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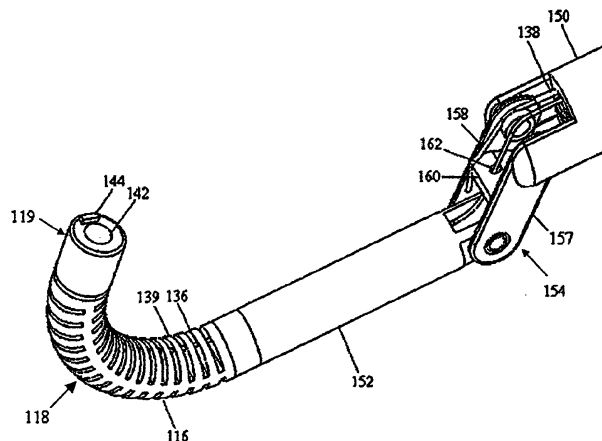
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(54) **Disposable endoscope devices**

(57) Various methods and devices are provided for endoscopic procedures. In particular, the device can include an elongate flexible insertion element adapted for delivery within a patient. In one embodiment, the insertion element has at least one working channel disposed therein which is adapted to receive a surgical instrument, a liquid, or a gas. The insertion element can be adapted,

for example, for endoscopic or laparoscopic delivery to a patient. The device further includes an optics unit disposed on a distal end of the insertion element that can be adapted to acquire images during endoscopic procedures, and an image display screen, disposed on or remote from the endoscopic device, adapted to communicate with the optics unit to display the acquired images.

FIG. 6



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
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| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC) |
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| X | WO 2005/077252 A (OLYMPUS CORP [JP]; MIYAMOTO SHINICHI [JP]; KAMEYA TAKAYUKI [JP]; WATAN) 25 August 2005 (2005-08-25) * paragraphs [0043] - [0045], [0047] - [0050], [0055], [0080]; figures 1-4,21 * | 1,2,5-8, 10 | |
| X | JP 11 009548 A (FUJI PHOTO OPTICAL CO LTD) 19 January 1999 (1999-01-19) * paragraphs [0005], [0010] - [0014]; figures 1-3 * | 1-5,7,8, 10 | |
| ----- | | | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC) |
| | | | A61B |
| -The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search Munich | | Date of completion of the search 10 February 2009 | Examiner Rick, Kai |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document | | T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document | |

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EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04C01)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing claims for which payment was due.

- Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):
- No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those claims for which no payment was due.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

- All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.
- Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:
- see annex
- The present supplementary European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims (Rule 164 (1) EPC).



**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-10

Medical treatment device with distal imaging and proximal display unit.

2. claim: 11

Disposable optics module removably mated to a distal end of a medical treatment device.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

10-02-2009

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| 优先权 | 11/277290 2006-03-23 US | | |
| 其他公开文献 | EP1836949A2 | | |
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摘要(译)

为内窥镜手术提供了各种方法和装置。特别地, 该装置可包括适于在患者体内输送的细长柔性插入元件。在一个实施例中, 插入元件具有设置在其中的至少一个工作通道, 该工作通道适于接收手术器械, 液体或气体。插入元件可以适用于例如内窥镜或腹腔镜输送给患者。该装置还包括设置在插入元件的远端上的光学单元, 其可以适于在内窥镜手术期间获取图像; 以及图像显示屏, 设置在内窥镜装置上或远离内窥镜装置, 适于与光学单元通信以显示获取的图像。

FIG. 6

