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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

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INVENTOR(S)					
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Kevin W. Eddie K. Matthew M. Jay D.	Sheetz Burnside Lowe Gerondale	Sandy, Utah Morgan, Utah South Jordan, Utah Draper, Utah			
Additional inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto					
TITLE OF INVENTION (500 characters max)					
ACCESS PORT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM					
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
Direct all correspondence to:					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number	 26582				
OR					
<input type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name	Holland & Hart LLP				
Address	555 17 th Street				
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City	Denver	State	Colorado	ZIP	80202
Country	USA	Telephone	801-595-7823	Fax	303-295-8261
ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76			<input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number of CDs		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification <i>Number of Pages</i>	19		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Exhibit A)	18	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <i>Number of Sheets</i>	24				
Application Size Fee: If the specification and drawings exceed 100 sheets of paper, the application size fee is \$250 (\$125 for small entity) for each additional 50 sheets or fraction thereof. See 35 U.S.C. 41(a)(1)(G) and 37 CFR 1.16(s).					
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES AND APPLICATION SIZE FEE FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT					
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.					Total Fee Amount (\$)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fee and application size fee (if applicable).					200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge filing fee and application size fee (if applicable) or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 08-2623. A duplicate copy of this form is enclosed for fee processing.					
The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No					
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are:					

[Page 1 of 2]

Respectfully submitted,



SIGNATURE

Date:

March 4, 2005

REGISTRATION NO.

51,518

(if appropriate)

Docket Number:

51572.0035

TYPED or PRINTED NAME Trent N. Butcher

TELEPHONE 801-595-7802

USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the information.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. Unknown
FILING DATE Filed Herewith
INVENTORS Sheetz et al.
ASSIGNEE
ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. 51572.0035
TITLE "Access Port Identification System"

TRANSMITTAL LETTER AND CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

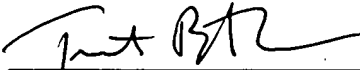
To: Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Enclosed are the items listed below submitted regarding the matter identified above:

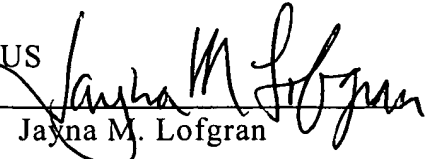
- 1. Transmittal Letter with Certificate of Express Mailing included
- 2. PTO Return Postcard Receipt
- 3. Provisional Application For Patent Cover Sheet
- 4. Application for Provisional Letters Patent (61 pages, including Specification, Claims, Abstract, 24 Sheets of Drawings (Figs. 1A-21) and Exhibit A)
- 4. Check in the amount of \$200.00

Deposit Account Authorization - The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any applicable fees to Deposit Account No. 08-2623.

Date: March 4, 2005 By: 
Trent N. Butcher
Reg. No. 51,518

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify the items listed above as enclosed are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as either first class mail or Express Mail, if the blank for Express Mail No. is completed below, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Provisional Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below indicated date.

Express Mail No. EV 357959478 US
Date: March 4, 2005 Signature: 
Name: Jayna M. Lofgran

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**APPLICATION
FOR PROVISIONAL LETTERS PATENT**

ACCESS PORT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

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ACCESS PORT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] Access ports provide a convenient method to repeatedly deliver a substance to remote areas of the body without utilizing surgical procedures. Ports are totally implantable within the body (i.e. subcutaneously) and may permit the infusion of medicine, parenteral solutions, blood products, or other fluids. Additionally, ports may also be used for blood sampling.

[0002] A typical port typically includes a housing assembly, a septum, and an outlet. The housing assembly and septum define a reservoir which is accessible through the septum. The outlet of the housing may communicate with a catheter which accesses a vein. Thus, the catheter may be employed for delivering a fluid from the port to a remote location in the body, for example, the superior vena cava.

[0003] In common practice, a port is implanted within the body and the catheter is routed to a remote area where a fluid is desired to be delivered. To deliver the fluid, a caregiver locates the septum of the port by palpation of a patient's skin. Port access is accomplished by percutaneously inserting a needle, typically a non-coring needle, through the septum of the port and into the reservoir. A fluid, such as a drug or other beneficial substance, may then be administered by bolus injection or continuous infusion into the reservoir. Thus, the fluid may flow through the reservoir into the catheter and finally to the site where the fluid is desired.

[0004] Ports generally come in two different types, surgical and cosmetic. Surgical ports may typically be used for delivering medicinal substances, including chemotherapy drugs which may be harmful to surrounding tissue, or for sampling blood. Cosmetic ports, on the other hand, are utilized to deliver saline or some other non-reactive substance to a prosthesis which supplements a body feature.

[0005] Generally, conventional access ports of different manufacturers or models may typically exhibit substantially similar geometries that may not be differentiable with respect to one another. Accordingly, once an access port is implanted, it may be difficult to determine the model, style, or design of the access port. Such uncertainty may be undesirable, at least for replacement timing purposes, among other reasons, especially if identification of the implanted access port is difficult to otherwise determine.

[0006] Thus, it would be advantageous to provide an access port which provides at least one identifiable characteristic that may be sensed or otherwise determined subsequent to subcutaneous implantation of the access port.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] One aspect of the present invention relates to an access port for delivering fluids subcutaneously to a patient. Such an access port may comprise a body for capturing a septum for repeatedly inserting a needle therethrough into a cavity defined within the body. Further, an access port according to the present invention may include at least one feature structured and configured for identification of the access port subsequent to subcutaneous implantation.

[0008] Another aspect of the present invention relates to a method of identifying a subcutaneously implanted access port. More particularly, a subcutaneously implanted access port may be provided and at least one feature of the subcutaneously implanted access port may be perceived. Further, the subcutaneously implanted access port may be identified in response to perceiving the at least one feature thereof.

[0009] Features from any of the above mentioned embodiments may be used in combination with one another in accordance with the present invention. In addition, other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art through consideration of the ensuing description, the accompanying drawings, and the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] FIG. 1A shows a perspective view of an embodiment of an access port according to the present invention;

[0011] FIG. 1B shows a schematic side cross-sectional view the access port shown in FIG. 1A;

[0012] FIG. 2 shows a perspective view of an embodiment of an access port according to the present invention;

[0013] FIG. 3 shows a perspective view of an access port according to the present invention;

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