

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Maskin**

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(54) **GLAND OR DUCT DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT METHODS AND RELATED APPARATUS**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(\* ) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 884 days.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
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A method is provided for treating a gland or duct of a patient. In a particular embodiment, an obstruction in a gland or duct and the orifice thereof can be alleviated; in another, a substance can be injected thereinto; in yet another, the gland can be aspirated. The method includes the step of inserting an elongated probe into a gland or duct via an orifice thereinto. In some embodiments the probe can have a longitudinal lumen therethrough, with at least one distal hole through the probe wall in fluid communication with the lumen. The lumen can be used in concert with a source of suction for removing debris from the gland or duct, and/or with a source of a fluid and pumping means, for injecting a substance into the gland or duct.

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**6 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets**

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