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(72) Inventors:
• **Genesi, Massimo**
26100 Cremona (IT)
• **Ciboldi, Giuseppe**
26100 Cremona (IT)

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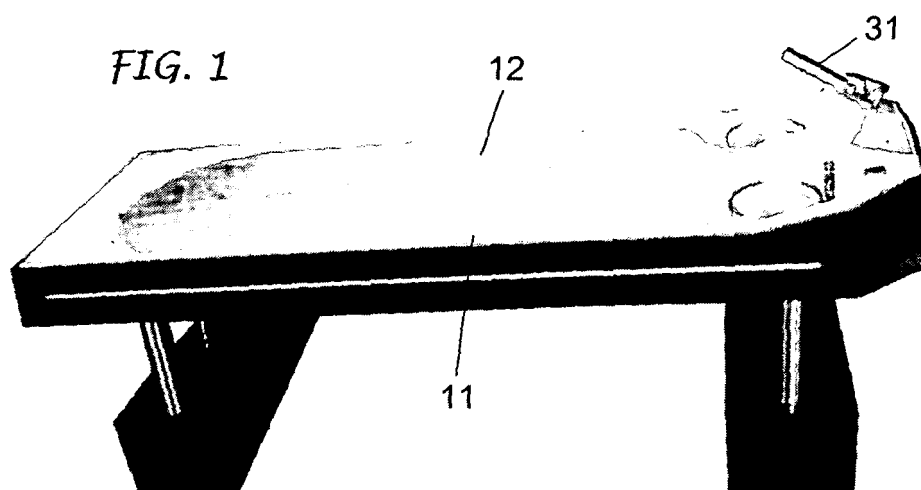
(74) Representative: **Sangiaco, Fulvia**
BIESSE S.R.L.,
Corso Matteotti 42
25122 Brescia (IT)

(71) Applicant: **Sanya S.r.l.**
26100 Cremona (IT)

(54) **Couch with water mattress for aesthetic treatment**

(57) This invention concerns a professional equipment for aesthetic treatment and wellbeing of patients, comprising a couch with a thermal water mattress. The couch has a supporting structure forming at the top a concavity or tray; the thermal water mattress is positioned and fitted into said concavity or tray; between the couch

structure and the mattress there is provided an air chamber fed by a flow of steam to control and/or adjust the temperature level of said thermal mattress. The chamber is in fluid communication with a boiler for the production of steam which fed by said chamber helps at least to adjust the temperature level of the water mattress.



Description

[0001] This invention concerns in general professional equipment for aesthetic treatment and wellbeing of patients.

[0002] Equipment of this kind and for the abovementioned use is already well known, but the objective of this invention is to propose a new and original system, being versatile not only for aesthetic treatments, but also for steam baths with or without aromatherapy, and in addition as a massage table.

[0003] In particular, such equipment comprises a couch with a thermal water mattress in accordance with claim 1 and the structural and functional characteristics of which appear evident in the continuation of the description made in reference to the enclosed indicative and not limitative drawings, in which

Fig. 1 shows a photographic representation of the couch complete with mattress;

Fig. 2 shows a schematic plan view of the couch in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 shows a cross section in the direction of line A-A in Fig. 2;

Fig. 4 shows a view of the mattress only;

Figs. 5 and 6 show two end views of the mattress in line, respectively, with the filler connection and the safety valve;

Fig. 7 shows a photographic representation of a part of the couch with the mattress overlaid by a hood.

[0004] As shown, the equipment proposed basically includes a couch 11 with a thermal water mattress 12.

[0005] The couch 11 has a supporting structure 13 that can be made out of any appropriate material and have any external configuration, but must have a concavity or tray 14 on top designed to fit the mattress 12 into it.

[0006] The mattress 12 will be made of a plastic material, such as PVC, for example, with a lavender aroma, resistant to a temperature of up to at least 60°C, and be fire-proof, antibacterial and anti-mould. The mattress has a head end integrated with a portion acting as a cushion 15 and a bottom end which is provided with vertical through holes 16. Furthermore, in its top part, near the head end, it is equipped with a rapid filler valve 17, whereas in its bottom part, near the area for the feet, there is a safety overpressure valve 18.

