



US 20130172746A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
LEE(10) **Pub. No.: US 2013/0172746 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Jul. 4, 2013**(54) **METHOD FOR PROVIDING BODY MARKER
AND ULTRASOUND DIAGNOSTIC
APPARATUS THEREFOR****Publication Classification**(75) Inventor: **Jun-kyo LEE**, Gangwon-do (KR)(73) Assignee: **SAMSUNG MEDISON CO., LTD.**(21) Appl. No.: **13/560,640**(22) Filed: **Jul. 27, 2012**(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Dec. 28, 2011 (KR) 10-2011-0144984

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A61B 6/00 (2006.01)
A61B 8/14 (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **600/443**(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of providing a body marker, the method including when an ultrasound image of a target body is acquired by using a probe, acquiring an image of a testee including information regarding a location of the probe; generating a body marker indicating a location of the target body based on the image of the testee including the information regarding the location of the probe; and mapping the body marker to the ultrasound image of the target body and storing a mapped result.

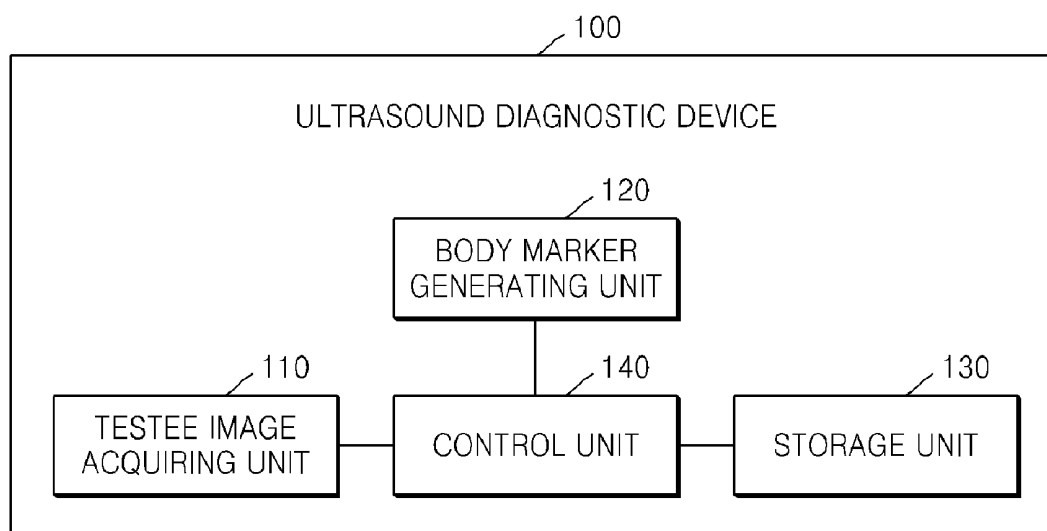


FIG. 1

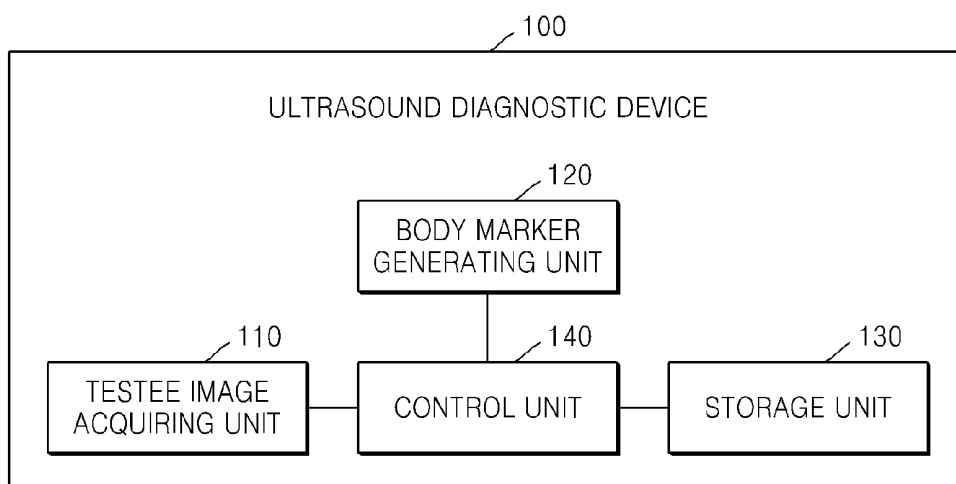
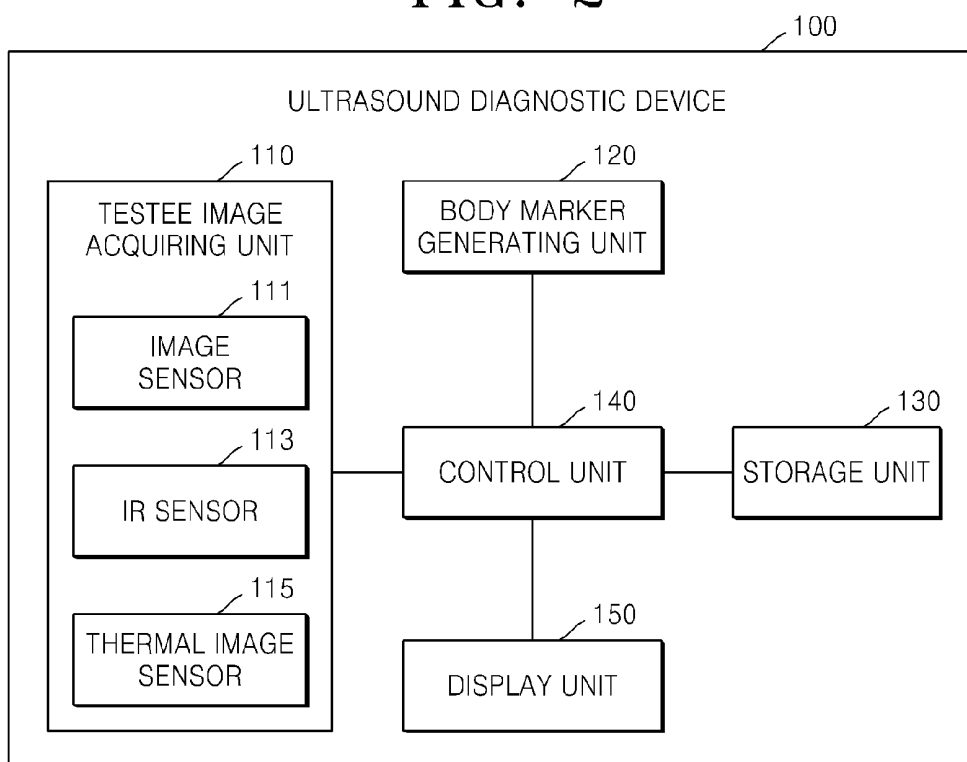


