

[54] **METHODS FOR TEMPOROMANDIBULAR JOINT SMALL INCISION SURGERY**

[76] **Inventor:** **Bruce Sanders**, 3619 Seahorn Dr., Malibu, Calif. 90265

[21] **Appl. No.:** **825,334**

[22] **Filed:** **Feb. 1, 1986**

[51] **Int. Cl.⁴** **A61B 17/32**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **128/305**

[58] **Field of Search** 128/305, 305.1, 303 R, 128/751-755; 604/22

[56] **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,203,444 5/1980 Bonnell et al. 128/305

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

2093353 9/1982 United Kingdom 128/305

Primary Examiner—Michael H. Thaler

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Frank Frisenda, Jr.

[57] **ABSTRACT**

The present invention provides improved methods for

correction of temporomandibular joint internal derangement with closed lock via small incision surgical technique. In one embodied form, the unique method comprises the steps of: (a) effecting visualization and orientation of the surgical site of a patient utilizing an arthroscopic device comprising a mechanism for prescribed calibration of the arthroscope depth; (b) effecting arthroscopic inspection of the surgical site, and in particular, the superior compartment of the temporomandibular joint; and (c) effecting lysis comprising resection and incision of adhesions disposed between disc and fossa of the temporomandibular joint region, concomittent with disc displacement. The inventive surgical technique includes an "arthroscopic sweep" of the superior compartment of the TMJ with lysis comprising resects of superior compartment adhesions. Subsequent to lysis, the superior compartment is thoroughly lavaged via irrigation and suction. Preferably, a pressure dressing is placed to cover the surgical wound, and can be removed within about 12 hours from the surgical procedure.

10 Claims, 13 Drawing Figures

**ARTHROSCOPIC SWEEP:
LYSIS OF ADHESIONS**

