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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : A61M 5/00, 5/31 — A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/32147

(43) International Publication Date: 17 October 1996 (17.10.96)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/05191

(22) International Filing Date: 15 April 1996 (15.04.96)

(30) Priority Data:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 08/421,064 | 13 April 1995 (13.04.95) | US |
| 08/504,928 | 20 July 1995 (20.07.95) | US |
| 08/631,537 | 12 April 1996 (12.04.96) | US |

(81) Designated States: AU, CA, CN, JP, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

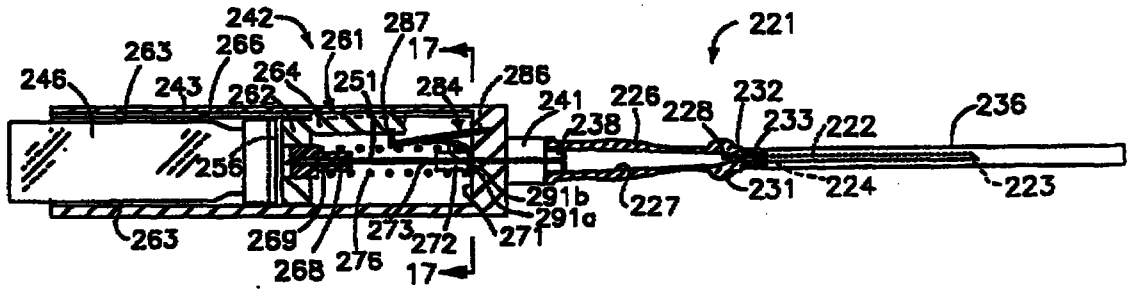
Published
*With international search report.*

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(54) Title: ASPIRATION NEEDLE APPARATUS INCORPORATING ITS OWN VACUUM AND METHOD AND ADAPTER FOR USE THEREWITH




(57) Abstract

This invention is an aspiration needle apparatus (221) for collecting cell samples from tissue comprising a vacuum container (246) having an enclosed evacuated space evacuated to a sub-ambient pressure and sealed by a penetrable diaphragm (256). An adapter (242) is provided having a recess (263) which is adapted to receive the vacuum container. A needle assembly (251) is carried by the adapter (242) and has a distal extremity serving as an aspiration needle to collect the cell sample. The proximal extremity (252) of the needle assembly is disposed in said recess and is capable of penetrating the diaphragm of the vacuum container to couple the evacuated space to the flow passage of the needle assembly to supply a sub-ambient pressure to the distal extremity of the needle assembly. An on/off mechanism (261) is carried by the adapter (242) and includes a member (262) engaged by the vacuum container and mounted in the recess (263) for axial movement in the recess.