



US 20040159541A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication****Wang et al.**(10) **Pub. No.: US 2004/0159541 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Aug. 19, 2004**(54) **APPARATUS FOR SELECTIVELY MOVING
HYDROGEN IONS IN AQUEOUS
SOLUTIONS**(52) **U.S. Cl. 204/242; 204/400**(75) **Inventors: Wei-Kung Wang, Taipei (TW);
Jian-Guo Bau, Taipei (TW)**(57) **ABSTRACT**

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**SENNIGER POWERS LEAVITT AND
ROEDEL****ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE
16TH FLOOR
ST LOUIS, MO 63102 (US)**

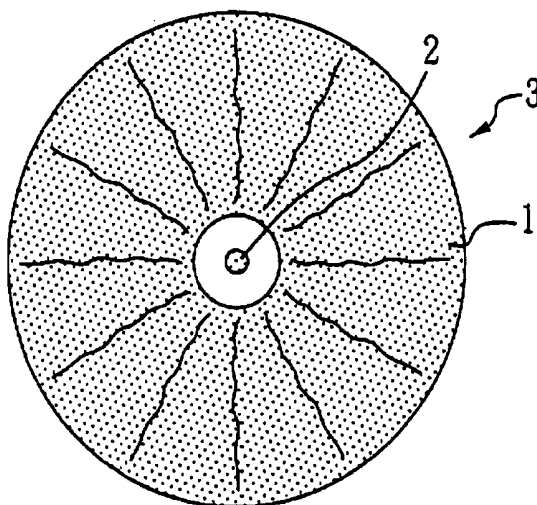
An apparatus selectively moving hydrogen ions in aqueous solution. Liquid water can form subcrystalline structure in a range of 5-20 molecules. The hydrogen ion can be among water molecules. Because the hydrogen ion acts as a hole in semiconductor and jumps forward in aqueous solutions, the hydrogen ion can be moved by a minimum electric field.

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Since the major part of an organism is water, every organism can be considered as a container of aqueous solutions. The present invention provides the apparatus for selectively moving hydrogen ions in aqueous solution by low voltage and electrode with low impedance interface, thus for generating a specific electric current. To cope with the special requirements for measurement of electric signal and pH in vivo or reducing aqueous solution in viscosity, electrodes with special gel are disclosed in the apparatus. The apparatus can also be used in the heat therapy and deep acupuncture of tumor, since lactate may accumulate at regions of poor circulation and thus with a low pH. The medical apparatus manufactured accordingly has uses in tumor therapy, rehabilitation, weight loss, and so on.

(21) **Appl. No.: 10/780,155**(22) **Filed: Feb. 17, 2004**(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

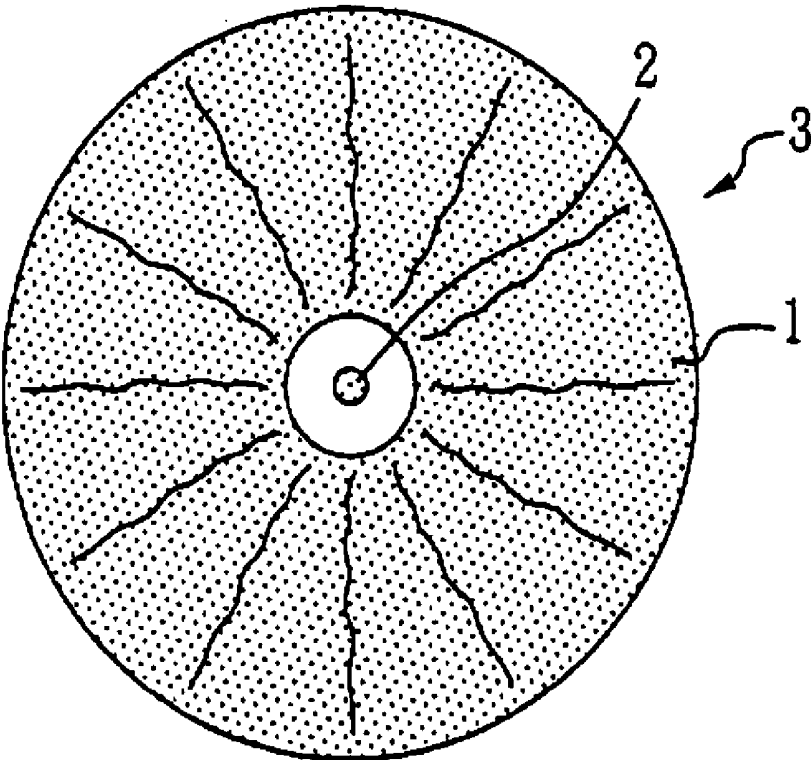
Feb. 17, 2003 (TW)..... 092103574

Publication Classification(51) **Int. Cl.⁷ C25D 17/00**

(a)



(b)



(a)



(b)

FIG. 1

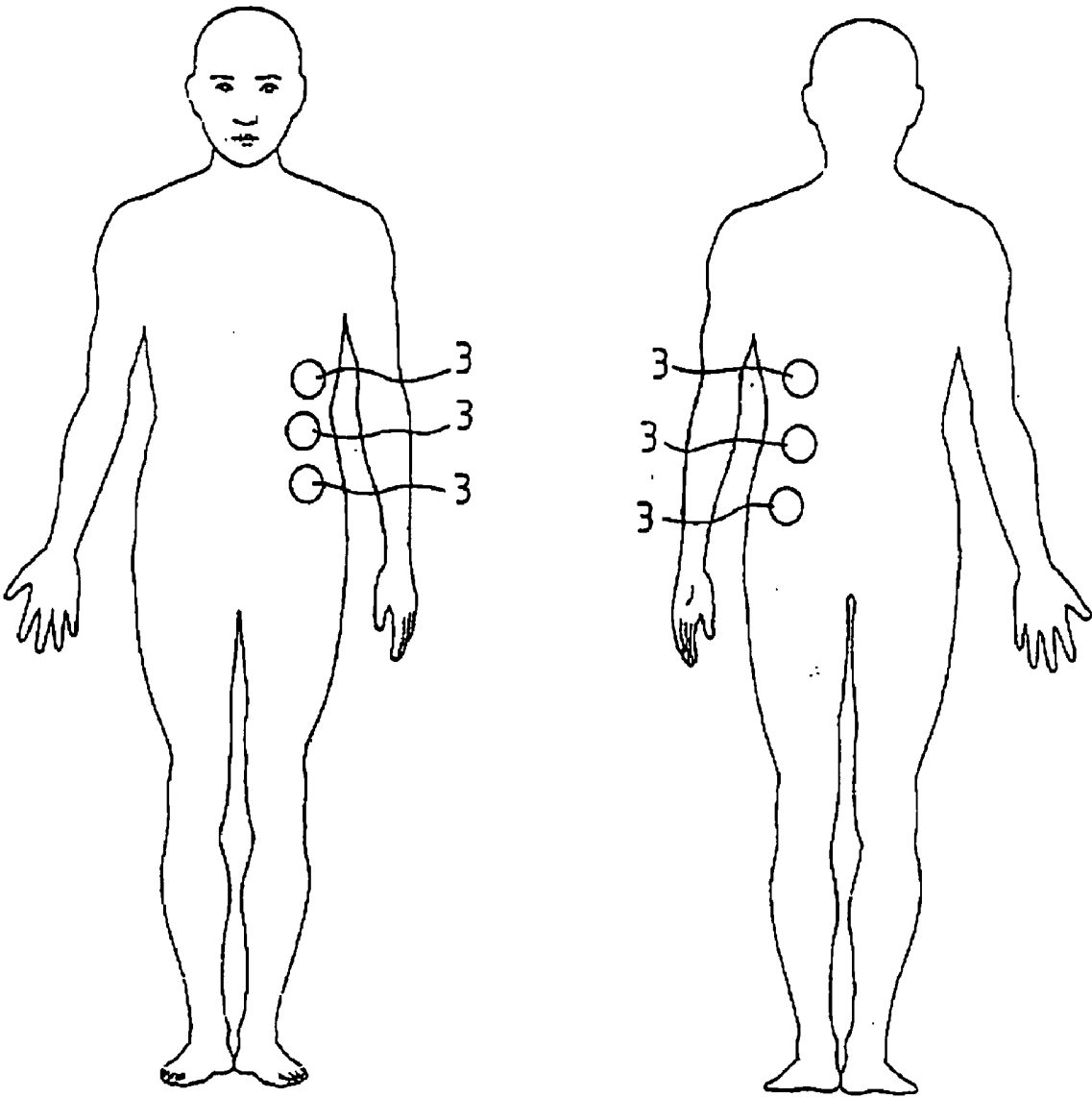


FIG. 2

APPARATUS FOR SELECTIVELY MOVING HYDROGEN IONS IN AQUEOUS SOLUTIONS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to an apparatus for use in medical appliances, thermal therapy and pH measurement, and in particular, to an apparatus for selectively moving hydrogen ions in aqueous solution.

[0003] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0004] Water is a major part of an organism, which can thus be considered as a water container. Water molecule is a simply H_2O ; however, it tends to crystallize due to its polarity and hydrogen bond. There exist hundreds of various forms of crystals as water transforms into solid ice. Water, even in liquid, is able to form a subcrystalline structure with a range of 5-20 molecules. In the art of heating water molecules in organisms, there are supersonic heating and microwave heating in frequency of 2.2 GHz.

[0005] In liquid water, the hydrogen ion can jump along the directions of hydrogen bonds; therefore, the hydrogen ion is the most mobile among all the ions. Because of this property, the hydrogen ions can be moved under extremely low electric field. Using higher potential and thus larger electric field, the mobility of the hydrogen ions can be increased so as to achieve the object of measuring pH value or producing heat. Nevertheless, in case the potential used is too high, the other ions are going to be moved as well, and there will be no efficacy of selectively moving the hydrogen ions. As a result, the threshold of the applied potential will be that of not inducing electrolysis in water. On the other hand, even if a potential is constantly and fixedly applied for non-electrolyzing liquid water, the ions, such as sodium, potassium, chloride, etc., can still be moved and generate transient ionic current.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The present invention discloses an apparatus for selectively moving hydrogen ions in aqueous solutions with high frequency and low potential, and to generate specific currents.

[0007] It was found that according to the present invention, the rapid alternation in potential is able to avoid the generation of the aforementioned ionic current. If the frequency of alternating the applied potential is faster than 1 millisecond (ms), the hydrogen ions will first be moved, which generates a transient current. Since the field is greatly reduced by the movement of hydrogen ions and each of the other ions may carry 4-11 water molecules, which results in significantly increase in the mass and viscosity of liquid water, the other ionic current generated by the movement will be significantly reduced. The jumping of hydrogen ions along the subcrystalline water is similar to that of the holes in semiconductor, and thus produces a significant level of current.

[0008] When the applied potential constantly increases, water may be electrolyzed and nerve and muscle existing in the organism may also be excited. In the organism body, when the electric current by an electric field lasts shorter than 1 ms, the nerve and muscle can avoid excitation, which

will subsequently generate a large amount of Na^+ and K^+ current. Therefore, the rapid alternation in electric field of + to - is deemed important to selectively moving H^+ and H^+ only. While 1 ms is just a safe lower limit for not exciting nerve and muscle, and electrolyzing water, in practice, the frequency can be higher than 1 MHz (10^6 Hz) so that the selectivity to the H^+ movement will be more dominant in the generated current. The selectivity to the H^+ movement will be even higher in case the pH drops and the concentrations of other ions in the aqueous solution also reduce, which can avoid destructing the subcrystalline structure of water.

[0009] There exist a variety of ways to monitor the possible electrolysis of water (or excitation of muscle and nerve) that may reduce the efficacy of the apparatus according to the present invention. Two of them are exemplified here. The first one is to directly detect the generated current, for the current will be subject to a sudden change in case of water electrolysis. The second is monitoring through the ultrasound reflection. If the water is electrolyzed, the air bubbles will generate and increasingly scatter ultrasound around the electrode. After the parameters in certain bio-systems, e.g., specific electrode, applied potential and frequency, are collected, these parameters can be directly applied without using the monitoring system. In an alternating field of using positive and negative currents in square wave, the net current can change in maximum scale without exciting nerve and muscle or electrolyzing water. On the other hand, the waveform supplied from a step field has the most harmonics at high frequency, which can increase the mobility of the H^+ . Under this condition, the current can be used as an indicator of hydrogen ion concentration. The lower the pH is, the larger the current is. Physiologically, this current can be used as a pH meter. When the pH value at a specific spot is desired, a tiny electrode can be penetrated into the spot for measurement, as shown in FIG. 1. The generated current will concentrate at the surface of the tiny electrode. The pH value around the electrode can thus be calculated with respect to the current.

[0010] For medical purposes, the apparatus according to the present invention can be used to detect early stage of cancer. At this stage, the cancer tissue usually consumes glucose via glycolysis and the topical pH value will decrease due to production and accumulation of lactate. According to the current of H^+ selectively generated by the apparatus of the present invention, any existence of subject with abnormal acidity (and thus abnormal current) can be targeted. Along with a specific arrangement of the electrodes, the size as well as shape of the possibly existing cancer can be further determined. Once the area of cancer tissue is determined, the abnormal current can be used to specifically heat the area. This heat produced will be automatically concentrated in the low pH or the malignant area.

[0011] Other features and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the accompanying drawings and from the detailed description that follows below.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] FIG. 1 is an assembly of an electrode pair for moving hydrogen ions in vicinity of a electrode 2, in which 1 is an electrode with a larger area and 2 is an electrode with a smaller area.

[0013] FIG. 2 schematically shows in the application of human body an assembly of a plurality of electrode pairs, in

which each 3 are as a group for moving the hydrogen ions between the electrode groups, especially in the crossing point of electric field for each group of electrode pairs.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0014] The simplest way of positioning target is to place each of the tiny electrodes as a concentrated point of electrical field. The electrodes will possess the highest electric field at the surface of the tiny electrode. Since overheat at the surface should be prevented, a temperature sensor (e.g., a thermal couple or platinum wire) can be added hereinto to monitor the temperature and control the current. In case of several electrodes working cooperatively without the tiny electrode for positioning as shown in FIG. 2, one may estimate the resistance through the electrode pairs as well as the current path, and then conduct the current through the target. If the each electrode pair leads current passing the target, the plurality of electrode pairs may work at the same time or each at a different time to lead the current passing the target. The heating effect will be amplified by N times at the target, comparing to other parts of the body. While the electric field is a vector if the field at the target can be added together, the N pairs of electrode will produce N² times of the heat at the target compared with other parts of the body. At the target with lower pH, the concentration of H⁺ current thus becomes even larger and thus will further increase the heating effect at the target.

[0015] In application, distant electrodes may be configured together with the tiny electrodes at the target. They render the benefit of both methods together, in addition to that of the temperature feedback. The target can also be positioned at a region with poor blood circulation, such as that in organs, sore muscle or fat layer. It can be used for treating cancer, weak organ, bone injury, and muscle injury, as well as reducing fat deposit, losing weight and shaping the body.

[0016] This kind of hydrogen ion measurement can change the subcrystalline structure of water; therefore, it can reduce the viscosity in a small tube where the ionic force can be strong. This application will be very useful in artificial machines such as MEMS (Micro-Electro Machinery) or biochips. It may also be used in natural tissues such as microcirculation to improve biological fluid (e.g., blood) circulation and to reduce the viscosity.

[0017] The electrical field can also be generated through change in magnetic field in terms of $(dB/dt)=\text{curl}(E)$. If the magnetic field is changed with time at the target, the induced electric field will be generated. If the magnetic field changes rapidly, the electric field will also be instantly generated and then selectively move the H⁺. By arranging conducting coil around the body, the maximum magnetic field can be generated in vicinity of the target. The required electric field can thus be induced from the change in the magnetic field. Several magnetic fields can be cooperatively applied to generate a group of electric field analogue to the electrode pairs.

[0018] At the interface of the electrode and the body, gel is preferably applied to lower the impedance in the apparatus according to the present invention. The gel is mainly composed of electrolyte. If the gel is very low in pH, the H⁺ will be high in concentration. As a result, it is preferable to

choose solutions with a low pH as the interfacial medium between the electrode and body. As far as the compatibility is concerned, an organic acid such as acetic acid and lactic acid will be a preferable choice. The impedance across the interface will thus be significantly reduced so as to decrease the heat generated at the interface as well as to increase the passage of the electrical signal which improves the signal to noise (S/N) ratio during measurement.

[0019] This gel can be used alone for acquiring EEG, ECG, or EMG as a signal process gel, or used as an electric simulator gel to improve the efficiency of the stimulation by lowering the interface impedance as well as heat generated from the interface. Because of the low pH ingredient in the medium, the resistance can be reduced, especially the impedance at high frequency and thus significantly increase the efficacy of the apparatus according to the present invention.

