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VanDusseldorp et al.

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(54) **PARTIAL ABLATION PROCEDURE AND DEVICE THEREFOR**

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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 0 days.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A device and procedure for performing resections and ablations, and more particularly for performing a partial ablation of the endometrium to treat uterine bleeding (menorrhagia), by which complications caused by "total" endometrial ablation or resection are avoided. The device includes a support member, a first conductor member supported with the support member and reciprocable relative to the support member, the first conductor member having an end that extends beyond the support member, a nonconducting member interconnecting the end of the first conductor member with the support member, and at least one flexible conductor member supported with the support member and interconnected with the end of the first conductor member. Retraction of the first conductor member relative to the support member causes the nonconducting member and the flexible conductor member to expand outward from the first conductor member in substantially opposite directions.

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 09/792,403, filed on Feb. 23, 2001, now abandoned.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/185,172, filed on Feb. 24, 2000.

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **A61B 18/18**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **606/41; 606/47**

(58) **Field of Search** 606/41, 44, 46-52

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21 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