FIG. 2



[0087] As shown in FIG. 7, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may generate a body marker by using an image of a testee and information regarding location of a probe.

[0088] For example, if a user acquires an ultrasound image with respect to heart, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may generate an image of a testee in which a probe is located at a location ① as a body marker. If a user acquires an ultrasound image with respect to thyroid, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may generate an image of a testee in which the probe is located at a location ② as a body marker.

[0089] Therefore, a body marker according to an embodiment of the present invention may accurately indicate a target body of which an ultrasound image has been acquired.

[0090] For example, if a body marker in which a probe is located at the location ① of a testee is displayed, a user may recognize that the target body is heart. If a body marker in which a probe is located at the location ② of a testee, a user may recognize that the target body is the thyroid.

[0091] A method according to an embodiment of the present invention may be embodied in the form of program commands that may be carried out by various computer devices and may be stored in a computer readable recording medium. The computer readable recording medium may include program commands, data files, data structures, or combinations thereof. The program commands stored in the computer readable recording medium may be either exclusively designed and configured for the present invention or known in the art. Examples of computer readable recording media include magnetic media, such as a floppy disk and a magnetic tape, optical media, such as a CD-ROM and a DVD, magneto-optical media, such as a floptical disk, and hardware devices exclusively configured to store and carry out program commands, such as a ROM, a RAM, and a flash memory. Examples of the program commands include not only machine languages generated by compilers, but also high-level languages that may be carried out by a computer via an interpreter.

[0092] While the present invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to exemplary embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing a body marker, the method comprising:

when an ultrasound image of a target body is acquired by using a probe, acquiring an image of a testee including information regarding a location of the probe;
generating a body marker indicating a location of the target body based on the image of the testee including the information regarding the location of the probe; and
mapping the body marker to the ultrasound image of the target body and storing a mapped result.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of acquiring the image of the testee comprises acquiring the image of the testee by using at least one of an image sensor, an infrared ray (IR) sensor, and a thermal image sensor.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating the body marker comprises generating the body marker in the form of at least one of a 2-dimensional image, a 3-dimensional image, and a 4-dimensional image.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating the body marker comprises:

extracting frame information from the image of the testee; and

generating the body marker based on the frame information and the information regarding location of the probe.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating the body marker comprises:

comparing the image of the testee to a pre-stored body model and modifying the pre-stored body model to be fitted to the image of the testee; and

generating a body marker indicating a location of the target body based on the modified body model and the information regarding location of the probe.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying the stored ultrasound image and the body marker.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

when an ultrasound image of the target body is acquired by using the probe, acquiring the information regarding a location of the probe;

extracting the target body corresponding to the information regarding location of the probe; and

setting functions for diagnosing the target body to the probe.

8. An ultrasound diagnostic device comprising:

a testee image acquiring unit, which, when an ultrasound image of a target body is acquired by using a probe, acquires an image of a testee including information regarding a location of the probe;

a body marker generating unit, which generates a body marker indicating location of the target body based on the image of the testee including the information regarding location of the probe;

a storage unit, which maps the body marker to the ultrasound image of the target body and stores a mapped result; and

a control unit, which controls the testee image acquiring unit, the body marker generating unit, and the storage unit.

