



US008377090B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Taylor et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 8,377,090 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** ***Feb. 19, 2013**

(54) **BLUNT TIP OBTURATOR**

(56) **References Cited**

(75) Inventors: **Scott V. Taylor**, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA (US); **Matthew A. Wixey**, San Jose, CA (US)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

RE682 E	4/1859	Peall
184,573 A	11/1876	Becker
207,932 A	9/1878	Alvord
224,513 A	2/1880	Burdon
396,754 A	1/1889	Mayfield
764,322 A	7/1904	Wiegand
1,147,408 A	7/1915	Kelis
1,672,258 A	6/1928	Hippenmeyer
1,727,495 A	9/1929	Wappler
1,845,727 A	2/1932	Slaughter
2,102,274 A	12/1937	Larimore
2,189,343 A	2/1940	Fritz

(Continued)

(73) Assignee: **Applied Medical Resources Corporation**, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

BE	1 006 811	12/1994
CA	2 170 841	9/1997

(Continued)

(21) Appl. No.: **13/586,825**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 15, 2012**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2012/0316596 A1 Dec. 13, 2012

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Taut, Inc., ADAPT—Asymmetrical Dilating Access Port, Geneva Illinois.

(Continued)

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 13/411,244, filed on Mar. 2, 2012, which is a continuation of application No. 12/836,023, filed on Jul. 14, 2010, now Pat. No. 8,152,828, which is a continuation of application No. 10/514,313, filed as application No. PCT/US03/14924 on May 13, 2003, now Pat. No. 7,758,603.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/381,469, filed on May 16, 2002.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A61B 17/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **606/190; 606/185; 604/164.01**

(58) **Field of Classification Search** **606/108, 606/184, 185, 190–198; 604/164.01, 264, 604/506**

See application file for complete search history.

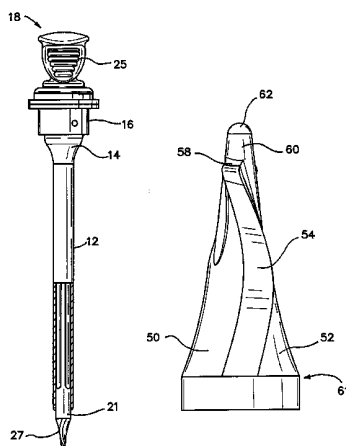
Primary Examiner — Kathleen Holwerda

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Rimas T. Lukas

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A surgical access device comprises an elongate shaft with a bladeless tip at the distal end. The bladeless tip has an outer surface with a proximal portion, a distal portion, and an intermediate portion. In a cross section in the proximal portion, the outer surface defines a circle. In a cross section in the intermediate portion, the outer surface defines a shape having a length greater than a width. The outer surface has first and second opposing surface portions of the shape that are generally aligned with the length. In a cross section in the distal portion, the outer surface defines a circle. In progressive proximal cross sections in the distal portion, the circle expands. In progressive proximal cross sections in the intermediate portion, a ratio of the width of the shape to the length of the shape increases and the first and second opposing surface portions are more arcuate.

20 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2,301,338 A	11/1942	Smith	5,066,288 A	11/1991	Deniego et al.
2,434,594 A	1/1948	Schultz	5,098,379 A	3/1992	Conway
2,441,143 A	5/1948	Gracey	5,098,388 A	3/1992	Kulkashi et al.
2,646,701 A	7/1953	Lietin	5,104,316 A	4/1992	McSpadden
2,698,770 A	1/1955	Fourestier et al.	5,104,388 A	4/1992	Quackenbush
2,764,148 A	9/1956	Sheldon	5,104,389 A	4/1992	Deem et al.
2,764,149 A	9/1956	Sheldon	5,114,407 A	5/1992	Burbank
2,769,355 A	11/1956	Henry	5,116,547 A	5/1992	Tsukahara et al.
2,877,368 A	3/1959	Sheldon	5,147,376 A	9/1992	Pianetti
2,932,294 A	4/1960	Fourestier et al.	5,159,920 A	11/1992	Condon et al.
3,005,468 A	10/1961	Erwin et al.	5,163,941 A	11/1992	Garth et al.
3,021,834 A	2/1962	Sheldon	5,178,186 A	1/1993	Levasseur
3,033,226 A	5/1962	Allen	5,186,972 A	2/1993	Williams et al.
3,042,022 A	7/1962	Sheldon	5,197,955 A	3/1993	Stephens et al.
3,224,320 A	12/1965	Knudsen	5,207,656 A	5/1993	Kranys
3,277,922 A	10/1966	Eisel	5,217,441 A	6/1993	Shichman
3,279,460 A	10/1966	Sheldon	5,221,163 A	6/1993	Nishimura
3,357,433 A	12/1967	Fourestier et al.	5,240,397 A	8/1993	Fay et al.
3,385,553 A	5/1968	Braun	5,246,425 A	9/1993	Hunsberger et al.
3,417,745 A	12/1968	Sheldon	5,250,068 A	10/1993	Ideguchi et al.
3,437,747 A	4/1969	Sheldon	5,256,149 A	10/1993	Banik et al.
3,459,189 A	8/1969	Alley et al.	5,258,003 A	11/1993	Ciaglia
3,556,085 A	1/1971	Takahashi	5,269,316 A	12/1993	Spitainy
3,613,684 A	10/1971	Sheridan	5,271,380 A	12/1993	Riek et al.
3,653,338 A	4/1972	Sauey	5,279,567 A	1/1994	Ciaglia et al.
3,791,379 A	2/1974	Storz	5,288,290 A	2/1994	Brody
3,817,251 A	6/1974	Hasson	5,290,276 A	3/1994	Sewell
3,821,956 A	7/1974	Gordhamer	5,290,585 A	3/1994	Elton
3,870,036 A	3/1975	Fiore	5,300,033 A	4/1994	Miller
3,961,621 A	6/1976	Northeved	5,334,150 A	8/1994	Kaali
3,971,385 A	7/1976	Corbett	5,342,382 A	8/1994	Brinkerhoff
3,994,287 A	11/1976	Turp	5,350,364 A	9/1994	Stephens et al.
3,994,301 A	11/1976	Agris	5,370,624 A	12/1994	Edwards et al.
4,028,987 A	6/1977	Wilson	5,372,588 A	12/1994	Farley
4,112,932 A	9/1978	Chiulli	5,374,253 A	12/1994	Burns, Sr. et al.
4,126,291 A	11/1978	Gilbert et al.	5,380,291 A	1/1995	Kaali
4,150,929 A	4/1979	Brandt	5,387,197 A	2/1995	Smith
4,168,882 A	9/1979	Hopkins	5,389,077 A	2/1995	Melinyshin et al.
4,180,068 A	12/1979	Jacobsen et al.	5,391,153 A	2/1995	Haber et al.
4,191,191 A	3/1980	Aubum	5,391,248 A	2/1995	Brain
4,222,375 A	9/1980	Martinez	5,392,766 A	2/1995	Masterson et al.
4,248,214 A	2/1981	Hannah et al.	5,405,328 A	4/1995	Vidal et al.
4,254,762 A	3/1981	Yoon	5,407,427 A	4/1995	Zhu et al.
4,269,192 A	5/1981	Matsuo	5,431,151 A	7/1995	Riek et al.
4,274,771 A	6/1981	Nishimura	5,441,041 A	8/1995	Sauer et al.
4,285,618 A	8/1981	Shanley	5,443,484 A	8/1995	Kirsch et al.
4,299,230 A	11/1981	Kubota	5,445,615 A	8/1995	Yoon et al.
4,311,138 A	1/1982	Sugarman	5,454,791 A	10/1995	Tovey et al.
4,319,563 A	3/1982	Kubota	5,480,410 A	1/1996	Cuschieri et al.
4,356,826 A	11/1982	Kubota	5,510,065 A	4/1996	McFarlane
4,386,179 A	5/1983	Sterling	5,540,711 A	7/1996	Kieturakis et al.
4,414,966 A	11/1983	Stednitz	5,542,845 A	8/1996	Jenkins
4,429,856 A	2/1984	Jackson	5,549,546 A	8/1996	Schneider et al.
4,436,519 A	3/1984	O'Neill	5,551,947 A	9/1996	Kaai
4,493,444 A	1/1985	Deli Bon et al.	5,569,291 A	10/1996	Privitera
4,498,902 A	2/1985	Ash et al.	5,569,292 A	10/1996	Scwemberger et al.
4,524,805 A	6/1985	Hoffman	5,577,993 A	11/1996	Zhu et al.
4,535,773 A	8/1985	Yoon	5,591,186 A	1/1997	Wurster et al.
4,535,808 A	8/1985	Hoffman	5,591,192 A	1/1997	Privitera et al.
4,537,593 A	8/1985	Alchas	5,593,402 A	1/1997	Patrick
4,567,882 A	2/1986	Heller	5,603,720 A	2/1997	Kieturakis
4,601,710 A	7/1986	Moll	5,609,562 A	3/1997	Kaali
4,750,877 A	6/1988	McFarlane	5,609,604 A	3/1997	Schwemberger et al.
4,762,130 A	8/1988	Fogarty et al.	5,613,954 A	3/1997	Nelson et al.
4,779,613 A	10/1988	Hashiguchi et al.	5,622,462 A	4/1997	Gakhar et al.
4,803,999 A	2/1989	Liegner	5,630,805 A	5/1997	Ternamian
4,813,400 A	3/1989	Washizuka et al.	5,634,908 A	6/1997	Loomas
4,850,393 A	7/1989	Lashomb	5,658,236 A	8/1997	Sauer
4,895,431 A	1/1990	Tsujluchi et al.	5,662,615 A	9/1997	Blake, III
4,901,142 A	2/1990	Ikuno et al.	5,662,673 A	9/1997	Kieturakis
4,956,143 A	9/1990	McFarlane	5,676,611 A	10/1997	Foster
4,959,067 A	9/1990	Muller	5,685,820 A	11/1997	Riek et al.
4,972,827 A	11/1990	Kishi et al.	5,695,462 A	12/1997	Sutcu et al.
4,978,350 A	12/1990	Wagenknecht	5,697,947 A	12/1997	Wolf
5,017,057 A	5/1991	Krueygor	5,720,730 A	2/1998	Blake, III
5,030,210 A	7/1991	Alchas	5,720,761 A	2/1998	Kaali
5,041,100 A	8/1991	Rowland et al.	5,735,867 A	4/1998	Golser et al.
5,057,082 A	10/1991	Burchette, Jr.	5,738,628 A	4/1998	Sierocuk
			5,743,881 A	4/1998	Demco

