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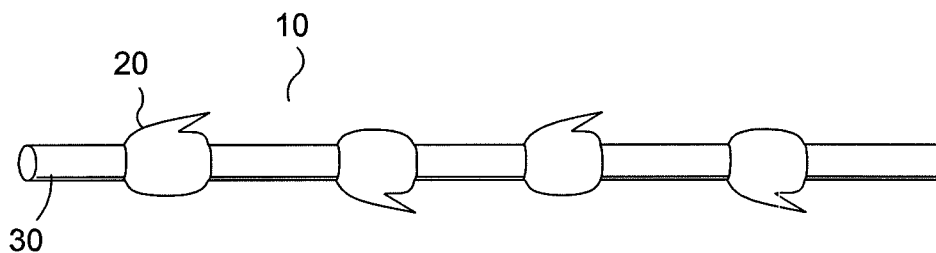
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(54) **Title:** MINIMALLY INVASIVE TISSUE SUPPORT



(57) **Abstract:** Embodiments of apparatus and methods for tissue lifting, or for correcting a ptosis condition caused by tissue stretching, are described. In some embodiments a tissue is supported by a support member. In some embodiments, tension is applied to a support member through at least one suspension member. The described embodiments provide examples of methods and apparatus effective for use in lifting or otherwise applying tension to various tissues, including tissues of the breast, buttock, thigh, arm, abdomen, neck and face.



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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<p>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - A61F 2/12 (2008.01) USPC - 600/37 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC</p>																																						
<p>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</p> <p>Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC(8) - A61 F 2/00, 2/02, 2/12, 2/52 (2008.01) USPC - 600/30, 37; 606/151 ; 623/8, 902</p> <p>Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched</p> <p>Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) PatBase, Google</p>																																						
<p>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category*</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>US 2006/0167338 A1 (SHFARAM) 27 July 2006 (27.07.2006) entire document</td> <td>1-5, 8-10, 47-50, 57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td></td> <td>6-7, 11-46, 51-56, 58-59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 6,695,855 B1 (GASTON) 24 February 2004 (24.02.2004) entire document</td> <td>6-7, 12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 4,372,293 A (VIJIL-ROSALES) 08 February 1983 (08.02.1983) entire document</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 2006/0030939 A1 (FRANK) 09 February 2006 (09.02.2006) entire document</td> <td>13-14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 2006/0089525 A1 (MAMO et al) 27 April 2006 (27.04.2006) entire document</td> <td>15-16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 6,908,473 B2 (SKIBA et al) 21 June 2005 (21 .06.2005) entire document</td> <td>17-23, 51-52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 2006/0069403 A1 (SHALON et al) 30 March 2006 (30.03.2006) entire document</td> <td>21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 2006/0201519 A1 (FRAZIER et al) 14 September 2006 (14.09.2006) entire document</td> <td>24-33, 40-46, 53-56, 58-59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 7,081,129 B2 (CHOBOTOV) 25 July 2006 (25.07.2006) entire document</td> <td>34-39, 54-55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Y</td> <td>US 5,910,124 A (RUBIN) 08 June 1999 (08.06.1999) entire document</td> <td>40-46, 58-59</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X	US 2006/0167338 A1 (SHFARAM) 27 July 2006 (27.07.2006) entire document	1-5, 8-10, 47-50, 57	Y		6-7, 11-46, 51-56, 58-59	Y	US 6,695,855 B1 (GASTON) 24 February 2004 (24.02.2004) entire document	6-7, 12	Y	US 4,372,293 A (VIJIL-ROSALES) 08 February 1983 (08.02.1983) entire document	11	Y	US 2006/0030939 A1 (FRANK) 09 February 2006 (09.02.2006) entire document	13-14	Y	US 2006/0089525 A1 (MAMO et al) 27 April 2006 (27.04.2006) entire document	15-16	Y	US 6,908,473 B2 (SKIBA et al) 21 June 2005 (21 .06.2005) entire document	17-23, 51-52	Y	US 2006/0069403 A1 (SHALON et al) 30 March 2006 (30.03.2006) entire document	21	Y	US 2006/0201519 A1 (FRAZIER et al) 14 September 2006 (14.09.2006) entire document	24-33, 40-46, 53-56, 58-59	Y	US 7,081,129 B2 (CHOBOTOV) 25 July 2006 (25.07.2006) entire document	34-39, 54-55	Y	US 5,910,124 A (RUBIN) 08 June 1999 (08.06.1999) entire document	40-46, 58-59
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. D</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>* Special categories of cited documents</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"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</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"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)</td> <td>"&" document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			* Special categories of cited documents	"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	"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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	"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"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	"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)	"&" document member of the same patent family	"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																									
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<p>Date of the actual completion of the international search</p> <p>11 February 2008</p>		<p>Date of mailing of the international search report</p> <p>10 APR 2008</p>																																				
<p>Name and mailing address of the ISA/US</p> <p>Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201</p>		<p>Authorized officer:</p> <p>Blaine R. Copenheaver</p> <p>PCT Helpdesk 571-272-4300 PCT OSP 571-272-7774</p>																																				