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(54) Title: CLAMP ULTRASOUND PROBE FOR LUNG SURGERY

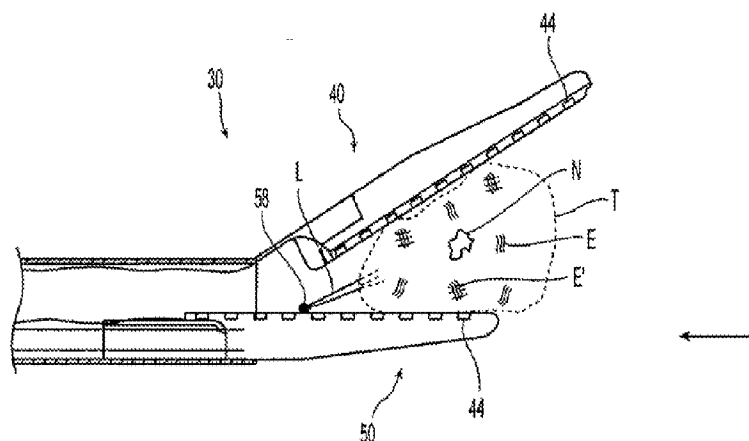


Fig. 5

(57) Abstract: An ultrasonic surgical instrument is disclosed, and includes a handle assembly, an elongate tubular member, and an end effector. The elongate tubular member extends from the handle assembly and defines a channel therethrough. The end effector is coupled with a distal end of the elongate tubular member and includes a first jaw member pivotally attached to the tubular member, and a second jaw member longitudinally movable within the channel of the elongate tubular member. One of the first jaw member and the second jaw member includes at least one ultrasonic transducer.

CLAMP ULTRASOUND PROBE FOR LUNG SURGERY

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

[0001] The present disclosure relates to an apparatus for imaging and treating tissue structures with ultrasonic energy, and in particular to an apparatus having a variable configuration to accommodate tissue structures of different shapes and sizes.

2. Discussion of Related Art

[0002] Today, many surgical procedures are performed through small openings in the skin, as compared to the larger openings typically required in traditional procedures, in an effort to reduce both trauma to the patient and recovery time. Generally, such procedures are referred to as endoscopic, unless performed on the patient's abdomen, in which case the procedure is referred to as laparoscopic. Throughout the present disclosure, the term "minimally invasive" should be understood to encompass endoscopic, laparoscopic and robotic procedures.

[0003] During the course of minimally invasive procedures, the nature of the relatively small opening through which surgical instruments are manipulated, and/or the presence of sub-surface tissue structures, may obscure a direct line-of-sight to the target surgical site. Even dedicated visualization tools, e.g., cameras, endoscopes, and the like, may be limited by the geometry of a minimally invasive surgical site. Accordingly, it would be desirable to provide a method of sub-surface visualization that is not limited by the geometry of the minimally invasive surgical site. It would further be desirable to treat sub-surface tissue structures with ultrasonic energy.

[0004] One such technique involves the use of ultrasound to provide clinicians with the ability to image, diagnose and treat sub-surface tissue structures. Ultrasound imaging relies on different acoustic impedances of adjacent tissue structures to provide the contrast used for imaging and identifying separate tissue structures. Ultrasound imaging possesses several advantages that are attractive for real-time application in surgical procedures, e.g., minimal associated non-ionizing radiation and relatively small and inexpensive imaging hardware. Further, imaging data obtained from many ultrasound imaging procedures is collected instantly and at localized points within a patient, as opposed to collected from a large imaging vessel in which a patient is positioned, allowing real-time assessment to tissue morphology and real-time treatment.

[0005] The application of ultrasound energy to tissue may be also be used to increase the amount of heat within tissue e.g., to ablate, melt, seal, char, necrose, or cauterize tissue. In this manner, the use of ultrasound energy to treat tissue may obviate the need for solid instruments to alter or physically separate tissue.

[0006] Some surgical apparatuses utilize approximating jaws to capture tissue therebetween, positioning the tissue for the application of ultrasonic energy thereto. However, challenges are presented in capturing and treating tissue having irregular or complex geometries. Accordingly, it would be desirable to provide a surgical apparatus having approximating jaws that are reconfigurable to capture tissue having irregular or complex geometries. Further, a desired site for tissue treatment or imaging, e.g., a cancerous or diseased node, may be located deep within a tissue mass. Accordingly, it would be further desirable to provide a surgical

apparatus configured to image or treat a tissue mass from more than one side of the tissue mass, such that ultrasonic energy may be applied to the node from different directions.

SUMMARY

[0007] The present disclosure, in accordance with various embodiments thereof, is directed to an ultrasound surgical apparatus. According to one aspect of the present disclosure, an ultrasonic surgical instrument is disclosed, and includes a handle assembly, an elongate tubular member, and an end effector. The elongate tubular member extends from the handle assembly and defines a channel therethrough. The end effector is coupled with a distal end of the elongate tubular member and includes a first jaw member pivotably attached to the tubular member, and a second jaw member longitudinally movable within the channel of the elongate tubular member. One of the first jaw member and the second jaw member includes at least one ultrasonic transducer.