9. The ultrasound diagnostic device of claim 8, wherein the testee image acquiring unit acquires the image of the testee by using at least one of an image sensor, an infrared ray (IR) sensor, and a thermal image sensor.

10. The ultrasound diagnostic device of claim 8, wherein the body marker generating unit generates the body marker in the form of at least one of a 2-dimensional image, a 3-dimensional image, and a 4-dimensional image.

11. The ultrasound diagnostic device of claim 8, wherein the body marker generating unit extracts frame information from the image of the testee and generates the body marker based on the frame information and the information regarding location of the probe.

12. The ultrasound diagnostic device of claim 8, wherein the body marker generating unit compares the image of the testee to a pre-stored body model, modifies the pre-stored body model to be fitted to the image of the testee, and generates a body marker indicating a location of the target body based on the modified body model and the information regarding location of the probe.

13. The ultrasound diagnostic device of claim 8, further comprising a display unit, which displays the stored ultrasound image and the body marker.

14. The ultrasound diagnostic device of claim 8, wherein, when an ultrasound image of the target body is acquired by using the probe, the testee image acquiring unit acquires the information regarding location of the probe, and

the control unit extracts the target body corresponding to the information regarding location of the probe and sets functions for diagnosing the target body to the probe.

15. A computer readable recording medium having recorded thereon a computer program for implementing the method of any of claims **1** through **7**.

