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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : A61F 2/16 — A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/40877

(43) International Publication Date: 19 August 1999 (19.08.99)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/03090

(22) International Filing Date: 12 February 1999 (12.02.99)

(30) Priority Data:
09/023,391 13 February 1998 (13.02.98) US

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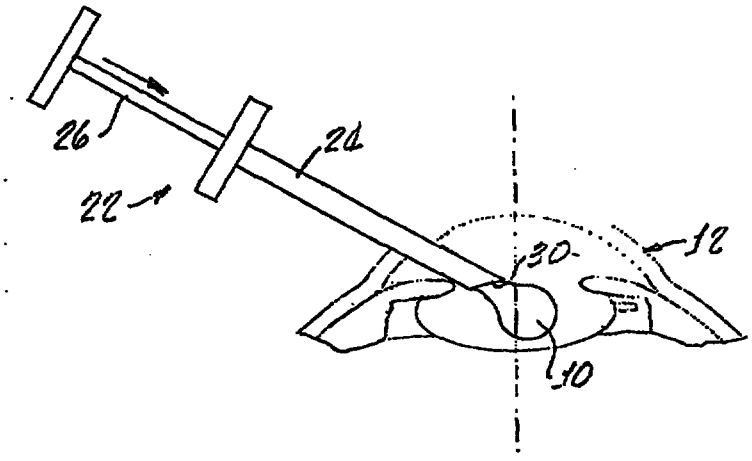
(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, 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), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published
With international search report.

(54) Title: MEDICAL IMPLANTS OF STRETCH-CRYSTALLIZABLE ELASTOMERS AND METHODS OF IMPLANTATION

(57) Abstract

Reduced trauma medical implants (10), and methods for their use are disclosed wherein at least a portion of the implant is formed of a stretch crystallizable elastomeric material formulated to exhibit the property of stretch crystallization upon substantial elongation of the implant to form stable, small incision implant configurations having at least one dimension substantially reduced for insertion through a surgical incision that is small relative to the incision size necessary to implant the un–stretched implant. Exemplary embodiments include intraocular implants formed of optically clear, high refractive index stretch crystallizable silicone elastomers formulated to stretch crystalize at near ambient temperatures upon elongations greater than or equal to 300 %, and to recover their original configuration immediately upon exposure to body temperature following implantation.