[0008] According to another aspect of the present disclosure, a drive member is disposed through the elongate tubular member, the drive member operatively interconnecting the handle assembly and the end effector. The handle assembly may be operatively coupled with the end effector such that actuation of the handle assembly causes the first jaw member to pivot relative to the second jaw member. The handle assembly may be operatively coupled with the end effector such that actuation of the handle assembly causes the second jaw member to translate longitudinally within the channel of the elongate tubular member.

[0009] According to another aspect of the present disclosure, the first jaw member is configured to pivot toward the second jaw member to compress tissue therebetween. According

to a further aspect of the present disclosure, the at least one ultrasonic transducer is configured to receive ultrasonic energy. In yet another aspect of the present disclosure, the at least one ultrasonic transducer is configured to transmit ultrasonic energy. In another aspect of the present disclosure, each of the first jaw member and the second jaw member includes at least one ultrasonic transducer. The respective at least one ultrasonic transducer of the first jaw member and the second jaw member are together configured to receive ultrasonic energy reflected from opposite sides of tissue disposed therebetween.

[0010] According to another aspect of the present disclosure, a method of using an ultrasonic surgical instrument is disclosed, and includes providing a handle assembly, providing an elongate tubular member extending from the handle assembly and defining a channel therethrough, providing an end effector coupled with a distal end of the elongate tubular member and operatively coupled with the handle assembly. The end effector is provided including a first jaw member pivotably arranged with respect to the elongate tubular member, and a second jaw member translatable with respect to the channel. The method also includes providing an ultrasonic transducer on one of the first jaw member and the second jaw member. The method also includes actuating the handle assembly such that the first jaw member pivots toward the second jaw member to capture tissue therebetween. The method further includes activating the ultrasonic transducer such that ultrasonic energy is emitted therefrom.

[0011] According to a further aspect of the present disclosure, the method includes actuating the handle assembly such that the second jaw member moves within the channel of the elongate tubular member. According to another aspect of the present disclosure, the tissue may be heated to a predetermined temperature using the ultrasound transducer. The transducer may be an array transducer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the disclosure and, together with a general description of the disclosure given above, and the detailed description of the embodiments given below, serve to explain the principles of the disclosure.

[0013] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an ultrasound surgical system including an ultrasound surgical apparatus according to the present disclosure;

[0014] FIG. 2A is a perspective view of the end effector portion of the ultrasound surgical apparatus;

[0015] FIG. 2B is another perspective view of the end effector portion of the ultrasound surgical apparatus;

[0016] FIG. 3 is a side view, shown partially in cutaway of the end effector portion of the ultrasound surgical apparatus;

[0017] FIG. 4 is a side view, shown partially in cutaway, of the end effector portion of the ultrasound surgical apparatus treating tissue; and

[0018] FIG. 5 is another side view, shown partially in cutaway, of the end effector portion of the ultrasound surgical apparatus treating tissue.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019] Embodiments of the presently disclosed surgical ultrasound system and surgical imaging apparatus will now be described in detail with reference to the figures, in which like reference numerals identify corresponding elements throughout the several views.

[0020] Referring initially to FIG. 1, an ultrasound system 1000 includes an ultrasonic surgical apparatus 100. Ultrasonic surgical apparatus 100, as shown may also be coupled with an ultrasonic generator 200, a processor 300, and a display 302. Each of the ultrasonic generator 200 processor 300, and display 302 may be electrically coupled with the ultrasound surgical apparatus 100, as will be described further below.

[0021] Surgical apparatus 100, as shown, includes a handle assembly 10, an elongate shaft member 20 extending therefrom and defining a longitudinal axis “A”, and an end effector 30 coupled to a distal portion of the shaft member 20.

[0022] Handle assembly 10 generally includes a housing 12, a stationary handle 14, and a movable handle 16 configured to approximate toward the stationary handle 14 to actuate the ultrasonic surgical apparatus 100 and cause movement of the end effector 30. A trigger 18 may also cause movement of the end effector 30, as will be described further below. A more detailed description of the features and function of handle assembly 10 and subsequent actuation thereof are disclosed in U.S. Patent No 5,865,361 to Milliman et al., the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

[0023] Shaft assembly 20, as shown, is a substantially straight, tubular member defining a channel 22 therethrough (FIG. 2A). Channel 22 is configured to receive a portion of the end effector 30, as will be described further below. Shaft assembly 20 may be coupled to the handle assembly 10 in any suitable manner, e.g., adhesion or welding, snap fit, interference fit, or press fit.

[0024] End effector 30, as shown, includes a first jaw member 40 and a second jaw member 50. First jaw member 40 is pivotably attached to a distal portion of the shaft member 20. Accordingly, first jaw member 40 is configured to approximate, i.e., pivot radially toward,

second jaw member 50 to capture tissue therebetween, as will be described further below. Additionally, second jaw member 50 is configured to axially translate with respect to the shaft member 20 to reconfigure the relative positioning of first jaw member 40 and second jaw 50, as will be described further below. First jaw member 40 and second jaw member 50 are configured to move independently of each other. While jaw members 40 and 50 are depicted as having jaws that converge distally, jaws 40 and 50 may be rectangular or other shapes, such as curved jaws.

