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Schnitzler et al.

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(54) **APPARATUS FOR COAGULATING TISSUE**

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patent is extended or adjusted under 35
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This patent is subject to a terminal dis-
claimer.

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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(Continued)

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for coagulating tissue, including a gas-deliv-
ering device for delivering a plasma comprised of an ionized
inert gas from the outlet of the gas-delivering device, an
electrode adapted to supply a high-frequency current that
projects out of the gas-delivering device and a guiding
device disposed at a distal end of the electrode. The relative
configuration of the outlet of the gas-delivering device and
the guiding device are such that the plasma (and an electric
arc) can be directed in any direction 360° with respect to the
outlet of the gas-delivering device. The plasma is directed
along a path of least electric resistance, thus causing the
plasma to be directed to a tissue to be treated, regardless of
a position of the tissue relative to a rotational position of the
outlet of the gas-delivering device.

28 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet

