TITLE OF THE INVENTION

SURGICAL DEVICE ~~AND METHOD~~

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Nos. 61/166,654 filed 3 April 2009; 61/173,147, filed 27 April 2009; 61/187,078, filed 15 June 2009; and 61/314,595, filed 17 March 2010, all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entireties.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Surgery has become increasingly less invasive thanks to advances in medical technology. Laparoscopy is the dominant minimally invasive surgical (MIS) approach used today and has replaced many traditional "open" approaches. In laparoscopic surgery, trocars (typically 3-5) are placed at separate points in the surgical field. These trocars serve as ports into a body cavity (such as the abdomen) through which special long and thin instruments can be inserted. Manipulation of these tools from outside the body mechanically translates into motion within the body cavity. Depending on the tool head design, different instruments have different functions. The right instrument is selected based on what the surgeon needs for that step of the procedure.

[0003] Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) offers the advantages of minimal trauma to the abdominal wall and hence less postoperative pain, fewer wound complications, earlier patient mobilization and shorter length of stay. Laparoscopic access to the