[0025] Turning now to FIGS. 2A and 2B, the end effector 30 is shown in detail. First jaw member 40 is pivotably connected to the shaft member 20 via a hinge 24. Hinge 24 may include a pivot point on one or more of the shaft member 20 and the first jaw member 40, and is configured to approximate toward the second jaw member 50 upon actuation of the handle assembly 10 (FIG. 1) as described above. First jaw member 40 may be actuated by the handle assembly 10, and is acted upon by the action of, e.g., a drive member, drive cable, or dynamic clamping member. In embodiments, hinge 24 may be configured as a leaf spring to maintain first jaw member 40 in a resting, unapproximated position.

[0026] First jaw member 40, as shown, has tapered profile along the longitudinal axis A (FIG. 1) to define a distal surface 41 that is configured to make an initial contact with a tissue surface, e.g., to push, move, or dilate tissue. First jaw member 40 also defines a tissue contacting surface 42. Tissue contacting surface 42, as shown, may have a substantially flat profile, and may include a plurality of ultrasound transducers 44 thereon. Ultrasound transducers 44 may be arranged in longitudinally spaced rows, as shown, or may have any other desirable arrangement on tissue contacting surface 42 of first jaw member 40.

[0027] Ultrasound transducers 44 may be any type of transducer or sensor that is configured to detect the presence and/or properties, e.g., amplitude, of ultrasonic energy.

Accordingly, ultrasound transducers 44 are configured to convert energy reflected off tissue structures having different acoustic impedances into distinct electrical signals, as will be described further below. In embodiments, ultrasound transducers 44 may be configured to generate and/or transmit ultrasonic energy as well as to receive energy.

[0028] Accordingly, ultrasound transducers 44 may be electrically coupled to a power source through electrical wires 46 (FIG. 3). Electrical wires may be any type of cable or conduit suitable for transmitting electrical energy between ultrasound transducers 44 and a source of electrical energy, e.g., a battery, generator, or local power grid (not shown). Electrical wires 46 may also electrically couple ultrasound transducers 44 with ultrasound generator 200, processor 300, and/or display 302 (FIG. 1).

[0029] Second jaw member 50, as shown, is aligned radially within the interior wall of the shaft member 20 that defines channel 22. Accordingly, second jaw member 50 is disposed such that second jaw member 50 is aligned for passage into the channel 22. Second jaw member 50 is supported on a drive member 56 that extends proximally through the channel 22 of shaft member 20, and is operably coupled with trigger 18 of the handle assembly 10 (FIG. 1). Drive member 56 is operably coupled with the trigger 18 of the handle assembly 10 such that actuation of the trigger 18 causes withdrawal or extension of the drive member 56, and the second jaw member 50 attached thereto, relative to the shaft member 20. In some embodiments, the drive member 56 may be spring loaded with respect to trigger 18 such that second jaw member 50 is biased toward a resting, extended position. Because the second jaw member 50 is aligned with the channel 22 of the shaft member 20, second jaw member 50 may be positioned to translate partially or entirely within the channel 22 of the shaft member 20. Drive member 56 and second

jaw member 50 may be attached in any suitably secured manner, e.g., adhered, welded, brazed, press fit, interference fit, snap fit, etc.

[0030] Second jaw member 50 has a similar configuration to first jaw member 40 described above. In particular, second jaw member 50 has a substantially tapered profile along the longitudinal axis A to define a distal surface 51 that is configured to make an initial contact with tissue, e.g., to press, move, or dilate tissue. Second jaw member 50 also defines a tissue contacting surface 52. Tissue contacting surface 52 may have a substantially flat profile, as shown, and includes a plurality of ultrasound transducers 44 thereon. Ultrasound transducers 44 may be arranged in any suitable manner, e.g., longitudinally spaced rows, as described above with respect to first jaw member 40. Accordingly, the ultrasound transducers 44 of the second jaw member 50 may be electrically coupled with ultrasound generator 200 (FIG. 1) via wires 46 to transmit ultrasonic energy therethrough.

[0031] It will be understood that the components of ultrasound surgical apparatus 100 may have any desirable configuration or arrangement. In some embodiments, ultrasound transducers 44 may be present on only one of first and second jaw members 40, 50. Additionally, the components of ultrasound surgical apparatus 100 may be formed of any suitable materials for their respective purposes, e.g., biocompatible polymers, metals, or composites. It will further be understood that while ultrasound surgical apparatus 100 has been described with respect to use in minimally invasive procedures, ultrasound surgical apparatus 100 is suitable for use in traditional open-type surgical procedures.

[0032] Turning to FIGS. 3, 4, and 5, the operation of surgical apparatus 100 will be described in detail.

[0033] As described above, the first jaw member 40 is configured to pivot at hinge 24 to move from a first, open position, to a second, approximated position. Accordingly, end effector 30 is configured to close about and capture, e.g., a section of tissue “T”. First jaw member 40 may be forced to exert a compressive force on tissue T against second jaw member 50 such that tissue T is compressed therebetween. In embodiments, first jaw member 40 may be configured to exert a variable or user-defined compressive force on tissue T.

[0034] Tissue T may be any portion of tissue, and may include a target region for imaging or treatment, e.g., a node “N”. Node N may be, e.g., a diseased or cancerous portion of tissue T. As shown, node N may be disposed in an interior portion of the tissue T. Additionally, tissue T may have an irregular shape such that the approximation of first jaw member 40 toward second jaw member 50 may capture a portion of the tissue T, while another portion of tissue T including node N is spaced away from jaw members 40, 50. As node N is a target region within tissue T, it is desirable to bring node N in close proximity with tissue contacting surfaces 42, 52, as well as to maximize the amount of surface contact between tissue contacting surfaces 42, 52 and tissue T. Accordingly, it may be desirable to reconfigure the relative placement of jaw members 40, 50. Thus, jaw member 50 may be withdrawn proximally into the channel 22 of shaft member 20, e.g., to draw the portion of tissue T containing node N proximally therewith and present a larger surface area for the tissue contacting surface 42 of the first jaw member 40 to contact tissue T. Thereafter, the second jaw member 50 may be again moved distally to maximize the amount of contact between the second tissue contacting surface 52 and the tissue T (not shown).

[0035] Once tissue T is appropriately disposed between the jaw members 40, 50, ultrasonic transducers 44 are activated and ultrasonic energy E is applied to the tissue T.

Ultrasound transducers 44 may be configured to generate and transmit ultrasonic energy “E”, e.g., an ultrasonic wave, to tissue T. Ultrasonic energy may be transmitted to ultrasound transducers 44, e.g., via ultrasound generator 200 (FIG. 1). In embodiments, ultrasound generator 200 is configured to transmit ultrasonic energy independently of or in conjunction with ultrasound transducers 44. Additionally, light source 58 may be activated to illuminate portions of tissue T with light “L”.

[0036] As ultrasonic energy E is transmitted through tissue T, reflected energy E’ is reflected off tissue structures, e.g., tissue surface T. Because ultrasound transducers 44 are located on either side of the tissue T, i.e., ultrasonic transducers 44 are disposed on both the first and second jaw members 40, 50, ultrasonic energy may be applied about either side of a target region of tissue, i.e., node N. Accordingly, a node N that is disposed deep within tissue T such that ultrasound imaging procedures may be obscured by e.g., particularly dense regions of tissue T, can be completed more effectively via the application of ultrasonic energy E to either side of tissue T containing node N. Additionally, the ultrasonic transducers 44 disposed on one of the first and second jaw members 40, 50 may be configured to transmit ultrasonic energy E to the ultrasonic transducers 44 disposed on the other of the first and second jaw members 40, 50, which may be configured to receive reflected energy E’ such that ultrasonic energy E passes from one side of the tissue T to another. In this manner, additional properties of tissue T, e.g., thickness or the rate of fluids flowing therethrough, may be measured.

[0037] Ultrasound transducers 44, as described above, are configured to receive ultrasound energy E and produce an electrical signal based on the reflected energy E’ received. Accordingly, as the reflected ultrasonic energy E’ received from different portions of the tissue T has different properties due to the acoustic impedance of different portions of tissue T, ultrasonic

transducers 44 produce different electrical signals in response to the reflected ultrasonic energy E' received from those portions of tissue T.

[0038] Additionally or alternatively, ultrasonic energy E applied to tissue T may be used to provide heat tissue T, e.g., to ablate, melt, seal, char, or necrose tissue. Accordingly, ultrasonic energy may be applied through ultrasonic transducers 44 such that tissue T, or portions thereof, are raised to a predetermined temperature.

[0039] With additional reference to FIG. 1, and as described above, ultrasound surgical apparatus 100 may be electrically coupled with a processor 300, which is configured to interpret the electrical signals received from ultrasonic transducers 44. Accordingly, processor 300 may include a monitor 302 for displaying stored or real-time data, e.g., 2D- or 3D- visual or graphical representations of data collected by the ultrasound transducers 44. In this manner, processor 300 provides an interface, externally of a patient, that enables an operator to visualize sub-surface tissue structures.

[0040] Processor 300 may be configured to produce signals in response to the data provided by the ultrasound transducers 44. In some embodiments, the processor 300 may detect a changed condition at the minimally invasive surgical site, e.g., a shift in the positioning of the tissue node N in relation to the ultrasound surgical apparatus 100, or a growth or spreading of node N or another diseased portion of tissue. Such indications may be provided on the monitor 302. Additionally, processor 300 may incorporate a memory storage module, e.g., an onboard or removable memory storage device, EEPROM, or the like, for storing data received from the ultrasonic transducers 44, or for comparison with predetermined values or for providing feedback.

[0041] It will be understood that various modifications may be made to the embodiments disclosed herein. Therefore, the above description should not be construed as limiting, but merely as exemplifications of preferred embodiments. Those skilled in the art will envision other modifications within the scope and spirit of the claims.

CLAIMS

1. An ultrasonic surgical instrument, comprising:
a handle assembly;
an elongate tubular member extending from the handle assembly and defining a channel therethrough; and
an end effector coupled with a distal end of the elongate tubular member and including:
a first jaw member pivotably attached to the tubular member;
a second jaw member longitudinally movable within the channel of the elongate tubular member;
wherein one of the first jaw member and the second jaw member includes at least one ultrasonic transducer.
2. The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 1, further comprising a drive member disposed through the elongate tubular member, the drive member operatively interconnecting the handle assembly and the end effector.
3. The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 2, wherein the handle assembly is operatively coupled with the end effector such that actuation of the handle assembly causes the first jaw member to pivot relative to the second jaw member.
4. The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 2, wherein the handle assembly is operatively coupled with the end effector such that actuation of the handle assembly causes the second jaw member to translate longitudinally within the channel of the elongate tubular member.

5. The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the first jaw member is movable independently of the second jaw member.
6. The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the first jaw member is configured to pivot toward the second jaw member to compress tissue therebetween.
7. The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the at least one ultrasonic transducer is configured to receive ultrasonic energy.
8. The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the at least one ultrasonic transducer is configured to transmit ultrasonic energy.
9. The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein each of the first jaw member and the second jaw member includes at least one ultrasonic transducer.
10. The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 9, wherein the respective at least one ultrasonic transducer of the first jaw member and the second jaw member are together configured to receive ultrasonic energy reflected from opposite sides of tissue disposed therebetween.
11. The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein one of the first jaw member and the second jaw member includes a light source.

12. The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 11, wherein the light source is a laser.
13. The ultrasonic surgical instrument of claim 1, wherein the at least one ultrasonic transducer is configured to transmit ultrasonic energy to tissue such that the temperature of the tissue increases.
14. A method of using an ultrasonic surgical instrument, comprising:
- providing a handle assembly;
 - providing an elongate tubular member extending from the handle assembly and defining a channel therethrough;
 - providing an end effector coupled with a distal end of the elongate tubular member and operatively coupled with the handle assembly, the end effector including a first jaw member pivotably arranged with respect to the elongate tubular member, and a second jaw member translatable with respect to the channel;
 - providing an ultrasonic transducer on one of the first jaw member and the second jaw member;
 - actuating the handle assembly such that the first jaw member pivots toward the second jaw member to capture tissue therebetween; and
 - activating the ultrasonic transducer such that ultrasonic energy is emitted therefrom.
15. The method of claim 14, further comprising actuating the handle assembly such that the second jaw member moves within the channel of the elongate tubular member.

