

Description

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an adaptor fitting to be used with an ultrasonic surgical instrument for permitting aspiration and/or irrigation through the surgical instrument without fluid leakage.

Background of the Invention

It is now commonly accepted that the vision impairing disease known as cataracts can be alleviated by surgically replacing the natural lens of the eye with an artificial intraocular lens. The condition of cataracts is characterized by the clouding of the natural lens of the eye so that the amount of light which reaches the retina is substantially reduced or completely eliminated.

The anatomy of the eye 1 is shown schematically in Figure 5. The cornea 2 forms the front surface of eye 1 and connects with the ciliary muscle 3, from which the iris 4 extends. Iris 4 divides the front portion of eye 1 into the anterior chamber 5, between iris 4 and cornea 2, and a posterior chamber 6 behind iris 4. The capsular bag 7 in which the natural lens of the eye is encased is supported from ciliary muscle 3 by suspensory ligaments 8, called zonules. Pupil 9 is the aperture at the center of iris 4 through which light passes to posterior chamber 6 and to the back of the eye (not shown).

It is possible to remove a cataract lens by cryogenic, mechanical or ultrasonic procedures.

The cryogenic techniques uses an insulated probe to freeze the lens into a solid mass to permit the frozen mass to be gripped and removed as a complete structure from capsular bag 7.

Mechanical means for removing the lens are shown for example in U.S. Patent 4,002,169 where a small surgical tool is introduced into the eye by inserting a specially constructed hollow needle into the eye behind a rotary augering tool journaled in the hollow needle. Surgical procedures may then be performed with the rotary tool or with different tools inserted through the needle cannula to remove unwanted tissue such as cataracts. A rotary masticating tool may be introduced through the hollow needle. The unwanted tissue can then be masticated or liquified and then withdrawn through the needle bore following removal of the masticating tool. Similarly fluids may be injected into the body and withdrawn from the body through the hollow needle.

Ultrasonic removal of the cataract can be accomplished by the instrument and procedure shown, for example, in U.S. Patent 3,519,963. That apparatus includes a casing in which is mounted a vibratory assembly for converting electrical energy into a high frequency mechanical vibrations which are used to break apart the unwanted cataract.

A transducer is located inside the casing and is connected to an acoustic impedance transformer

or horn which has a relatively massive input section, a slender output section and a tapered transition section. The geometry of the horn can be designed to achieve the desired sonic wave form. A tip, usually a hollow cannula, can be attached to the distal end of the horn.

There are passages through the instrument for introducing (irrigating) treatment fluid to the region where the vibrations are applied to the eye and other passage for carrying away (aspirating) a slurry of unwanted material and treatment fluid from the eye.

The fluid lines cannot be directly attached to the vibrator assembly since that could dampen the vibration and cause loss of efficiency. In order to aspirate fluid through the ultrasonic instrument, aspiration holes are drilled the casing and the horn. A chamber is created between the casing and the horn by placing flexible "O" rings around the horn and against the casing on either side of the aspiration holes. The aspiration line enters the chamber to provide negative pressure which is transmitted through the horn and the attached cannula to the operative site. Additional "O" rings may be used to establish separate irrigation passages. US-A-4 425 115 is the most pertinent prior art document, comprising all the features of the adaptor specified in the preamble of claim 1.

Although present ultrasonic aspirators work satisfactorily, the use of "O" rings creates a maintenance problem. It would be desirable to have an ultrasonic device for emulsifying unwanted tissue, which would eliminate the need of "O" rings but would still maintain fluid passages without leakage for irrigation and/or separate aspiration.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides an adaptor to permit fluid to be aspirated through an ultrasonic phaco emulsifying surgical instrument, said adaptor comprising:

a generally annular housing having a proximal end, a distal end, an outer wall surface and an inner wall surface defining a lumen extending axially from said proximal end proximally into said housing;

the proximal end of said housing being open to receive a portion of said instrument structure within said lumen;

the distal end of said housing including a bore extending axially therethrough and in fluid communication with said lumen;

characterised in that the adaptor further comprises:

an aspiration bore extending through a proximal portion of said housing wall and having an inner port in said inner wall surface of said housing adapted for alignment with a first aspiration port in said instrument structure and having an outer port in said outer wall surface adapted for alignment with a second aspiration port in said instrument structure, said bore providing fluid communication between said first and second aspiration ports of said instrument;

cooperative means on the distal portion of said adaptor which cooperates in use with cooperative means or the distal portion of said instrument for rotationally aligning said aspiration bore with said first and second aspiration ports of said instrument;

said inner wall surface including sealing means for forming a seal with the confronting surface of said instrument structure and prohibiting leakage of aspiration fluid along said lumen;

said outer wall surface including sealing means for forming a seal with the confronting surface of said instrument structure and prohibiting leakage of aspiration fluid along said outer wall surface of said housing.

Also provided is an adaptor for permitting a first fluid to be aspirated through an ultrasonic, phaco emulsifier surgical instrument without permitting said fluid to leak from said instrument;

said instrument having:

a handle having a proximal portion and a distal portion and a surrounding side wall;

transducer means housed within said handle for generating a high frequency sonic vibration;

a vibration horn operatively connected to said transducer means;

a vibrating tip including a hollow cannula operatively connected to said horn; and,

said handle including a shroud generally surrounding said horn in spaced-apart relationship and defining an annular space about said horn in the vicinity of the distal portion of said instrument;

said horn having a passage therethrough providing fluid communication between said hollow cannula and, via an aspiration port providing communication between said annular space and said passage through said horn, said annular space, through which passage fluid may be aspirated;

said shroud having an aspirating port there-through for providing fluid communication through said shroud to said annular space;

said adaptor comprising:

a generally annular housing adapted to fit in the annular space defined between said horn and said shroud at the distal tip of said instrument, said annular housing having a proximal end, a distal end, an outer wall surface and an inner wall surface defining a lumen extending axially from said proximal end proximally into said housing, the distal end of said housing including a bore extending axially therethrough and in fluid communication with said lumen;

said annular housing being adapted to fit in said generally annular space at the distal end of said instrument about the distal tip of said horn with said cannula projecting through said adaptor housing lumen and said distal end bore and extending distally from said adaptor;

at least one aspiration bore extending through a proximal portion of said adaptor housing wall and having an inner port in said inner wall surface of said adaptor housing and an outer port in the outer wall surface of said adaptor housing, the

inner port of said aspiration bore being aligned for fluid communication with said aspiration port of said horn and said outer port of said aspiration bore being aligned for fluid communication with said shroud aspiration port to provide fluid communication for aspirating fluid through the cannula, said passage in said horn, said aspiration bore and said shroud aspiration port;

sealing means disposed about said inner port of said aspiration bore for forming a seal with the confronting surface of said horn;

sealing means about the aspiration port of said aspiration bore for forming a seal with the confronting interior surface of said shroud; and

cooperative means on the distal portion of said adaptor which cooperates in use with cooperative means on the distal portion of said instrument for rotationally aligning said aspiration bore with said first and second aspiration ports of said instrument.

