

12

# **EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

21 Application number: 80303206.9

51 Int. Cl.<sup>3</sup>: **A 47 C 27/10**  
**A 61 G 7/04**

22 Date of filing: 11.09.80

30 Priority: 12.09.79 GB 7931575

43 Date of publication of application:  
25.03.81 Bulletin 81/12

88 Date of deferred publication of search report: 20.05.81

84 Designated Contracting States:  
AT BE CH DE FR IT LI NL SE

71 Applicant: **HUNTLEIGH MEDICAL LIMITED**  
**Bilton Way Dallow Road**  
**Luton Bedfordshire LU1 1UU(GB)**

72 Inventor: **Schild, Rolf**  
**5 Byron Drive**  
**London N2(GB)**

72 Inventor: **Melrose, Denis Graham**  
**1 Lower Common South Putney**  
**London SW15 1BP(GB)**

72 Inventor: **Hawkins, Brian Michael**  
**93 Abbots Wood Road**  
**Luton Bedfordshire(GB)**

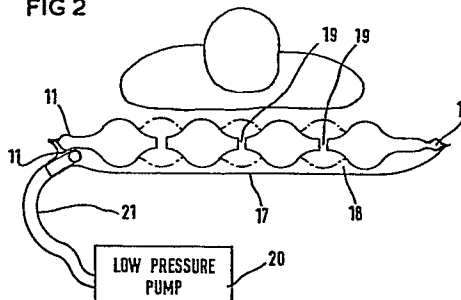
74 Representative: **Rennie, Ian Malcolm et al,**  
**BOULT, WADE & TENNANT 27 Farnival Street**  
**London EC4A 1PQ(GB)**

54 Support.

57 This invention relates to supports e.g. for living bodies and in particular, but not exclusively, to bed pads and mattresses for use with patients confined to bed.

A bed pad comprises an alternating pressure pad 10, constituted by sheets 11, defining two sets of alternately inflatable interdigitated channels 12,13, a pump 14 for alternately inflating the air channels to support a patient alternately on the two sets of channels and a sheet 17 secured to the underneath of the pad 10 to define a plenum 18, apertures 19, which pass through the pad 10 but are sealed from the air channels 12, 13, and a further low pressure pump for circulating air through the plenum 18 and the apertures 19 and hence between the patient and the pad 10. In other embodiments, an air permeable sheet is provided above the pressure pad 10 to define a plenum, or the pad is provided inside a complete envelope with a permeable upper sheet.

FIG 2





European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

0025701

Application number  
EP 80 30 3206

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                          | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Category                                                                                              | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Relevant to claim                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                       | <p>GB - A - 1 350 110 (LAPIDUS)</p> <p>* Page 2, lines 45-67; claims 1,4; figures 4,5,6 *</p> <p>--</p> <p>FR - A - 1 516 124 (BERGHE)</p> <p>* Page 2, column 1, paragraphs 8-10; figures 3,4 *</p> <p>--</p> <p>FR - A - 2 127 928 (HOWORTH)</p> <p>* Page 4, lines 28-31; claim 1; figures *</p> <p>----</p> | <p>1,7,<br/>13,18,<br/>21</p> <p>1,13,<br/>14</p> <p>1,16,<br/>18,25</p> | <p>A 47 C 27/10<br/>A 61 G 7/04</p> <p>TECHNICAL FIELDS<br/>SEARCHED (Int. Cl.)</p> <p>A 47 C<br/>A 61 G</p> <p>CATEGORY OF<br/>CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X: particularly relevant<br/>A: technological background<br/>O: non-written disclosure<br/>P: intermediate document<br/>T: theory or principle underlying<br/>the invention<br/>E: conflicting application<br/>D: document cited in the<br/>application<br/>L: citation for other reasons</p> <p>&amp;: member of the same patent<br/>family,<br/>corresponding document</p> |
| <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Place of search                                                                                       | Date of completion of the search                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                          | Examiner                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| The Hague                                                                                             | 18-02-1981                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                          | VANDEVONDELE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |