



(51) International Patent Classification:

A61B 5/1455 (2006.01) A61B 5/00 (2006.01)
A61B 5/024 (2006.01) A61M 21/00 (2006.01)
A61B 5/08 (2006.01) H04M 1/725 (2006.01)
A61B 5/0205 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2018/021858

(22) International Filing Date:

09 March 2018 (09.03.2018)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

62/470,096 10 March 2017 (10.03.2017) US

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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, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(54) Title: PNEUMONIA SCREENER

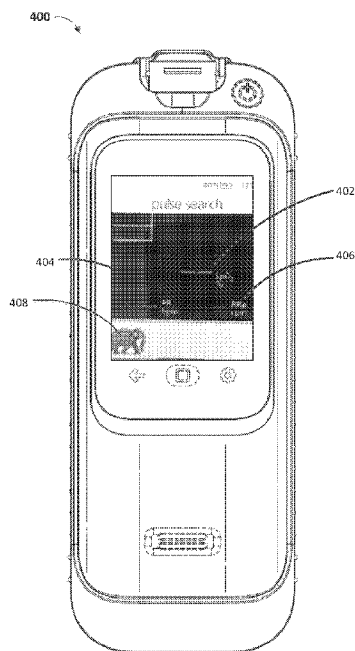


FIG. 4

(57) Abstract: A device for obtaining physiological information including plethysmographs of a medical patient and detecting a condition of pneumonia. The portable pneumonia screening device may include one or more sensors configured to obtain physiological information. The pneumonia screener may provide for methods of selecting and interfaces to assist selecting a patient's age group. The screener may match a selected age group from a set of programmed threshold level of oxygen saturation, respiratory, pulse rate, or other physiological parameters to assist pneumonia diagnosis. The pneumonia screener may provide one or more visual and/or audio stimuli, such as an animation, sound or music. The visual and/or audio stimuli may indicate initialization, diagnostic in progress, completion, or other events or progress of events. In some embodiments, the visual and/or auditory stimuli may be used to soothe or intrigue the patient such that patient agitation is reduced during the screening process.



Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*
- *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

Published:

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

PNEUMONIA SCREENER

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE TO ANY PRIORITY APPLICATIONS

[0001] Any and all applications for which a foreign or domestic priority claim is identified in the Application Data Sheet as filed with the present application are hereby incorporated by reference under 37 CFR 1.57.

[0002] This application is a non-provisional of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/470096, filed March 10, 2017, titled "PNEUMONIA SCREENER," incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0003] In general, the present disclosure relates to methods and apparatuses for diagnosing pneumonia non-invasively and automatically.

BACKGROUND

[0004] Hospitals, nursing homes, and other patient care facilities typically include patient monitoring devices at one or more bedsides in the facility. Patient monitoring devices generally include sensors, processing equipment, and displays for obtaining and analyzing a medical patient's physiological parameters such as blood oxygen saturation level, respiratory rate, pulse rate, and the like. Clinicians, including doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel, use the physiological parameters obtained from patient monitors to diagnose illnesses and to prescribe treatments. Clinicians also use the physiological parameters to monitor patients during various clinical situations to determine whether to increase the level of medical care given to patients.

[0005] Examples of non-invasive patient monitoring devices include pulse oximeters. Pulse oximetry is a widely accepted noninvasive procedure for measuring the oxygen saturation level of arterial blood, an indicator of a person's oxygen supply. A pulse oximeter generally includes one or more light sources transmitting optical radiation into or reflecting off through a portion of the body, for example a digit such as a finger, a hand, a foot, a nose, an earlobe, or a forehead. After attenuation by tissue and fluids of the portion of the body, one or more photodetection devices detect the attenuated light and output one or more detector signals responsive to the detected attenuated light. The oximeter may, in various embodiments, calculate oxygen saturation (SpO₂), pulse rate, a plethysmograph waveform, perfusion index (PI), pleth variability index (PVI),

methemoglobin (MetHb), carboxyhemoglobin (CoHb), total hemoglobin (tHb), glucose, and/or otherwise, and the oximeter may display on one or more monitors the foregoing parameters individually, in groups, in trends, as combinations, or as an overall wellness or other index. An example of such an oximeter, which can utilize an optical sensor described herein, are described in U.S. Application No. 13/762,270, filed February 07, 2013, titled "Wireless Patient Monitoring Device," U.S. Application No. 14/834,169, filed August 24, 2015, titled "Wireless Patient Monitoring Device," and U.S. Application No. 14/511,974, filed October 10, 2014, titled "Patient Position Detection System," the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. Other examples of such oximeters are described in U.S. Application No. 09/323176, filed May 27, 1999, titled "Stereo Pulse Oximeter," now U.S. Patent No. 6,334,065, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

[0006] In noninvasive devices and methods, a sensor is often adapted to position a portion of the body proximate the light source and light detector. In one example, noninvasive sensors often include a clothespin-shaped finger clip that includes a contoured bed conforming generally to the shape of a finger. An example of such a noninvasive sensor is described in U.S. Application No. 12/829352, filed July 1, 2010, titled "Multi-Stream Data Collection System for Noninvasive Measurement of Blood Constituents," now U.S. Patent No. 9,277,880, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. In another example, noninvasive sensors can include one or more sensing components, such as the light source and/or the photodetectors on an adhesive tape, such as described in U.S. Application No. 13/041,803, filed May 7, 2011, titled "Reprocessing of a physiological sensor," now U.S. Pat. No. 8,584,345, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

[0007] The patient monitoring devices can also communicate with an acoustic sensor comprising an acoustic transducer, such as a piezoelectric element. The acoustic sensor can detect respiratory and other biological sounds of a patient and provide signals reflecting these sounds to a patient monitor. An example of such an acoustic sensor, which can implement any of the acoustic sensing functions described herein, is described in U.S. Application No. 12/643,939, filed December 21, 2009, titled "Acoustic Sensor Assembly," and in U.S. Application No. 61/313,645, filed March 12, 2010, titled "Acoustic Respiratory Monitoring Sensor Having Multiple Sensing Elements," the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

SUMMARY

[0008] The present disclosure describes methods and apparatuses for diagnosing pneumonia with a patient's physiological information. In developing countries, access to adequate healthcare is often limited. Local care providers often have limited training at best. The present disclosure provides a low cost accurate and very user-friendly system to detect pneumonia. The present disclosure has specific application to pediatric patients.

[0009] The disclosure provides a portable pneumonia screening device including one or more sensors configured to obtain physiological information. The one or more sensors can include one or more optical sensors.

[0010] The pneumonia screener can provide interfaces to assist selecting a patient's age group. The pneumonia screener may provide age group in terms of months or years, including age group of one or more months such as 0 to 2 months. The screener may match a selected age group from a set of programmed threshold levels of oxygen saturation, respiratory, pulse rate, or other physiological parameters to assist pneumonia diagnosis.

[0011] The pneumonia screener can provide a clinician, a user, operator, or a patient with one or more instructions. The instructions may be displayed on a monitor of the screener as legible instructions or graphical representations. The instructions can, in addition or alternatively, be audio prompts through a speaker, such as voice prompts. The screener may require user interaction before proceeding to a next instruction. A failed compliance with an instruction can optionally re-prompt the instruction, re-initialize a procedure related to the instruction, or change the means of instruction conveyance. The instructions may be static or animated.

[0012] The pneumonia screener can provide one or more audio stimuli (for example, sounds and/or music). In addition to the instructive voice prompts, the sounds and music may indicate initialization of the screener and/or entry of user input. The screener may also use the sounds and music to indicate initialization, diagnostic in progress, completion, or other events or progress of events. The sounds or music may be coupled with visual stimuli, such as an animation.

[0013] The pneumonia screener can provide a diagnostic indicator indicating detection of pneumonia. The screener can provide additional diagnostic information related to and indicating severity of pneumonia.

