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**Sholev et al.**

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(54) **ARTICULATING MEDICAL INSTRUMENT**  
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An articulating medical instrument comprising of:  
a substantially straight proximal segment;  
a substantially straight distal segment;  
an articulation mechanism having a straight configuration in which the proximal and distal segments form a substantially straight line and at least one articulated configuration in which the proximal and distal segments form an articulation angle of less than 180 degrees between the segments, the articulation mechanism being configured for increasing or decreasing the articulation angle; and  
one or more drive mechanisms configured for transferring force from the proximal segment to the distal segment, wherein the drive mechanism does not follow substantially straight lines between the proximal and distal segments passing through the apex of the articulation angle.

**29 Claims, 32 Drawing Sheets**