[0020] By the foregoing description, various processes embodying the present invention have been disclosed. However, numerous modifications and substitutions may be made without deviating from the scope of the present invention. Therefore, the above illustration is to disclose the present invention but not to limit the scope thereof.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for selectively moving hydrogen ions in aqueous solution comprising an electrical field generator which switches faster than 1 ms, and a low impedance electrical connection device which introduces said electrical field into a target.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a monitor of tracing a current signal not from the movement of said hydrogen ions.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said aqueous solution is in an organism.
4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a pH value is determined by a current supplied from said electrical field generator.
5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said moving hydrogen ions is used to generate heat.
6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said electrical field generator comprises generating step field.
7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said electrical field generator comprises generating alternating field.
8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said low impedance electrical connection device comprises a plurality of electrodes.
9. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said low impedance electrical connection device comprises at least one smaller-area electrode with a smaller area.
10. The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said at least one smaller-area electrode is arranged into said target.
11. The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said alternating field comprises a biphasic square wave.
12. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said electrical field comprises frequency above 1 MHz.
13. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said low impedance electrical connection device comprises a plurality of electrode pairs.
14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of said electrode pairs generate electrical fields across said target.

15. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said target comprises a tumor.

16. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said target comprises a region of poor blood circulation.

17. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said monitor comprises a device for measuring the variation in said current.

18. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said monitor comprises an ultrasound-generating device.

19. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of said electrode pairs work at different times.

20. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of said electrode pairs generate electric fields that add in terms of vector at the target.

21. The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising a calculating system for estimating the possibility of a cancer based on a concentration of the hydrogen ions.

22. The apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said estimation comprises the determination of positioning said cancer.

23. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said electric field generator comprises a magnetic field generator.

24. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said low impedance connection device comprises low pH ingredient.

25. The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said low pH ingredient comprises an organic acid.

26. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said organic acid comprises a lactic acid.

27. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein said organic acid comprises an acetic acid.

28. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said the moving of hydrogen ions is used to reduce the viscosity of said solution.

29. The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said solution is in a small tube.

30. The apparatus according to claim 29, wherein said small tube is in an artificial machine.

31. The apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said small tube is in a microcirculation.

32. The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of said electrodes comprise a temperature sensor.

33. A medium as interface to lower the impedance between a body and an electrode comprising a low pH solution.

34. The medium as claimed in claim 33, wherein said body comprises a biological fluid.

35. The medium as claimed in claim 33, wherein said low pH solution comprises an organic acid.

36. The medium as claimed in claim 35, wherein said organic acid comprises a lactic acid.

37. The medium as claimed in claim 35, wherein said organic acid comprises an acetic acid.

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专利名称(译)	用于在水溶液中选择性地移动氢离子的装置		
公开(公告)号	US20040159541A1	公开(公告)日	2004-08-19
申请号	US10/780155	申请日	2004-02-17
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	魏KUNG王		
申请(专利权)人(译)	WEI-KUNG王		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	王，魏恭		
[标]发明人	WANG WEI KUNG BAU JIAN GUO		
发明人	WANG, WEI-KUNG BAU, JIAN-GUO		
IPC分类号	A61B5/00 A61B5/0408 A61N1/32 A61N1/40 A61N2/00 C25D17/00		
CPC分类号	A61B5/04087 A61B5/14539 A61N2/00 A61N1/32 A61N1/40 A61B5/1468		
优先权	092103574 2003-02-17 TW		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

一种选择性地在水溶液中移动氢离子的装置。液态水可以在5-20个分子的范围内形成亚结晶结构。氢离子可以在水分子中。因为氢离子充当半导体中的空穴并在水溶液中向前跳跃，所以氢离子可以通过最小电场移动。由于生物体的主要部分是水，因此每种生物都可以被视为水溶液的容器。本发明提供了通过低压选择性地移动水溶液中的氢离子和具有低阻抗界面的电极的装置，从而产生特定的电流。为了应对体内电信号和pH测量或降低粘度水溶液的特殊要求，在该装置中公开了具有特殊凝胶的电极。该装置还可以用于热疗和深度针刺肿瘤，因为乳酸可能在循环不良的区域积聚，因此具有低pH。因此制造的医疗设备具有用于肿瘤治疗，康复，体重减轻等的用途。