[0014] For purposes of summarizing the disclosure, certain aspects, advantages and novel features of the inventions have been described herein. It is to be understood that not necessarily all such advantages can be achieved in accordance with any particular embodiment of the inventions disclosed herein. Thus, the inventions disclosed herein can be embodied or carried out in a manner that achieves or optimizes one advantage or group of advantages as taught herein without necessarily achieving other advantages as can be taught or suggested herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0015] Various embodiments will be described hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings. These embodiments are illustrated and described by example only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the disclosure. In the drawings, similar elements have similar reference numerals.

[0016] Figure 1A illustrates a pneumonia screener.

[0017] Figure 1B illustrates an oximetry sensor that may connect to the pneumonia screener in Figure 1A.

[0018] Figure 2 illustrates an interface showing age group selection screen.

[0019] Figure 3 illustrates an interface showing an instruction screen.

[0020] Figure 4 illustrates an interface showing an animation indicative of diagnostic in progress.

[0021] Figure 5 illustrates a system block diagram of a pneumonia diagnostics system.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0022] The present disclosure describes methods and apparatuses for diagnosing pneumonia with a patient's physiological information. Pneumonia can occur at any age, but it is more common in younger children. For instance, pneumonia accounts for 13% of all infectious illnesses in infants younger than 2 years. The high rate of occurrence is, to say the least, of great concern as pneumonia accounts for 16% of all deaths of children under 5 years old, killing 920,136 children in 2015.

[0023] The World Health Organisation (WHO) programme to control pneumonia uses clinical signs to identify pneumonia, and to assess its severity and whether there is a need for hospitalization. However, identification of pneumonia during early infancy presents a special challenge with respect to both assessment and management because clinical presentation of pneumonia is often similar to that of sepsis,

meningitis, or a urinary tract infection. To address the difficulty in assessment, WHO points to examining the child's respiration rate during a physical exam as an important first step in diagnosing pneumonia.

[0024] Specifically, WHO has identified respiratory rate thresholds pointing to a sign of pneumonia by age groups, such as greater than equal to 60 breaths per minute for children younger than 2 months, greater than or equal to 50 breaths per minute for children aged 2-11 months, and greater than or equal to 40 breaths per minute for children aged 12-59 months. When respiratory symptoms are present, assessment of oxygen saturation by pulse oximeters to supplement the respiratory rates can be used for more accurate diagnosis. Respiratory readings, along with oxygen saturation, pulse rate, temperature, and other physiological parameters, can provide a highly effective detection analysis.

[0025] However, several factors make accurate and reliable detection of respiratory rates and other physiological parameters in children difficult. For example, children often have a different state of mind than an average adult patient in that they are easily distracted or agitated. Agitated children tend to move about, causing noise on the measurement signal that can degrade the measurement and lead to inaccurate results.

[0026] The disclosure describes a pneumonia screener that provides methods and components to help a child be still while the screener takes measurements of physiological parameters. The screener may utilize visual and/or auditory stimuli on a display and/or using a speaker, respectively, to soothe or intrigue the child causing the child to focus on the screen and reduce child agitation. Visual stimuli may be a display of static pictures, animations, or both. The animations may be played or repeated while the screener obtains and/or processes raw data and comes up with its diagnosis. Auditory stimuli may be music or some sound effect in relation to the pictures or animations. Detailed aspects of the invention are further described below.

[0027] Figure 1A illustrates an embodiment of the pneumonia screener 100. The pneumonia screener 100 shown includes a sensor interface 102 for attaching one or more sensors, a display 104, a speaker (shown in Figure 3), various buttons 106, 108, and 110, and a device body 112. The buttons may include a back button 106, a menu button 108, and a system setting button 110. The display 104 may be a touch screen display thereby reducing the number of physical buttons and greatly simplifying the understanding and the operation of the screener. For example, the touchscreen display 104 identifies the pneumonia screener to the user as a pneumonia screener and invites a

user interaction to proceed with step by step instructions. The screener may use familiar smartphone layout to provide more intuitive user interface. The screener may also maintain its familiar smartphone look and feel through its positioning of familiar and most frequently used functions such as back functionality 106, menu functionality, and system setting functionality 110 as separately labelled buttons.

[0028] The back button 106 can provide a quick access to cancel the current operation and return to the previous screen where accidental touching of the touchscreen display 104 can cause unintended inputs. The menu button 108 may provide a quick access to often sought out procedures or change of music or animation (disclosed below in reference to Figure 4). The system setting button 110 may provide a quick access to change of display 104 settings, such as brightness or contrast, volumes, or preferred measurement units, such as Fahrenheit or Celsius.

[0029] Figure 1B illustrates an embodiment of an optical sensor 150 that mechanically and electrically attaches to the screener body 112 in Figure 1A through the sensor interface 102 in Figure 1A. The pneumonia screener 100 includes hardware and/or software capable for determining and/or monitoring blood oxygenation levels, blood flow, respiratory rates, and/or other physiological parameters. For example, a pulse oximetry system may use an optical sensor 150 clipped onto a patient's finger, for example, to measure blood oxygenation levels, heart rate, blood flow, respiratory rates, and/or the like. In some embodiments, the optical sensor 150 may be take on other form factors for easier attachment to other attachment sites, such as toe tips, or nose.

[0030] Figure 2 illustrates an embodiment showing age group selection screen. As described above, one of the indicators of pneumonia is respiratory rate which has different thresholds for different age groups. The age groups are not necessarily defined in years but may be defined in terms of months. Further, different respiratory rate detection thresholds can be used to determine pneumonia in children. The touchscreen display 104 may prompt an operator to a selection of age group. The illustration shows the age groups of 0-2 months 202, 2-12 months 204, and 12-59 months 206. Further, each age group can have defined respiratory rate threshold for determining pneumonia, for example greater than equal to 60 breaths per minute, 50 breaths per minute, and 40 breaths per minute for each group, respectively. A selection of an age group pairs the selected age group with the age group's related threshold respiratory rate programmed in a memory inside the screener. Additionally, the pneumonia screener 100 may match other measurement thresholds, such as oxygen saturation, pulse rate, or other physiological

parameters, with the selected age group. The touchscreen display 104 may display more age groups and related thresholds for each provided age group. The pneumonia screener 100 can provide a confirming user interface, such as the Next button 208. The button may have been deactivated (for example, greyed-out and/or unselectable) until a user selects an age group. Optionally, the screener 100 may not include or skip the confirmation user interface 208 and simply move to a next diagnostic step upon a selection of an age group. In this case, a user may press/touch the back button 106 to return to the age group selection.

[0031] Figure 3 illustrates an example instruction screen. A user is instructed to place an optical sensor 150 on a finger, a toe, ear or other tissue interrogation site. The instruction is displayed on the touchscreen display 104. As shown, the instruction may be written (“place sensor”) or demonstrated with one or more graphical, moving image or video representations. A user may be required to press/touch the Start button 304 to proceed with the diagnostics after placing the sensors. One or more sensors 200 may detect their placements from change in optical or electrical readings and report the placement to the screener. Optionally, the Start button 304 may be deactivated until the sensor reports its placement and may only be activated after the placement. Optionally, the screener may automatically proceed to the pneumonia diagnostics upon the report of the placement. A failed compliance with an instruction can cause a re-prompt of the instruction, re-initialization of a procedure related to the instruction, or change of instruction conveyance. The instructions may appear static or animated or may include one or more instructional videos.

[0032] The screener may instruct the user with voice prompts or sound cues. In addition to written and demonstrative instructions or in place of them, for example, the screener in Figure 3 include audio or voice prompts including, but not limited to, “place sensor,” “place sensor on the patient’s finger tip,” or some similar instruction. The sound may come out from the screener’s speaker 306 or through some other sound outputting device. In addition to prompting contexts, the written, demonstrative, or sound cues may also be used in informing contexts. For example, in addition to voice prompts requesting user interactions, such as “place sensor,” the screener may provide updates to the diagnostic process, such as “initializing device” or “searching for pulse.” Also, in lieu of voice updates, sound cues, such as a chime, may update the user for events like completion of the pneumonia detection process.

[0033] Figure 4 illustrates an interface showing an animation indicative of a diagnostic in progress. After an optical sensor 150 is placed on a patient and diagnostic process has begun, the screener collects physiological information from the optical sensor 150. The pneumonia screener 100 analyzes these plethysmographs to obtain various physiological parameters including oxygen saturation level 402, pulse rate 404, and respiratory rates 406. These three readings are highly informative to a pneumonia diagnosis. Additionally, the non-invasive nature of optical sensors 200 appeals to a wide audience of doctors and patients.

[0034] The collection of physiological information and analyses are not instantaneous and can take time to complete. Complicating the diagnostics is the fact that pulse rate and respiratory have strong correlation with a patient's state of mind. When a patient is a child, accurate measurement becomes even more difficult. As described, children are easily distracted or agitated. An agitated or distracted child may show measurements exceeding threshold as a result of the distraction or agitation, making the whole diagnosis unreliable. Similar problems exist with adults.

[0035] Fig. 4 illustrates a solution to the patient's distraction and/or agitation. The screener 100 can provide some media content (for example, an animation 408, music, or both) to the patient. The animation 408 can show an elephant or other animal or character slowly walking from left to right. The screener may output audio stimuli, such as elephant noises and/or elephant's footstep sounds, through one or more speakers 306 attached to the screener. Other animal, character or attention grabbing noises can also sound. The screener may play interesting music along with the animation. The elephant can be replaced with a giraffe or a moose. Multiple animals or characters walking in tandem can also be presented, either the same or different animals or characters. The displays of animal or character animations should not be considered limiting. In addition to any animals or characters, any type of animation (including static pictures) and sound (including music) that invites a child's intrigue and occupies the child's mind during the diagnostic process may be utilized. As the animation and music catches the child's attention, the child becomes distracted into, instead of distracted away from, the screener 100 which helps to calm the child during the diagnostic. Any animation may be synchronized with music.

[0036] The screener 400 may simultaneously present media content along with diagnostic progress indicators or diagnostic readings. For example, the screener 400 may restrict the presentation of the media content to a portion of the display real estate

and utilize the remaining display real estate for the diagnostic progress indicators or diagnostic readings. For example, FIG. 4 illustrates the screener 400 presenting an animation 408 near the bottom portion of the display with an indication that it is searching for pulse near the top portion. The animation can be portioned to occupy various areas of the display real estate, such as the bottom third or fourth. In the example illustration, the screener 400 indicates one or more physiological data and/or test results (for example, oxygen saturation 402, pulse rate 404, and respiratory rate 406) in the middle portion. Optionally, a detected waveform may be indicated.

[0037] The portioning of the display real estate allows the patient to remain calm while a care provider can confirm that the measurement is taking place. The care provider can catch any problem affecting diagnostics, such as misplaced sensors or undesired patient movements, in real-time and address the problem without having to wait until the completion of the diagnostic process.

[0038] The screener may include such media content internally in its memory. Alternatively or in addition to, the screener may access a media content server via its communication interfaces and download or stream media content. For example, the screener may present, via streaming or download, latest episodes of a cartoon during the diagnostics.

[0039] The pneumonia screener can report out whether it has detected pneumonia based on the age group input and the physiological parameter readings. The report may be accompanied with a visual indication, sound indication, or both. The pneumonia screener may also report out the severity of pneumonia based on the deviation from the stored threshold parameters or related tolerances. Each age group may have multiple associated threshold values each threshold value associated with a severity of pneumonia. The screener may report severity based on the threshold value associated with the determined respiratory rate of the patient.

[0040] Figure 5 illustrates an example system block diagram of the example pneumonia diagnostics systems described herein. As depicted in Figure 5, the pneumonia diagnostics system 500 can include a pneumonia screener 502. The pneumonia screener 502 may be small, light, and durable enough to be portable. The architecture of the pneumonia diagnostics system 502 can include an arrangement of computer hardware and software components used to implement aspects of the present disclosure. The pneumonia diagnostics system 502 may include more or fewer elements than those shown in FIG. 5.

It is not necessary, however, that all of these elements be shown in order to provide an enabling disclosure.

[0041] As illustrated, the pneumonia screener 502 can include a hardware processor 504, a memory 506, a power source 508, a communication interface 510, a sensor interface 518, and/or an input/output device interface 520, all of which can communicate with one another by way of a communication bus 522 or any other data communications technique. The hardware processor 504 can read and write to the memory 506 and can provide output information for the display 542 via the input/output device interface 520. The example graphical user interfaces 400 of Figures 1A, 2, 3, and 4 and/or other media content can be presented on the speaker 540 and display 542. For example, an animation can be played on the display 542 with along with music on the speaker 540. The input/output device interface 520 can also accept input from an input device 544, such as a physical button, digital pen, touch screen, gesture recognition system, and/or another input device capable of receiving user input. The display 542 and the input device 544 can have the same form factor and share some resources, such as in a touch screen-enabled display.

[0042] The pneumonia screener 502 can be connected to a media content server 546 via one or more networks 548 (such as the Internet, 3G/Wi-Fi/LTE/5G networks, satellite networks, etc.). The pneumonia screener 502 can stream or download media content from the media content server 546 through wired connections 512 or wireless connections 514. Additionally, the pneumonia screener 502 may acquire new media content via other ports 516 by physically coupling external storage, such as USB thumb drives. Some media content may be stored in and accessed from the screener's internal media content module 538.

[0043] The pneumonia screener 502 may interface with one or more sensors 550 via its sensor interface 518 (e.g., Figure 1A, 102). Various types of sensors may be connected to the pneumonia screener 502 including acoustic sensor or an optical sensor. The one or more sensors can provide the pneumonia screener 502 with physiological parameter readings indicative of an existence of a pneumonia condition.

[0044] The memory 506 can contain computer program instructions (grouped as modules or components in some embodiments) that the hardware processor 504 can execute in order to implement one or more embodiments described herein. The memory 506 can generally include RAM, ROM and/or other persistent, auxiliary or non-transitory computer-readable media. The memory 506 can store an operating system 524 that

provides computer program instructions for use by the hardware processor 504 in the general administration and operation of the pneumonia screener 502.

[0045] The memory 506 can include computer program instructions and other information for implementing aspects of the present disclosure including a respiratory rate calculation module 526, pulse rate calculation module 528, oxygen saturation calculation module 530, other measurement modules 532 pneumonia diagnostics module 534, media content module 538, and/or any combination of modules.

[0046] The pneumonia diagnostics module 534 can, from one or more physiological parameters determined from other modules (for example, 526, 528, 530, 532), determine a patient's likelihood of having a pneumonia condition. The pneumonia diagnostics module 534 may include age and related detection threshold associations 536 with which it can diagnose the likelihood of the pneumonia condition. The pneumonia diagnostics module 534 can indicate the result of diagnosis via the display and/or the speaker. In some embodiments, the results may only be indicated with a set of distinguishable sounds so as to not disturb the patient with the diagnosis. For example, an absence of pneumonia condition may be indicated with a high pitch tone while an existence of pneumonia condition may be indicated with a low pitch tone.

[0047] The pneumonia screener 502 may include media content module 538 that stores, indexes, and/or otherwise make media content available for the pneumonia screener 502 for presentation to the speaker 540 and/or display 542. Based on the patient interactions received through the one or more input devices 544, the pneumonia screener 502 may alter the media content presented to the patient.

[0048] The pneumonia screener 502 may be a stand-alone device configured to couple with one or more sensors 550. The pneumonia screener 502 may be an application configured to run on a mobile device, such as a smart phone or a tablet computer, which can be coupled with the one or more sensors 550 via the mobile device's interfaces.