* * * * *

FIG. 3

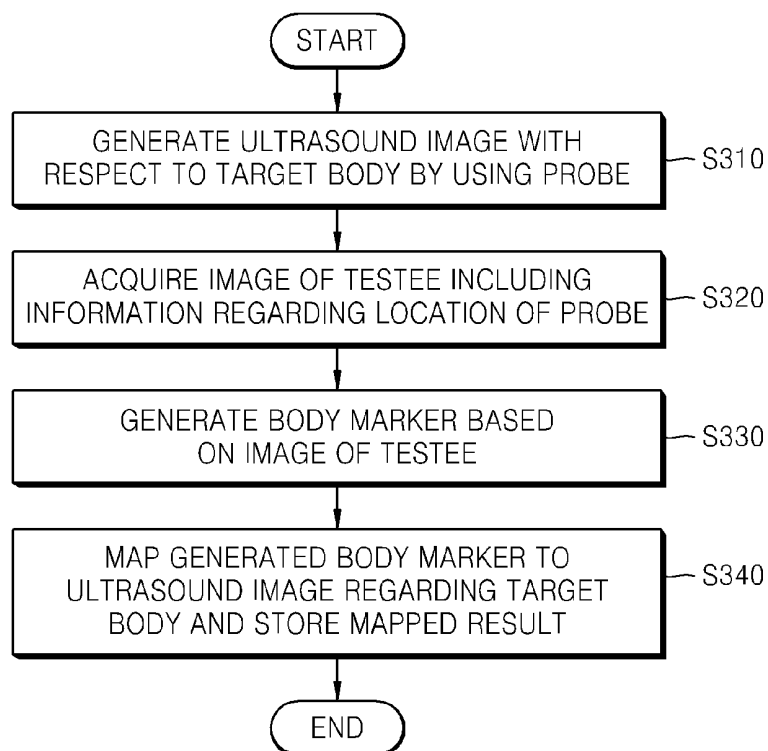


FIG. 4

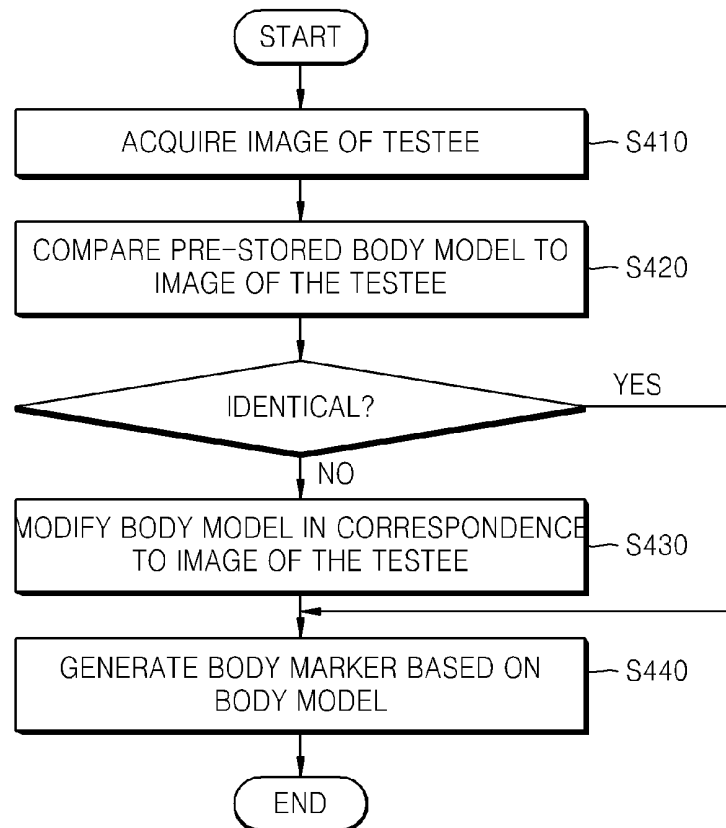


FIG. 5

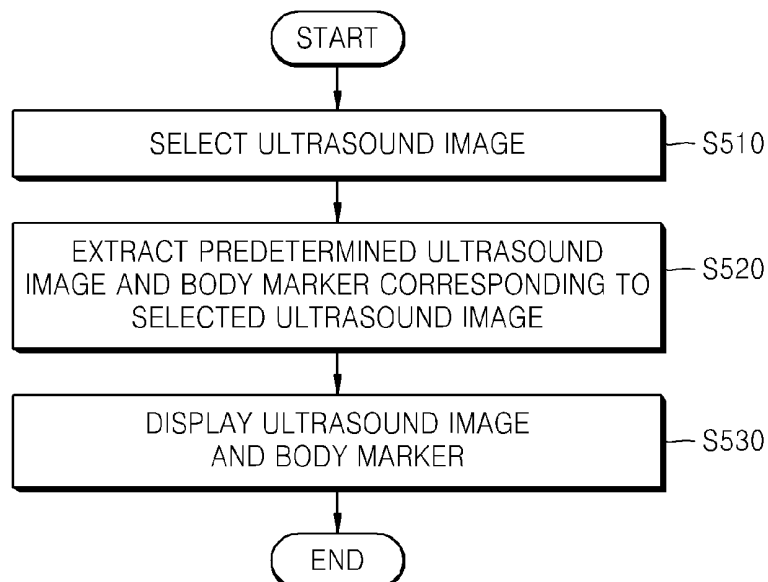


FIG. 6

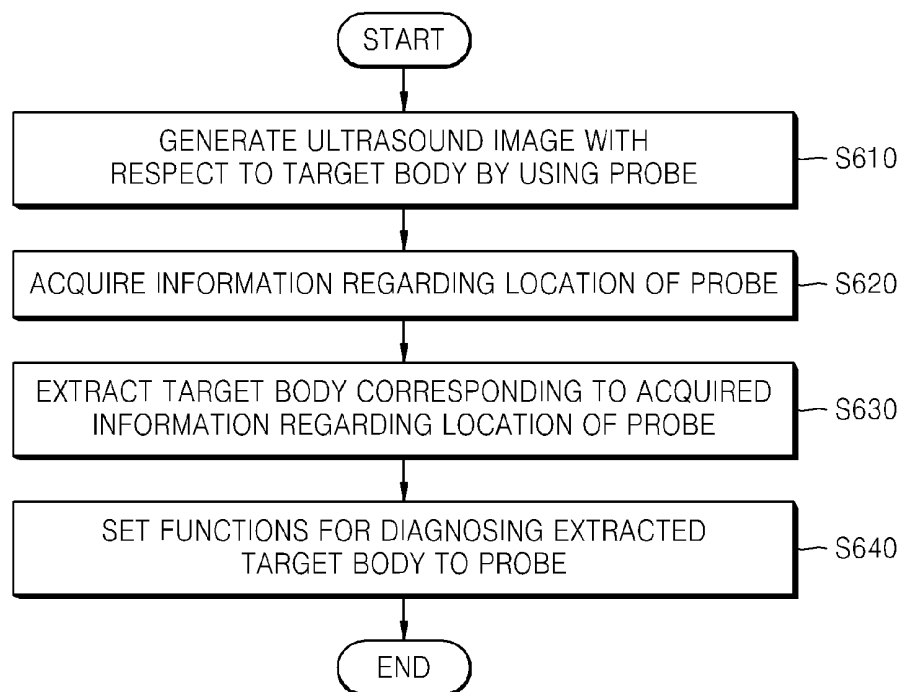
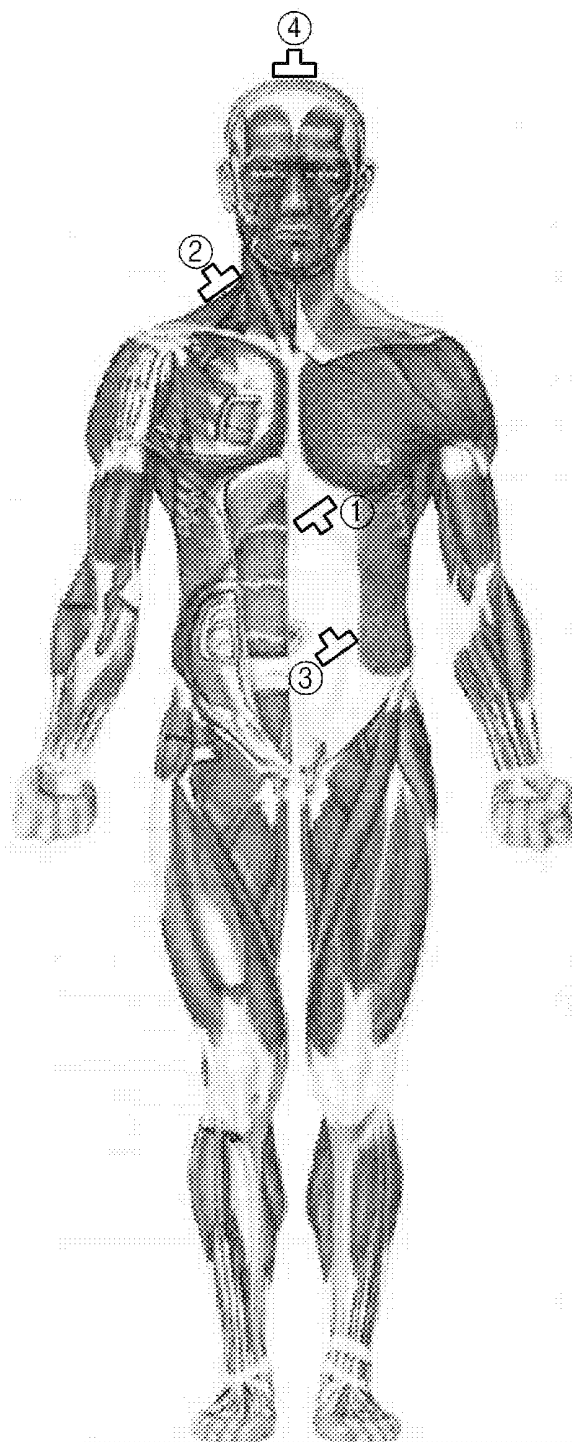