In this application the word distal will be used to describe positions closer to the operative end of the instrument near the operative site and the word proximal will be used to describe portions of the apparatus farther away from the operative site.

These and other features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent when taken in conjunction with the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment and the following drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of the ultrasonic irrigation/aspiration tool with which the adaptor fitting of the present invention is used;

Figure 2 shows a detailed cross-sectional view of the adaptor of the present invention inserted in place on the ultrasonic apparatus and taken along lines 2-2 in Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows a perspective view of the adaptor of the present invention;

Figure 4 shows an end view of the adaptor of Figure 2 taken along lines 4-4 in Figure 2; and, Figure 5 shows a schematic representation of the anatomy of the eye with an ultrasonic aspirating instrument inserted into the eye in a position to remove a cataract.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Referring now to Figure 1 there is shown an ultrasonic surgical instrument 10 having an irrigation line 12 for introducing fluid into the instrument and ultimately to the operative site, and aspiration line 14 for removing aspiration fluid from the operative site through the instrument. The instrument includes a body portion 16 for housing an ultrasonic transducer (not shown). Power cord 18 is used to deliver electrical energy to the transducer inside body portion 16.

Referring now to Figure 2, there is shown a horn portion 20 of an ultrasonic transformer for converting the mechanical vibrations developed by the transducer inside body portion 16 to vibrations of the desired wave form. The distal

portion 22 of horn 20 includes a fitting (not shown) for rigidly affixing a hollow cannula 24 to distal end 22 for delivering ultrasonic vibrations of the desired wave form to the operative site. A passage 26 extends through horn 20 with a distal end 28 in fluid communication with hollow cannula 24 and proximal end 30 exiting through the side wall of horn 20.

Still referring to Figure 2, there is shown an annular shroud portion 32 of instrument 10 extending around the distal end of horn 20 and spaced radially apart from horn 20 to provide an annular space 34 between shroud 32 and horn 20.

Irrigation line 12 connects to fitting 36 through shroud 32 to provide fluid communication with space 34. Aspiration line 14 connects to fitting 38 through shroud 32 to provide fluid communication with space 34. Referring now to Figures 1 and 4, it can be seen that aspiration port 38 is located proximally of irrigation port 36 and is spaced circumferentially away from irrigation port 36 a small amount of about 10°.

Referring now to Figure 1, adaptor 40 is shown inserted into the distal end of instrument 10.

Referring now to Figure 3, it can be seen that adaptor 40 includes a generally annular housing 42 defining a lumen 44. A generally cylindrical sleeve 46 projects from the distal end of adaptor 40.

The detailed structure of adaptor 40 will now be explained in conjunction with Figure 2. Adaptor 40 includes a proximal portion 48 having a bore 50 extending generally radially through the annular wall of housing 42 and defining an inner port 52 and an outer port 54. Outer port 54 is aligned generally with aspiration fitting 38. Inner port 52 is aligned generally with the proximal end 30 of passage 26 through horn 20.

Seals 56 and 58 are formed of generally annular ribs on the outer wall of annular housing 42 and spaced axially apart with seal 56 being placed distally of aspiration bore 50 and seal 58 being placed proximally of aspiration bore 50. Seals 56 and 58 seal firmly against the confronting inside wall of shroud 32 to provide a liquid tight seal to prevent aspiration fluid from leaking along the outer wall of adaptor 40. Seal 58 rests against a step 60 on the inside wall of shroud 32 which step 60 provides a stop against which adaptor 40 will bottom when inserted into shroud 32.

Seals 62 and 64 on the inner wall of annular housing 42 project radially inward into tight sealing engagement with horn 20. Seals 62 and 64 are annular ribs integrally formed on the inner wall of housing 42 and are spaced axially apart with seals 64 being located proximally of bore 50 and seal 62 being located distally of bore 50.

It will be appreciated that if suction is applied to aspiration line 14 fluid may be removed from the operative site through hollow cannula 24, passage 26, bore 50 and fitting 38 in shroud 32 to provide a liquid tight fluid passage which will prevent leakage along the outer wall of adaptor 40 or along the wall of horn 20.

Still referring to Figure 2 it can be seen that the

distal end 70 of adaptor 40 includes a flange 72 extending radially outwardly and completely circumferentially about adaptor 40. A groove 74 extends distally into flange 72 and circumferentially part way about flange 72. A corresponding projection 39 extends distally from the distal end of shroud 32 and mates with groove 74 of flange 72 to provide rotational orientation of adaptor 40 with respect to shroud 32 and particularly aspiration fitting 38 of shroud 32 and aspiration bore 50 of adaptor 40. It is desirable to have aspiration bore 50 aligned with passage 26 of horn 20 and fitting 38 of aspiration line 14 so that particles of tissue aspirated through the apparatus will be less likely to be trapped between adaptor 40 and the interior wall of shroud 32.

In the preferred embodiment, adaptor 40 is provided with a means for introducing irrigation fluid into the operative site through the instrument. Adaptor 40 includes an intermediate section 80 located distally of outer seal 56 and having a recess 82 extending radially inwardly and extending circumferentially about the intermediate portion 80. A bore 84 extends from the bottom of recess 82 through the wall of housing 42 to provide fluid communication with lumen 44 distally of inner seal 62.

Alternatively additional bores 86 may be included in intermediate portion 80.

Still referring to Figure 2, it can be seen that cannula 24 projects through a bore 88 in the distal end of adaptor 40. An annular sleeve 46 extends distally about the periphery of bore 88. Ribs 90 extend axially along the interior wall of sleeve 46 and project radially inward a short distance to add stiffness to sleeve 46 and to provide fluid passages for irrigation fluid to flow between ribs 90 along the outside wall of cannula 24. Ribs 90 are shown dashed in Figure 2 and in cross section in Figure 4.

Close to the distal end of sleeve 46 there are provided a plurality of bores 92 extending radially through the wall of sleeve 46 to permit irrigation fluid to exit from the space between the outside wall of cannula 24 and the inside wall of sleeve 46 to the operative site.

From Figure 1 it can be seen that irrigation fluid can enter instrument 10 through irrigation line 12, through fitting 36, into space 34, through bore 84, into lumen 44, along the exterior of cannula 24 and out through bores 92 into the operative site.

An inwardly extending bevel 94 extends circumferentially around the distal tip of sleeve 46.

Bevel 94 provides a tight seal between sleeve 46 and the exterior wall of cannula 24 to prohibit aspiration fluid from entering between sleeve 46 and cannula 24 and to inhibit the flow of irrigation fluid axially out the distal end of cannula 24 where it could be aspirated right back into hollow cannula 24 without providing the necessary irrigation function.

It can be seen from Figure 2 that a chamber 96 is formed between the confronting surfaces of

intermediate section 80, seal 56, the interior wall of shroud 32 and flange 72 through which irrigation fluid can circulate and then pass through bores 84 and 86 through lumen 44 and through the space provided by ribs 90 between the interior wall of sleeve 46 and the outside wall of cannula 24. In those instances where irrigation is not desired sleeve 46 can be cut off from adaptor 40.

It will be appreciated that the present adaptor provides a convenient fitting for permitting irrigation and/or aspiration fluid to circulate through an ultrasonic surgical instrument without permitting the irrigation and/or aspiration fluid to mix with one another or to leak from or into the interior of the instrument.

Irrigation line 12 and aspiration line 14 are disposable plastic tubes. Adaptor 40 is preferably disposable. Disposable adaptor 40 provides a convenient fitting which eliminates the assembly and cleaning problems of prior ultrasonic surgical instruments caused particularly by the use of "O" rings in their construction.

The present invention has been described in conjunction with preferred embodiments. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that many modifications and changes may be made to the preferred embodiments without departing from the present invention as defined in the appended claims. It is therefore, not intended to limit the present invention except to set forth in the following claims.

Claims

1. An adaptor (40) to permit fluid to be aspirated through an ultrasonic phaco emulsifying surgical instrument (10) said adaptor (40) comprising:

a generally annular housing (42) having a proximal end (48), a distal end (70), an outer wall surface and an inner wall surface defining a lumen (44) extending axially from said proximal end (48) proximally into said housing;

the proximal end (48) of said housing (42) being open to receive a portion (20) of said instrument structure within said lumen (44);

the distal end (70) of said housing including a bore (88) extending axially therethrough and in fluid communication with said lumen (44);

characterized in that the adaptor further comprises:

an aspiration bore (50) extending through a proximal portion of said housing wall and having an inner port (52) in said inner wall surface of said housing adapted for alignment with a first aspiration port (30) in said instrument structure and having an outer port (54) in said outer wall surface adapted for alignment with a second aspiration port (38) in said instrument structure, said bore (50) providing fluid communication between said first (30) and second (38) aspiration ports of said instrument;

cooperative means (72, 74) on the distal portion (70) of said adaptor which cooperates in use with cooperative means (39) on the distal portion of said instrument (10) for rotationally aligning said

aspiration bore (50) with said first (30) and second (38) aspiration ports of said instrument (10);

said inner wall surface including sealing means (62, 64) for forming a seal with the confronting surface of said instrument structure and prohibiting leakage of aspiration fluid along said lumen (44);

said outer wall surface including sealing means (56, 58) for forming a seal with the confronting surface of said instrument structure and prohibiting leakage of aspiration fluid along said outer wall surface of said housing.

2. The adaptor of claim 1 wherein said inner wall surface sealing means (62, 64) includes at least two ribs formed integrally with said adaptor housing (42), extending circumferentially about said inner wall surface and spaced axially apart therealong and extending radially inward.

3. The adaptor of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the sealing means (56, 58) on said outer wall surface includes at least two ribs formed integrally with said adaptor housing (42) and extending circumferentially about said outer wall surface and spaced axially apart therealong and extending radially outward.

4. The adaptor of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said cooperative means (74) comprises:

a radially extending flange (72) on the distal portion of said adaptor housing (42) extending radially outwardly beyond the outside wall surface of said housing (42), said flange (72) having a proximally facing surface;

a circumferential groove (74) extending part way about the proximally facing surface of said distal flange (72) and adapted to cooperate with a corresponding projection (39) extending from the distal end of said instrument (10) to rotationally position said adaptor (40) in its desired position with respect to said instrument (10).

5. The adaptor of any one of claims 1 to 4 further including means to permit fluid to be irrigated through said instrument comprising:

an intermediate section (80) of said generally annular housing (42) disposed between the distal (70) and proximal (48) ends thereof;

a recessed portion (82) in said outer wall surface of said intermediate section (80) extending circumferentially thereabout;

at least one irrigation bore (84) through said recessed portion (82) of said intermediate section (80) to provide fluid communication to said lumen (44) through said housing wall;

additional sealing means on said outer wall surface of said housing (42) distally of said intermediate portion (80) for forming a seal with the confronting surface of the structure of said instrument (10).

6. The adaptor of claim 5 further including a generally annular sleeve (46) extending distally from the distal portion (70) of said adaptor housing (42) and defining a lumen in fluid communication with the lumen (44) of said adaptor housing (42).

7. The adaptor of claim 6 further including a plurality of axially extending ribs (90) extending

intermediate section 80, seal 56, the interior wall of shroud 32 and flange 72 through which irrigation fluid can circulate and then pass through bores 84 and 86 through lumen 44 and through the space provided by ribs 90 between the interior wall of sleeve 46 and the outside wall of cannula 24. In those instances where irrigation is not desired sleeve 46 can be cut off from adaptor 40.

It will be appreciated that the present adaptor provides a convenient fitting for permitting irrigation and/or aspiration fluid to circulate through an ultrasonic surgical instrument without permitting the irrigation and/or aspiration fluid to mix with one another or to leak from or into the interior of the instrument.

Irrigation line 12 and aspiration line 14 are disposable plastic tubes. Adaptor 40 is preferably disposable. Disposable adaptor 40 provides a convenient fitting which eliminates the assembly and cleaning problems of prior ultrasonic surgical instruments caused particularly by the use of "O" rings in their construction.

The present invention has been described in conjunction with preferred embodiments. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that many modifications and changes may be made to the preferred embodiments without departing from the present invention as defined in the appended claims. It is therefore, not intended to limit the present invention except to set forth in the following claims.