Terminology

[0049] Many other variations than those described herein will be apparent from this disclosure. For example, certain acts, events, or functions of any of the algorithms described herein can be performed in a different sequence, can be added, merged, or left out altogether (e.g., not all described acts or events are necessary for the practice of the algorithms). Moreover, acts or events can be performed concurrently, e.g., through multi-threaded processing, interrupt processing, or multiple processors or

processor cores or on other parallel architectures, rather than sequentially. In addition, different tasks or processes can be performed by different machines and/or computing systems that can function together.

[0050] It is to be understood that not necessarily all such advantages can be achieved in accordance with any particular embodiment of the embodiments disclosed herein. Thus, the embodiments disclosed herein can be embodied or carried out in a manner that achieves or optimizes one advantage or group of advantages as taught herein without necessarily achieving other advantages as may be taught or suggested herein.

[0051] The various illustrative logical blocks and modules described in connection with the examples disclosed herein can be implemented or performed by a machine, such as a general purpose processor, a digital signal processor (DSP), an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a field programmable gate array (FPGA) or other programmable logic device, discrete gate or transistor logic, discrete hardware components, or any combination thereof designed to perform the functions described herein. A general purpose processor can be a microprocessor, but in the alternative, the processor can be a controller, microcontroller, or state machine, combinations of the same, or the like. A processor can include electrical circuitry or digital logic circuitry configured to process computer-executable instructions. In another example, a processor includes an FPGA or other programmable device that performs logic operations without processing computer-executable instructions. A processor can also be implemented as a combination of computing devices, e.g., a combination of a DSP and a microprocessor, a plurality of microprocessors, one or more microprocessors in conjunction with a DSP core, or any other such configuration. A computing environment can include any type of computer system, including, but not limited to, a computer system based on a microprocessor, a mainframe computer, a digital signal processor, a portable computing device, a device controller, or a computational engine within an appliance, to name a few.

[0052] The steps of a method, process, or algorithm described in connection with the examples disclosed herein can be embodied directly in hardware, in a software module stored in one or more memory devices and executed by one or more processors, or in a combination of the two. A software module can reside in RAM memory, flash memory, ROM memory, EPROM memory, EEPROM memory, registers, hard disk, a removable disk, a CD-ROM, or any other form of non-transitory computer-readable storage medium, media, or physical computer storage known in the art. An example storage medium can be coupled to the processor such that the processor can read

information from, and write information to, the storage medium. In the alternative, the storage medium can be integral to the processor. The storage medium can be volatile or nonvolatile. The processor and the storage medium can reside in an ASIC.

[0053] Conditional language used herein, such as, among others, “can,” “might,” “may,” “e.g.,” and the like, unless specifically stated otherwise, or otherwise understood within the context as used, is generally intended to convey that certain embodiments include, while other embodiments do not include, certain features, elements and/or states. Thus, such conditional language is not generally intended to imply that features, elements and/or states are in any way required for one or more embodiments or that one or more embodiments necessarily include logic for deciding, with or without author input or prompting, whether these features, elements and/or states are included or are to be performed in any particular embodiment. The terms “comprising,” “including,” “having,” and the like are synonymous and are used inclusively, in an open-ended fashion, and do not exclude additional elements, features, acts, operations, and so forth. Also, the term “or” is used in its inclusive sense (and not in its exclusive sense) so that when used, for example, to connect a list of elements, the term “or” means one, some, or all of the elements in the list. Further, the term “each,” as used herein, in addition to having its ordinary meaning, can mean any subset of a set of elements to which the term “each” is applied.

[0054] Disjunctive language such as the phrase “at least one of X, Y, or Z,” unless specifically stated otherwise, is otherwise understood with the context as used in general to present that an item, term, etc., may be either X, Y, or Z, or any combination thereof (e.g., X, Y, and/or Z). Thus, such disjunctive language is not generally intended to, and should not, imply that certain embodiments require at least one of X, at least one of Y, or at least one of Z to each be present.

[0055] Unless otherwise explicitly stated, articles such as “a” or “an” should generally be interpreted to include one or more described items. Accordingly, phrases such as “a device configured to” are intended to include one or more recited devices. Such one or more recited devices can also be collectively configured to carry out the stated recitations. For example, “a processor configured to carry out recitations A, B and C” can include a first processor configured to carry out recitation A working in conjunction with a second processor configured to carry out recitations B and C.

[0056] While the above detailed description has shown, described, and pointed out novel features as applied to various embodiments, it will be understood that

various omissions, substitutions, and changes in the form and details of the devices or algorithms illustrated can be made without departing from the spirit of the disclosure. As will be recognized, certain embodiments of the inventions described herein can be embodied within a form that does not provide all of the features and benefits set forth herein, as some features can be used or practiced separately from others.

[0057] Additionally, all publications, patents, and patent applications mentioned in this specification are herein incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each individual publication, patent, or patent application was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic system for determining an existence of pneumonia condition, the electronic system comprising:

at least one optical sensor configured to attach to a patient and measure physiological parameters indicative of a respiratory rate of the patient;

a user interface configured to receive age information associated with the patient;

a memory configured to store associative information between a plurality of patient ages and normal respiratory rates for each corresponding patient age; and

a hardware processor configured to:

determine the respiratory rate of the patient from the measured physiological parameters;

receive at least one patient information indicative of an age of the patient;

access the memory and acquire, based at least in part on the age of the patient, a normal respiratory rate for comparison with the determined respiratory rate of the patient;

compare the determined respiratory rate of the patient with the normal respiratory rate;

determine, based on a result of the comparison, a likelihood of the patient having a pneumonia condition; and

generate a diagnostic report including the likelihood of the pneumonia condition.

2. The electronic system according to claim 1, wherein the normal respiratory rate is represented by a threshold respiratory rate.

3. The electronic system according to claim 2, wherein, when the determined respiratory rate of the patient is above the threshold respiratory rate, the system diagnoses the patient with a pneumonia condition.

4. The electronic system according to claim 1, wherein at least some of the plurality of patient ages are represented by age groups having a minimum age and a maximum age.

5. The electronic system according to claim 4, wherein the minimum age or the maximum age is represented in terms of months.

6. The electronic system according to claim 4, wherein each age group is associated with two or more threshold respiratory rates and each of the two or more threshold respiratory rates is associated with a severity level of the pneumonia condition.

7. The electronic system of any one of claims 1-6, further comprising a display and/or a speaker.

8. The electronic system according to 7, wherein the display is a touchscreen comprising both the display and the user interface.

9. The electronic system according to claim 7, wherein the speaker and/or the display provide media content including static images, animation, sound, and/or music for visual and/or audio stimuli.

10. The electronic system according to claim 9, wherein the visual and/or audio stimuli reduces patient agitation such that the respiratory rate of the patient is accurate.

11. The electronic system of any one of claims 9 or 10, wherein the visual stimuli occupies a first portion of available space on the display for presentation of visual information.

12. The electronic system according to claim 11, wherein the display presents, on a second portion of available space on the display for presentation of visual information, one or more physiological data related to the likelihood of the pneumonia condition.

13. The electronic system according to claim 12, wherein the hardware processor updates the one or more physiological data in real-time.

14. The electronic system of any one of claims 9-13, wherein the media content includes instructions to a user directed to attachment of the at least one optical sensor, use of the system, provision of the patient age, initiation of pneumonia diagnostic, and/or interpretation of diagnostic results.

15. The electronic system according to claim 14, wherein the instructions are voice prompts.

16. The electronic system of any one of claim 9-15, wherein the attachment of the at least one optical sensor on the patient automatically causes the system to proceed to a next media content.

17. The electronic system of any one of claims 7-16, wherein the diagnostic report comprises sound.

18. The electronic system of any one of claims 9-17, wherein the patient interacts with the animation via the user interface and, in response to patient interaction, the system alters media content provided.

19. The electronic system of any one of claims 1-18, further comprising a communication module configured to receive an update or addition to available media content.

20. The electronic system of any one of claims 1-19, wherein the at least one optical sensor measure physiological parameters indicative of a pulse rate, temperature, or oxygen saturation of the patient.

21. The electronic system of any one of claims 1-20, wherein the hardware processor is configured to receive the pulse rate, temperature, or oxygen saturation from the at least one optical sensor and adjust the determination of likelihood of the patient having a pneumonia condition based at least in part on the pulse rate, temperature, or oxygen saturation.

22. The electronic system of any one of claims 1-21, wherein the hardware processor is configured to receive the pulse rate, temperature, or oxygen saturation from the at least one optical sensor and adjust the threshold respiratory rate.

23. An electronic method for providing healthcare therapy, the method comprising:

attaching at least one optical sensor to a patient;

measuring physiological parameters indicative of a respiratory rate of the patient;

determining a respiratory rate of the patient from the measured physiological parameters;

receiving, via a user interface, age information associated with the patient;

accessing, based at least in part on the age information of the patient, a normal respiratory rate for comparison with the determined respiratory rate of the patient;

comparing the determined respiratory rate of the patient with the normal respiratory rate;

determining, based on a result of the comparison, a likelihood of the patient having a pneumonia condition; and

generating a diagnostic report including the likelihood of the pneumonia condition.

24. The electronic method according to claim 23, further comprising providing media content including static images, animation, sound, and/or music via a display

and/or speaker for visual and/or audio stimuli, wherein the visual and/or audio stimuli reduces patient agitation.

25. An electronic system for determining an existence of pneumonia condition, the electronic system comprising:

at least one optical sensor configured to attach to a patient and measure physiological parameters the patient;

a hardware processor configured to determine a physiological parameter of the patient from the measured physiological parameters; and

a display configured to present both visual stimuli including static images or animation, wherein the visual stimuli is configured to draw the attention of the patient, and display physiological information of the patient obtained from the at least one optical sensor.

26. The electronic system according to claim 25, further comprising a user interface configured to receive age information associated with the patient.

27. The electronic system of any one of claims 25-26, further comprising a memory configured to store associative information between a plurality of patient ages and normal physiological parameters for each corresponding patient age;

28. The electronic system of any one of claims 25-27, wherein the hardware processor is configured to receive at least one patient information indicative of an age of the patient;

29. The electronic system of any one of claims 25-28, wherein the hardware processor is configured to access the memory and acquire, based at least in part on the age of the patient, a normal physiological parameter for comparison with the determined physiological parameter of the patient;

30. The electronic system of any one of claims 25-30, wherein the hardware processor is configured to compare the determined physiological parameter of the patient with the normal physiological parameter.

31. The electronic system of any one of claims 25-31, wherein the hardware processor is configured to determine, based on a result of the comparison, a likelihood of the patient having a pneumonia condition.

32. The electronic system of any one of claims 25-32, wherein the hardware processor is configured to generate a diagnostic report including the likelihood of the pneumonia condition.

33. The electronic system of any one of claims 25-33, wherein the visual stimuli occupies a first portion of available space on the display for presentation of visual information.

34. The electronic system according to claim 25-34, wherein the display presents, on a second portion of available space on the display for presentation of visual information, one or more physiological data related to the likelihood of the pneumonia condition.

35. The electronic system according to claim 25-35, wherein the hardware processor is configured to update the one or more physiological data in real-time.

