

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
29 November 2001 (29.11.2001)

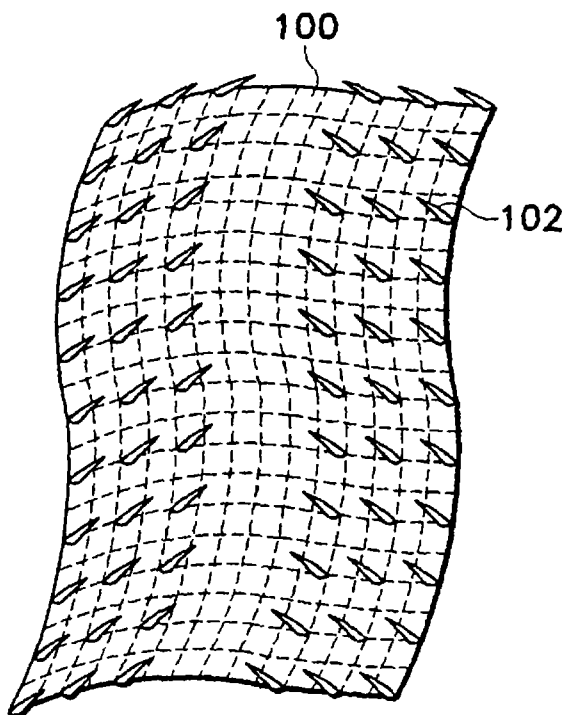
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/89392 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **A61B 17/08**, 19/00
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/16346
- (22) International Filing Date: 17 May 2001 (17.05.2001)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
09/574,603 19 May 2000 (19.05.2000) US
09/788 118 16 February 2001 (16.02.2001) US
09/816,641 22 March 2001 (22.03.2001) US
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- (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, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)
- Published:
— with international search report
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:
30 May 2002

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: TISSUE APPROXIMATION DEVICE AND A METHOD USING IT



(57) Abstract: A tissue approximation device and processes for using the device are provided. The device is an implantable, biodegradable construct (except for hernia repairs) that has attachment points emanating from a supportive backing. The device improves the mechanical phase of wound healing and evenly distributes tension over the contact area between the device and tissue. Processes for using the device include wound closure, vascular anastomoses, soft tissue attachment and soft tissue to bone attachment. Several variations are particularly applicable to facilitating tissue approximation in surgical cosmetic applications including, for example, orbital rim reconstruction and tissue suspension.

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