Claims

1. An adaptor (40) to permit fluid to be aspirated through an ultrasonic phaco emulsifying surgical instrument (10) said adaptor (40) comprising:

a generally annular housing (42) having a proximal end (48), a distal end (70), an outer wall surface and an inner wall surface defining a lumen (44) extending axially from said proximal end (48) proximally into said housing;

the proximal end (48) of said housing (42) being open to receive a portion (20) of said instrument structure within said lumen (44);

the distal end (70) of said housing including a bore (88) extending axially therethrough and in fluid communication with said lumen (44);

characterized in that the adaptor further comprises:

an aspiration bore (50) extending through a proximal portion of said housing wall and having an inner port (52) in said inner wall surface of said housing adapted for alignment with a first aspiration port (30) in said instrument structure and having an outer port (54) in said outer wall surface adapted for alignment with a second aspiration port (38) in said instrument structure, said bore (50) providing fluid communication between said first (30) and second (38) aspiration ports of said instrument;

cooperative means (72, 74) on the distal portion (70) of said adaptor which cooperates in use with cooperative means (39) on the distal portion of said instrument (10) for rotationally sealing said

aspiration bore (50) with said first (30) and second (38) aspiration ports of said instrument (10);

said inner wall surface including sealing means (62, 64) for forming a seal with the confronting surface of said instrument structure and prohibiting leakage of aspiration fluid along said lumen (44);

said outer wall surface including sealing means (56, 58) for forming a seal with the confronting surface of said instrument structure and prohibiting leakage of aspiration fluid along said outer wall surface of said housing.

2. The adaptor of claim 1 wherein said inner wall surface sealing means (62, 64) includes at least two ribs formed integrally with said adaptor housing (42), extending circumferentially about said inner wall surface and spaced axially apart therealong and extending radially inward.

3. The adaptor of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the sealing means (56, 58) on said outer wall surface includes at least two ribs formed integrally with said adaptor housing (42) and extending circumferentially about said outer wall surface and spaced axially apart therealong and extending radially outward.

4. The adaptor of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein said cooperative means (74) comprises:
a radially extending flange (72) on the distal portion of said adaptor housing (42) extending radially outwardly beyond the outside wall surface of said housing (42), said flange (72) having a proximally facing surface;

a circumferential groove (74) extending part way about the proximally facing surface of said distal flange (72) and adapted to cooperate with a corresponding projection (39) extending from the distal end of said instrument (10) to rotationally position said adaptor (40) in its desired position with respect to said instrument (10).

5. The adaptor of any one of claims 1 to 4 further including means to permit fluid to be irrigated through said instrument comprising:

an intermediate section (80) of said generally annular housing (42) disposed between the distal (70) and proximal (48) ends thereof;

a recessed portion (82) in said outer wall surface of said intermediate section (80) extending circumferentially thereabout;

at least one irrigation bore (84) through said recessed portion (82) of said intermediate section (80) to provide fluid communication to said lumen (44) through said housing wall;

additional sealing means on said outer wall surface of said housing (42) distally of said intermediate portion (80) for forming a seal with the confronting surface of the structure of said instrument (10).

6. The adaptor of claim 5 further including a generally annular sleeve (46) extending distally from the distal portion (70) of said adaptor housing (42) and defining a lumen in fluid communication with the lumen (44) of said adaptor housing (42).

7. The adaptor of claim 6 further including a plurality of axially extending ribs (90) extending



radially inwardly into said lumen of said sleeve (46).

8. The adaptor of claim 6 or claim 7 wherein the distal tip of said distally extending sleeve (46) includes a bevelled portion (94) bevelled radially inwardly and further including at least one opening (92) extending radially through said sleeve (46) to permit fluid communication out of said sleeve lumen.

9. The adaptor of any one of claims 5 to 8 wherein said aspiration bore (50) is spaced circumferentially from said irrigation bore (84).

10. The adaptor of any one of claims 5 to 9 wherein said recessed portion (82) includes at least two irrigation bores (84, 86) therethrough spaced on opposite portions of said recessed portion (82).

11. An adaptor for permitting a first fluid to be aspirated through an ultrasonic, phaco emulsifier surgical instrument (10) without permitting said fluid to leak from said instrument (10);

said instrument (10) having:

a handle (16, 32) having a proximal portion and a distal portion and a surrounding side wall;

transducer means housed within said handle (16, 32) for generating a high frequency sonic vibration;

a vibration horn (20) operatively connected to said transducer means;

a vibrating tip including a hollow cannula (24) operatively connected to said horn; and,

said handle including a shroud (32) generally surrounding said horn (20) in spaced-apart relationship and defining an annular space (34) about said horn (20) in the vicinity of the distal portion of said instrument (10);

said horn (20) having a passage (26) therethrough providing fluid communication between said hollow cannula (24) and, via an aspiration port (30) providing communication between said annular space (34) and said passage (26) through said horn (20), said annular space (34), through which passage (26) fluid may be aspirated;

said shroud (32) having an aspirating port (38) therethrough for providing fluid communication through said shroud (32) to said annular space (34);

said adaptor (40) comprising:

a generally annular housing (42) adapted to fit in the annular space (34) defined between said horn (20) and said shroud (32) at the distal tip of said instrument (10), said annular housing (42) having a proximal end (48), a distal end (70), an outer wall surface and an inner wall surface defining a lumen (44) extending axially from said proximal end (48) proximally into said housing (42), the distal end (70) of said housing (42) including a bore (88) extending axially there through and in fluid communication with said lumen (44);

said annular housing (42) being adapted to fit in said generally annular space (34) at the distal end of said instrument (10) about the distal tip of said horn (20) with said cannula (24) projecting through said adaptor housing lumen (44) and said

distal end bore (88) and extending distally from said adaptor;

at least one aspiration bore (50) extending through a proximal portion of said adaptor housing wall and having an inner port (52) in said inner wall surface of said adaptor housing (42) and an outer port (54) in the outer wall surface of said adaptor housing (42), the inner port (52) of said aspiration bore (50) being aligned for fluid communication with said aspiration port (30) of said horn (20) and said outer port (54) of said aspiration bore (50) being aligned for fluid communication with said shroud aspiration port (38) to provide fluid communication for aspirating fluid through the cannula (24), said passage (26) in said horn (20), said aspiration bore (50) and said shroud aspiration port (38);

sealing means (62, 64) disposed about said inner port (52) of said aspiration bore (50) for forming a seal with the confronting surface of said horn (20);

sealing means (56, 58) about the aspiration port (54) of said aspiration bore (50) for forming a seal with the confronting interior surface of said shroud (32); and

cooperative means (72, 74) on the distal portion (70) of said adaptor which cooperates in use with cooperative means (39) on the distal portion of said instrument (10) for rotationally aligning said aspiration bore (50) with said first (30) and second (38) aspiration ports of said instrument (10).