36. The electronic system of any one of claims 25-29, wherein the physiological parameter is a respiratory rate.

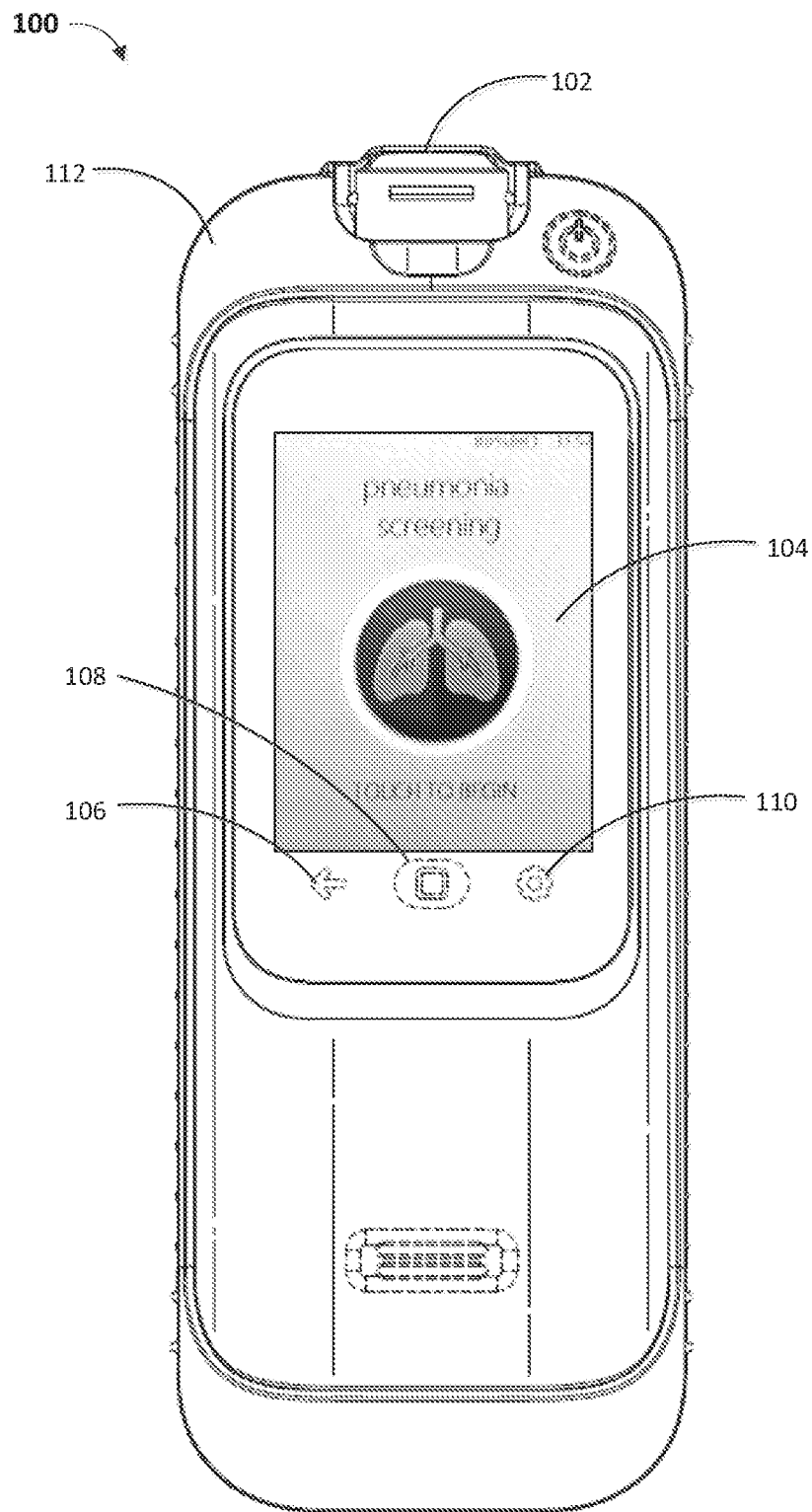


FIG. 1A

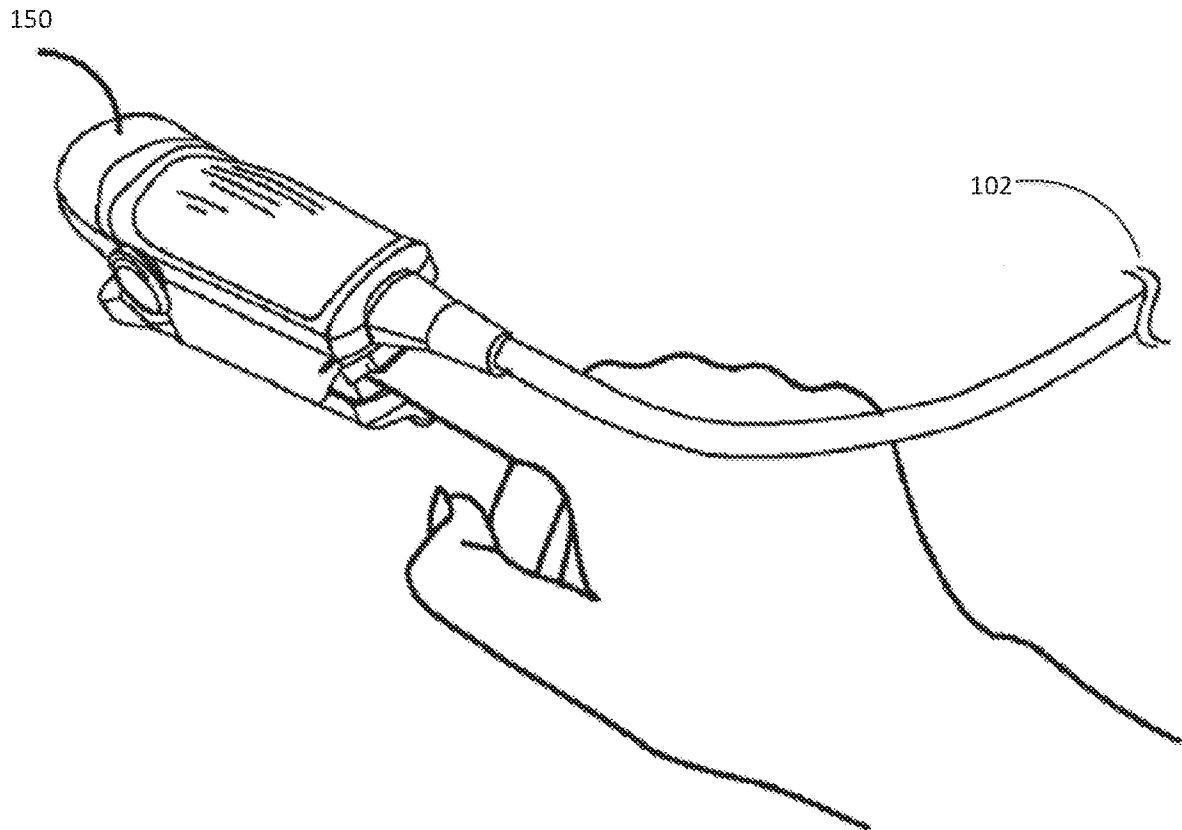


FIG. 1B

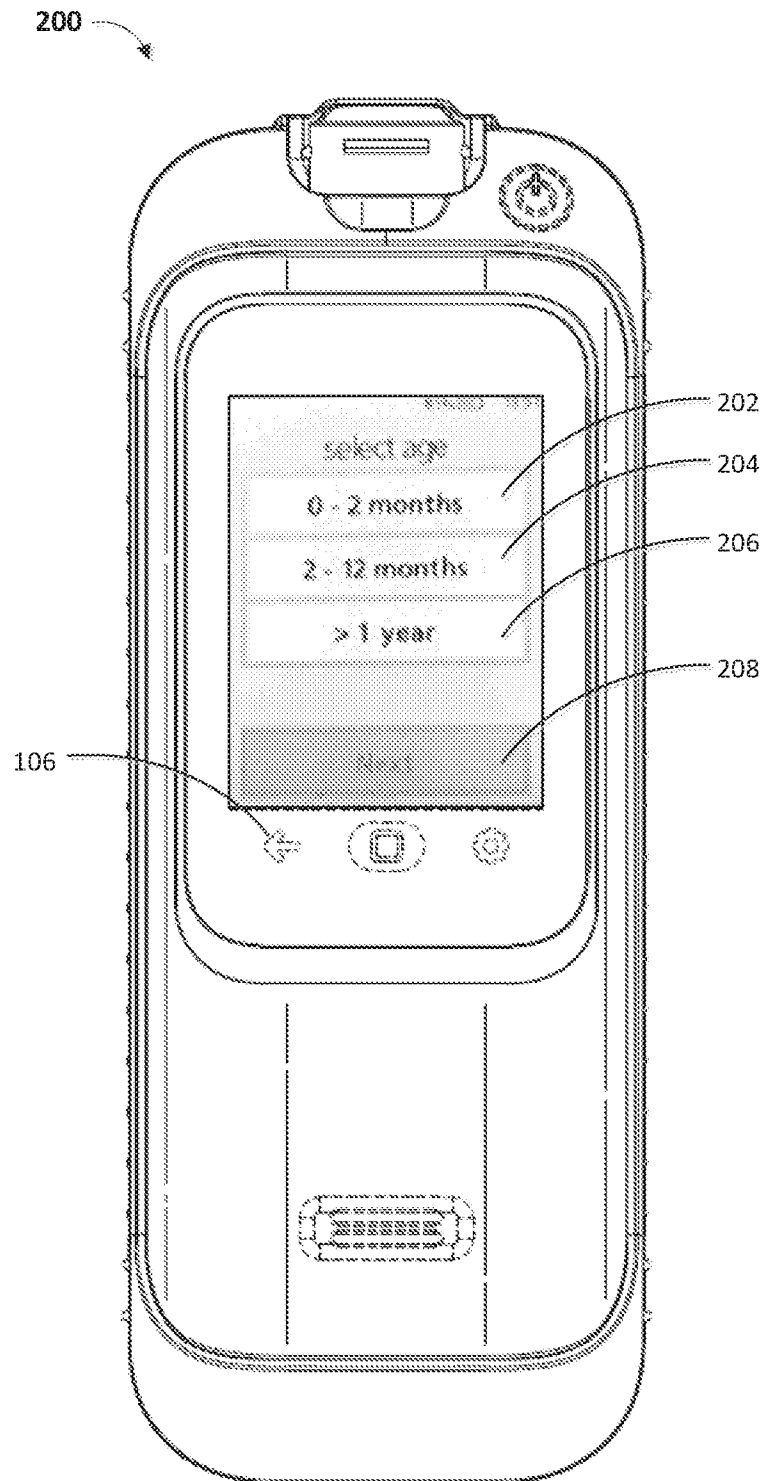


FIG. 2

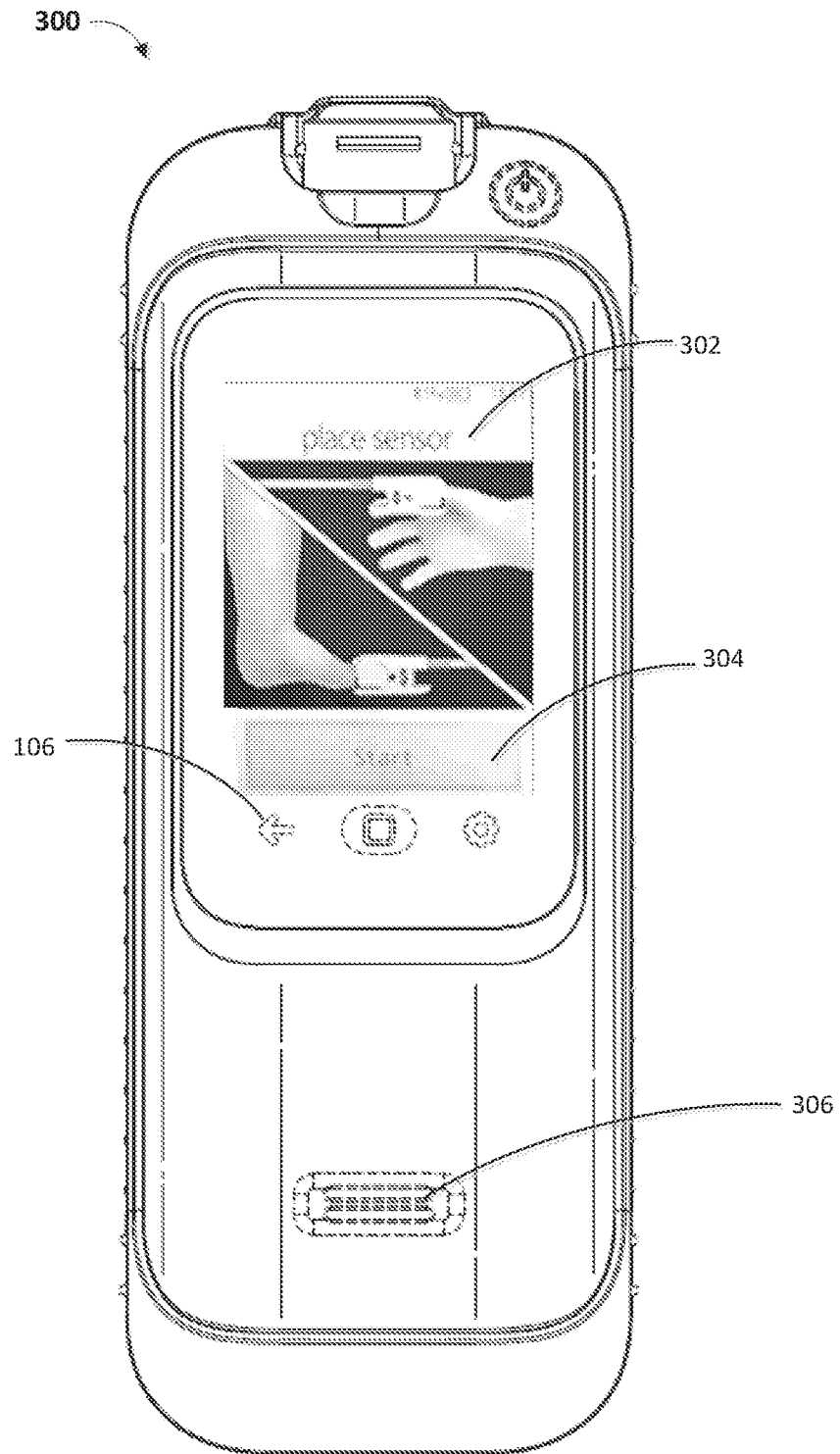


FIG. 3

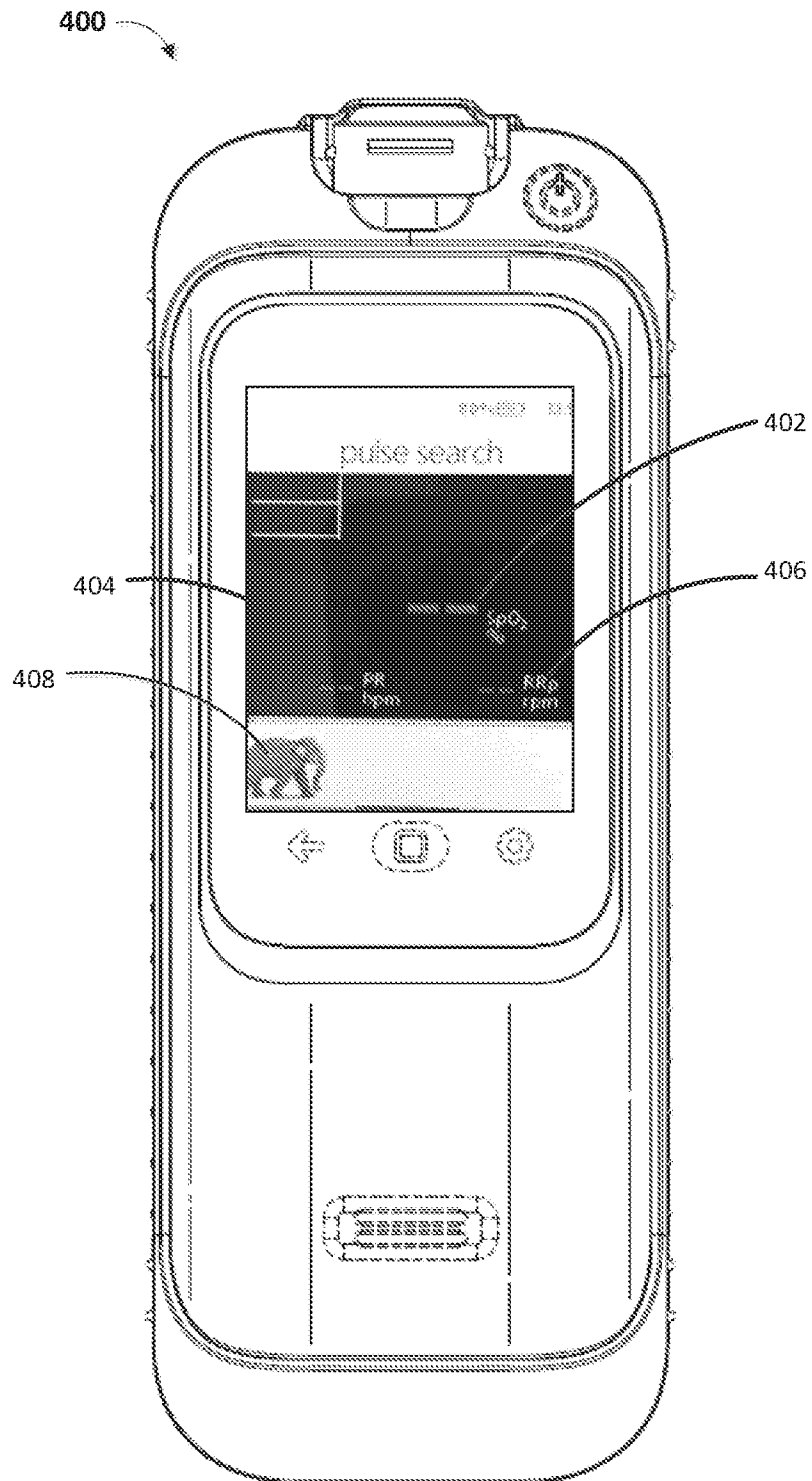


FIG. 4

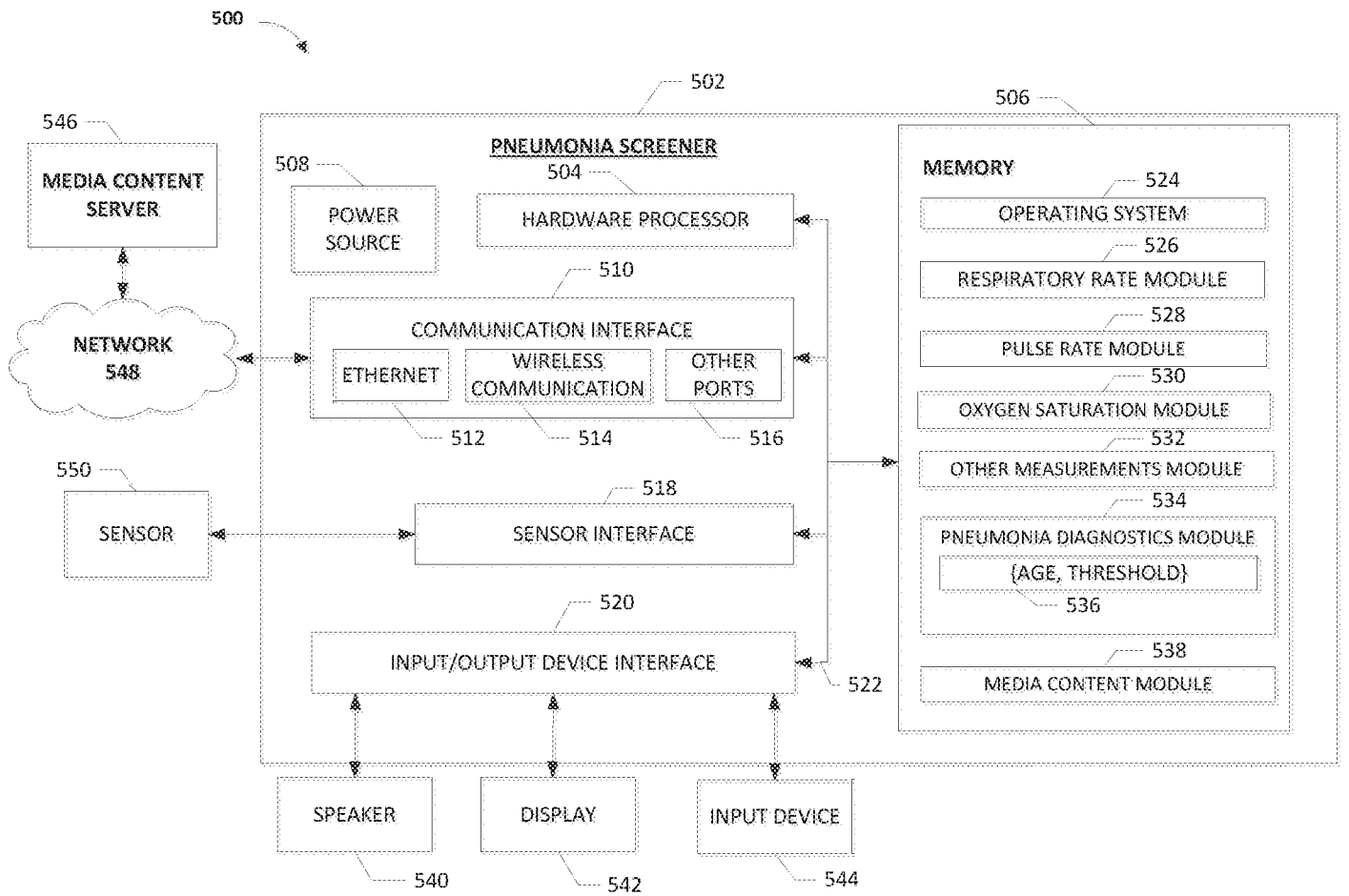


FIG. 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2018/021858

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 INV. A61B5/1455 A61B5/024 A61B5/08 A61B5/0205
 ADD. A61B5/00 A61M21/00 H04M1/725

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)
 A61B A61M H04M

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)
 EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 2 992 817 A1 (SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO LTD [KR]) 9 March 2016 (2016-03-09)	25-30, 33-36
Y	paragraphs [0061] - [0065], [0101] - [0109], [0141] - [0145]; claims; figures -----	31,32
X	US 2012/283524 A1 (KIANI ABRAHAM M [US] ET AL) 8 November 2012 (2012-11-08)	25-36
	paragraphs [0006], [0020], [0023], [0027] - [0041]; claims; figures ----- -/--	

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 another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 14 June 2018	Date of mailing of the international search report 26/06/2018
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Crisan, Carmen-Clara

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2018/021858

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	ANSERMINO J MARK ED - YUEN VIVIAN M ET AL: "Universal access to essential vital signs monitoring", ANESTHESIA AND ANALGESIA AUG,, vol. 117, no. 4, 1 October 2013 (2013-10-01), pages 883-890, XP009188653, ISSN: 1526-7598, DOI: 10.1213/ANE.0B013E3182A1F22F page 885 - page 888	1-22, 25-36
