folgenden Merkmale abzugeben:
- aktuelle, durchschnittliche und/oder kumulative Blutdruckwerte;
- Änderungen bei den Blutdruckwerten und/oder den hochgerechneten Blutdruckwerten;
- Parameter oder Eigenschaften des Blutdruckprofils einschließlich einer Pulsform und/oder von systolischen/diastolischen Blutdruckwerten.
8. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, die mindestens eines der folgenden Elemente umfasst:
- eine Eingangs-/Ausgangs-Kommunikationsschnittstelle (140; 250);
- einen Schaltkreis, der konfiguriert ist, um eine Blutdruckmessung hinsichtlich einer relativen Höhe des Sensors zu korrigieren;
- eine Signal- oder Datenschnittstelle, die konfiguriert ist, um Parameter, die sich auf Arzneimittelabgabeanforderungen und Blutdruckwerte beziehen, und/oder andere Befehle von einer externen Quelle zu empfangen.
9. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 8, die außerdem konfiguriert ist, die Blutdruckwerte, Vorrichtungsaktionen und/oder den Vorrichtungszustand über die Eingangs-/Ausgangs-Kommunikationsschnittstelle an einen externen Punkt zu kommunizieren.
10. Vorrichtung nach einem der vorhergehenden Ansprüche, die geeignet ist, mindestens eines der folgenden zu sein:
- an einem Hautabschnitt des Individuums befestigt zu sein;
- vollständig oder teilweise in das Individuum implantiert zu sein.
11. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, die ein Hautpflaster (210) umfasst, wobei der Blutdrucksensor (220) strukturell in das Hautpflaster integriert oder eingebunden ist, wobei die integrierte Struktur konfiguriert ist, um an einem Hautabschnitt eines Individuums befestigt zu werden, wobei der Blutdrucksensor konfiguriert ist, um einen Blutdruck des Individuums zu ermitteln, und wobei das Hautpflaster konfiguriert ist, um ein Arzneimittel nadelfrei dermal oder transdermal an das Individuum als Reaktion auf den ermittelten Blutdruck abzugeben.
12. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 11, die mindestens eines der folgenden Elemente umfasst:
- eine Höhenerfassungsvorrichtung (212), die konfiguriert ist, um eine Höhe des Blutdrucksensors zu ermitteln.
13. Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 12, wobei die Höhenerfassungsvorrichtung einen Beschleunigungsmesser umfasst.
14. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 11 bis 13, wobei das Hautpflaster konfiguriert ist, das Arzneimittel abzugeben, um mindestens eine der folgenden Funktionen auszuführen:
- Absenken oder Anheben des Blutdrucks des Individuums;
- Erreichen oder Beibehalten eines Zielblutdrucks oder eines Zielblutdruckbereichs.
15. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 11 bis 14,

wobei das Hautpflaster konfiguriert ist, das Arzneimittel als Reaktion auf mindestens eines der folgenden Merkmale abzugeben:

aktuelle, durchschnittliche und/oder kumulative Blutdruckwerte; 5
Tendenz der Blutdruckwerte und/oder der hochgerechneten Blutdruckwerte;
Parameter oder Eigenschaften des Blutdruckprofils einschließlich einer Pulsform und/oder von systolischen/diastolischen Blutdruckwerten. 10

16. Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 11 bis 15, wobei das Hautpflaster konfiguriert ist, das Arzneimittel abzugeben für: 15

ein dynamisches Regulieren des Blutdrucks des Individuums; 20
ein Behandeln einer Bedingung, die auf ein Ergebnis und/oder auf einen Effekt des Blutdrucks des Individuums empfindlich ist.

Revendications

1. Dispositif attachable à un individu, comprenant :

un capteur (110 ; 220) configuré pour prendre une ou plusieurs mesures aux ultrasons de la tension artérielle de l'individu ; 30
un dispositif de délivrance de médicament (120) configuré pour distribuer un médicament en réponse à la tension artérielle mesurée ; et
un circuit de traitement (130 ; 216) configuré pour traiter des données de tension artérielle et d'autres données, le circuit de traitement comportant une mémoire pour stocker une ou plusieurs valeurs de tension artérielle mesurées et un microprocesseur programmé pour exécuter des instructions de distribution de médicament basées sur des valeurs de tension artérielle ; 40
le capteur, le dispositif de délivrance de médicament et le circuit de traitement étant intégrés sous la forme d'une unité attachable à l'individu. 45

2. Dispositif de la revendication 1, dans lequel le dispositif de délivrance de médicament est configuré pour distribuer le médicament pour assurer au moins une des fonctions suivantes : 50

réguler dynamiquement la tension artérielle de l'individu ;
traiter un état sensible à un résultat et/ou un effet de la tension artérielle de l'individu. 55

3. Dispositif de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel le capteur est un capteur

grand-angle, ou un capteur à faisceau dirigé, ou un capteur bistatique, ou un capteur en réseauphasé.

4. Dispositif de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel le capteur est aussi configuré pour effectuer au moins une des actions suivantes :

prendre des mesures Doppler d'une circulation sanguine chez l'individu en corrélant vitesse du sang et tension artérielle ;
mesurer des variations dynamiques de la taille ou de l'élasticité de vaisseaux sanguins qui sont révélatrices de la tension artérielle ;
appliquer suffisamment d'énergie pour pousser le sang dans un vaisseau sanguin ou le vaisseau sanguin lui-même ;
mesurer la réponse de tension artérielle à une énergie appliquée ;
localiser un vaisseau sanguin et prendre une ou plusieurs mesures de tension artérielle dans le vaisseau sanguin localisé.

5. Dispositif de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel le dispositif de délivrance de médicament comprend une ou plusieurs aiguilles et/ou un ou plusieurs microjets pour la délivrance du médicament à l'individu. 25

6. Dispositif de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel le dispositif de délivrance de médicament est configuré pour utiliser l'ionophorèse et/ou la sonophorèse pour la délivrance du médicament à l'individu. 30

7. Dispositif de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, dans lequel le dispositif de délivrance de médicament est configuré pour distribuer le médicament en réponse à au moins un des paramètres suivants :

valeurs de tension artérielle en cours, moyenne et/ou cumulée ;
variations dans les valeurs de tension artérielle et/ou dans les valeurs de tension artérielle projetées ;
paramètres ou caractéristiques du profil de tension artérielle, y compris la forme des pulsations, et/ou valeurs de tension artérielle systolique/diastolique. 45

8. Dispositif de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, comprenant en outre au moins un des éléments suivants :

une interface de communications d'entrée/sortie (140 ; 250) ;
un circuit configuré pour corriger une mesure de

- tension artérielle pour une hauteur relative du capteur ;
une interface de signaux ou de données configurée pour recevoir des paramètres concernant des exigences de distribution de médicament et des valeurs de tension artérielle, et/ou d'autres instructions en provenance d'une source externe.
- 5
9. Dispositif de la revendication 8, également configuré pour communiquer des valeurs de tension artérielle, des actions de dispositif et/ou un état de dispositif avec un point externe par le biais de l'interface de communications d'entrée/sortie.
- 10
10. Dispositif de l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, qui est adapté pour être :
- 10
- attaché à une partie de la peau de l'individu ; et/ou entièrement ou partiellement implanté dans le corps de l'individu.
- 20
11. Dispositif de la revendication 1, comprenant un timbre cutané (210), le capteur de tension artérielle (220) étant structurellement intégré ou encastré dans le timbre cutané, la structure intégrée étant configurée pour être attachée à une partie de la peau d'un individu, le capteur de tension artérielle étant configuré pour déterminer une tension artérielle de l'individu et le timbre cutané étant configuré pour délivrer sans aiguille un médicament par voie dermique ou transdermique à l'individu en réponse à la tension artérielle déterminée.
- 25
- 30
- 35
12. Dispositif de la revendication 11, comprenant en outre au moins un des éléments suivants :
- 40
- un dispositif de détection d'altitude (212) configuré pour déterminer une altitude du capteur de tension artérielle.
- 45
13. Dispositif de la revendication 12, dans lequel le dispositif de détection d'altitude comporte un accéléromètre.
- 50
14. Dispositif de l'une quelconque des revendications 11 à 13, dans lequel le timbre cutané est configuré pour délivrer le médicament pour assurer au moins une des fonctions suivantes :
- 55
- baisser ou augmenter la tension artérielle de l'individu ;
atteindre ou maintenir une tension artérielle ou gamme de tension artérielle cible.
- pour délivrer le médicament en réponse à au moins un des paramètres suivants :
- valeurs de tension artérielle en cours, moyenne et/ou cumulée ;
tendances dans les valeurs de tension artérielle et/ou vers des valeurs de tension artérielle projetées ;
paramètres ou caractéristiques du profil de tension artérielle, y compris la forme des pulsations, et/ou valeurs de tension artérielle systolique/diastolique.
16. Dispositif de l'une quelconque des revendications 11 à 15, dans lequel le timbre cutané est configuré pour délivrer le médicament pour :
- réguler dynamiquement la tension artérielle de l'individu ; ou
traiter un état sensible à un résultat et/ou un effet de la tension artérielle de l'individu.

FIG. 1

100

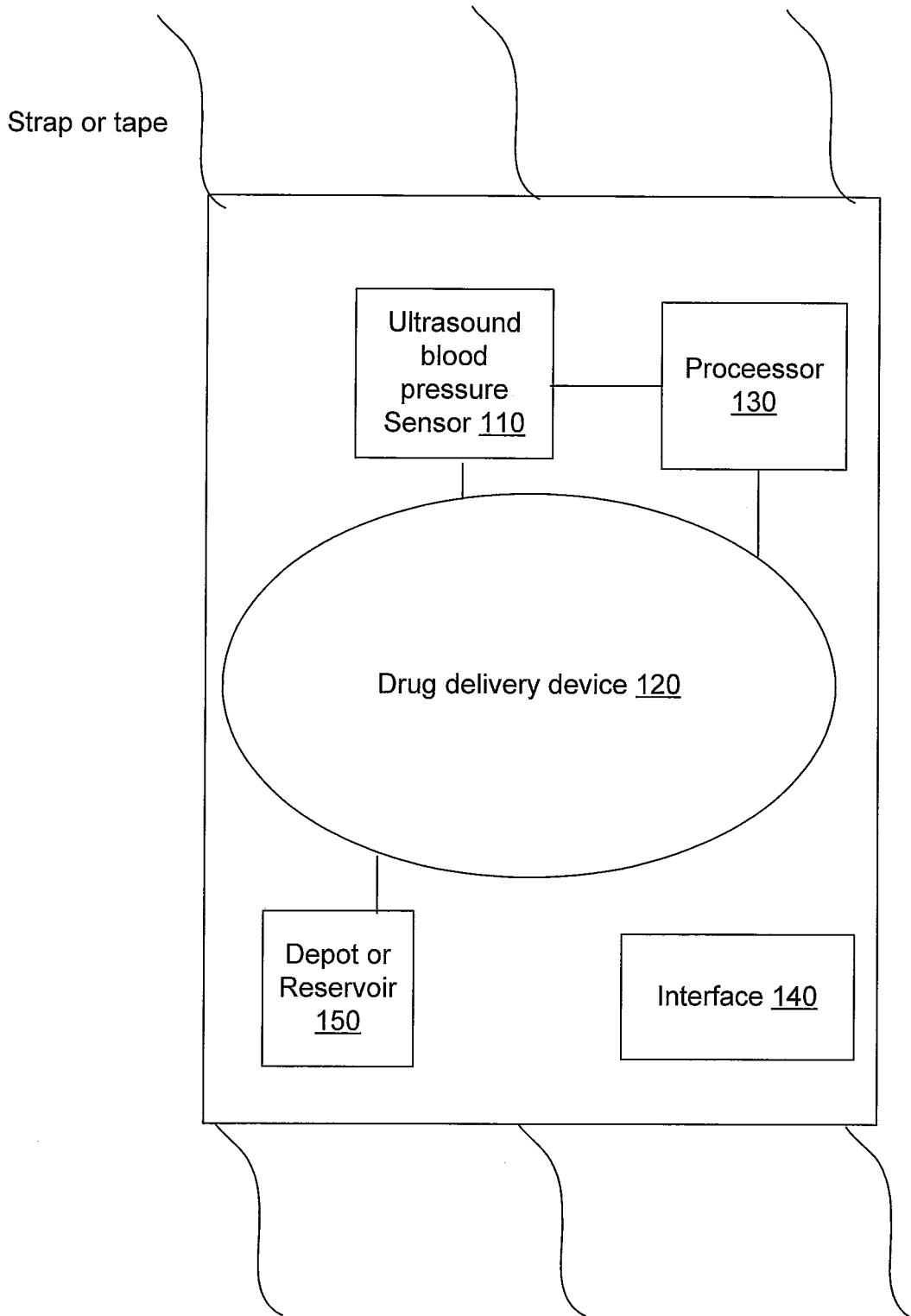
