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(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in
accordance with Art. 76 EPC:
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(74) Representative: **Vossius & Partner**
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(54) **Tissue fastening and cutting tool, and methods**

(57) Disclosed are surgical instruments for manipulating soft tissue, by severing and making an attachment;

embodiments of the surgical instruments can be capable of probing tissue, severing tissue, and making an attachment to the tissue such as attaching a suture.

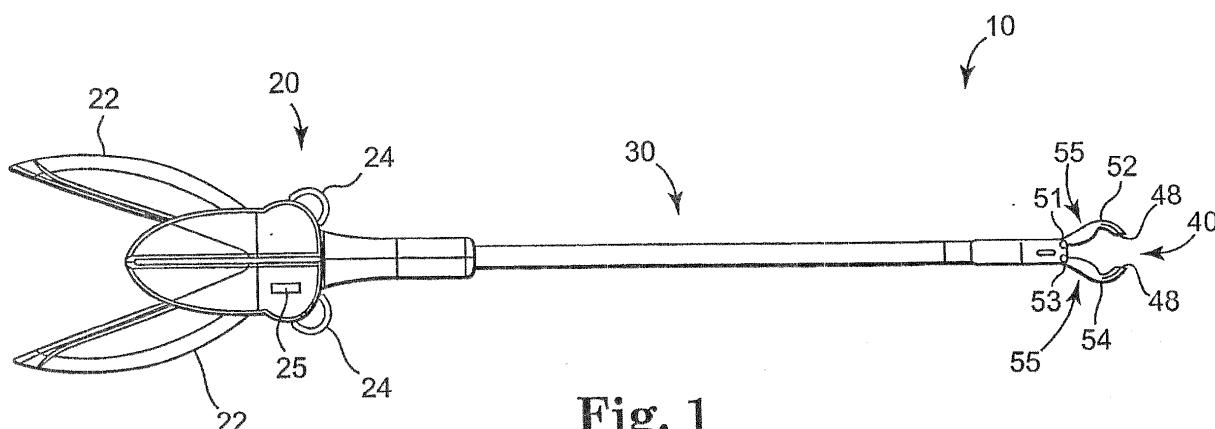


Fig. 1



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 17 2241

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages		
X	WO 03/057058 A (STARION INSTRUMENTS CORPORATION) 17 July 2003 (2003-07-17) * abstract; figures 1,10-12 * * page 4, line 2 - page 6, line 8 * -----	1-2,9-14	INV. A61B17/04 A61B18/14 A61B17/32
X	US 5 797 927 A (YOON) 25 August 1998 (1998-08-25) * abstract; figures * * column 6, line 56 - column 7, line 25 * * column 8, line 26 - column 9, line 20 * * column 12, lines 2-29 * * column 17, lines 13-18,33-39 * * column 18, lines 58-64 *	2	
Y	-----	1,4-15	
Y	US 5 389 098 A (TSURUTA ET AL.) 14 February 1995 (1995-02-14) * abstract; figures 1-3,85 * * column 30, line 54 - column 31, line 7 *	1,4-7, 9-14	
X	-----	3	
Y	EP 0 931 512 A (ETHICON ENDO-SURGERY, INC.) 28 July 1999 (1999-07-28) * abstract *	8,15	
A	* paragraphs [0016] - [0019], [0031] - [0035] *	1-2	
A	-----	1-2,4-7	
A	EP 0 647 431 A (UNITED STATES SURGICAL CORPORATION) 12 April 1995 (1995-04-12) * abstract; figures 1-5,9-12 *	1-2	
A	-----	1-2	
A	WO 02/096296 A (AMS RESEARCH CORPORATION) 5 December 2002 (2002-12-05) * abstract; figures *	1-2	
A	-----	1-2	
A	US 5 984 939 A (YOON) 16 November 1999 (1999-11-16) * abstract; figures 1,4-11,13,14,19 *	1-2	
A	-----	1-2	
A	US 5 908 420 A (PARINS ET AL.) 1 June 1999 (1999-06-01)	1-2	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
4	Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	The Hague	18 March 2010	Giménez Burgos, R
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			



Application Number

EP 08 17 2241

CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:

The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
EP 08 17 2241

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1, 2, 4-7 and 9- 14

Surgical tool having a non- mechanical tissue cutting mechanism.

2. claims: 3, 8 and 15

Surgical tool having a mechanical tissue cutting mechanism.

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 08 17 2241

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

18-03-2010

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US 5908420	A	01-06-1999	NONE			

专利名称(译)	组织紧固和切割工具，以及方法		
公开(公告)号	EP2033582A3	公开(公告)日	2010-04-28
申请号	EP2008172241	申请日	2005-01-21
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	AMS研究公司		
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当前申请(专利权)人(译)	AMS研究公司		
[标]发明人	MONTPETIT KAREN PILNEY		
发明人	MONTPETIT, KAREN, PILNEY		
IPC分类号	A61B17/04 A61B18/14 A61B17/32 A61B17/00 A61B17/28		
CPC分类号	A61B17/320016 A61B17/0469 A61B17/29 A61B17/295 A61B17/32 A61B18/14 A61B18/1445 A61B2017/00353 A61B2017/2926 A61B2018/00601 A61B2018/1412		
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优先权	60/538616 2004-01-23 US		
其他公开文献	EP2033582A2		
外部链接	Espacenet		

摘要(译)

公开了用于通过切断和制造附件来操纵软组织的手术器械;外科手术器械的实施例能够探测组织，切断组织，并且能够附接组织，例如附接缝合线。