X	----- WALTER KARLEN ET AL: "Multiparameter Respiratory Rate Estimation From the Photoplethysmogram", IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, IEEE SERVICE CENTER, PISCATAWAY, NJ, USA, vol. 60, no. 7, 1 July 2013 (2013-07-01), pages 1946-1953, XP011515762, ISSN: 0018-9294, DOI: 10.1109/TBME.2013.2246160 page 1946 page 1951 page 1952	1-22, 25-36
X	----- US 2017/014079 A1 (LEE BYUNG HOON [KR] ET AL) 19 January 2017 (2017-01-19)	1-22, 25-36
Y	paragraphs [0015], [0068] - [0070], [0082], [0084] - [0101]; claims; figures	31,32
X	----- US 2015/073306 A1 (ABEYRATNE UDANTHA R [AU] ET AL) 12 March 2015 (2015-03-12)	1-22, 25-36
Y	paragraphs [0035] - [0036], [0054], [0089] - [0094], [0236] - [0238], [0255]; tables 17,19	31,32

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2018/021858

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.: 23, 24
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

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 fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 23, 24

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Diagnostic method practised on the human or animal body The subject-matter of method claims 23 and 24 defines "An electronic method for providing healthcare therapy". Independent method claim 23 includes all the method steps required for a diagnostic method practised on the human or animal body: (i) the examination phase, involving the collection of data, see claim 23 " attaching at least one optical sensor to a patient; measuring physiological parameters indicative of a respiratory rate of the patient", (ii)-(iv) the comparison of these data with standard values, the finding of any significant deviation, i.e. a symptom, during the comparison and the attribution of the deviation to a particular clinical picture, i.e. the deductive medical or veterinary decision phase (diagnosis for curative purposes *stricto sensu*) are explicitly disclosed in claim 23 as "...comparing the determined respiratory rate of the patient with the normal respiratory rate; determining, based on a result of the comparison, a likelihood of the patient having a pneumonia condition; and generating a diagnostic report including