FIG. 7



METHOD FOR PROVIDING BODY MARKER AND ULTRASOUND DIAGNOSTIC APPARATUS THEREFOR

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATION

[0001] This application claims the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2011-0144984, filed on Dec. 28, 2011, in the Korean Intellectual Property Office, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] 1. Field of the Invention

[0003] The present invention relates to a method and an apparatus for providing a body marker by using an image of a testee.

[0004] 2. Description of the Related Art

[0005] An ultrasound diagnostic device is a device for transmitting ultrasound signals from a surface of a target body toward a predetermined region inside the target body and acquiring tomograms of soft tissues or images of blood flow based on information of ultrasound signals reflected by tissues inside the target body.

[0006] The advantages of such an ultrasound diagnostic device are its small size, inexpensive price, and real-time result acquisition. Furthermore, an ultrasound diagnostic device is very safe and causes no radiation exposure. Therefore, an ultrasound diagnostic device is widely used together with other types of imaging diagnostic devices, such as X-ray devices, computerized tomography (CT) scanners, magnetic resonance image (MRI) devices, scintillation cameras, etc., for medical diagnosis and treatment.

[0007] Generally, an ultrasound diagnostic device operates in a brightness mode (B mode) wherein the intensities of ultrasound echo signals reflected by a target body are indicated via a brightness scale, a Doppler mode wherein an image of a moving target body is indicated via a spectrum by using the Doppler effect, a motion mode (M mode) wherein a motion of a target body at a constant location is indicated according to time, an elasticity mode wherein a difference between a reaction of a target body when the target body is compressed and a reaction of the target body when the target body is not compressed is indicated, and a color mode image (C mode image) wherein a velocity of a moving target body is indicated via colors by using the Doppler effect. Furthermore, an ultrasound diagnostic device provides a user-selectable body marker.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a method of providing a body marker, the method including when an ultrasound image of a target body is acquired by using a probe, acquiring an image of a testee including information regarding a location of the probe; generating a body marker indicating a location of the target body based on the image of the testee including the information regarding the location of the probe; and mapping the body marker to the ultrasound image of the target body and storing a mapped result.

[0009] The step of acquiring the image of the testee includes acquiring the image of the testee by using at least one of an image sensor, an infrared ray (IR) sensor, and a thermal image sensor.

[0010] The step of generating the body marker includes generating the body marker in the form of at least one of a 2-dimensional image, a 3-dimensional image, and a 4-dimensional image.

[0011] The step of generating the body marker includes extracting frame information from the image of the testee; and generating the body marker based on the frame information and the information regarding location of the probe.

[0012] The step of generating the body marker includes comparing the image of the testee to a pre-stored body model and modifying the pre-stored body model to be fitted to the image of the testee; and generating a body marker indicating a location of the target body based on the modified body model and the information regarding location of the probe.

[0013] The method further includes displaying the stored ultrasound image and the body marker.

[0014] The method further includes when an ultrasound image of the target body is acquired by using the probe, acquiring the information regarding a location of the probe; extracting the target body corresponding to the information regarding location of the probe; and setting functions for diagnosing the target body to the probe.

