#### (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

### (19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau



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(43) International Publication Date 16 September 2004 (16.09,2004)

**PCT** 

# (10) International Publication Number WO 2004/078026 A3

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: A61M 25/00

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2004/004883

(22) International Filing Date: 18 February 2004 (18.02.2004)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

10/379,461

3 March 2003 (03.03.2003) US

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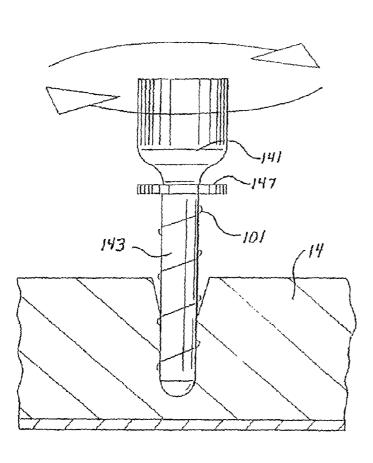
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW),

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SURGICAL ACCESS APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A trocar system (20) for providing access across a body wall includes a trocar (20) and an anchor (101) provided in the form of a first helix (102). The anchor (101) is adapted for placement in an operative position wherein the anchor (101) extends at least partially through the body wall. A second helix (163) formed on the trocar (20) is sized and configured to engage the first helix (102) of the anchor (101) so that rotation of the trocar (20) relative to the anchor (101) moves the second helix (163) along the first helix (102). In this manner, the trocar is drawn into the anchor (101) as it moves into the body wall. A proximal force applied to the anchor (101) resists tenting of the abdominal wall. The anchor (101) also holds the layers of the body wall together thereby resisting peritoneal separation.

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Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

#### **Published:**

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

# (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 19 May 2005

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/04883

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  IPC(7) : A61M 25/00  US CL : 604/264			
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)			
U.S.: 604/264,272,23-26,164.04,164.1,164.11,523,530,500; 600/101,114,127,129,153,156,204,208,209,201; 606/167,170,185			
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) EAST (helix helical spiral coil coiled, cannula trocar)			
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where a		Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,407,427 A (ZHU et al) 18 April 1995 (18.04.1995), figures 23-31		1,2, 4-20
Y Y			3
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Further	documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	See patent family annex.	
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		being obvious to a person skilled in the	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		"&" document member of the same patent family	
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report	
02 March 2005 (02.03.2005)		31 MAR 2005	1
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US		Authorized officer Shaken M. Theen fu	
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents		Cris L. Rodriguez	
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