the likelihood of the pneumonia condition." Since all the technical steps are performed "in-vivo", this method refers to a method of diagnosis practised on the human or animal body, which is subject matter on which an Authority is not required to carry out international search (Rules 39.1(iv)). Furthermore, since the method implies "providing healthcare therapy", it represents also a method of treatment of a human or animal living body by therapy, which is subject matter on which an Authority is not required to carry out international search (Rules 39.1(iv)).

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/US2018/021858

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 2992817	A1	09-03-2016	CN 105380597 A
			EP 2992817 A1
			US 2016058376 A1
			WO 2016036114 A1

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			KR 101616473 B1
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			CN 104321015 A
			EP 2830496 A1
			JP 2015514456 A
			KR 20140142330 A
			US 2015073306 A1
			WO 2013142908 A1

专利名称(译)	肺炎筛选		
公开(公告)号	EP3592231A1	公开(公告)日	2020-01-15
申请号	EP2018718953	申请日	2018-03-09
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	梅西莫股份有限公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	Masimo公司		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	Masimo公司		
[标]发明人	AL ALI AMMAR INDORF KEITH WARD		
发明人	AL-ALI, AMMAR INDORF, KEITH, WARD		
IPC分类号	A61B5/1455 A61B5/024 A61B5/08 A61B5/0205 A61B5/00 A61M21/00 H04M1/725		
CPC分类号	A61B5/0205 A61B5/02438 A61B5/0816 A61B5/14552 A61B5/6826 A61B5/7415 A61B5/743 A61B5/7435 A61B5/746 A61B2503/06 A61M21/02 A61M2021/0027 A61M2021/005 A61M2205/59 A61B5/02255 A61B5/7203 A61B5/7228 A61B2562/227		
优先权	62/470096 2017-03-10 US		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

一种用于获取生理信息的设备，包括医学患者的体积描记器并检测肺炎的状况。便携式肺炎筛查设备可以包括一个或多个被配置为获取生理信息的传感器。肺炎筛查器可以提供选择方法和接口，以帮助选择患者的年龄组。筛查者可以从一组编程的阈值水平的氧饱和度，呼吸，脉搏率或其他生理参数中匹配选定的年龄组，以辅助肺炎的诊断。肺炎筛查器可以提供一种或多种视觉和/或音频刺激，例如动画，声音或音乐。视觉和/或音频刺激可以指示初始化，进行中的诊断，完成或其他事件或事件的进展。在一些实施例中，视觉和/或听觉刺激可以用于安抚或吸引患者，从而在筛选过程中减少患者的躁动。