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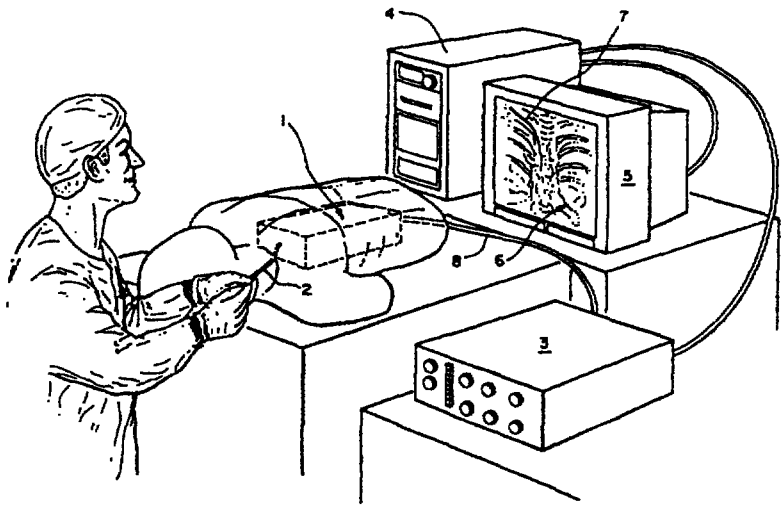
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(54) Title: SYSTEM FOR TRAINING PERSONS TO PERFORM MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGICAL PROCEDURES



(57) Abstract

A system for producing highly realistic, real-time simulated operating conditions for interactive training of persons to perfc minimally invasive surgical procedures involving implements (2) that are inserted and manipulated through small incisions (9) in patient. The virtual environment for this training system includes a housing (1) with a small opening (9). An implement (2) simulatin surgical implement is inserted into the opening (9) and manipulated relative to the housing (1). A movement guide and sensor assem (10) monitors the location of the implement (2) relative to the housing (1) and provides data about the implement's location and orientat within the housing (1). The reported data is interpolated by a computer processor (3), which utilizes a database of information represen: a patient's internal landscape (6) to create a computer model of the internal landscape (6) of the patient.