12. The adaptor of claim 11 further including means to permit a second fluid to be irrigated through said instrument, via an irrigation port (36) in the shroud, which port (36) provides fluid communication to said annular space (34) and is spaced axially from said aspiration port (38) through said shroud, without permitting said aspiration or said irrigation fluid to mix with one another or to leak from said instrument, said further means comprising:

an intermediate section (80) of said generally annular housing (42) disposed between the distal (70) and proximal (48) ends thereof;

a recessed portion (82) in the outer wall surface of said intermediate section (80) extending circumferentially thereabout;

at least one irrigation bore (84) through the recessed portion (82) to provide fluid communication to said lumen (44) through said housing wall;

sealing means on the outer wall surface of said housing (42), distally of said intermediate portion (80) for forming a seal with the confronting surface of said shroud (32).

13. A combination of the adaptor of any one of claims 1 to 12 with an ultrasonic phaco emulsifying surgical instrument in which the adaptor is fitted.

Patentansprüche

1. Adapter (40) zum Absaugen von Flüssigkeiten durch ein chirurgisches, phaco-emulgierendes Ultraschallgerät (10), wobei der Adapter (40) umfaßt:



ein ringförmiges Gehäuse (42) mit einem hinteren Ende (48), einem vorderen Ende (70), einer Außenwandseite und einer Innenwandseite unter Bildung eines Hohlraums (44), der sich von dem hinteren Ende (48) in das Gehäuse hinten axial erstreckt;

wobei das hintere Ende (48) des Gehäuses (42) zur Aufnahme eines Teils (20) des Gerätes in dem Hohlraum (44) offen ist;

das vordere Ende (70) des Gehäuses eine sich durch dieses axial hindurch erstreckende und mit dem Hohlraum (44) in Flüssigkeitsverbindung stehende Bohrung (88) umfaßt;

dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Adapter außerdem umfaßt:

eine Ansaugbohrung (50), die sich durch einen hinteren Teil der Gehäusewand erstreckt und eine innere Öffnung (52) in der Innenwandseite des Gehäuses aufweist, die gegenüber einer ersten Ansaugöffnung (30) in dem Gerät ausgerichtet ist, und eine äußere Öffnung (54) in der Außenwandseite aufweist, die gegenüber einer zweiten Ansaugöffnung (38) in dem Gerät ausgerichtet ist, wobei die Bohrung (50) mit den ersten (30) und zweiten (38) Ansaugöffnungen des Gerätes in Flüssigkeitsverbindung steht;

eine zusammenwirkende Vorrichtung (72, 74) an dem vorderen Teil (70) des Adapters, die bei Benutzung mit einem zusammenwirkenden Teil (39) an dem vorderen Teil des Gerätes zur Drehausrichtung der Ansaugbohrung (50) gegenüber den ersten (30) und zweiten (38) Ansaugöffnungen des Gerätes (10) zusammenwirkt;

die Innenwandseite umfaßt eine Dichtungsvorrichtung (62, 64) zur Abdichtung gegenüber der gegenüberliegenden Fläche des Gerätes und zur Verhinderung einer Leckage der abgesaugten Flüssigkeit längs des Hohlraums (44);

die Außenwandseite umfaßt eine Dichtungsvorrichtung (56, 58) zur Abdichtung gegenüber der gegenüberliegenden Seite des Gerätes und zur Verhinderung einer Leckage der abgesaugten Flüssigkeit längs der Außenwandseite des Gehäuses.

2. Adapter nach Anspruch 1, bei dem die Dichtungsvorrichtung (62, 64) der Innenwandseite mindestens zwei Rippen umfaßt, die mit dem Adaptergehäuse (42) einheitlich ausgebildet sind und sich in Umfangsrichtung um die Innenwandseite sowie in axialem Abstand voneinander entlang derselben erstrecken und radial nach innen vorstehen.

3. Adapter nach Anspruch 1 oder Anspruch 2, wobei die Dichtungsvorrichtung (56, 58) an der Außenwandseite mindestens zwei Rippen umfaßt, die einheitlich mit dem Adaptergehäuse (42) ausgebildet sind und sich in Umfangsrichtung um die Außenwandseite sowie in axialem Abstand voneinander entlang derselben erstrecken und radial nach außen vorstehen.

4. Adapter nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 3, bei dem die zusammenwirkende Vorrichtung (74) sich zusammensetzt aus:

einem sich radial erstreckenden Flansch (72) am vorderen Teil des Adaptergehäuses (42), der

sich radial nach außen über die Außenwandseite des Gehäuses erstreckt, wobei der Flansch (72) eine nach hinten weisende Fläche hat;

einer Umfangsnut (74), die sich teilweise um die nach hinten weisende Fläche des vorderen Flansches (72) herum erstreckt und mit einem entsprechenden, sich von dem vorderen Ende des Gerätes (10) erstreckenden Vorsprung (39) zusammenwirkt, um den Adapter (40) in der in bezug auf das Gerät (10) gewünschten Drehstellung zu positionieren.

5. Adapter nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 4 mit einer Vorrichtung zum Hindurchleiten von Spülflüssigkeit durch das Gerät, bestehend aus:

einem Zwischenabschnitt (80) des im allgemeinen ringförmigen Gehäuses (42), der zwischen dem vorderen (70) und dem hinteren (48) Ende desselben angeordnet ist;

einer Ausnehmung (82) in der Außenwandseite des Zwischenabschnitts (80), die sich in Umfangsrichtung um diesen herum erstreckt;

mindestens einer Spülbohrung durch die Ausnehmung (82) des Zwischenabschnitts (80) zur Herstellung einer Flüssigkeitsverbindung mit dem Hohlraum (44) durch die Gehäusewand;

einer zusätzlichen Dichtungsvorrichtung an der Außenwandseite des Gehäuses (42) im vorderen Bereich des Zwischenabschnitts (80) zur Bildung einer Abdichtung gegenüber der gegenüberliegenden Fläche des Gerätes (10).

6. Adapter nach Anspruch 5, der außerdem umfaßt eine im allgemeinen ringförmige Hülse (46), die sich von dem vorderen Teil (70) des Adaptergehäuses (42) nach vorne erstreckt und einen Hohlraum bildet, der mit dem Hohlraum (44) des Adaptergehäuses (42) in Flüssigkeitsverbindung steht.

7. Adapter nach Anspruch 6, ferner umfassend eine Mehrzahl von sich axial erstreckenden Rippen (90), die sich radial nach innen in den Hohlraum der Hülse (46) erstrecken.

