

(12) SOLICITUD INTERNACIONAL PUBLICADA EN VIRTUD DEL TRATADO DE COOPERACIÓN
EN MATERIA DE PATENTES (PCT)

(19) Organización Mundial de la Propiedad
Intelectual
Oficina internacional



(43) Fecha de publicación internacional
26 de Julio de 2001 (26.07.2001)

PCT

(10) Número de Publicación Internacional
WO 01/52767 A1

(51) Clasificación Internacional de Patentes⁷: A61D 19/02,
19/04

(21) Número de la solicitud internacional: PCT/ES00/00423

(22) Fecha de presentación internacional:
3 de Noviembre de 2000 (03.11.2000)

(25) Idioma de presentación: español

(26) Idioma de publicación: español

(30) Datos relativos a la prioridad:
P 200000114 20 de Enero de 2000 (20.01.2000) ES

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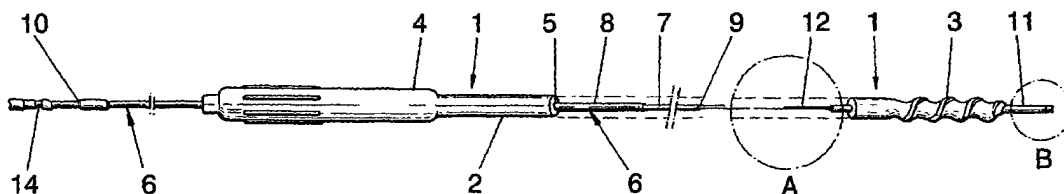
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(81) Estados designados (nacional): AE, AL, AU, BA, BG,
BR, CA, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DZ, EE, GE, HR, HU, ID, IL,
IN, IS, JP, KP, KR, LR, LT, LU, LV, MA, MG, MN, MW,
MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, SI, SK, TR, UA, US, VN, ZA.

[Continúa en la página siguiente]

(54) Title: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR INTRODUCING AND/OR COLLECTING FLUIDS FROM THE INTERIOR OF THE
UTERUS OF AN ANIMAL

(54) Título: DISPOSITIVO Y MÉTODO PARA INTRODUCIR Y/O RECOGER FLUIDOS EN EL INTERIOR DEL ÚTERO DE
UN ANIMAL



(57) Abstract: The device comprises a tube or catheter (1) that is introduced into the vagina of the animal up to the cervical duct (19). It is characterized in that it also comprises a flexible tube (6) consisting of a first flexible tubular body (7), the inside of which comprises at least one flexible conduit (12) and the outside of which is covered with a coating (8) of flexible material thereby enabling the flexible tube to advance along the cervical duct (19) and then along the uterine horn (22) after it has reached the distal end of the tube (1). Said structure makes it possible to introduce a fluid with sperm, embryos or therapeutic solutions into the anterior third of a uterine horn or to collect embryos from the anterior portions of the uterine horn without having to resort to sedation or anesthesia and without disturbing the wellbeing of the animal. In order to facilitate the collection of embryos, the flexible tube includes a small outer coating (28) that is inflated through a flexible tube (27) which adapts to the uterine horn (22) and prevents reflux when absorption is carried out. It is used especially in pigs, small ruminants and other animal species.

(57) Resumen: Comprende un tubo o catéter (1) que se introduce en la vagina del animal hasta el conducto cervical (19); caracterizado porque además comprende una sonda flexible (6) constituida por un primer cuerpo tubular flexible (7) en cuyo interior incluye al menos un conducto flexible (12), y cuyo exterior está recubierto de una capa (8) de material flexible; todo para permitir que la sonda tras alcanzar el extremo distal del tubo (1), progrese por el conducto cervical (19) y después por el cuerno uterino (22). Esta estructura permite introducir un fluido con espermatozoides, embriones o soluciones terapéuticas al tercio anterior de un cuerno uterino, u obtener embriones desde las porciones anteriores del cuerno uterino, y todo ello sin sedación o anestesia, y sin perturbar el bienestar del animal. Para facilitar la obtención de de embriones, la sonda incluye un pequeño recubrimiento exterior elástico (28) que se infla mediante un tubo flexible (27) para adaptarse al cuerno uterino (22) impidiendo reflujos al realizar la absorción. Especialmente se aplica en el ganado porcino, en pequeños rumiantes, y en cualquier especie animal.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/ES 00/000423

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 : A 61D 19/02, 19/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 : A 61D 19/02, 19/04

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

CIBEPAT, EPOQUE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4100923 A (EDWARD M SOUTMERN) 18 July 1978 (18.07.78)	
A	US 4173227 A (ROBERT E.J. LASSOU et.al) 6 November 1979 (06.11.79)	
A	EP 0214043 A1 (INSTITUTE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE AGRONOMIQUE) 11 March 1987(11.03.87)	
A	US 4701164 A (ROBERT CASSOU et.al) 20 October 1987 (20.10.87)	
A	EP 0478155 A1 (OVAMED CONPORATION) 1 April 1992 (01.04.92)	
A	US 5249610 A (ROBERT CASSOU et.al) 5 October 1993 (05.10.93)	
A	EP 0803237 A1 (TURIN ENRIQUE MORACIO) 29 October 1997 (29.10.97)	
A	US 5916144 A (JEWEN LI et al) 29 June 1999 (29.06.99)	

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

2 February 2001 (02.02.01)

Date of mailing of the international search report

16 February 2001 (16.02.01)

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