[0007] More precisely, the concavity or tray 14 of the couch structure 13 has a bottom wall 19 surrounded by a lateral wall 20, and along the latter is provided a perimetral step 21 that acts as a support for at least one mattress support plane 22. This plane 22 is bored or slotted and is higher than the bottom wall so as to form with the latter an air chamber 23.

[0008] This chamber 23 is in communication with an emergency discharge 24 and with a boiler 25 to produce steam controlled by a suitable electronic device, through the bottom wall 19. Or better, in the bottom wall 19 of the

concavity or tray 14 are provided a first nozzle 26 to feed steam, and a second nozzle 27 contributing with a flow of steam travelling through a beaker 28 which may contain water-soluble essences, both nozzles being connected to the boiler by means of a steam circuit 29 comprising in addition an overpressure valve 30 on a level with the bottom discharge.

[0009] As regards to the mattress, this is filled with water at the temperature required by connecting the relative filler valve to a mixer tap 31 that can be installed on the couch structure and connected to a water supply. Advantageously, loading of the water into the mattress is helped by a special connection 32 associated, by means of a bayonet joint, with a threaded female nut, that seals tight, thanks to an inserted seal, to the filler valve 17, of the mattress, which has male threading (as described in another patent application by the same applicant).

[0010] Once the mattress has been filled with water and the boiler switched on, when required, the system is ready for use. For the treatment envisaged, the person lies on the mattress. The temperature of the water in the mattress can be kept constant or vary according to needs, by the controlled delivery of steam coming from the boiler fed through at least one delivery nozzle 29, such steam will enter the mattress from the bottom through the perforated or slotted mattress holder plane.

[0011] In practice, the presence and the function of the steam are not only to keep the water mattress at the required temperature, but also to be able to use the so-called Turkish Bath: Hamam. In this case, a hood 33 will be positioned above the mattress to enclose the patient and designed to contain treatment steam that can be provided by having it flow up from the bottom chamber through the holes in the mattress accompanied, if required, by an emanation of essences for aromatherapy.

[0012] In addition, by removing the water mattress and using a normal rubber mattress or the like in its place, the couch can also be used for other massage treatment.

Claims

1. Professional equipment for aesthetic treatment and wellbeing of patients, comprising a couch with a thermal water mattress, **characterized in that**

the couch has a supporting structure forming on the top a concavity or tray,
the thermal water mattress is placed and inserted into said concavity or tray,

between the couch structure and mattress an air chamber is provided fed with a flow of steam to control and/or adjust the temperature level of said thermal mattress, said chamber being in fluid communication with a boiler for the production of steam.

2. Equipment according to claim 1, wherein the con-

cavity or tray of the couch structure has a bottom wall surrounded by a lateral wall and between which is provided a step forming a support for at least a perforated or slotted mattress holder plane, and wherein said air chamber is formed by said mattress holder plane, and the mattress holder plane helps in spreading the steam along all the surface of the mattress to adjust the temperature level. 5