[0015] According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided an ultrasound diagnostic device including a testee image acquiring unit, which, when an ultrasound image of a target body is acquired by using a probe, acquires an image of a testee including information regarding a location of the probe; a body marker generating unit, which generates a body marker indicating location of the target body based on the image of the testee including the information regarding location of the probe; a storage unit, which maps the body marker to the ultrasound image of the target body and stores a mapped result; and a control unit, which controls the testee image acquiring unit, the body marker generating unit, and the storage unit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] The above and other features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent by describing in detail exemplary embodiments thereof with reference to the attached drawings in which:

[0017] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a body marker providing apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0018] FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a body marker providing apparatus according to another embodiment of the present invention;

[0019] FIG. 3 is a flowchart for describing a method of providing a body marker according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0020] FIG. 4 is a flowchart for describing a method of generating a body marker by using a body model according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0021] FIG. 5 is a flowchart for describing a method of displaying a body marker according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0022] FIG. 6 is a flowchart for describing a method of automatically setting functions of a probe by using information regarding location of the probe according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

[0023] FIG. 7 is a diagram showing a body marker according to an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0024] In addition, although the terms used in the present invention are selected from generally known and used terms, some of the terms mentioned in the description of the present invention have been selected by the applicant at his or her discretion, the detailed meanings of which are described in relevant parts of the description herein. Furthermore, it is required that the present invention is understood, not simply by the actual terms used but by the meaning of each term lying within.

[0025] In addition, unless explicitly described to the contrary, the word “comprise” and variations such as “comprises” or “comprising” will be understood to imply the inclusion of stated elements but not the exclusion of any other elements. In addition, the terms “-er”, “-or”, and “module” described in the specification mean units for processing at least one function and operation and can be implemented by hardware components or software components and combinations thereof.

[0026] Hereinafter, the term “ultrasound image” means an image of a target object that is obtained by using ultrasound waves. The target object may refer to a part of a human body. For example, a target object may include an internal organ, such as a liver, heart, uterus, brain, breast, stomach, etc., or a fetus.

[0027] Hereinafter, a “user” is a medical expert, e.g., a doctor, a nurse, a medical laboratory technician, a medical imaging expert, etc., but is not limited thereto.

[0028] Hereinafter, a “body marker” is a geometric symbol indicating a location to which ultrasound image is scanned or a target object. A general example of body markers may include a liver mark.

[0029] Hereinafter, the present invention will be described in detail by explaining preferred embodiments of the invention with reference to the attached drawings. Like reference numerals in the drawings denote like elements.

[0030] FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a body marker providing apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0031] FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a body marker providing apparatus according to another embodiment of the present invention.

[0032] An ultrasound diagnostic device **100** according to an embodiment of the present invention is a device capable of acquiring an ultrasound image from a target body by using ultrasounds and providing a body marker related to the acquired ultrasound image to a user.

[0033] The ultrasound diagnostic device **100** according to an embodiment of the present invention may be embodied in various ways. For example, the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may be embodied not only as a fixed terminal, but also as a mobile terminal. Examples of the mobile terminals may include a laptop computer, a personal digital assistant (PDA), and a tablet PC.

[0034] According to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may include a probe (not shown), a testee image acquiring unit **110**, a body marker generating unit **120**, a storage unit **130**, a control unit **140**, and a display unit **150**. However, not all of the above-stated components are strictly required components. The ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may be embodied by using less or more components than the above-stated components.

[0035] The probe (not shown) may transmit ultrasound signals to a target body. The probe may also receive ultrasound

echo signals from the target body. The ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may generate ultrasound images with respect to the target body based on ultrasound echo signals received from the target body.

[0036] The testee image acquiring unit **110** may acquire an image of a testee. According to an embodiment of the present invention, if the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** generates an ultrasound image of a target body by using the probe, the testee image acquiring unit **110** may acquire an image of a testee including information regarding location of the probe.

[0037] The information regarding location of the probe refers to information regarding locations of the probe when an image of a testee is acquired. The information regarding location of the probe according to an embodiment of the present invention may include relative location of the probe in an image of a testee, an indication marker for indicating location of the probe, and coordinates of location of the probe.

[0038] According to an embodiment of the present invention, the testee image acquiring unit **110** may simultaneously acquire information regarding location of the probe and an image of a testee. According to another embodiment of the present invention, the testee image acquiring unit **110** may acquire information regarding location of the probe and an image of a testee separately.

[0039] The testee image acquiring unit **110** may include an image sensor **111**, an infrared ray (IR) sensor **113**, and a thermal image sensor **115**. In other words, according to an embodiment of the present invention, the testee image acquiring unit **110** may be embodied as at least one of an imaging camera including the image sensor **111**, an IR camera including the IR sensor **113**, and a thermal imaging camera including the thermal image sensor **115**.

[0040] The testee image acquiring unit **110** according to an embodiment of the present invention may be arranged inside or outside the ultrasound diagnostic device **100**.

[0041] The body marker generating unit **120** may generate a body marker based on an image of a testee including the information regarding location of the probe. The body marker generating unit **120** may extract frame information from the image of the testee. The body marker generating unit **120** according to an embodiment of the present invention may generate a body marker with respect to a target body of the testee by using the extracted frame information and the information regarding location of the probe.

[0042] According to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** generates a body marker by using an actual image of a testee, and thus, the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may present the target body of the testee clearly. Furthermore, the user's inconvenience in selecting a body marker may be reduced.

[0043] The body marker generating unit **120** may generate a body marker in the form of at least one from among a 2-dimensional image, a 3-dimensional, and a 4-dimensional.

