



(12) **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

(88) Date of publication A3:
06.05.2009 Bulletin 2009/19

(51) Int Cl.:
A61M 16/08 (2006.01)

(43) Date of publication A2:
02.07.2008 Bulletin 2008/27

(21) Application number: **07254762.3**

(22) Date of filing: **08.12.2007**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MT NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR
 Designated Extension States:
AL BA HR MK RS

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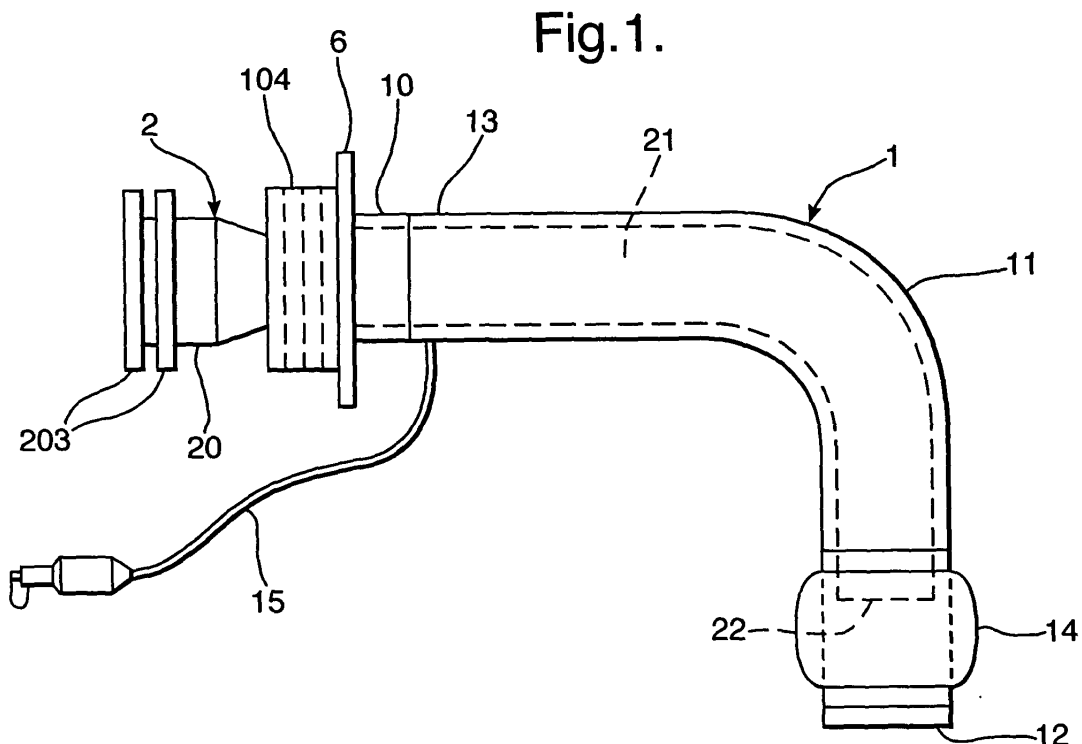
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(30) Priority: **21.12.2006 GB 0625575**

(54) **Medical tube assemblies**

(57) A tracheostomy tube assembly comprises an outer tube 1 and an inner cannula 2. The machine end fitting 10 of the outer tube 1 has a bore 105 of circular section interrupted by two flats 106 and 107. The machine end fitting 20 of the inner cannula 2 has an external surface 204 shaped to fit within the fitting 10 on the outer

tube 1 and also has two flats 207 and 208 aligned with the flats 106 and 107 on the outer tube fitting. Tubes of different sizes or other characteristics have flats with different orientations such that only inner cannulae suited for a particular outer tube can be inserted in the correct tube.





PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 63 of the European Patent Convention EP 07 25 4762 shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
X	US 2 786 469 A (WILLIAM COHEN) 26 March 1957 (1957-03-26)	1,4	INV. A61M16/08
Y	* column 2, line 21 - column 3, line 16 * * figures 2,3 *	2,3,5-7	
X	----- US 3 039 469 A (FOUNTAIN JOSEPHINE G) 19 June 1962 (1962-06-19) * column 1, line 65 - column 2, line 36 * * figure 1 *	1,4	
X	----- DE 20 2004 007251 U1 (PRIMED MEDIZINTECHNIK GMBH [DE]) 15 July 2004 (2004-07-15) * paragraph [0001] - paragraph [0015] * * figure 1 *	1,4	
X	----- US 3 688 774 A (AKIYAMA TAICHIRO) 5 September 1972 (1972-09-05) * column 3, line 1 - column 4, line 61 * * figures 1-3 *	1,4	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A61M
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely :</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched :</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search: see sheet C</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		25 March 2009	Schlaug, Martin
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		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	
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			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.02 (P04E07)



PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 07 25 4762

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
Y	EP 1 520 599 A (FISHER & PAYKEL HEALTHCARE LTD [NZ]) 6 April 2005 (2005-04-06) * paragraph [0035] - paragraph [0044] * * figures 6,9-11 *	2,3,5-7	

P,X	WO 2007/038562 A (NELLCOR PURITAN BENNETT INC [US]; MATLOCK GEORGE [US]; MOORE DONALD L) 5 April 2007 (2007-04-05) * page 4, line 13 - page 8, line 20 * * figures 1-14 *	1,4	

			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)



**INCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET C**

Application Number
EP 07 25 4762

Claim(s) searched completely:
1-7

Claim(s) not searched:
8,9

Reason for the limitation of the search (non-patentable invention(s)):

The independent claim 8 together with its dependent claim 9 do not meet the requirements of Article 53(c) EPC, because removing and inserting the inner cannula of a tracheostomy system into the corresponding outer tube located in a patient refers to a method of medical treatment of the human being.

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

EP 07 25 4762

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
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25-03-2009

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