8. Adapter nach Anspruch 6 oder Anspruch 7, bei dem die vordere Spitze der sich nach vorne erstreckenden Hülse (46) einen abgeschrägten Teil (94) umfaßt, der radial nach innen abgeschrägt ist und ferner mindestens eine Öffnung (92) umfaßt, die sich radial durch die Hülse (46) erstreckt, um eine Flüssigkeitsverbindung von dem Hülsehohlraum nach außen zu ermöglichen.

9. Adapter nach einem der Ansprüche 5 bis 8, bei dem die Ansaugbohrung (50) in Umfangsrichtung im Abstand von der Spülbohrung (84) angeordnet ist.

10. Adapter nach einem der Ansprüche 5 bis 9, bei dem die Ausnehmung (82) mindestens zwei Spülbohrungen (84, 86) aufweist, die an gegenüberliegenden Teilen der Ausnehmung (82) im Abstand angeordnet sind.

11. Adapter zum Absaugen einer ersten Flüssigkeit durch ein chirurgisches, phaco-emulgierendes Ultraschallgerät (10) ohne Leckage von Flüssigkeit aus dem Gerät (10), wobei das Gerät (10) aufweist:

einen Griff (16, 32) mit einem hinteren Teil und



einem vorderen Teil sowie einer umgebenden Seitenwand;

einen von dem Griff (16, 32) umgebenen Wandler zur Erzeugung einer hochfrequenten Schall-schwingung;

ein Schwingungshorn (20), das mit dem Wandler betriebsmäßig verbunden ist;

eine Schwingungsspitze, umfassend eine Hohl-nadel (24), die mit dem Horn betriebsmäßig ver-bunden ist; und wobei

der Griff eine Ummantelung (32) umfaßt, die im allgemeinen das Horn (20) im Abstand umgibt und einen Ringraum (34) um das Horn (20) in der Nähe des vorderen Teiles des Gerätes (10) bildet;

das Horn (20) einen sich durch dieses hindurch erstreckenden Kanal (26) hat, der eine Flüssig-keitsverbindung zwischen der Hohnadel (24) und, über eine Absaugöffnung (30) für eine Verbin-dung zwischen dem Ringraum (34) und dem Kanal (26) durch das Horn (20), dem Ringraum (34) ermöglicht, wobei Flüssigkeit durch den Kanal (26) abgesaugt werden kann;

die Ummantelung (32) eine Absaugöffnung (38) durch diese hindurch zur Herstellung einer Flüssigkeitsverbindung durch die Ummantelung (32) mit dem Ringraum (34) aufweist;

wobei der Adapter (40) umfaßt:

ein ringförmiges Gehäuse (42), das in den Ringraum (34) einsetzbar ist, der zwischen dem Horn und der Ummantelung (32) an der vorderen Spitze des Gerätes (10) gebildet ist, wobei das ringförmige Gehäuse (42) mit einem hinteren Ende (48), einem vorderen Ende (70), einer Außenwandseite und einer Innenwandseite unter Bildung eines Hohlraums (44) versehen ist, der sich axial von dem hinteren Ende (48) hinten in das Gehäuse (42) erstreckt, das vordere Ende (70) des Gehäuses (42) eine Bohrung (88) umfaßt, die sich axial durch das Ende erstreckt und mit dem Hohlraum (44) in Flüssigkeitsverbindung steht und

das ringförmige Gehäuse (42) in den im allge-meinen ringförmigen Raum (34) an dem vorderen Ende des Gerätes (10) um die vordere Spitze des Horns (20) einsetzbar ist, wobei die Hohnadel (24) in den Hohlraum (44) und durch die Bohrung (88) am vorderen Ende vorsteht und sich von dem Adapter nach vorne erstreckt; mindestens eine Absaugbohrung (50), die sich durch einen hin-teren Teil der Adaptergehäusewand erstreckt und eine innere Öffnung (52) in der Innenwandseite des Adaptergehäuses (42) und eine äußere Öff-nung (54) in der Außenwandseite des Adapterge-häuses (42) aufweist, wobei die innere Öffnung (52) der Absaugbohrung (50) zur Flüssigkeitsver-bindung mit der Absaugöffnung (30) des Horns (20) ausgerichtet ist und die äußere Öffnung (54) der Absaugbohrung (50) zur Flüssigkeitsverbin-dung mit der Absaugöffnung (38) der Ummantelung ausgerichtet ist, um eine Flüssigkeitsverbin-dung für abzusaugende Flüssigkeit durch die Hohnadel (24), den Kanal (26) in dem Horn (20), die Absaugbohrung (50) und die Absaugöffnung (38) in der Ummantelung zu bilden;

eine Dichtungsvorrichtung (62, 64), die um die

innere Öffnung (52) der Absaugbohrung (50) zur Herstellung einer Abdichtung gegenüber der gegenüberliegenden Fläche des Horns (20) ange-ordnet ist;

eine Dichtungsvorrichtung (56, 58) um die Absaugöffnung (54) der Absaugbohrung (50) zur Abdichtung gegenüber der gegenüberliegenden Innenseite des Ummantelung (32) und

eine zusammenwirkende Vorrichtung (72, 74) an dem vorderen Teil (70) des Adapters, die bei Benutzung mit der zusammenwirkenden Vorrich-tung (39) an dem vorderen Teil des Gerätes (10) zur radialen Ausrichtung der Ansaugbohrung (50) mit den ersten und zweiten Absaugbohrungen (30, 38) des Gerätes (10) zusammenwirkt.

12. Adapter nach Anspruch 11, ferner umfas-send eine Vorrichtung, die das Ausspülen des Gerätes mit einer zweiten Flüssigkeit über eine Spülöffnung (36) in der Ummantelung ermög-licht, wobei die Öffnung (36) mit dem Ringraum (34) in Flüssigkeitsverbindung steht und gegen-über der Ansaugöffnung (38) durch die Umman-telung in axialem Abstand angeordnet ist, ohne daß es der Absaugflüssigkeit oder der Spülflüs-sigkeit möglich ist, sich miteinander zu vermi-schen oder aus dem Gerät auszufließen, wobei die Vorrichtung ferner umfaßt:

einen Zwischenabschnitt (80) des im allgemei-nen ringförmigen Gehäuses (42), der zwischen dem vorderen (70) und dem hinteren (48) Ende desselben angeordnet ist; eine Ausnehmung (82) in der Außenwandseite des Zwischenabschnitts (80), die sich um diesen in Umfangsrichtung erstreckt;

mindestens eine Spülbohrung (84) durch die Ausnehmung (82) zur Herstellung einer Flüssig-keitsverbindung mit dem Hohlraum (44) durch die Gehäusewand;

eine Dichtungsvorrichtung an der Außenwand-seite des Gehäuses (42) im vorderen Bereich des Zwischenabschnitts (80) zur Bildung einer Abdichtung mit der gegenüberliegenden Seite der Ummantelung (32).