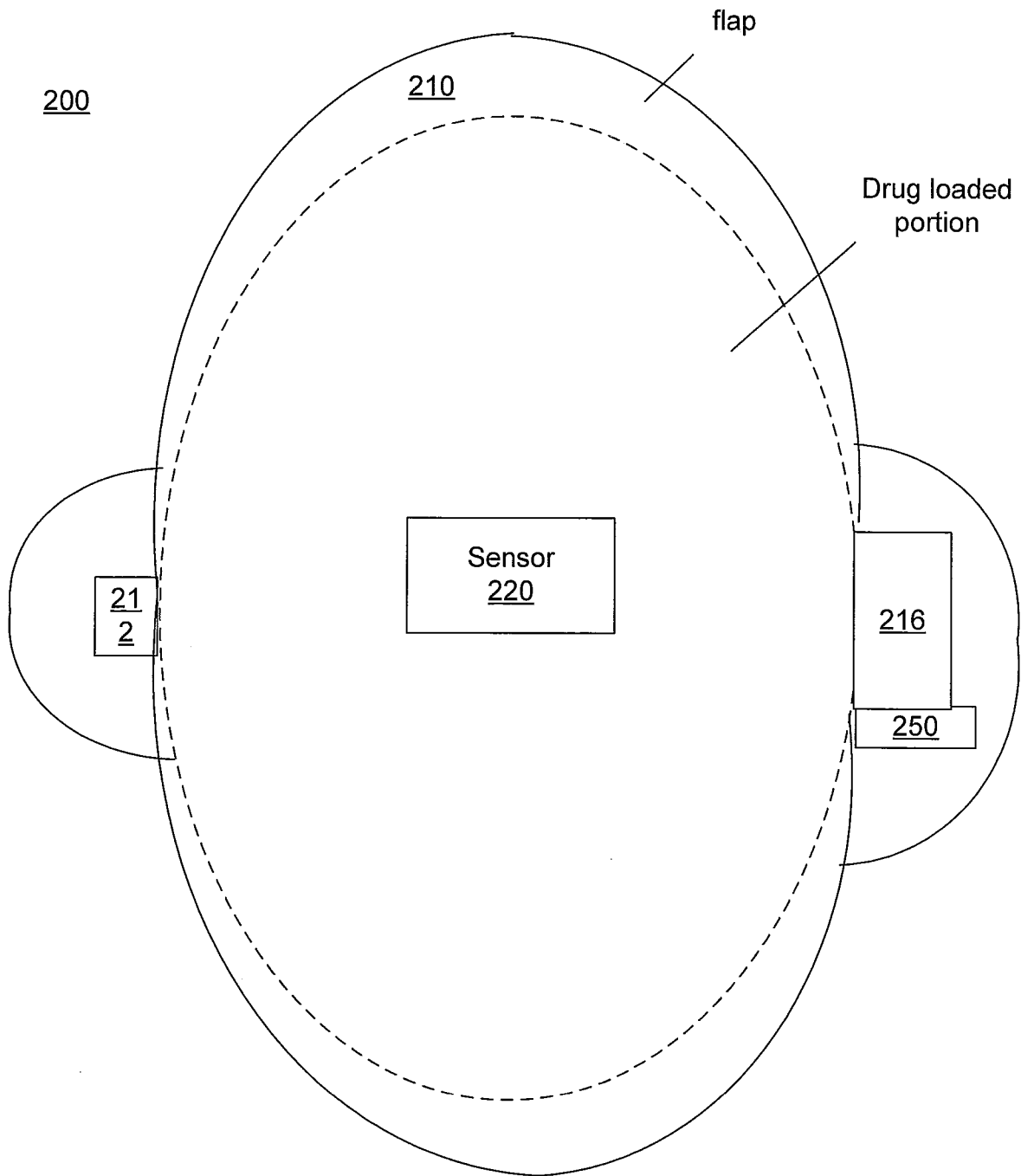


FIG. 2



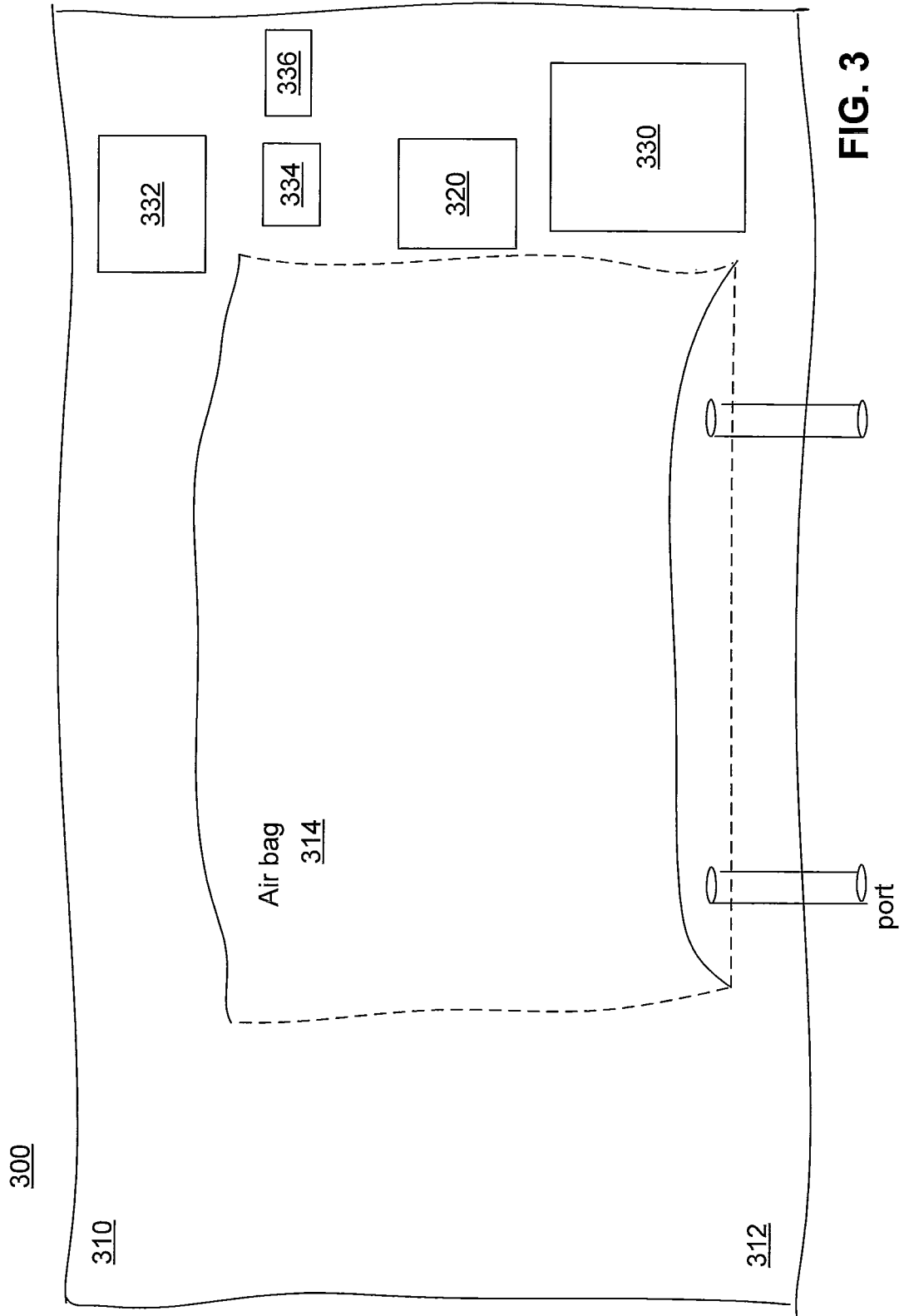


FIG. 3

FIG. 4

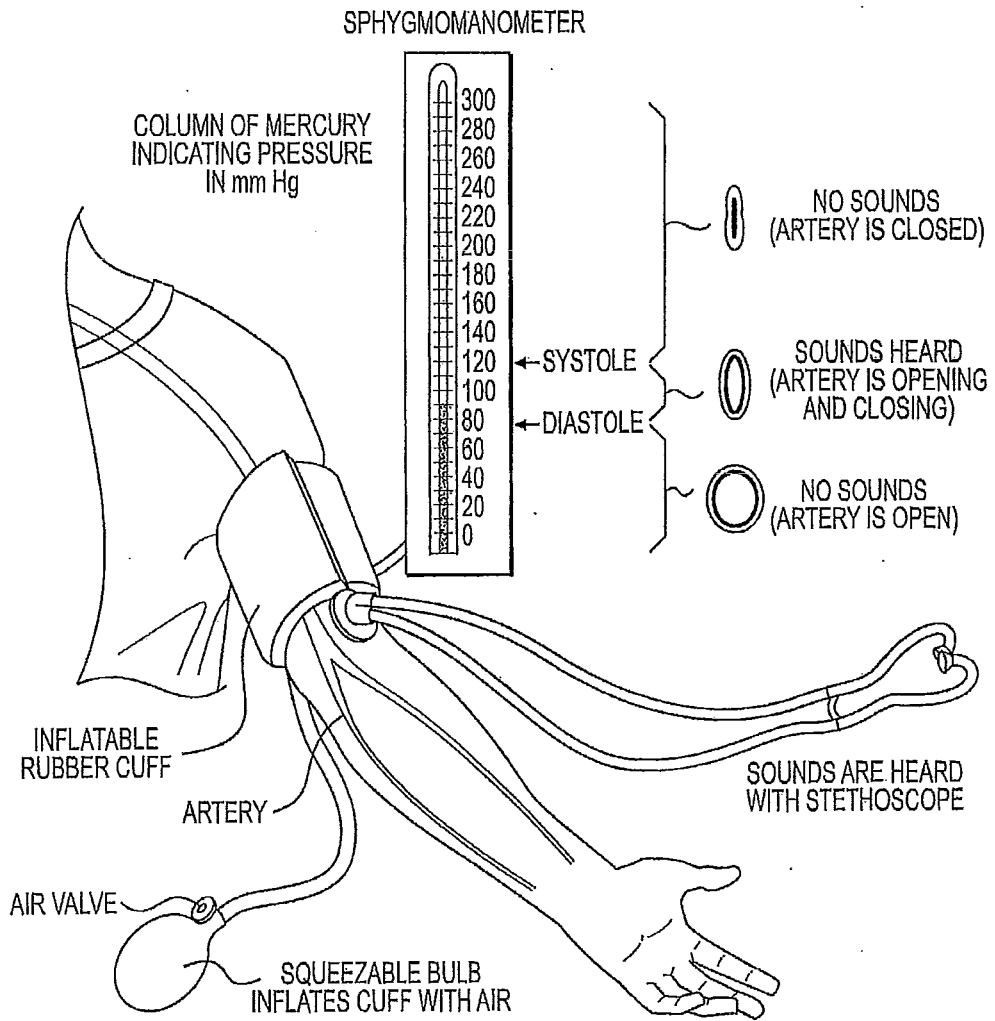


FIG. 5

500

510

Provide a blood pressure monitoring unit having a built-in ultrasound sensor and a drug delivery device, wherein the unit is attachable to an individual

520

Make one or more blood pressure measurements of the individual with the ultrasound sensor in the attached unit

530

Use the attached drug-delivery device to dispense a drug to the individual in response to the measured blood pressure measurements as prescribed

