

9704250-1

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : G01G 19/40, 19/22, 21/00, 19/00, A61B 5/00, B65D 90/04, B65F 1/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/22510 (43) International Publication Date: 25 July 1996 (25.07.96)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/01659 (22) International Filing Date: 18 January 1996 (18.01.96) (30) Priority Data: 08/374,186 18 January 1995 (18.01.95) US (71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: POLLOCK, Richard, A. [US/US]; Suite G-182, 5805 State Bridge Road, Duluth, GA 30136 (US). (72) Inventor: KASSAM, Mahmood, Michael, S.; 82 Ava Crescent, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 2X6 (CA). (74) Agents: EWING, James, L., IV et al.; Kilpatrick & Cody, Suite 2800, 1100 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30309-4530 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AU, BB, BG, BR, CA, CN, CZ, EE, GE, IS, JP, KG, KP, KR, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, SG, SI, SK, TR, TT, UA, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>

(54) Title: INTRAOPERATIVE TRACKING DEVICES AND PROCESSES**(57) Abstract**

Automated tracking device for counting, sorting, weighing and containing articles, such as sponges, which contain fluids from patients undergoing surgery which consists of a suspended disposable container (32) for receiving and sorting the articles. The cumulative weight of the articles is sensed after a settling period by a load cell structure (36) which eliminates bending moments. Sensors (58) allow for detecting the presence of an article and continuous fluid monitoring. Appropriate warnings are issued after a predetermined number of articles is reached.