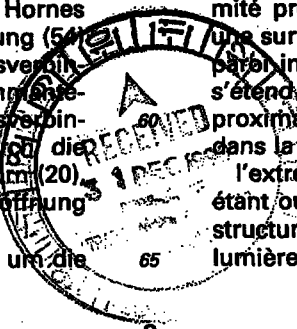
13. Kombination des Adapters nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 12 mit einem chirurgischen, phaco-emulgierenden Ultraschallgerät, in das der Adapter eingesetzt ist.

Revendications

1. Adaptateur (40) destiné à permettre d'aspirer un fluide à travers un instrument chirurgical phacoémulsifiant à ultrasons, (10) ledit adapta-teur (40) comprenant:

un boîtier annulaire (42) possédant une extré-mité proximale (48), une extrémité distale (70), une surface de paroi extérieure et une surface de paroi intérieure qui définit une lumière (44) qui s'étend axialement à partir de ladite extrémité proximale (48) pour pénétrer dans ledit boîtier dans la région proximale;

l'extrémité proximale (48) dudit boîtier (42) étant ouverte pour recevoir une partie (20) de la structure dudit instrument à l'intérieur de ladite lumière (44);



l'extrémité distale (70) dudit boîtier présentant un perçage (88) qui la traverse axialement et est en communication pour l'écoulement du fluide avec ladite lumière (44);

caractérisé en ce que l'adaptateur comprend en outre;

un perçage d'aspiration (50) qui s'étend à travers une partie proximale de ladite paroi du boîtier et possède un orifice intérieur (52) situé dans ladite surface de paroi intérieure dudit boîtier et adapté pour s'aligner sur un premier orifice d'aspiration (30) prévu dans ladite structure de l'instrument et possède aussi un orifice extérieur (54) situé dans ladite paroi extérieure et adapté pour s'aligner sur un deuxième orifice (38) prévu dans ladite structure de l'instrument, ledit perçage (50) établissant une communication pour l'écoulement du fluide entre lesdits premier (30) et deuxième (38) orifices d'aspiration dudit instrument;

des moyens coopérants (72, 74) prévus sur la partie distale (70) dudit adaptateur qui coopèrent en utilisation avec des moyens coopérants (39) prévus sur l'extrémité distale dudit instrument (10) pour aligner angulairement ledit perçage d'aspiration sur lesdits premier et deuxième orifices d'aspiration dudit instrument;

ladite surface de paroi intérieure présentant des moyens d'étanchéité (62, 64) servant à former un joint étanche avec la surface opposée de ladite structure de l'instrument et empêchant le fluide d'aspiration de fuir le long de ladite lumière (44);

ladite surface de paroi extérieure comprenant des moyens d'étanchéité (56, 58) servant à former un joint étanche avec la surface opposée de ladite structure de l'instrument et empêchent le fluide d'aspiration de fuir le long de ladite surface de paroi extérieure dudit boîtier.

2. Adaptateur selon la revendication 1, dans lequel lesdits moyens d'étanchéité (62, 64) de la surface de paroi intérieure comprennent au moins deux nervures venues d'un seul tenant avec ledit boîtier (42) de l'adaptateur, qui s'étendent circonférentiellement sur le tour de ladite surface de paroi intérieure et sont espacées axialement sur la longueur de cette paroi et font saillie radialement vers l'intérieur.

3. Adaptateur selon la revendication 1 ou la revendication 2, dans lequel les moyens d'étanchéité (56, 58) situés sur ladite surface de paroi extérieure comprennent au moins deux nervures venues d'un seul tenant avec ledit boîtier (42) de l'adaptateur et qui s'étendent circonférentiellement sur le tour de ladite surface de paroi intérieure et sont espacées axialement sur la longueur de cette surface et s'étendent radialement vers l'extérieur.

4. Adaptateur selon une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, dans lequel lesdits moyens coopérants (74) comprennent:

une collerette (72) s'étendant radialement sur la partie distale dudit boîtier (42) de l'adaptateur, qui s'étend radialement vers l'extérieur au-delà de la surface de paroi extérieure dudit boîtier (42), ladite collerette (72) présentant une surface qui regarde dans la direction proximale;

une rainure circonférentielle (74) qui s'étend sur une partie du tour de la surface de ladite collerette distale (72) qui regarde dans la direction proximale, rainure qui est adaptée pour coopérer avec une saillie correspondante (39) qui s'étend à partir de l'extrémité distale dudit instrument (10) pour positionner ledit adaptateur en position angulaire dans sa position désirée par rapport audit instrument (10).

5. Adaptateur selon une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, comprenant en outre des moyens destinés à permettre de faire passer un fluide d'irrigation à travers ledit instrument, qui comprennent:

une section intermédiaire (80) dudit boîtier (42) de forme générale annulaire disposée entre l'extrémité distale (70) de l'extrémité proximale (48) de ce boîtier;

un évidement (82) ménagé dans ladite surface de paroi extérieure de ladite section intermédiaire (80) et qui s'étend circonférentiellement sur le tour de cette surface;

au moins un perçage d'irrigation (84) percé à travers ledit évidement (82) de ladite section intermédiaire (80) pour établir la communication pour l'écoulement du fluide avec ladite lumière (44) à travers ladite paroi du boîtier;

des moyens d'étanchéité additionnels prévus sur ladite surface de paroi extérieure dudit boîtier (42), en position distale par rapport à ladite portion intermédiaire (80) pour former un joint étanche avec la surface opposée de la structure dudit instrument (10).

6. Adaptateur selon la revendication 5, comprenant en outre un manchon (46) de forme générale annulaire qui s'étend dans la direction distale à partir de la partie distale (70) dudit boîtier (42) de l'adaptateur et définit une lumière qui est en communication pour l'écoulement du fluide avec la lumière (44) dudit boîtier (42) de l'adaptateur.

7. Adaptateur selon la revendication 6, comprenant en outre une pluralité de nervures (90) s'étendant axialement, qui font saillie radialement vers l'intérieur dans ladite lumière dudit manchon (46).

