(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
17 June 2004 (17.06.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/050150 A3

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: A61M 5/32

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/038080

(22) International Filing Date: 1 December 2003 (01.12.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
10/307,812 2 December 2002 (02.12.2002) US

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP** [US/US]; 15 Hampshire Street, Mansfield, MA 02048 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **FERGUSON, F., Mark** [US/US]; 1595 East Treeview Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84124 (US). **SMITH, Daniel, K.** [US/US]; 1473 West 1540 South, Woods Cross, UT 84087 (US).

(74) Agent: **LEONARDO, Mark, S.**; Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP, One Financial Center, Boston, MA 02111 (US).

(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

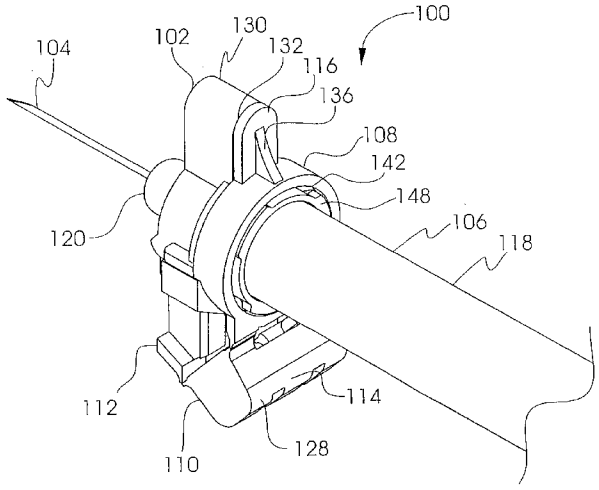
(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
11 November 2004

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SAFETY SHIELD FOR MEDICAL NEEDLES



(57) Abstract: A medical needle shield apparatus is provided that includes a first cylinder, such as, for example, a shield (102) that is extensible from a retracted position to an extended position for enclosing a distal end of a needle (104) of a medical needle device. The shield includes a collar (108) that is mounted to the medical needle device. The shield further includes a proximal portion (110) extending from the collar and a distal portion (112) extending from the proximal portion. The distal portion is configured to enclose the distal end of the needle in the extended position. The proximal portion includes an engagement surface (114) that is engageable to urge the shield from the retracted position to the extended position. The collar includes a guard (116) extending therefrom and is disposed adjacent to the distal portion of the shield in the retracted position such that inadvertent extension of the shield, via engagement of the distal portion, is prevented.

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