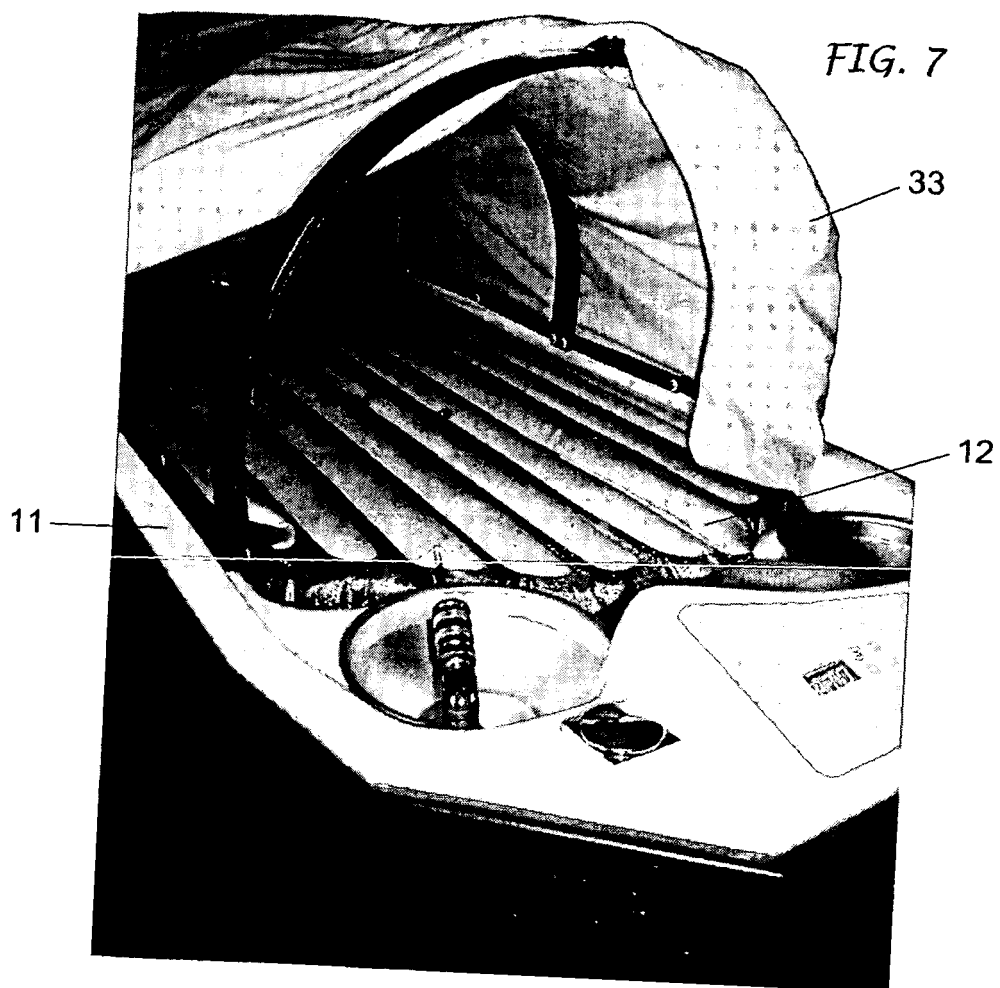
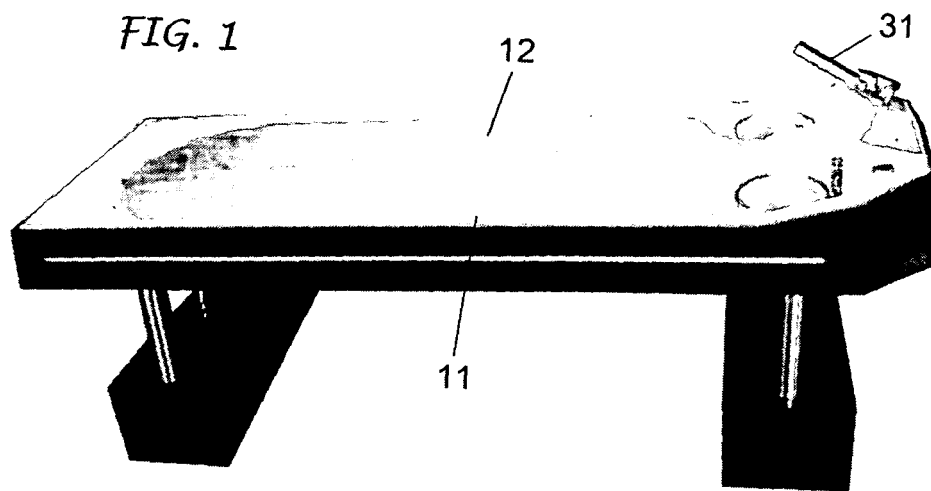
3. Equipment according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the mattress is provided with at least one rapid filler valve, an overpressure safety valve and through vertical holes, and wherein the filler valve can be connected to a tap which can be installed on the couch structure and the through holes are in an area near the foot of the mattress and in communication with the chamber below to form a passage of the steam from said chamber to the mattress above. 10 15
4. Equipment according to the previous claims, wherein at least one nozzle to feed the steam to said air chamber and a bottom discharge are fitted to the bottom wall of the concavity or tray. 20
5. Equipment according to the previous claims, wherein a second nozzle to supply a flow of steam together with an emanation of essence can be fitted to the bottom wall of the concavity or tray. 25
6. Equipment according to claims 4 and 5, wherein said nozzles are connected to the boiler for the production of steam by means of a circuit comprising also an overpressure safety valve. 30
7. Equipment according to any of the previous claims, wherein a hood designed to retain the steam above the mattress so as to create a steam bath with or without aromatherapy can be associated. 35

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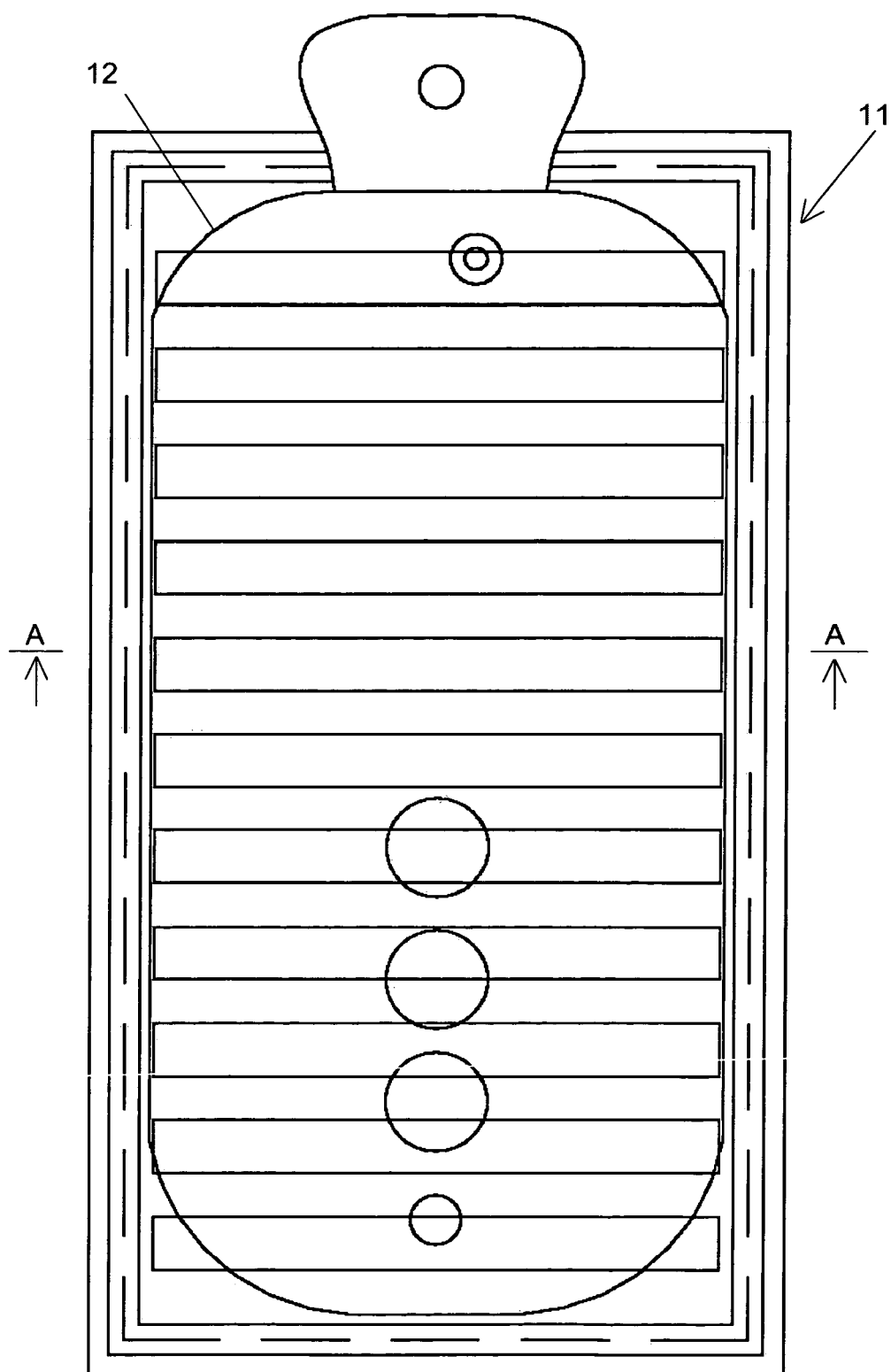
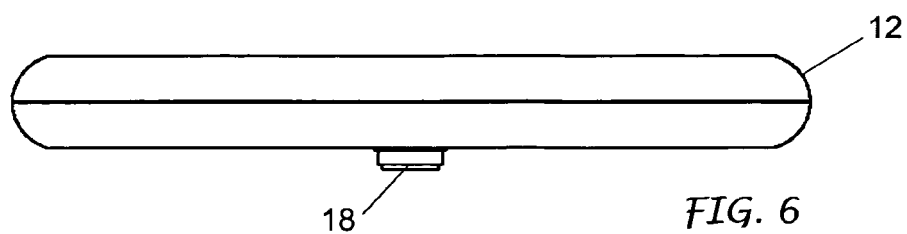
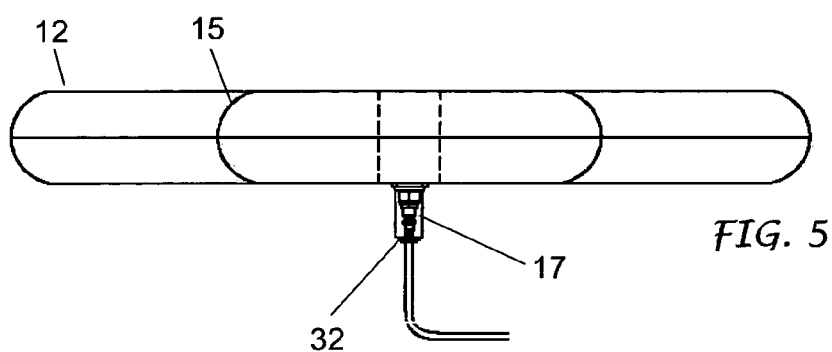
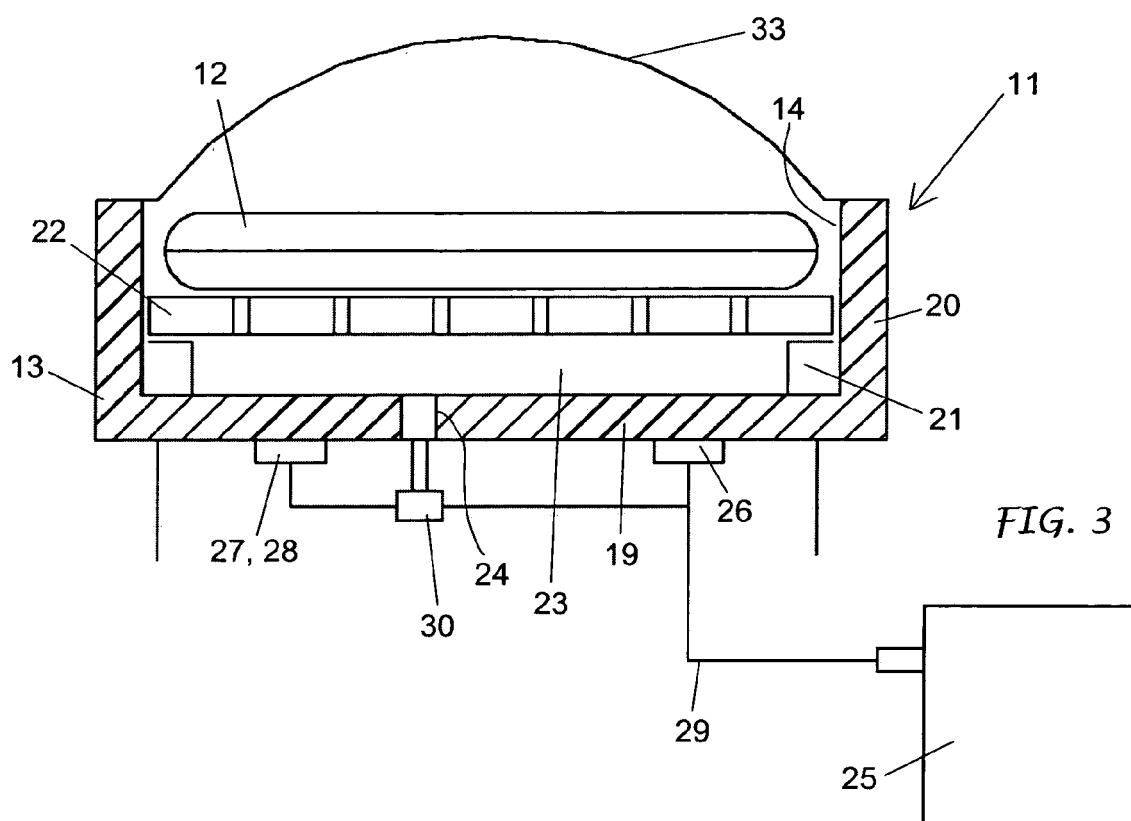
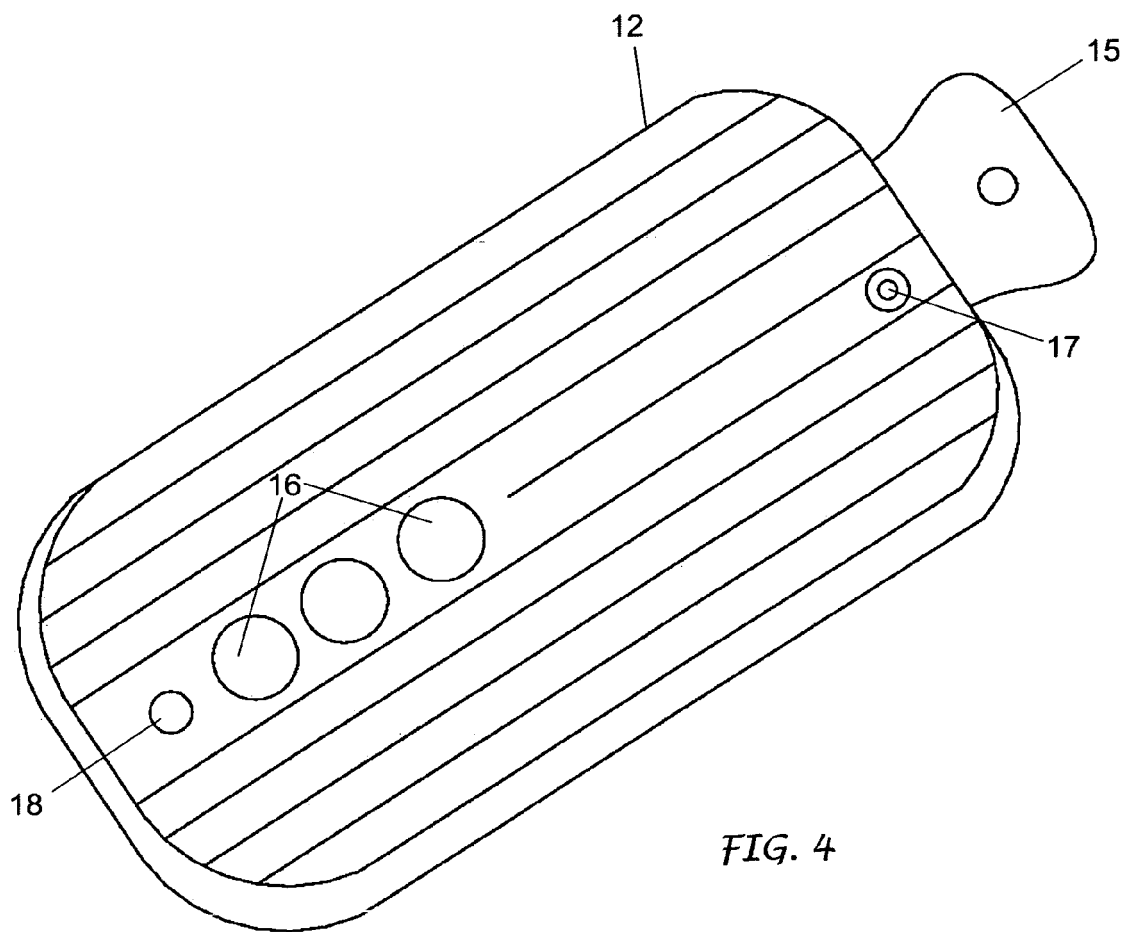


FIG. 2







EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 08 42 5424

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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A	DE 198 54 901 C1 (FRANZ JOSEF [IT]) 24 February 2000 (2000-02-24) * claims; figure 1 *	1	
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A	US 5 241 959 A (KIM YONG HAK [US] ET AL) 7 September 1993 (1993-09-07) * column 2, lines 6-49; figures *	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			A61H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 16 October 2008	Examiner Knoflacher, Nikolaus
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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