5,746,734 A	5/1998	Domandy, Jr. et al.	7,794,644 B2	9/2010	Taylor et al.	
5,752,970 A	5/1998	Yoon et al.	7,811,253 B2	10/2010	Hart et al.	
5,759,185 A	6/1998	Grinberg	7,942,862 B2	5/2011	Hart et al.	
5,779,697 A	7/1998	Glowa et al.	7,947,058 B2 *	5/2011	Kahle et al.	606/190
5,785,693 A	7/1998	Halninig	8,007,477 B2	8/2011	Johnson et al.	
5,792,112 A	8/1998	Hart et al.	8,028,395 B2	10/2011	Taylor et al.	
5,797,888 A	8/1998	Yoon et al.	8,105,285 B2	1/2012	Hart et al.	
5,797,944 A	8/1998	Nobeles et al.	8,152,828 B2 *	4/2012	Taylor et al.	606/190
5,817,061 A	10/1998	Goodwin et al.	8,282,663 B2	10/2012	Smith	
5,817,062 A	10/1998	Flom et al.	2002/0013597 A1	1/2002	McFarlane	
5,836,957 A	11/1998	Shulz	2002/0026207 A1	2/2002	Stellon et al.	
5,842,971 A	12/1998	Yoon	2002/0133188 A1	9/2002	O'Heeron et al.	
5,860,996 A	1/1999	Urban et al.	2002/0183715 A1	12/2002	Mantell et al.	
5,871,474 A	2/1999	Hermann et al.	2002/0183775 A1	12/2002	Tsonton et al.	
5,876,202 A	3/1999	Berlin	2003/0023201 A1	1/2003	Aboul-Hosn	
5,884,639 A	3/1999	Chen	2003/0032755 A1	2/2003	Gomey et al.	
5,891,013 A	4/1999	Thompson	2003/0059263 A1	3/2003	Chen	
5,893,865 A	4/1999	Swindle	2003/0187471 A1	10/2003	Cooper	
5,904,699 A	5/1999	Schwemberger et al.	2004/0015185 A1	1/2004	Ewers et al.	
5,913,818 A	6/1999	Co et al.	2004/0082969 A1	4/2004	Kerr	
5,922,351 A	7/1999	Daher	2004/0093000 A1	5/2004	Kerr	
5,924,452 A	7/1999	Szpapa et al.	2004/0093018 A1	5/2004	Johnson et al.	
5,941,852 A	8/1999	Dunlap et al.	2004/0106942 A1	6/2004	Taylor et al.	
5,957,884 A	9/1999	Hooven	2004/0108623 A1	6/2004	Deeter et al.	
5,957,888 A	9/1999	Hinchliffe	2004/0167559 A1	8/2004	Taylor et al.	
5,968,060 A	10/1999	Kellogg	2004/0199127 A1	10/2004	Jensen et al.	
5,976,079 A	11/1999	Volz et al.	2004/0204671 A1	10/2004	Stubbs et al.	
5,976,168 A	11/1999	Chin	2004/0230155 A1	11/2004	Blanco et al.	
5,980,809 A	11/1999	Crain et al.	2004/0230217 A1	11/2004	O'Heeroon	
5,984,941 A	11/1999	Wilson	2004/0254517 A1	12/2004	Quiroz-Mercado et al.	
6,001,084 A	12/1999	Riek	2005/0033237 A1	2/2005	Fentress et al.	
6,007,481 A	12/1999	Riek et al.	2005/0033246 A1	2/2005	Ahlberg et al.	
6,019,776 A	2/2000	Preissman	2005/0038466 A1	2/2005	O'Heeron et al.	
6,024,551 A	2/2000	Yamaguchi	2005/0059865 A1	3/2005	Kahle	
6,030,406 A	2/2000	Davis	2005/0065543 A1	3/2005	Kahle et al.	
6,043,310 A	3/2000	Liu et al.	2005/0070850 A1	3/2005	Albrecht	
6,053,194 A	4/2000	Nelson et al.	2005/0107803 A1	5/2005	Guanche	
6,068,637 A	5/2000	Popov et al.	2005/0107816 A1	5/2005	Pingleton et al.	
6,077,481 A	6/2000	Ichida et al.	2005/0113533 A1	5/2005	Shaikh et al.	
6,092,551 A	7/2000	Bennett	2005/0149094 A1	7/2005	Kasahara et al.	
6,168,355 B1	1/2001	Wardell	2005/0149096 A1	7/2005	Hilal et al.	
6,179,528 B1	1/2001	Wardell	2005/0159711 A1	7/2005	Kathrani et al.	
6,203,559 B1	3/2001	Davis	2005/0216028 A1	9/2005	Hart et al.	
6,203,745 B1	3/2001	Wachsmann et al.	2005/0227610 A1	10/2005	Zukor et al.	
6,221,061 B1	4/2001	Engelson et al.	2005/0273133 A1	12/2005	Schluzas et al.	
6,228,059 B1	5/2001	Astarita	2005/0283122 A1	12/2005	Nordgren	
6,228,063 B1	5/2001	Aboul-Hosn	2005/0288622 A1	12/2005	Albrecht et al.	
6,270,484 B1	8/2001	Yoon	2006/0030755 A1	2/2006	Ewers et al.	
6,319,266 B1	11/2001	Stellon	2006/0041270 A1	2/2006	Lenker et al.	
6,355,014 B1	3/2002	Zadno-Azizi et al.	2006/0047284 A1	3/2006	Gresham	
6,387,043 B1	5/2002	Yoon	2006/0058570 A1	3/2006	Rapach et al.	
6,462,111 B1	10/2002	Singh et al.	2006/0074374 A1	4/2006	Gresham	
6,468,228 B1	10/2002	Topel et al.	2006/0118189 A1	6/2006	Trekulve et al.	
6,478,806 B2 *	11/2002	McFarlane	2006/0224174 A1	10/2006	Smith et al.	
6,508,759 B1	1/2003	Taylor et al.	2006/0264991 A1	11/2006	Johnson	
6,520,939 B2	2/2003	Lafontaine	2007/0027453 A1	2/2007	Hart et al.	
6,656,160 B1	12/2003	Taylor et al.	2007/0075465 A1	4/2007	Taylor et al.	
6,656,198 B2	12/2003	Tsonton et al.	2007/0088277 A1	4/2007	McGinley	
6,685,630 B2	2/2004	Sauer et al.	2007/0239108 A1	10/2007	Albrecht et al.	
6,764,107 B1	7/2004	Obahi et al.	2008/0065021 A1	3/2008	Jenkins et al.	
6,770,731 B2	8/2004	Mason et al.	2008/0086074 A1	4/2008	Taylor et al.	
6,835,201 B2	12/2004	O'Heeron	2008/0086093 A1	4/2008	Steppe et al.	
6,884,253 B1	4/2005	McFarlane	2009/0137943 A1	5/2009	Steams et al.	
6,887,194 B2	5/2005	Hart et al.	2010/0025045 A1	2/2010	Lake et al.	
6,902,541 B2	6/2005	McNally et al.				
6,939,296 B2	9/2005	Ewers et al.				
7,008,979 B2	3/2006	Schottman et al.				
7,037,303 B2	5/2006	Beaufore et al.	DE 0365049	12/1922		
7,056,294 B2	6/2006	Khairkahan et al.	DE 1616107	4/1971		
7,056,329 B2	6/2006	Kerr	DE 2218901	10/1973		
7,070,586 B2	7/2006	Hart et al.	DE 2538758	3/1977		
7,182,752 B2	2/2007	Stubbs	DE 2929233	1/1980		
7,344,519 B2	3/2008	Wing et al.	DE 2922239	12/1980		
7,370,709 B2	5/2008	Williamson, Jr.	DE 4020956	1/1991		
7,470,255 B2	12/2008	Sterns et al.	DE 41 33 073	4/1992		
7,563,250 B2	7/2009	Wenchell	DE 4133073	4/1992		
7,686,823 B2	3/2010	Pingleton et al.	DE 4035146	5/1992		
7,708,713 B2	5/2010	Albrecht et al.	DE 4116648	11/1992		
7,758,603 B2 *	7/2010	Taylor et al.	DE 29521431	4/1997		
			DE 19541041	5/1997		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DE	19718086	11/1998
DE	19819432	11/1999
EP	0135364	3/1985
EP	0312787	4/1989
EP	0347140	12/1989
EP	0369936	5/1990
EP	0369937	5/1990
EP	0474124	3/1992
EP	548612	6/1993
EP	0724864	8/1996
EP	1582158	10/2005
EP	2229897	9/2010
EP	2233090	9/2010
FR	1370580	8/1964
GB	2 124 970	2/1984
GB	186 005	9/1992
GB	2 313 316	11/1997
JP	08127661	5/1996
JP	2001-137253	5/2001
SU	0942730	7/1982
SU	1328658	8/1987
SU	1329769	8/1987
WO	WO 96/01132	1/1996
WO	WO 96/10361	4/1996
WO	WO 97/40758	11/1997
WO	WO 98/33536	8/1998
WO	WO 99/02089	1/1999
WO	WO 99/15084	4/1999
WO	WO 00/18306	4/2000
WO	WO 00/54648	9/2000
WO	WO 01/08563	2/2001
WO	WO 02/01998	1/2002
WO	WO 02/34108	5/2002
WO	WO 03/026512	4/2003
WO	WO 03/032819	4/2003
WO	WO 03/096879	11/2003
WO	WO 2004/037097	5/2004
WO	WO 2004/093699	11/2004
WO	WO 2005/063134	7/2005
WO	WO 2007/093957	8/2007

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Karl Storz, The Karl Storz Ternamian EndoTIP (TM) System, Aug. 27, 2001.

Karl Storz, Zerocart Trocar with eccentric tip, Recklinghausen, Germany, Mar. 7, 2001.

Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc., Endopath Minimally Invasive Access. Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 10/489,403, filed Mar. 11, 2004; Title: Bladeless Obturator.

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 10/956,167, filed Oct. 3, 2003; Title: Bladeless Optical Obturator.

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 11/170,567, filed Jun. 29, 2005; Title: Insufflating Optical Surgical Instrument.

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 10/745,262, filed Dec. 23, 2003; Title: Catheter With Conduit Traversing Tip.

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 11/868,883, filed Oct. 8, 2007; Title: Visual Insufflation Port.

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 13/411,244, filed Mar. 2, 2012; Title: Blunt Tip Obturator.

U.S. Appl. No. 10/745,262, filed Dec. 23, 2003; Title: "Catheter With Conduit Traversing Tip" (abandoned).

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 11/549,872, filed Oct. 16, 2006, title: "Surgical Devices, Systems and Methods Thereof Having Gel Material, Gel Coatings, or Gel Lubricants".

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 12/750,372, filed Mar. 30, 2010, title: "Bladeless Obturator".

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 13/565,972, filed Aug. 3, 2012, title: "Bladeless Optical Obturator".

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 13/356,260, filed Jan. 23, 2012, title: "Insufflating Optical Surgical Instrument".

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 13/078,750, filed Apr. 1, 2011 title "Surgical Access Apparatus and Method".

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 12/569,652, filed Sep. 29, 2009; title "First-Entry Trocar System".

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 12/359,964, filed Jan. 26, 2009, title: "Insufflating Access System".

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 13/462,330, filed May 2, 2012, title: "Low-Profile Surgical Universal Access Port".

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 13/411,244, filed Mar. 2, 2012, title: "Blunt Tip Obturator".

Co-Pending U.S. Appl. No. 11/868,883, filed Oct. 8, 2007; Title: "Visual Insufflation Port".

International Bureau of WIPO, International Preliminary Report on Patentability for International Application No. PCT/US04/032346, dated May 20, 2008.

International Bureau of WIPO, International Preliminary Report on Patentability for International Application No. PCT/US2005/022716 mailed Nov. 22, 2005.

International Bureau of WIPO, International Preliminary Report on Patentability for International Application No. PCT/US2006/060013, mailed Apr. 24, 2008.

International Bureau of WIPO, The International Preliminary Report on Patentability for International Application No. PCT/US2009/058792, titled First Entry Trocar System, dated Mar. 29, 2011.

International Bureau of WIPO, The International Preliminary Report on Patentability for International Application No. PCT/US2007/080724, titled "Visual Insufflation Port", dated Apr. 7, 2009.

International Bureau of WIPO, The International Preliminary Report on Patentability for International Application No. PCT/US2009/32026, titled "Insufflating Access System", dated Jul. 27, 2010.

International Bureau of WIPO, The International Preliminary Report on Patentability for International Application No. PCT/US2004/000695, titled "Surgical Access Apparatus and Method", dated Jul. 22, 2005.

International Bureau of WIPO, The International Preliminary Report on Patentability for International Application No. PCT/US2004/04883, titled "Surgical Access Apparatus and Method", dated Sep. 9, 2005.

International Searching Authority, International Search Report and Written Opinion for International Application No. PCT/US2004/000695, titled "Surgical Access Apparatus and Method", mailed Jan. 12, 2005.

International Searching Authority, International Search Report and Written Opinion for International Application No. PCT/US2004/04883, titled "Surgical Access Apparatus and Method", mailed Mar. 31, 2005.

International Searching Authority, International Search Report and Written Opinion for International Application No. PCT/US2002/06759, titled "Bladeless Obturator", mailed Jul. 12, 2002.

International Searching Authority, International Search Report and Written Opinion for International Application No. PCT/US2005/022716, titled "Insufflating Optical Surgical Instrument", mailed Nov. 22, 2005.

International Searching Authority, International Search Report and Written Opinion for International Application No. PCT/US04/32346, titled Bladeless Optical Obturator, mailed May 20, 2008.

International Searching Authority, International Search Report and Written Opinion for International Application No. PCT/US2009/32026, titled "Insufflating Access System", mailed Mar. 23, 2009.

International Searching Authority, International Search Report and Written Opinion for International Application No. PCT/US2007/080724, titled "Visual Insufflation Port", mailed Apr. 16, 2008.

International Searching Authority/US, International Search Report and The Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority for International Application No. PCT/US2009/037863, titled "Instrument Seal with Inverting Shroud", mailed May 27, 2009.

The International Searching Authority, The International Search Report and the Written Opinion for International Application No. PCT/US2009/058792, titled "First Entry Trocar System", mailed Dec. 23, 2009.

The International Searching Authority, The International Search Report and the Written Opinion for International Application No. PCT/US2012/036119, titled "Low-profile Surgical Universal Access Port", mailed Nov. 7, 2012.

European Patent Office, Supplementary European Search Report for European Patent Application No. EP 02706494.8, titled "Bladeless Obturator", dated Jun. 24, 2008.

European Patent Office, Supplementary European Search Report for European Patent Application No. EP 03753017.7, titled "Blunt Tip Obturator", dated Nov. 21, 2008.

European Patent Office, Supplementary European Search Report for European Patent Application No. EP 047122378, titled "Surgical Access Apparatus and Method", dated May 19, 2008.

European Patent Office, Supplementary European Search Report for European Patent Application No. EP 07843973.4, titled "Visual Insufflation Port" dated Oct. 4, 2008.

European Patent Office, Supplementary European Search Report for European Patent Application No. EP 04793965.7, titled "Bladeless Optical Obturator", dated Apr. 16, 2010.

European Patent Office, Supplementary European Search Report for European Patent Application No. EP 11154547.1, titled "Blunt Tip Obturator", dated Mar. 22, 2011.

European Patent Office, European Search Report for European Application No. 11191191.3, titled "Bladeless obturator" dated Feb. 29, 2012.

European Patent Office, European Search Report for European Application No. 11191179.8, titled "Bladeless Obturator", dated Feb. 21, 2012.

European Patent Office, European Search Report for European Application No. 11191193.9, titled "Bladeless Obturator", dated Mar. 5, 2012.

European Patent Office, European Search Report for European Application No. 11191187.1, titled Bladeless Obturator, dated Feb. 23, 2012.

European Patent Office, European Search Report for European Application No. 11191184.8, titled "Bladeless Obturator", dated Feb. 23, 2012.

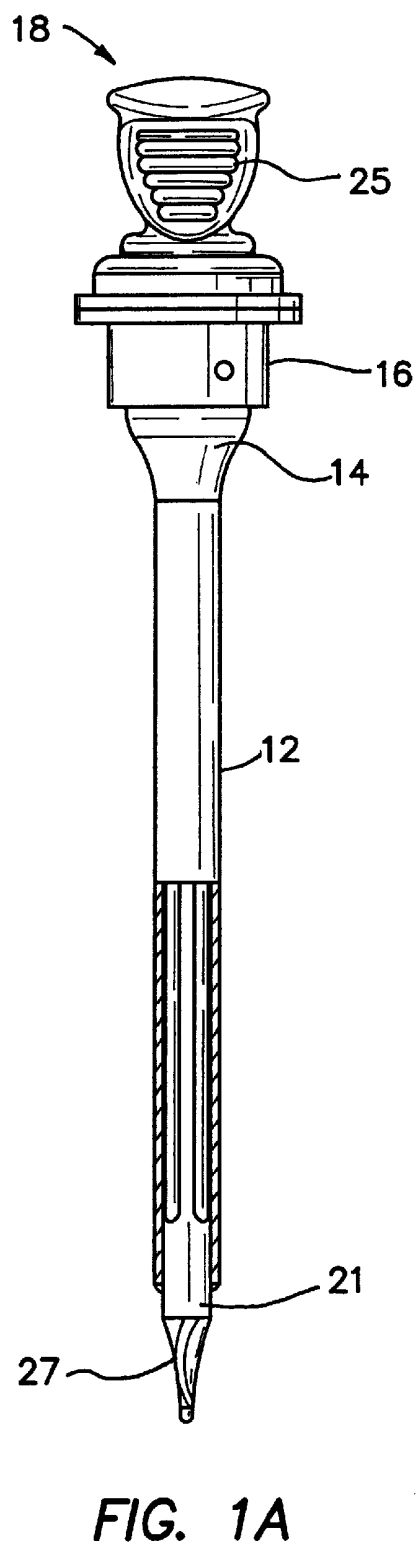
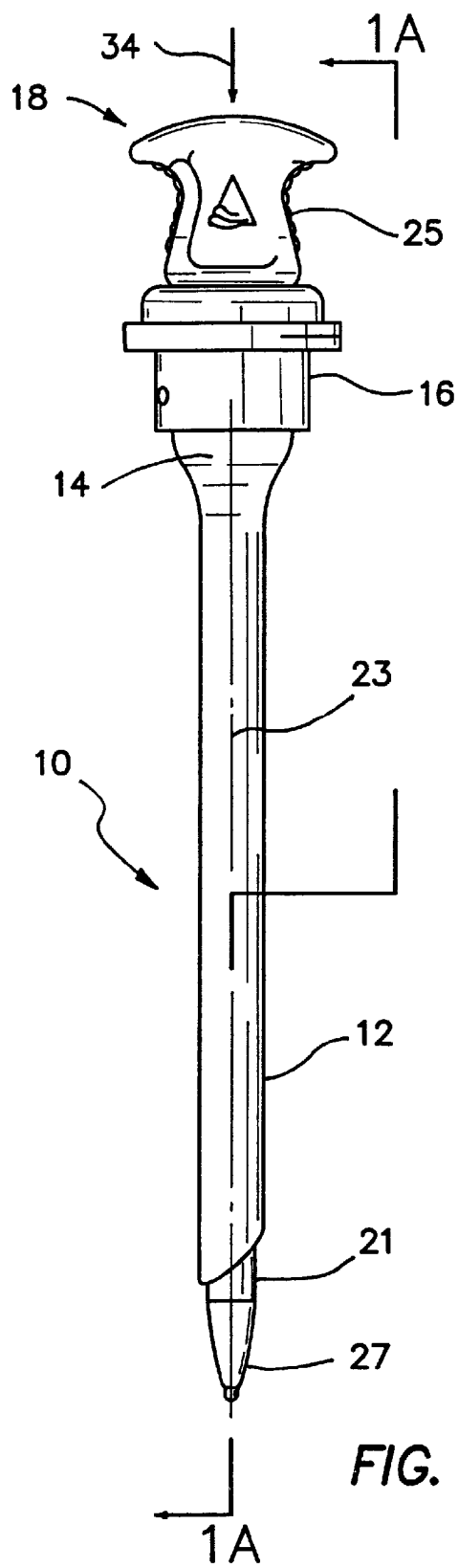
European Patent Office, European Search Report for European Application No. 11191189.7, titled "Bladeless Obturator", dated Feb. 24, 2012.

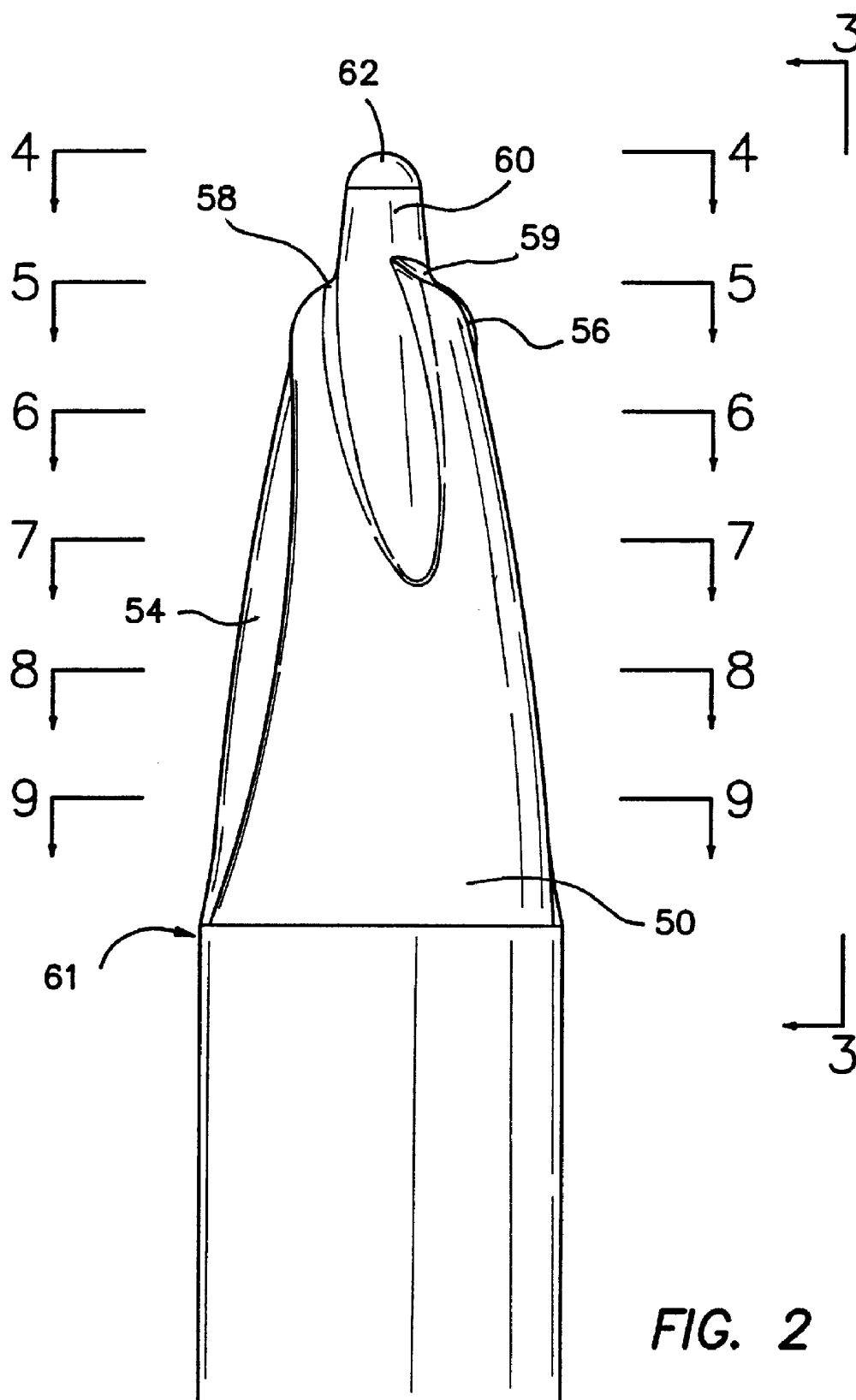
European Patent Office, European Search Report for European Application No. 11191175.6, titled "Bladeless Obturator", dated Feb. 21, 2012.

