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Kieturakis

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[54] **RETROGRADE DISSECTOR AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING A TRAM FLAP**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[6] **A61B 17/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **606/190**; 128/898; 606/192

[58] **Field of Search** 606/190, 192, 606/1, 159, 170, 201, 204; 604/902; 128/898, 304–305, 305.1, 310, 341, 357, 20; 433/141

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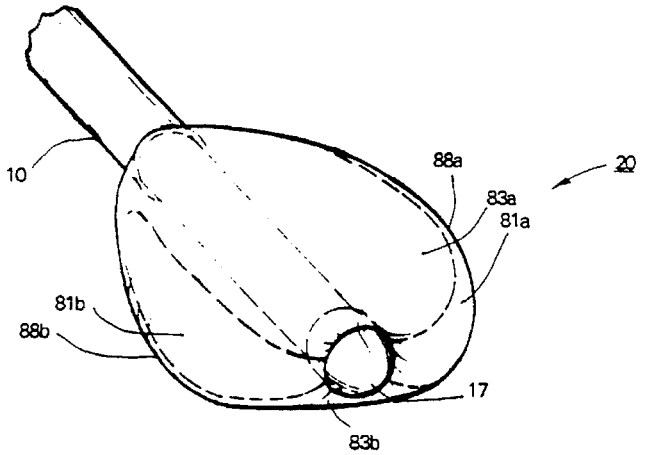
[57] **ABSTRACT**

For surgery, an endoscopic retrograde dissector instrument and less invasive method for bluntly dissecting tissue planes overlying and underlying a rectus abdominus muscle to mobilize the muscle in a transverse abdominal mastoplasty (breast reconstruction). The retrograde dissector includes an elongate blunt-tipped guide member that carries a distal inflatable sleeve. The blunt tip of the guide member is advanced distally along a plane in the interior of the body thereby creating a small diameter dissected track. The distal inflatable sleeve is inflated and then pulled in a retrograde movement along the track to dissect a wide tissue plane laterally on each side of the track in a single efficient step. A pulse mechanism rapidly pulsates the inflated sleeve to facilitate the dissection of connective tissues along planes of least resistance to create a relatively blood-free dissected tissue plane.

13 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets