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(54) Title: MEDICAL PORT DEVICE, KIT AND ASSOCIATED METHOD

(57) Abstract: A surgical port device particularly for use in a trans-organ or flexible endoscopic procedure includes an annular frame member made of substantially rigid material and at least one cushion element connected to the frame member and disposed along an outer surface thereof on at least two opposing sides of the frame member. During use, the port device is disposed in a patient's mouth between upper and lower teeth thereof so that at least some of the teeth are temporarily embedded in the cushion element and so that a hole in the frame member enables access to the patient's esophagus. Subsequent to deployment of the port device, an elongate flexible shaft of a surgical instrument is inserted into the patient's esophagus and stomach through the hole on the frame member.

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Category * Citation of document, with indication, where	appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. 8.11.1997) entire document and figure 1. 1-2,5-7,9,13-14,16-18
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