[0044] According to an embodiment of the present invention, the body marker generating unit **120** may generate a body marker by using a pre-stored body model. The body marker generating unit **120** may refer to a pre-stored body model from a memory. The body marker generating unit **120** may compare an image of a testee to the pre-stored body model. Next, the body marker generating unit **120** may modify the pre-stored body model in correspondence to the image of the testee. The body marker generating unit **120** may generate a body marker based on the modified body model and the information regarding location of the probe.

[0045] The storage unit **130** may store a program for processes and controls of the control unit **140** and may temporarily store input/output data. For example, the storage unit **130** may map a body marker to an ultrasound image regarding a target body and store a mapped result. According to an embodiment of the present invention, either a single ultrasound image or a plurality of ultrasound images may be used.

[0046] An ultrasound image according to an embodiment of the present invention may include at least one of a brightness mode (B mode) image, a motion mode (M mode) image, an elasticity mode image, a 2-dimensional mode image, and a 3-dimensional mode image.

[0047] The storage unit **130** may store a body model. A body model according to an embodiment of the present invention may be used as a body marker instead of an image of a testee for protection of privacy.

[0048] The storage unit **130** may include at least one of various types of storage medium including a flash memory type storage medium, a hard disk type storage medium, a multimedia card micro type storage medium, a card type memory (e.g., a SD memory or a XD memory), a random access memory (RAM) a static RAM (SRAM), a read-only memory (ROM), an electrically erasable programmable read-only memory (EEPROM), a programmable ROM (PROM), a magnetic memory, a magnetic disk, and an optical disc. Furthermore, the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may operate a web storage, which functions as the storage unit **130**, on the Internet.

[0049] The control unit **140** generally controls overall operations of the ultrasound diagnostic device **100**. The control unit **140** may control overall operations of the probe, the image acquiring unit **110**, the body marker generating unit **120**, the storage unit **130**, and the display unit **150**.

[0050] The control unit **140** may extract a target body of the testee corresponding to the information regarding location of the probe. Next, the control unit **140** may set functions for diagnosing the extracted target body to the probe.

[0051] The display unit **150** may display information processed by the ultrasound diagnostic device **100**. For example, the display unit **150** may display an ultrasound image and a body marker corresponding to the ultrasound image.

[0052] If the display unit **150** and a touch pad form a mutual layer structure that constitutes a touch screen, the display unit **150** may be used not only as an output device, but also as an input device. The display unit **150** may include at least one of a liquid crystal display, a thin film transistor-liquid crystal display, an organic light-emitting diode, a flexible display, and a 3-dimensional display.

[0053] Furthermore, according to configurations of the ultrasound diagnostic device **100**, two or more display units **150** may be arranged. A touch screen may be configured to detect not only a touch input location and a touched area, but also a touch input pressure. Furthermore, the touch screen may be configured to detect not only a real-touch, but also a proximity touch.

[0054] Hereinafter, a method of providing an accurate body marker regarding a target body will be described in detail with reference to FIG. 3.

[0055] FIG. 3 is a flowchart for describing a method of providing a body marker according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0056] Referring to FIG. 3, the method of providing a body marker according to the present embodiment includes operations that are chronologically performed by the ultrasound

diagnostic device **100** shown in FIG. 2. Therefore, even if omitted below, descriptions given above regarding the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 may also be applied to the method of providing a body marker shown in FIG. 3.

[0057] The ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may generate an ultrasound image with respect to a target body by using a probe (operation S310). Here, according to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may acquire an image of a testee including information regarding location of the probe as of generation of the ultrasound signal (operation S320).

[0058] For example, if the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** is to acquire an ultrasound image with respect to the abdomen of a testee, the probe may be located on the abdomen of the testee. Here, the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may acquire an image of the testee including an image of the probe located on the abdomen of the testee.

[0059] According to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may acquire an image of a testee by using at least one of an image sensor, an IR sensor, and a thermal image sensor.

[0060] According to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may generate a body marker based on the image of the testee including the information regarding location of the probe (operation S330). In other words, according to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may generate a body marker by using the information regarding location of the probe and the image of the testee.

[0061] For example, the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may extract frame information from the image of the testee. The frame information according to an embodiment of the present invention may include an image regarding bones constituting and supporting a body or information regarding pose of the testee.

[0062] The ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may generate a body marker by using the extracted frame information and the information regarding location of the probe.

[0063] For example, if a testee A lies down on his/her back for ultrasound diagnosis, the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may acquire an image of the testee A and extract frame information from an image of the testee A. Since the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** acquires images of the testee A while the testee A is lying down for ultrasound diagnosis, the image of the testee A may include an image of the probe.

[0064] The ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may generate a body marker for indicating a target body based on the extracted frame information and the information regarding location of the probe. The body marker generated by the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may include an entire image of the probe or any of various icons indicating location of the probe. For example, the body marker may indicate location of the probe by using an arrow symbol (e.g., , , , etc.) or an emoticon (e.g., , , , , etc.).