8. Adaptateur selon la revendication 6 ou la revendication 7, dans lequel la pointe distale dudit manchon (46) s'étendant dans la direction distale comprend une partie biseautée (94) qui est rabattue radialement vers l'intérieur et présente en outre au moins une ouverture (92) qui s'étend radialement à travers ledit manchon (46) pour laisser le fluide s'écouler à l'extérieur de ladite lumière du manchon.

9. Adaptateur selon une quelconque des revendications 5 à 8, dans lequel ledit perçage d'aspiration (50) est espacé circonférentiellement dudit perçage d'irrigation (84).

10. Adaptateur selon une quelconque des revendications 5 à 9, dans lequel ledit évidement (82) comprend au moins deux perçages d'irrigation (84, 86) qui le traversent et sont espacés sur des parties opposées dudit évidement (82).

11. Adaptateur destiné à permettre d'aspirer un premier fluide à travers un instrument chirurgical



phaco-émulsifiant à ultrasons (10) sans permettre audit fluide de fuir dudit instrument (10);

ledit instrument (10) possédant:

une poignée (16, 32) qui comprend une partie proximale et une partie distale et une paroi latérale enveloppante;

des moyens transducteurs logés dans ladite poignée (16, 32) pour engendrer une vibration sonore à haute fréquence;

un cornet à vibration (20) relié fonctionnellement auxdits moyens transducteurs;

une pointe vibrante comprenant une canule creuse (24) reliée fonctionnellement audit cornet; et,

ladite poignée comprenant un capot (32) qui entoure sensiblement ledit cornet (20) dans une position relative espacée et définit un espace annulaire (34) autour dudit cornet (20) dans le voisinage de la partie distale dudit instrument (10);

ledit cornet (20) présentant un passage (26) qui le traverse et qui établit une communication pour l'écoulement du fluide entre ladite canule creuse (24) et ledit espace annulaire (34), par l'intermédiaire d'un orifice d'aspiration (30) qui établit la communication entre ledit espace annulaire (34) et ledit passage (26) qui traverse ledit cornet (20), passage (26) à travers lequel le fluide peut être aspiré;

ledit capot (32) possédant un orifice d'aspiration (30) qui le traverse pour établir la communication pour l'écoulement du fluide à travers ledit capot (32) pour aboutir audit espace annulaire (34);

ledit adaptateur (40) comprenant:

un boîtier annulaire (42) adapté pour s'ajuster dans l'espace annulaire (34) défini entre ledit cornet (20) et ledit capot (32), à la pointe distale dudit instrument (10), ledit boîtier annulaire (42) possédant une extrémité proximale (48), une extrémité distale (70), une surface de paroi extérieure et une surface de paroi intérieure qui définit une lumière (44) s'étendant axialement à partir de ladite extrémité proximale (48) pour pénétrer dans ledit boîtier (42) dans une région proximale, l'extrémité distale (70) dudit boîtier (42) présentant un perçage (88) qui le traverse axialement et est en communication pour l'écoulement du fluide avec ladite lumière (44); ledit boîtier annulaire (42) étant adapté pour s'ajuster dans ledit espace de forme générale annulaire (34) situé à l'extrémité distale dudit instrument (10), autour de la pointe distale dudit cornet (20), ladite canule (24) faisant saillie à travers ladite lumière (44) du boîtier de l'adaptateur et à travers ledit perçage d'extrémité distale (88) et émergeant dudit adaptateur dans la direction distale;

au moins un perçage d'aspiration (50) s'étendant à travers une partie proximale de ladite paroi de boîtier de l'adaptateur et possédant un orifice intérieur (52) situé dans ladite surface de paroi intérieure dudit boîtier (42) de l'adaptateur et un orifice extérieur (54) situé dans la surface de paroi

extérieure dudit boîtier (42) de l'adaptateur, l'orifice intérieur (52) dudit perçage d'aspiration (50) étant aligné pour établir la communication pour l'écoulement du fluide avec ledit orifice d'aspiration (30) dudit cornet (20) et ledit orifice extérieur (54) dudit perçage d'aspiration (50) étant aligné pour établir la communication pour l'écoulement du fluide avec ledit orifice d'aspiration (38) du capot pour établir la communication pour l'écoulement du fluide pour aspirer le fluide à travers la canule (24), ledit passage (26) formé dans ledit cornet, ledit perçage d'aspiration (50) et ledit orifice d'aspiration (38) du capot;

des moyens d'étanchéité (62, 64) disposés de part et d'autre dudit orifice intérieur (52) dudit perçage d'aspiration (50) pour former un joint étanche avec la surface opposée dudit cornet (20);

des moyens d'étanchéité (56, 58) situés de part et d'autre de l'orifice d'aspiration (54) dudit perçage d'aspiration (50) pour former un joint étanche avec la surface intérieure opposée dudit capot (32); et

des moyens coopérants (72, 74) prévus sur la partie distale (70) dudit adaptateur qui coopèrent en utilisation avec des moyens coopérants (39) prévus sur la partie distale dudit instrument (10) pour aligner angulairement ledit orifice d'aspiration (50) sur lesdits premier (30) et deuxième (38) orifices d'aspiration dudit instrument (10).

12. Adaptateur selon la revendication 11, comprenant en supplément des moyens destinés à permettre de faire circuler un fluide d'irrigation à travers ledit instrument, en passant par un orifice d'irrigation (36) ménagé dans le capot, lequel orifice (36) établit la communication pour l'écoulement du fluide avec ledit espace annulaire (34) et est espacé axialement dudit orifice d'aspiration (38) qui traverse ledit capot, sans laisser ledit fluide d'aspiration ni ledit fluide d'irrigation se mélanger l'un à l'autre ni s'échapper dudit instrument par des fuites, lesdits moyens supplémentaires comprenant:

une section intermédiaire (80) dudit boîtier de forme générale annulaire (42) disposée entre l'extrémité distale (70) et l'extrémité proximale (48) de ce boîtier; un évidement (82) ménagé dans la surface de paroi extérieure de ladite section intermédiaire (80) et qui s'étend circonférentiellement sur le tour de cette partie;

au moins un perçage d'irrigation (84) percé à travers l'évidement (82) pour établir la communication pour l'écoulement du fluide avec ladite lumière (44) à travers ladite paroi du boîtier;

des moyens d'étanchéité prévus sur la surface de paroi extérieure dudit boîtier (42), en position distale par rapport à ladite portion intermédiaire (80) pour former un joint étanche avec la surface opposée dudit capot (32).

13. Combinaison de l'adaptateur selon une quelconque des revendications 1 à 12 avec un instrument chirurgical phaco émulsifiant à ultrasons, dans laquelle ledit adaptateur est monté.

