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(54) Title: A METHOD AND DEVICE FOR TESTING MUSCLE STIFFNESS OR SPASTICITY

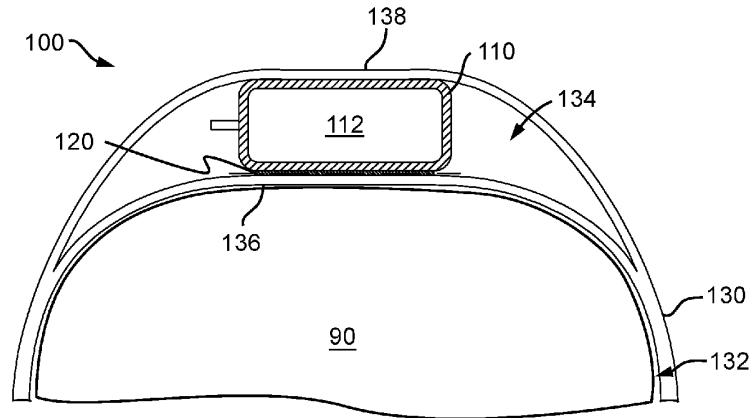


FIG. 3
(VIEW A-A)

(57) Abstract: A device and method of testing muscle stiffness or spasticity. The method includes: controlling an actuator to periodically change between a pressurized state and a relaxed state such that the actuator in at least the pressurized state provides a cyclic force contributing to at least one deformation of a piezoelectric film, the actuator in at least the relaxed state providing a lateral surface in abutment with the piezoelectric film, the piezoelectric film being variably deformable and conformable to the muscle or the muscle group; acquiring a signal generated by the at least one deformation of the piezoelectric film, wherein a change in the signal corresponds to the at least one deformation of the piezoelectric film; and determining a quantitative measure of a muscle spasticity state of the muscle or the muscle group based on the signal.

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