FIG. 6

600

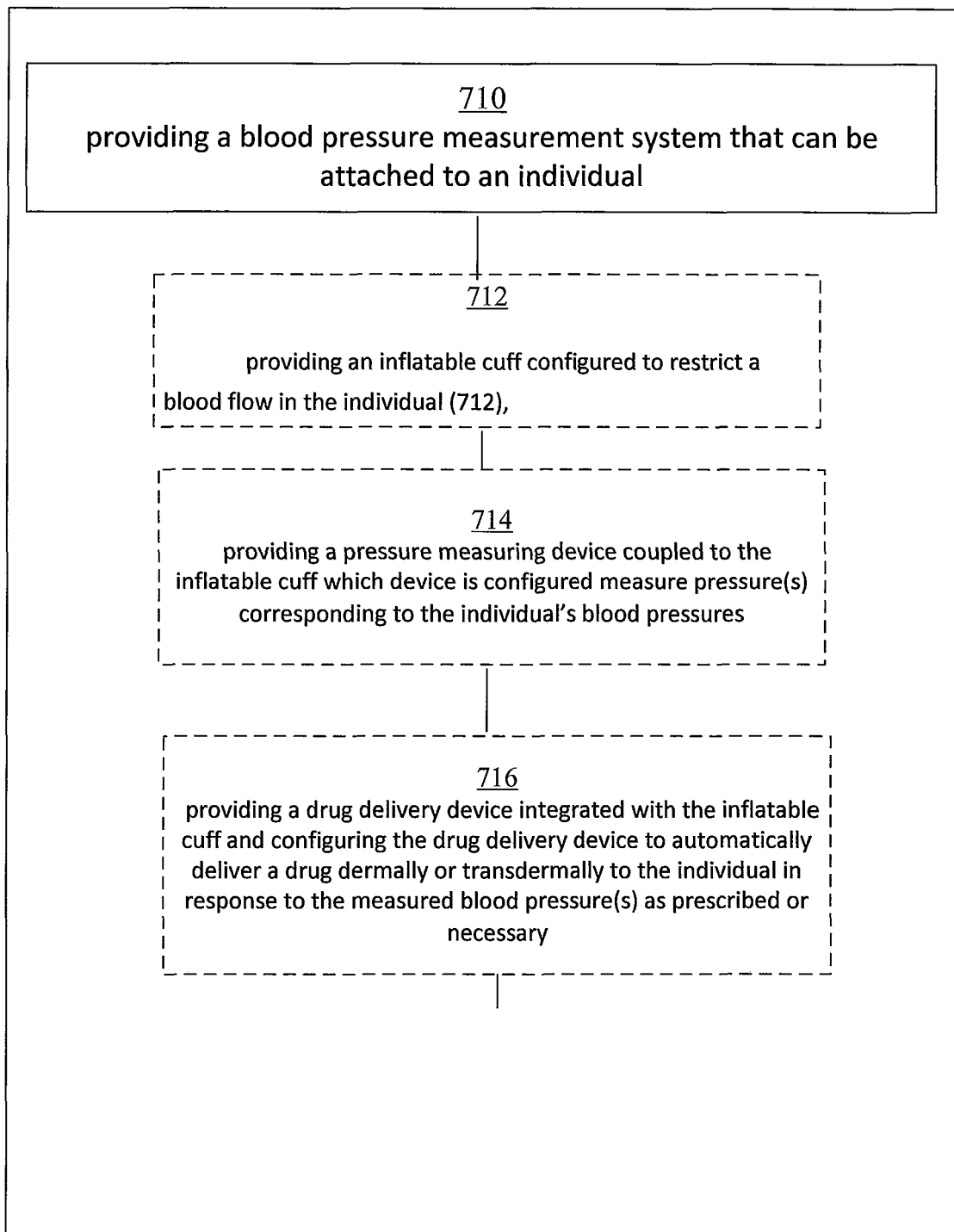
610

Provide a drug-delivery skin patch having a structurally integrated or built-in blood pressure sensor (610), wherein the skin patch is adapted to be attached to a skin portion of an individual.

620

configure the skin patch to needle-lessly deliver a drug dermally or transdermally to the individual as may be prescribed or appropriate in response to blood pressure determinations with the built-in blood pressure sensor

FIG. 7



REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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专利名称(译)	用于动态药物治疗的系统和方法对血压事件的响应		
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摘要(译)

真皮或透皮药物递送皮肤贴剂具有结构上整合或内置于其中的血压传感器。当贴附于个体的皮肤部分时，皮肤贴片决定了个体的血压，并且如果需要，作为响应，无针地将治疗药物递送给个体。