16. The method of claim 14, further comprising heating the tissue to a predetermined temperature.

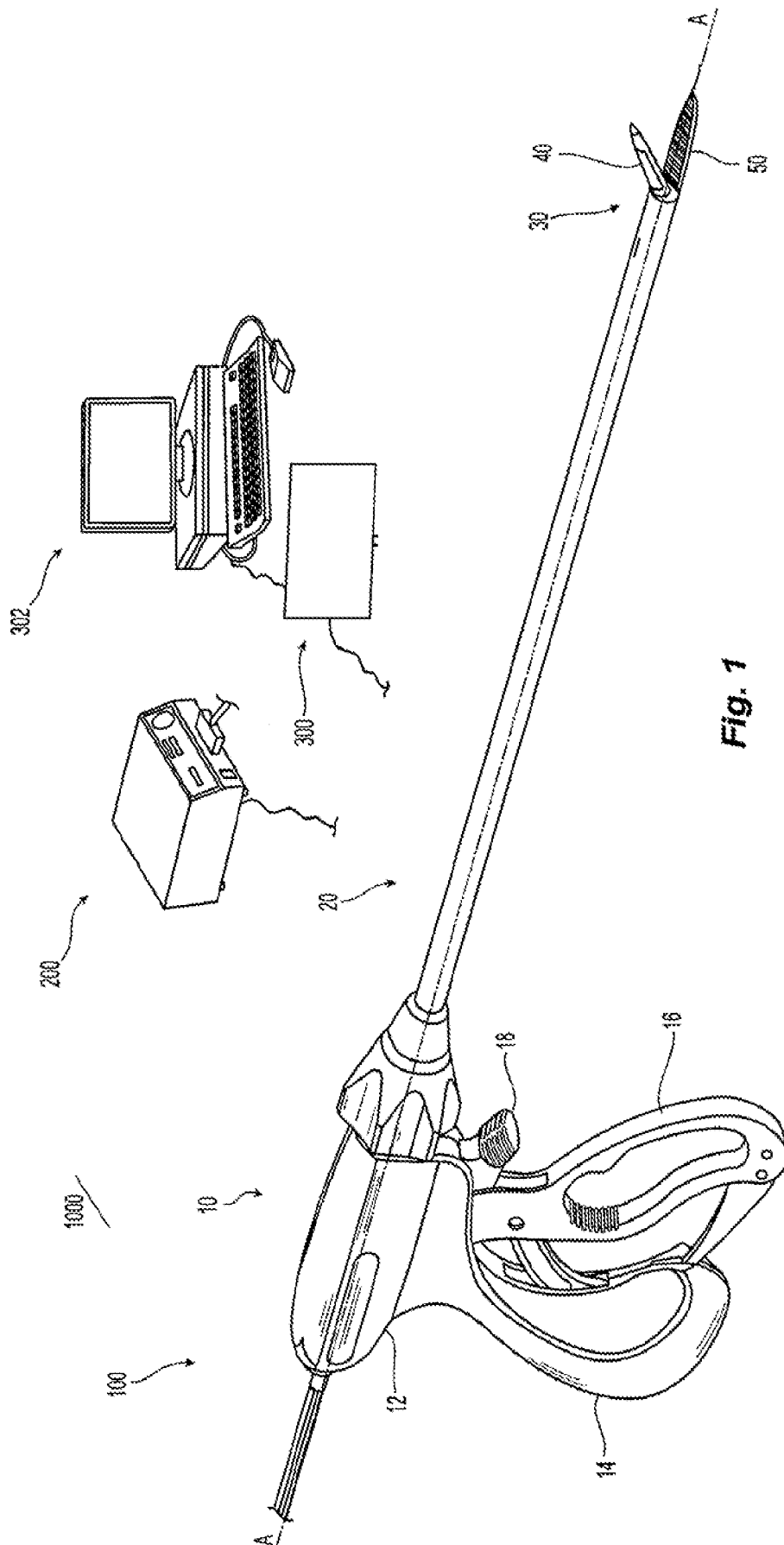


Fig. 1

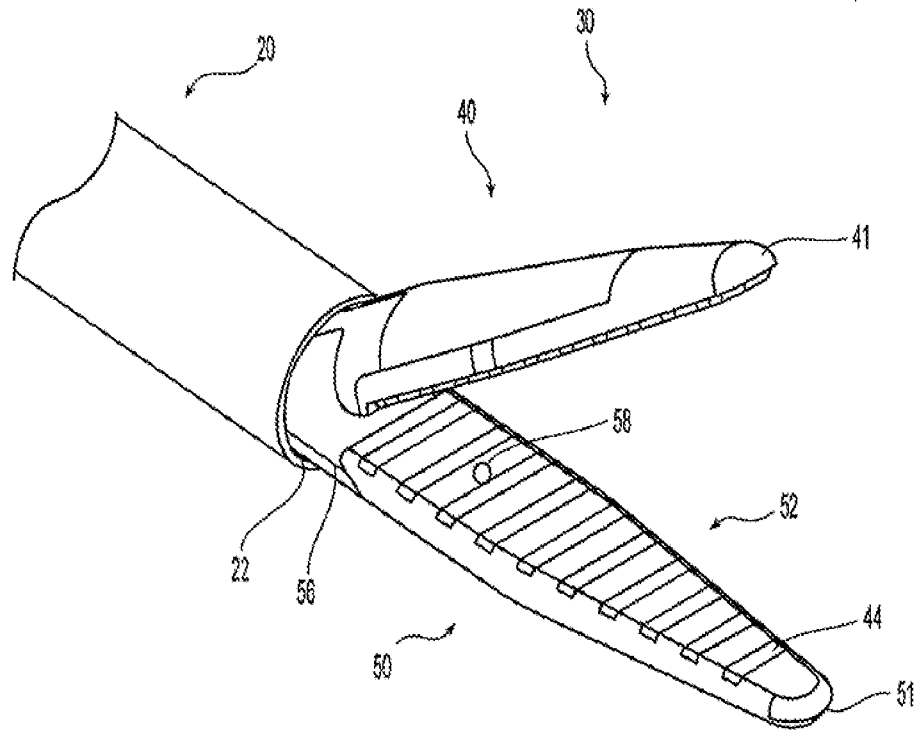


Fig. 2A

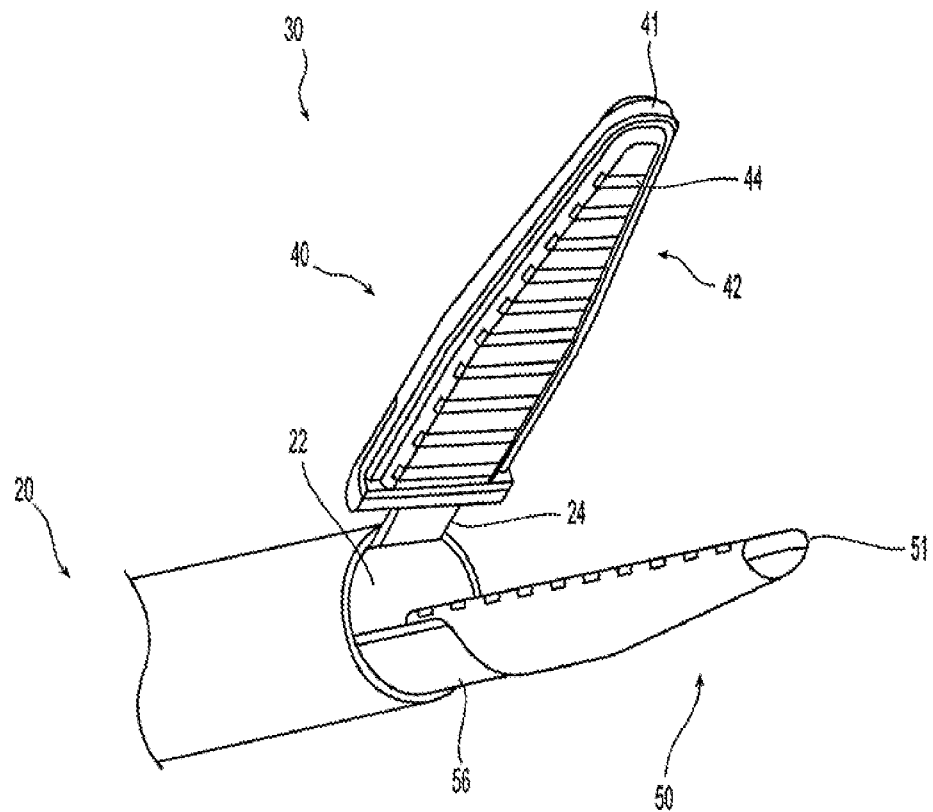


Fig. 2B

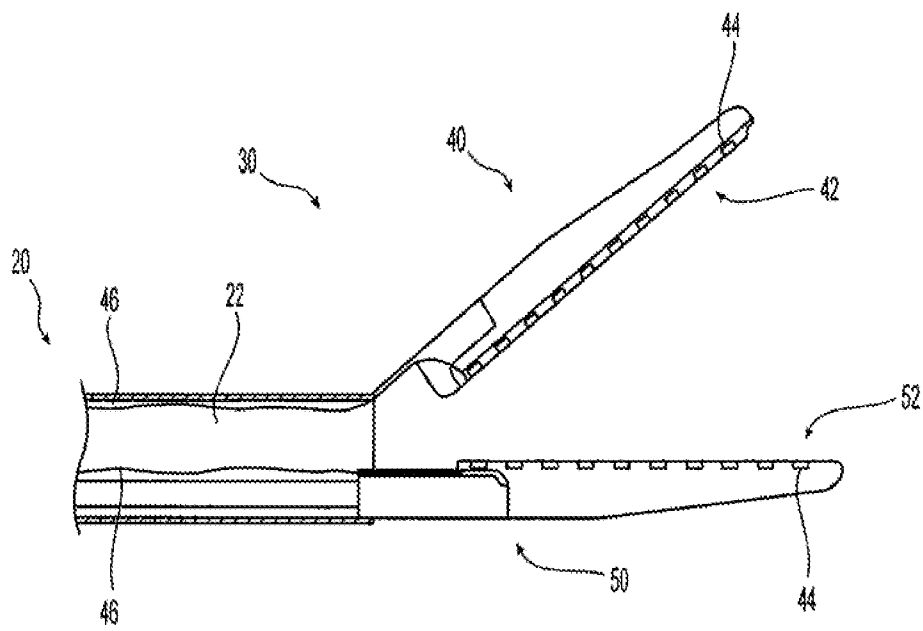


Fig. 3

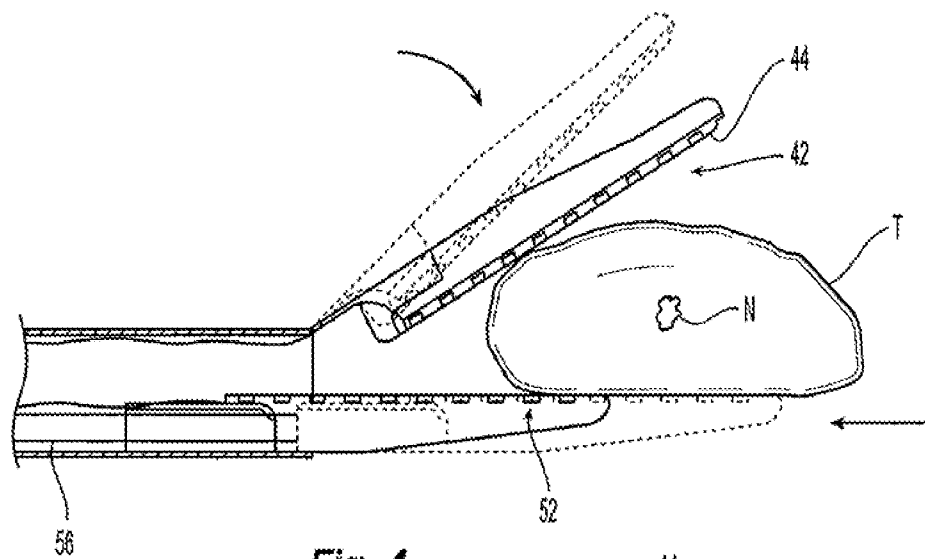


Fig. 4

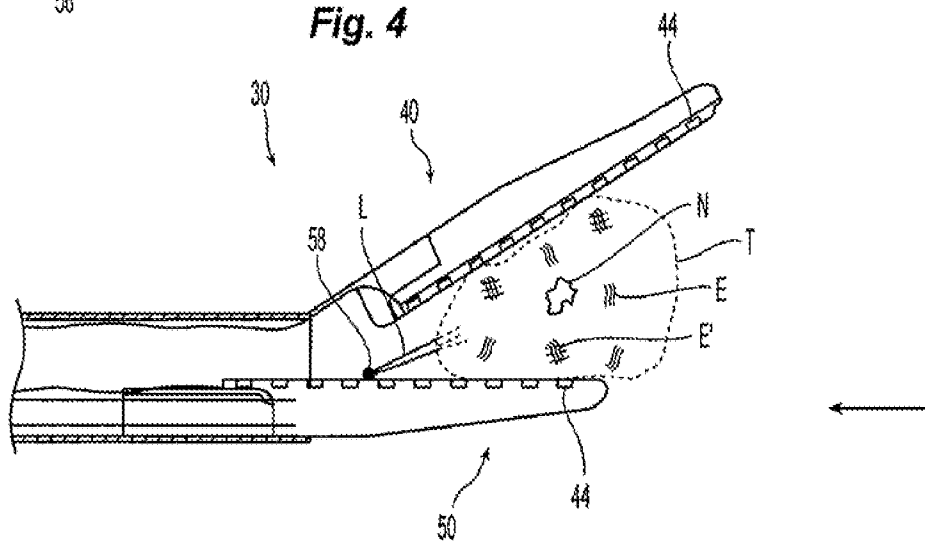


Fig. 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2014/023087**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER****A61B 18/00(2006.01)i, A61B 18/04(2006.01)i, A61B 17/29(2006.01)i**

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)

A61B 18/00; A61N 7/00; A61B 17/32; A61B 17/00; A61B 18/18; A61B 18/04; A61B 17/29

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: handle, elongate tubular member, end effector, jaw, ultrasonic transducer, light source

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2012-135721 A1 (TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP) 4 October 2012	1-8, 13
Y	See paragraphs [0028]-[0030], [0050], [0052]; and figures 1-3, 6-7.	9-12