[0065] Therefore, according to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may generate a body marker in which location of the probe is indicated on a frame image of a testee, and thus the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may indicate accurate location of the probe as of acquisition of an ultrasound image, that is, location of a target body.

[0066] According to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device **100** may map the gen-

erated body marker to an ultrasound image regarding a target body and store a mapped result (operation S340). According to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may map a single body marker to a plurality of ultrasound image and store a mapped result.

[0067] FIG. 4 is a flowchart for describing a method of generating a body marker by using a body model according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0068] As shown in FIG. 4, according to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may acquire an image of a testee (operation S410). The image of the testee may include information regarding location of the probe.

[0069] The ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may acquire a body model. A body model according to an embodiment of the present invention may be pre-stored in the storage unit 130.

[0070] The ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may compare the body model to the image of the testee (operation S420). For example, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may compare the image of the testee with respect to the size and pose of the body model.

[0071] According to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may extract frame information from the image of the testee and compare the image of the testee to the body model based on the extracted frame information.

[0072] If the image of the testee is not identical to the body model, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may modify the body model in correspondence to the image of the testee (operation S430). According to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may modify the body model based on the frame information extracted from the image of the testee.

[0073] For example, the image of the testee may show that the testee is lying down on his/her back, whereas the body model may be standing up. In this case, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may modify the body model to a laid-down pose based on the image of the testee.

[0074] If the image of the testee is identical to the body model, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may generate a body marker based on the body model and the information regarding location of the probe (operation S440). For example, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may fit size or pose of the body model to size or pose of the testee and apply information regarding location of the probe included in the image of the testee to the body model. In other words, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may generate a body marker by applying the information regarding location of the probe to the body model of which pose or size is fitted to the image of the testee.

[0075] According to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may protect the privacy of a testee by generating a body marker by using a body marker that is fitted to an actual image of the testee. Furthermore, according to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may generate a body marker in the form of a 3-dimensional image by using the body model.

[0076] FIG. 5 is a flowchart for describing a method of displaying a body marker according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0077] As shown in FIG. 5, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may select a predetermined ultrasound image

(operation S510). According to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may select a predetermined image according to a user input. In this case, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may extract the predetermined ultrasound image and a body marker corresponding to the predetermined ultrasound image from the storage unit 130 (operation S520).

[0078] According to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may display the ultrasound image and the body marker to a user (operation S530).

[0079] For example, if a user selects an ultrasound image as of Mar. 5, 2011 with respect to a patient A, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may extract the ultrasound image of the patient A as of Mar. 5, 2011. Furthermore, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may extract a body marker regarding the ultrasound image of the patient A as of Mar. 5, 2011 and display the ultrasound image of the patient A as of Mar. 5, 2011 and the body marker regarding the ultrasound image of the patient A as of Mar. 5, 2011 together to the user. In this case, the body marker may be indication of information regarding location of a probe on the image of the patient A.

[0080] FIG. 6 is a flowchart for describing a method of automatically setting functions of a probe by using information regarding location of the probe according to an embodiment of the present invention.

[0081] As shown in FIG. 6, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may generate an ultrasound image with respect to a target body by using a probe (operation S610). Here, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may acquire information regarding location of the probe (operation S620). For example, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may acquire information regarding location of the probe on a testee by using an imaging camera.

[0082] The ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may extract a target body corresponding to the acquired information regarding location of the probe (operation S630). For example, if the probe is located on the head of the testee, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may extract 'brain' as the target body corresponding to the information regarding location of the probe. Furthermore, if the probe is located on the left chest of the testee, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may extract 'heart' as the target body corresponding to the information regarding location of the probe.

[0083] According to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may set functions for diagnosing the extracted target body (operation S640). In other words, according to an embodiment of the present invention, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may automatically select default values for diagnosing a corresponding target body when the probe contacts the body of a testee.

[0084] For example, if the target body corresponding to the information regarding location of the probe is 'heart,' the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may set functions (or modes and default values) for heart diagnosis to the probe.

[0085] Therefore, according to an embodiment of the present invention, even if a user does not separately adjust default values for setting functions for diagnosing a target body to a probe, the ultrasound diagnostic device 100 may automatically change settings of the probe according to location of the probe. Therefore, user convenience may be improved.

[0086] FIG. 7 is a diagram showing a body marker according to an embodiment of the present invention.

专利名称(译)	用于提供身体标记的方法和用于其的超声诊断设备		
公开(公告)号	US20130172746A1	公开(公告)日	2013-07-04
申请号	US13/560640	申请日	2012-07-27
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IPC分类号	A61B6/00 A61B8/14		
CPC分类号	A61B8/4263 A61B8/4427 A61B8/5261 A61B8/488 A61B8/486		
优先权	1020110144984 2011-12-28 KR		
外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

提供身体标记的方法，该方法包括当通过使用探针获取目标身体的超声图像时，获取包括关于探针的位置的信息的被测者的图像;基于包括关于探测器的位置的信息的被测者的图像，生成指示目标身体的位置的身体标记;并将身体标记映射到目标身体的超声图像并存储映射结果。