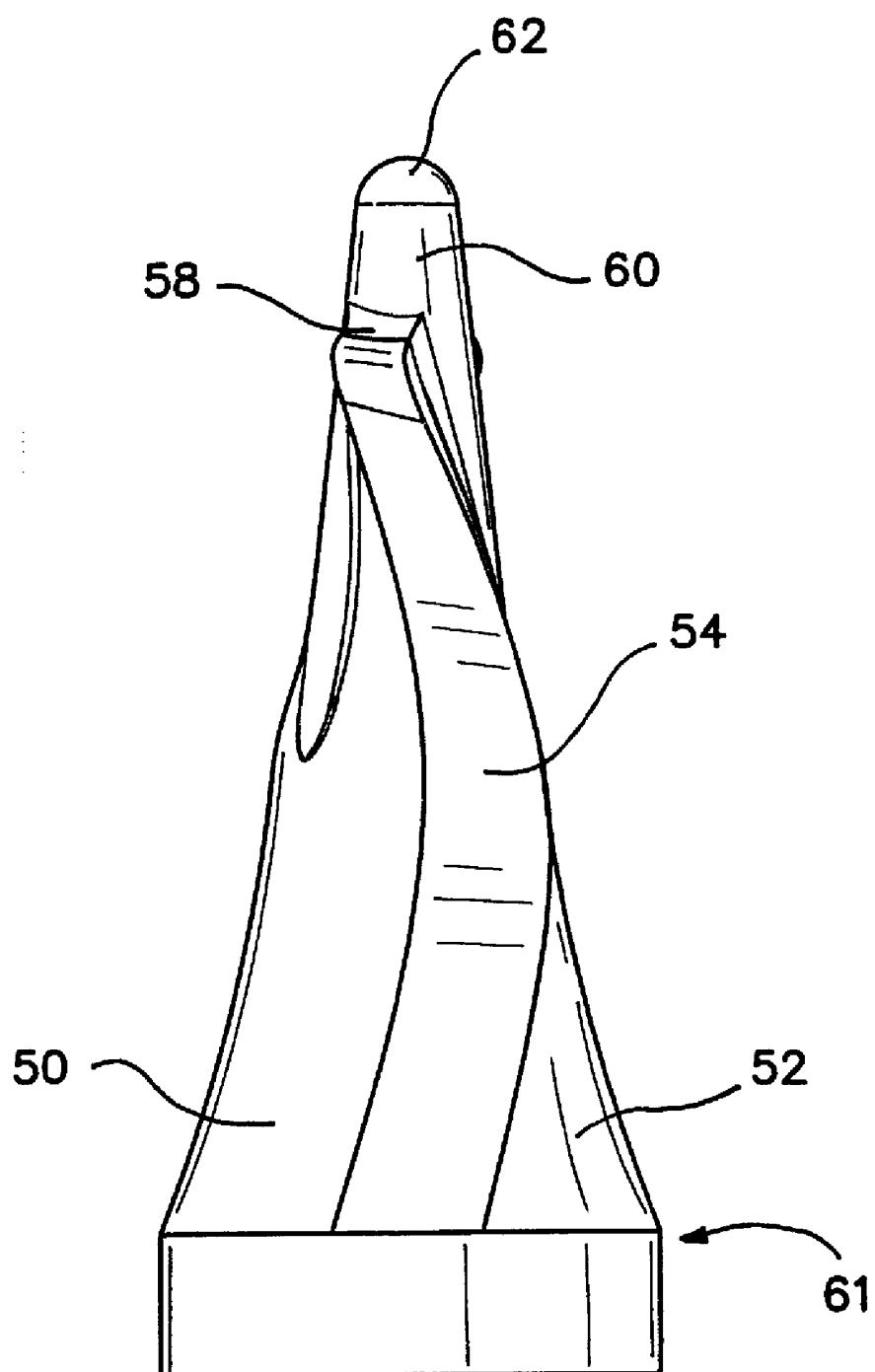
European Patent Office, European Search Report for European Application No. 04701731.4, titled "Surgical Access Apparatus and Method", dated Mar. 30, 2007.

European Patent Office, Invitation to Pay Additional Fees for International Application No. PCT/US2012/036119, entitled "Low-Pro-file Surgical Universal Access Port", mailed Jul. 13, 2012.

* cited by examiner



**FIG. 2**

**FIG. 3**

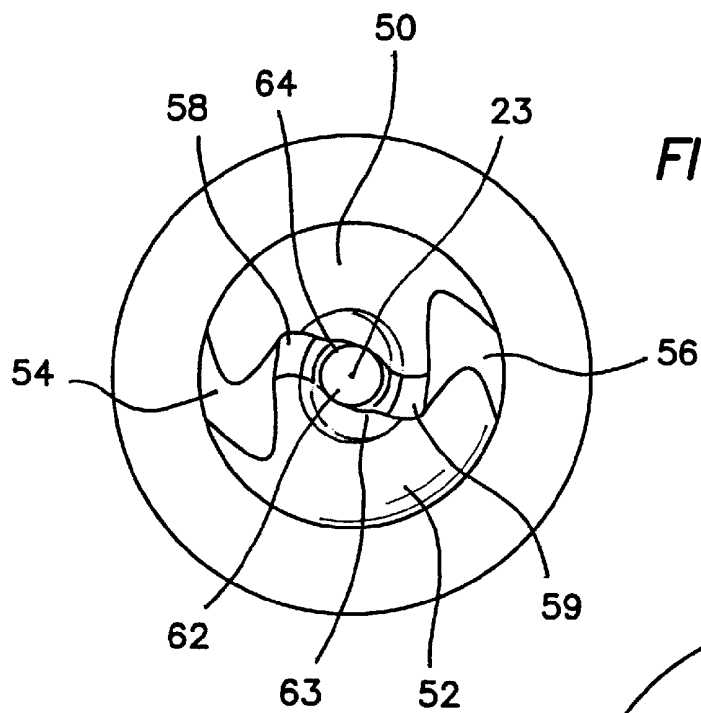


FIG. 4

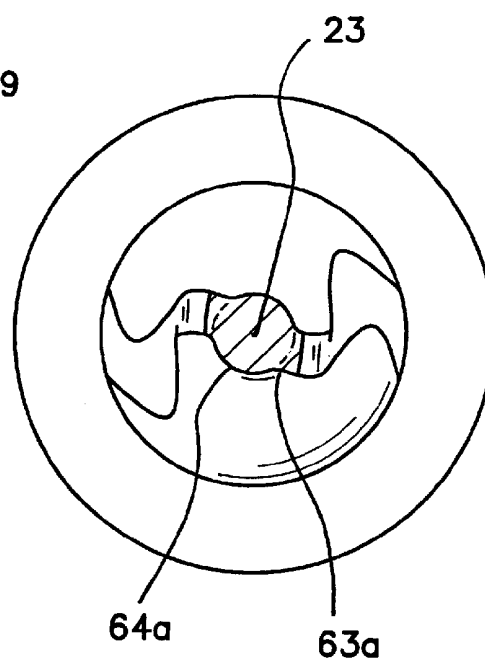


FIG. 5

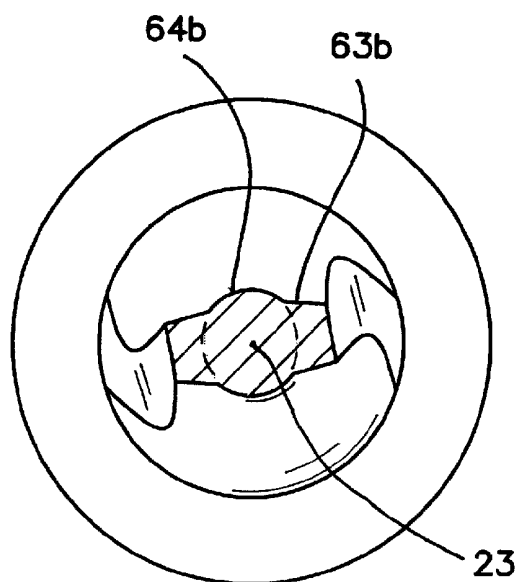


FIG. 6

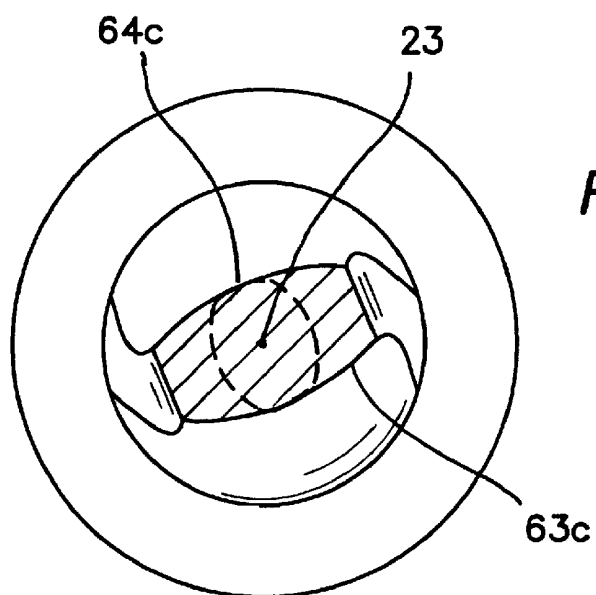


FIG. 7

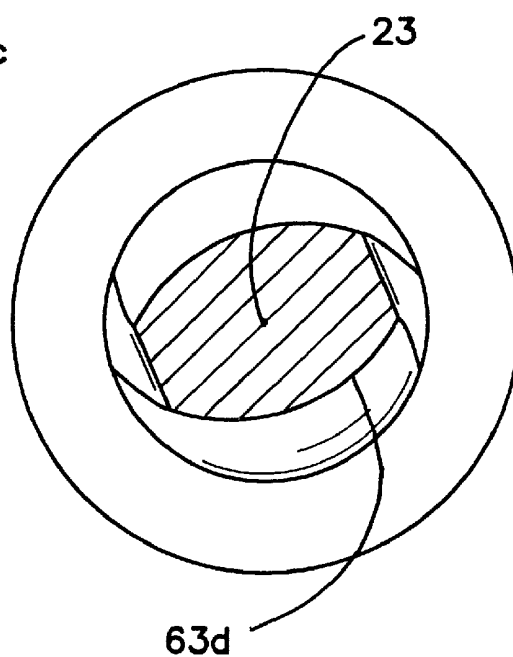


FIG. 8

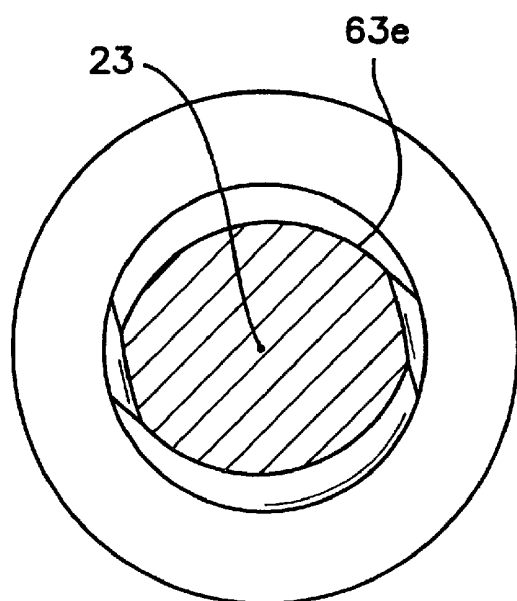
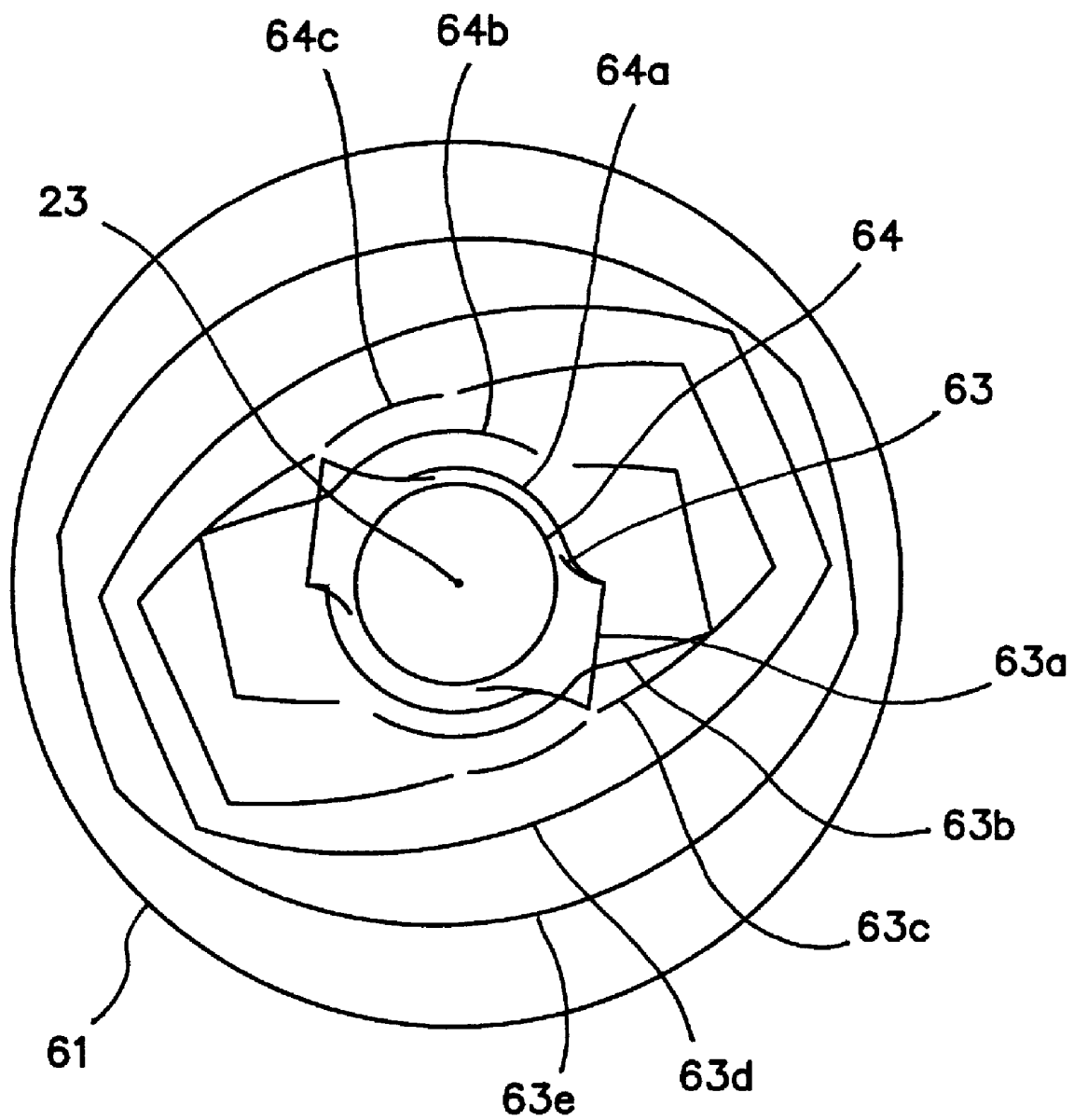


FIG. 9

**FIG. 10**

BLUNT TIP OBTURATOR**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/411,244 filed on Mar. 2, 2012 which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/836,023 filed on Jul. 14, 2010, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,152,828, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/514,313, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,758,603, which entered the U.S. National Phase on Nov. 12, 2004 from International Application No. PCT/2003/014924, filed May 13, 2003, which published in English as International Patent Publication WO 2003/096879 A3, which claims the benefit of U.S. Application No. 60/381,469, filed May 16, 2002. The disclosures of all of these applications are incorporated by reference in their entireties herein.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention generally relates to trocar systems including obturators and, more specifically, to blunt cone tip obturators.

BACKGROUND

Trocar systems have been of particular advantage in facilitating less invasive surgery across a body wall and within a body cavity. This is particularly true in the case of the abdominal surgery where trocars have provided working channels across the abdominal wall to facilitate the use of instruments within the abdominal cavity.

The trocar systems of the past typically include a cannula, which defines the working channel, and an obturator which is used to place the cannula across the abdominal wall. The obturator is inserted into the working channel of the cannula and then pushed through the abdominal wall with a penetration force of sufficient magnitude to result in penetration of the abdominal wall. Once the cannula is in place, the obturator can be removed.

In the past, obturators have been developed with an intent to provide a reduction in the force required for penetration. Sharp blades have typically been used to enable the obturator to cut its way through the abdominal wall. While the blades have facilitated a reduced penetration force, they have been of particular concern once the abdominal wall has been penetrated. Within the abdominal cavity, there are organs which need to be protected against any puncture by an obturator.

In some cases, shields have been provided with the obturators in order to sense penetration of the abdominal wall and immediately shield the sharp blades. These shielding systems have been very complex, have required a large amount of time to deploy, and have generally been ineffective in protecting the organs against the sharp blades.

Blunt-tip obturators have been contemplated with both symmetrical and asymmetrical designs. While the blunt tip tends to inhibit damage to interior organs, it also tends to increase the penetration force associated with the obturator. Thus, there is a need in the art for an improved bladeless obturator that reduces the force required to place the obturator across the abdominal wall.

SUMMARY

In accordance with the present invention, a blunt tip obturator similar to that described in international application No. PCT/US02/06759 further including a cone at its distal tip is

disclosed with characteristics that reduce the force required to penetrate the abdominal wall. The addition of the cone also reduces the tendency for the abdominal wall and the peritoneum to deflect or "tent" during insertion of the obturator. The blunt cone tip obturator of the invention penetrates and twists radially from a distal end to a proximal end of the tip. The blunt cone tip obturator facilitates insertion with a reduced penetration force as the user moves the tip back and forth radially while applying an axial penetration force. The blunt cone tip obturator can be directed and inserted between the fibers and then rotated to provide increased penetration and fiber separation.

These and other features and advantages of the invention will become more apparent with a discussion of preferred embodiments in reference to the associated drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates side views of a trocar system including a cannula with associated valve housing, and an obturator with a blunt cone tip extending through the working channel of the cannula to facilitate placement across the abdominal wall;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation view of the blunt cone tip of a preferred embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 3 is a side elevation view of the blunt cone tip taken along line 3-3 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is an end view taken along line 4-4 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 5 is a radial cross-section view taken along line 5-5 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 6 is a radial cross-section view taken along line 6-6 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 7 is a radial cross-section view taken along line 7-7 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 8 is a radial cross-section view taken along line 8-8 of FIG. 2;

FIG. 9 is a radial cross-section view taken along line 9-9 of FIG. 2; and

FIG. 10 is a schematic view illustrating each of the FIGS. 4-9 super-imposed to facilitate an understanding of the blunt cone tip and its twisted configuration.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A trocar system is illustrated in FIG. 1 and is designated by reference numeral 10. This system includes a cannula 12, defining a working channel 14, and a valve housing 16. The system 10 also includes an obturator 18 having a shaft 21 extending along an axis 23. A handle 25 is disposed at a proximal end of the shaft at 21 while a blunt cone tip 27 is disposed at a distal end of the shaft 21. The shaft 21 of the obturator 18 is sized and configured for disposition within the working channel 14 of the cannula 12. With this disposition, the obturator 18 can be directed to penetrate a body wall such as the abdominal wall to provide the cannula 12 with access across the wall and into a body cavity, such as the peritoneal or abdominal cavity. The blunt cone tip 27 serves to direct the obturator 18 through the abdominal wall and the peritoneum, and can be removed with the obturator 18 once the cannula 12 is operatively disposed with the working channel 14 extending into the abdominal cavity.

In order to facilitate penetration of the abdominal wall by the trocar system 10, a penetration force, represented by an arrow 34, is typically applied along the axis 23. It can be appreciated that the force required to penetrate the abdominal wall drops significantly once the wall is penetrated. Further application of the force 34, even for an instant of time, can result in injury to organs within the cavity. Where the obtu-

rators of the past have included blades facilitating penetration of the abdominal wall, these blades have been particularly threatening and detrimental to the interior organs.

Consequently, in accordance with the present invention, the tip 27 is provided with a blunt cone configuration. Blunt tips have been used in the past to reduce any potential for damage to interior organs. However, these blunt tips have increased the amount of force 34 required for penetration of the abdominal wall. The blunt cone tip 27 of the present invention takes into account the anatomical configuration of the abdominal wall with an improved structural design and method of insertion.

To fully appreciate these aspects of this invention, it is helpful to initially discuss the anatomy associated with the abdominal wall. The abdominal wall typically includes a skin layer and a series of muscle layers. The muscle layers are each defined by muscle fibers that extend generally parallel to each other in a direction that is different for each of the layers. For example, fibers of a first muscle layer and a second muscle layer may extend in directions that are 45 degrees off of each other.

Having noted the directional nature of the muscle fibers, it can be appreciated that such a structure is most easily penetrated by an obturator having a blunt cone tip. The blunt cone tip also has a rectangular and twisted configuration so as to provide better movement between the muscle layers. That is, the blunt cone tip is capable of being moved generally parallel to and between the fibers associated with a particular muscle layer. As a result, the obturator of the present invention reduces the penetration force 34 required to push the obturator 18 through a particular layer.

As described earlier, the fibers of the muscle layers may be oriented at different angles to each other such that proper alignment of the tip 27 for penetration of one layer may not necessarily result in proper alignment for penetration of the next layer. For at least this reason, the obturator 18 has a blunt cone tip 27 to direct the obturator 18 through the different layers and a rectangular configuration that is twisted slightly so that penetration of a first layer begins to rotate the distal end of the blunt cone tip 27 into proper orientation for penetration of the next layer.

The twisted configuration of the blunt cone tip 27 also causes the blunt cone tip 27 to function with the mechanical advantage of a screw thread. With this configuration, a preferred method of placement requires that the user grip the handle 25 of the obturator 18 and twist it about the axis 23. This twisting motion in combination with the screw configuration of the blunt cone tip 27 converts radial movement into forward movement along the axis 23. Thus, the user applies both a forwardly directed force as well as a radial force to move the trocar system 10 in a forward direction. Since all of the force supplied by the user is not directed axially along the arrow 34, this concept avoids the tendency of prior trocar systems to jump forward upon penetration of the abdominal wall.

The twisted configuration of the blunt cone tip 27 is most apparent in the side elevation views of FIGS. 2 and 3. In this embodiment, the blunt cone tip 27 comprises generally of eight surfaces: two opposing surfaces 50 and 52, separated by two side surfaces 54 and 56, two end surfaces 58 and 59, a conical surface 60 formed in surfaces 50 and 52 around axis 23 and extending beyond end surfaces 58 and 59, and a blunt surface 62. A plane drawn through the axis 23 would show the tip 27 to be composed of two symmetrical halves.

The surfaces 50 and 52, side surfaces 54 and 56, and conical surface 60 generally define the cross section of the blunt cone tip 27 from blunt surface 62 to proximal end 61.

This configuration can best be appreciated with reference to the cross section views of FIGS. 4-9. In FIG. 4, the distal end of the blunt cone tip 27 is shown with a circle 64 having the smallest circular area and a rectangle 63 having the greatest length-to-width ratio. The rectangle 63 has a twisted, S-shaped configuration at end surfaces 58 and 59.

As views are taken along progressive proximal cross sections, it can be seen that the circle 64 becomes larger and the rectangle 63 becomes less twisted, and the width increases relative to the length of the rectangle 63. The spiral nature of the blunt cone tip 27 is also apparent as the circle 64 and rectangle 63 move counterclockwise around the axis 23. This is perhaps best appreciated in a comparison of the circle 64 and the rectangle 63 in FIG. 6 relative to that in FIG. 5. With progressive proximal positions, the circle 64 begins to expand with increasing circular area and the rectangle 63 begins to widen with a reduction in the ratio of length to width. The long sides of the rectangle 63 also tend to become more arcuate as they approach a more rounded configuration most apparent in FIGS. 8 and 9. That is, the circle 64 and the rounded rectangle 63 become more concentric with progressive proximal positions. Furthermore, the circle 64 expands at a lesser rate than the rectangle 63, which eventually absorbs the circle 64 as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9. In these figures, it will also be apparent that the rotation of the rectangle 63 reaches a most counterclockwise position and then begins to move clockwise. This is best illustrated in FIGS. 7-9. This back and forth rotation results from the configuration of the side surfaces 54 and 56, which in general are U-shaped as best illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3.

The ratio of the length to width of the rectangle 63 is dependent on the configuration of the side surfaces 54 and 56, which define the short sides of the rectangle 63 as well as the configuration of the surfaces 50 and 52, which define the long sides of the rectangle 63. Again with reference to FIGS. 2 and 3, it can be seen that the side surfaces 54 and 56 are most narrow at the end surfaces 58 and 59. As the side surfaces 54 and 56 extend proximally, they reach a maximum width near the point of the most counterclockwise rotation, shown generally in FIG. 8, and then reduce in width as they approach the proximal end 61. Along this same distal to proximal path, the surfaces 50 and 52 transition from a generally flat configuration at the end surfaces 58 and 59 to a generally rounded configuration at the proximal end 61.

In the progressive views of FIGS. 5-7, the circle 64 is further designated with a lower case letter a, b or c, respectively; similarly, the rectangle 63 is further designated with a lower case letter a, b, c, d or e, respectively, in FIGS. 5-9. In FIG. 10, the circles 64, 64a-64c and the rectangles 63, 63a-63e are superimposed on the axis 23 to show their relative sizes, shapes and angular orientations.

A preferred method of operating the trocar system 10 benefits significantly from this preferred shape of the blunt cone tip 27. With a conical configuration at the distal point and a rectangular configuration at a distal portion of the tip, the tip 27 appears much like a flathead screwdriver having a cone at its tip. Specifically, the blunt tip includes a conical structure extending outward from the end surfaces 58 and 59 that serves to direct the obturator through the abdominal wall and peritoneum. The cone tip has a radius of approximately 0.025". The incorporation of the cone onto the rectangular configuration reduces the insertion force required to traverse the abdominal wall. An advantage of the obturator of the invention is it provides a safer and more controlled entry of the abdominal cavity.

It is preferable that the lengths of the end surfaces 58 and 59 are aligned parallel with the fibers of each muscle layer. With

this shape, the blunt cone tip can be used to locate or pinpoint a desired location and penetrate the abdominal wall. A simple back and forth twisting motion of the blunt cone tip tends to separate the fibers along natural lines of separation, opening the muscle layer to accept the larger diameter of the cannula **12**. By the time the first layer is substantially penetrated, the conical and twisted configuration of the blunt cone tip **27** directs and turns the rectangle **63** more into a parallel alignment with fibers in the next layer. Again, the blunt cone tip facilitates penetration, and the twisting or dithering motion facilitates an easy separation of the fibers requiring a significantly reduced penetration and insertion force along the arrow **34**.

It should be further noted that the blunt cone tip **27** is bladeless and atraumatic to organs and bowel within the peritoneal or abdominal cavity. The blunt cone tip **27** also minimizes tenting of the peritoneum and allows for a safe entry. The device is typically used in conjunction with the cannula **12** to create an initial entryway into the peritoneal cavity. The obturator **18** is first inserted through the valve housing **16** and into the cannula **12**. The entire trocar system **10** is then inserted through the abdominal wall and into the peritoneal cavity. Once the cannula **12** is properly placed, the obturator **18** can be removed.

The invention facilitates a unique method of penetrating and separating tissue and could apply to any object with a blunt cone tip and generally flat sides. When inserted into the peritoneum the blunt cone tip requires very little area to move safely between tissue and muscle fibers. The device can then be rotated in alternating clockwise and counterclockwise directions while the downward penetration force is applied. When rotated in alternating directions, the tissue is moved apart and a larger opening is created for a profile of greater cross sectional area to follow. This process continues with safety as the device enters the peritoneal cavity and moves to its operative position.

When the cannula **12** is ultimately removed, the size of the opening left in the tissue is minimal. Importantly, this opening is left sealed due to a dilating effect caused by the mere separation of fibers. Since there are no blades or sharp edges to cut muscle fiber, the healing process is significantly shortened.

The blunt cone tip **27** of the obturator **18** can be fabricated of a translucent or clear material, and the handle **25** can be provided with a passageway along the inside of the tip. With this configuration, a laparoscope can be inserted through the handle of the obturator and through the shaft to the tip. Insertion can then be monitored through the laparoscope and the clear tip of the obturator, in order to further ensure safe entry.

The obturator **18** can be constructed as a single component or divided into multiple components such as the shaft **21** and the blunt cone tip **27**. If the obturator **18** is constructed as a single component, it may be constructed of either disposable or reusable materials. If the obturator **18** is constructed as two or more components, each component can be made either disposable or reusable as desired for a particular configuration. In a preferred embodiment, the obturator is constructed as a single component made from a reusable material such as metal (e.g., stainless steel) or an autoclavable polymer to facilitate re-sterilization.

In another embodiment of the invention, the blunt cone tip **27** can be coated or otherwise constructed from a soft elastomeric material. In such a case, the material could be a solid elastomer or composite elastomer/polymer.

The shaft **21** of the obturator **18** could be partially or fully flexible. With this configuration, the obturator **18** could be inserted through a passageway containing one or more curves

of virtually any shape. A partially or fully flexed obturator **18** could then be used with a flexible cannula **12** allowing greater access to an associated body cavity.

The obturator **18** could also be used as an insufflation needle and provided with a passageway and valve to administer carbon dioxide or other insufflation gas to the peritoneal cavity. The obturator **18** could also be used with an insufflation needle cannula, in which case removal of the obturator **18** upon entry would allow for rapid insufflation of the peritoneal cavity.

It will be understood that many modifications can be made to the disclosed embodiments without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, various sizes of the surgical device are contemplated as well as various types of constructions and materials. It will also be apparent that many modifications can be made to the configuration of parts as well as their interaction. For these reasons, the above description should not be construed as limiting the invention, but should be interpreted as merely exemplary of preferred embodiments.

We claim:

1. A surgical access device comprising a bladeless, tissue separating obturator comprising:
 - a) an elongate shaft extending along an axis between a proximal end and a distal end thereof; and
 - b) a bladeless tip disposed at the distal end of the shaft, wherein the bladeless tip comprises an outer surface having a proximal portion, a distal portion, and an intermediate portion between the proximal portion and the distal portion, the distal portion comprising a blunt point, wherein
 - i) in a cross section of the tip in the proximal portion, the outer surface defines a circle,
 - ii) in a cross section of the tip in the intermediate portion, the outer surface defines a shape having a length greater than a width, wherein the length is defined perpendicular to the axis and the width is defined perpendicular to the length and the axis, and the outer surface comprises first and second opposing surface portions of the shape generally aligned with the length,
 - iii) in a cross section of the tip in the distal portion, the outer surface defines a circle,
 - iv) in progressive proximal cross sections of the tip in the distal portion, the circle expands, and
 - v) in progressive proximal cross sections of the tip in the intermediate portion, a ratio of the width of the shape to the length of the shape increases and the first and second opposing surface portions are more arcuate.
2. The surgical access device of claim 1, wherein in progressive proximal cross sections of the tip, the outer surface transitions from a circle to a non-circular shape, then transitions from a non-circular shape to a circle.
3. The surgical access device of claim 1, wherein in progressive proximal cross sections of the tip, the circles and shapes are concentric.
4. The surgical access device of claim 1, wherein the tip transitions proximally from a generally rounded cross-sectional configuration to a generally flatter cross-sectional configuration and then transitions back to a generally rounded cross-sectional configuration.
5. The surgical access device of claim 1, wherein in progressive proximal cross sections of the tip in the intermediate portion, a ratio of the width of the shape to the length of the shape first decreases, then increases.

7

6. The surgical access device of claim 1, wherein the outer surface comprises first and second shoulders where the outer surface transitions from the distal portion to the intermediate portion.

7. The surgical access device of claim 6, wherein in progressive proximal cross sections of the tip, the shoulders extend radially outwardly.

8. The surgical access device of claim 6, wherein in progressive proximal cross sections of the tip, the shoulders widen.

9. The surgical access device of claim 6, wherein in progressive proximal cross sections of the tip, the shoulders twist.

10. The surgical access device of claim 1, wherein the shaft comprises a passageway along an inside of the shaft.

11. The surgical access device of claim 1, wherein the bladeless tip comprises a passageway along an inside of the tip.

12. The surgical access device of claim 1, wherein the bladeless tip is clear.

13. The surgical access device of claim 1, wherein the elongate shaft and the bladeless tip are arranged to receive a laparoscope.

14. The surgical access device of claim 1, wherein the tip comprises two symmetrical halves.

8

15. The surgical access device of claim 1, wherein the tip and shaft are a single component.

16. The surgical access device of claim 1, further comprising a trocar, wherein the obturator is dimensioned to be received through a working channel extending through the trocar.

17. The surgical access device of claim 1, wherein in a cross section of the tip in the distal portion, the circle has a diameter of approximately 0.05 inches.

18. A method for separating tissue using the surgical access device of claim 1, the method comprising:

contacting the tip of the obturator with tissue to-be-separated; and

twisting the obturator in alternating clockwise and counterclockwise directions while applying a forward force, thereby separating the tissue.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising disposing the obturator in a working channel of a trocar.

20. The method of claim 18, further comprising disposing a laparoscope in a passageway within the shaft of the obturator.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	钝头闭孔器		
公开(公告)号	US8377090	公开(公告)日	2013-02-19
申请号	US13/586825	申请日	2012-08-15
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	应用医疗资源		
申请(专利权)人(译)	应用医疗资源CORPORATION		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	应用医疗资源CORPORATION		
[标]发明人	TAYLOR SCOTT V WIXEY MATTHEW A		
发明人	TAYLOR, SCOTT V. WIXEY, MATTHEW A.		
IPC分类号	A61B17/00 A61B17/34 A61B A61B17/14 A61B17/32		
CPC分类号	A61B17/3417 A61B17/02 A61B2017/320044 A61B2017/346 A61B2017/3456 A61B17/3498 A61M13/003		
优先权	PCT/US2003/014924 2003-05-13 WO 60/381469 2002-05-16 US		
其他公开文献	US20120316596A1		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

外科进入装置包括细长轴，在远端具有无刀片尖端。无刀片尖端具有外表面，该外表面具有近端部分，远端部分和中间部分。在近端部分的横截面中，外表面限定圆形。在中间部分的横截面中，外表面限定长度大于宽度的形状。外表面具有形状的第一和第二相对表面部分，其通常与长度对齐。在远端部分的横截面中，外表面限定圆形。在远端部分的渐进近端横截面中，圆形扩展。在中间部分中的渐进近端横截面中，形状的宽度与形状的长度的比率增加，并且第一和第二相对表面部分更加弓形。

