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(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **COMPUMEDICS LIMITED** [AU/AU]; 1 Marine Parade, Abbotsford, Victoria 3067 (AU).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **BURTON, David** [AU/AU]; 62 Broadway, Camberwell, Victoria 3124 (AU). **ZILBERG, Eugene** [AU/AU]; 6 Holloway Road, Sandringham, Victoria 3191 (AU).

(74) Agent: **PHILLIPS ORMONDE & FITZPATRICK**; 367 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 (AU).

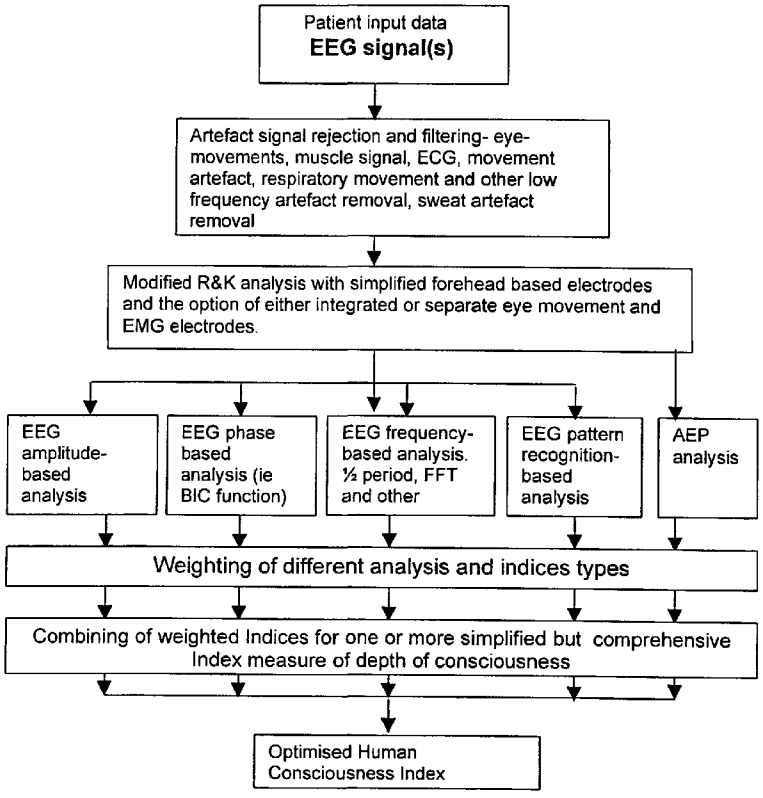
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(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MONITORING CONSCIOUSNESS



(57) Abstract: The application discloses several inventions as follows: (a) a method of monitoring consciousness of a sentient subject and automatically detecting transition states by obtaining an EEG signal and comparing the two signals to detect the transition and provide a warning signal when the transition occurs; (b) a method or apparatus for processing a non-stationary signal including segments having increasing and decreasing amplitude representing physiological characteristics of a sentient subject by performing syntactic analysis of segments, comparing height, width and error parameters of segments to identify noise segments and replacing noise segments with a straight line before classifying the signal as belonging to one of predefined sleep states; (c) a method of monitoring physiological characteristics of a sentient subject including substitution of a degraded first electrode signal by a second spare electrode signal and providing a warning signal when both signals are degraded; and (d) a capacitive or inductive element sensor for detecting the degree of opening of the eyelid including signal providing means indicative of the relative positions between a component movable with the eyelid and a reference component.

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