Y	US 8308725 B2 (BELL et al.) 13 November 2012	9, 10
	See column 3, lines 4-6; column 5, lines 14-19, 53-67; column 9, lines 30-54; and figures 1A-1B, 5.	
Y	US 2012-0116267 A1 (KIMBALL et al.) 10 May 2012	11, 12
	See abstract; paragraph [0041]; and figures 7-8.	
A	US 6569178 B1 (MIYAWAKI et al.) 27 May 2003	1-13
	See column 8, line 15 - column 15, line 42; and figures 1-14B.	
A	US 2010-0063526 A1 (BEAUPRE et al.) 11 March 2010	1-13
	See paragraphs [0049]-[0053], [0061]-[0063]; and figures 1-6, 11A-13B.	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 July 2014 (16.07.2014)

Date of mailing of the international search report

17 July 2014 (17.07.2014)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTInternational application No.
PCT/US2014/023087**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 14-16
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Claims 14-16 pertain to methods for treatment of the human and thus relate to a subject-matter which this International Searching Authority is not required, under PCT Article 17(2)(a)(i) and PCT Rule 39.1(iv), to search.
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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International application No.

PCT/US2014/023087

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专利名称(译)	夹钳超声探头用于肺部手术		
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[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	柯惠有限合伙公司		
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IPC分类号	A61B18/00 A61B18/04 A61B17/29 A61B8/00 A61B8/12 A61B17/295 A61B17/32 A61B90/00 A61B90/30		
CPC分类号	A61B17/295 A61B8/12 A61B8/4209 A61B8/445 A61B17/29 A61B17/2909 A61B17/320092 A61B90/30 A61B2017/00026 A61B2017/00084 A61B2017/00106 A61B2017/00199 A61B2017/2947 A61B2017/320095 A61B2018/00577 A61B2018/00589 A61B2018/00595 A61B2018/0063 A61B2090/3784		
优先权	61/778471 2013-03-13 US		
其他公开文献	EP2967705A4		
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摘要(译)

公开了一种超声外科手术器械，包括手柄组件，细长管状构件和末端执行器。细长管状构件从手柄组件延伸并限定穿过其中的通道。末端执行器与细长管状构件的远端连接，并包括可枢转地连接到管状构件的第一钳口构件，和在细长管状构件的通道内可纵向移动的第二钳口构件。第一钳口构件和第二钳口构件中的一个包括至少一个超声换能器。