



(51) International Patent Classification:

A61F 13/06 (2006.01) A61F 13/10 (2006.01)  
A61F 13/08 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP20 15/050775

(22) International Filing Date:

19 January 2015 (19.01.2015)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(71) Applicant: PRESSCISE AB [SE/SE]; Jamvagsplatsen 1, van 2, S-524 30 Herrljunga (SE).

(72) Inventors: LUNDH, Torbjorn; Furuslatten 27, S-427 35 Billdal (SE). VASILIS, Jonatan; Övre Besvarsgatan 13 Lgh 1201, S-411 29 Goteborg (SE). DAMM, Josefin; Traffatorpet, Grade, S-524 95 Ljung (SE).

(74) Agent: LIND, Urban; P.O. Box 11394, S-404 28 Goteborg (SE).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM,

DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

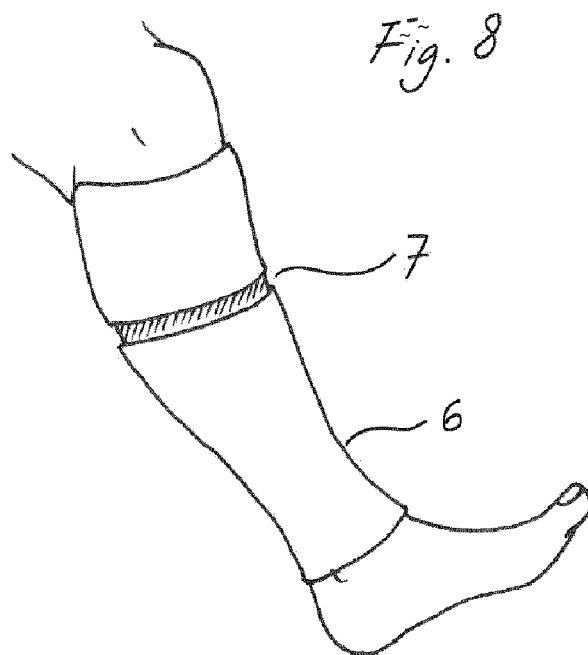
Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.1 7(H))

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: A COMPRESSION GARMENT FOR PROVISION OF AN ADJUSTABLE PRESSURE



(57) Abstract: A compression garment for providing an adjustable pressure towards a body part is disclosed. The compression garment comprises a unitary single sheet of elastic material arranged to encircle the full circumference of a body part, such as a limb or the head. The sheet is folded or arranged to be folded in at least one predefined way, so that the folding forms one or more defined overlap(s) forming at least two overlaying layers of the sheet encircling the full circumference of a part of the body part. Hereby, the pressure profile of the garment can easily be adjusted by making use of the garment in different folded configurations. Markings may further be provided to provide guidance towards the predefined ways of folding.



A COMPRESSION GARMENT FOR PROVISION OF AN ADJUSTABLE  
PRESSURE

**Technical field of the invention**

The present invention relates to a compression garment providing an adjustable pressure towards a body part, as well as a corresponding method for adjusting the range of compression level applied by a compression  
5 garment.

**Background**

Compression garments such as compression socks, tubular bandages, pantyhoses, girdles and sleeves, are being used at several indications such  
10 as venous insufficiency, oedema treatment, after surgery or treatment of varicose veins, relief in case of injuries such as subcutaneous bleeding associated with blunt trauma, muscle sprains, to support blood circulation for persons - or animals - that might have poor circulation, have to stand for a long time, to perform (or recover from) sport activities, or other physically  
15 demanding activities.

Compression garments are useable to create localized pressure, to inhibit or treat established swelling and to enhance the venous return in individuals with either venous insufficiency or obstruction. For non-medical indications compression garments are applied to reduce the risk of muscle  
20 sprain and strains and to improve recovery after physical activities. A particular line of use for compression garments is for compression therapy designed for the purpose of venous oedema. Yet another purpose is to facilitate the transportation of blood in the deep system. In addition, compression is of value to prevent swelling to emerge or reduce risk for  
25 venous thrombus formation. Examples of the latter are in connection to surgery or intercontinental flights. Swelling can also commonly be seen in connection to heart failure.

Many medical conditions can be improved by compression therapy. The conditions to be improved include bleeding after surgery or bleeding  
30 following trauma. The bleedings following surgery or trauma can be located

within different compartments or combination of compartments. These are characterized to be at different levels, depth in relation to the skin surface. Illustrative examples are subcutaneous bleedings following operations for varicose veins, muscular bleeding following orthopedic interventions or blunt  
5 trauma in contact sports with bleeding either subcutaneously or in muscles or within both locations in combination. Depending on localization of the bleeding, different pressures need to be applied.

In sports, elastic compression garments are today being used in order to: improve recovery, faster warm up and enhance overall circulation,  
10 enhance stability and agility, reduce fatigue and reduce damage.

All indications and problems discussed above are also applicable in different settings in veterinary medicine.

The variety of indications needs a variety of different pressures to be applied for optimal function. Depending on indication (therapy, prevention)  
15 and targeted location, the needed pressure to be applied varies. However, providing an appropriate pressure, and especially for compression therapy, is difficult in practice, and there is a great risk that compression is applied in a non-optimal way. Since the needed pressure varies with the indication and condition, the optimal pressure distribution is difficult to reach. For example, if  
20 an athlete gets a big contusion, one would like to localize a well-defined pressure profile on the center of that contusion.

Thus, it is a great challenge to be able to provide a desired or given compression distribution in a correct, controllable and repeatable manner.

An ordinary compression garment applies a pressure to a body part for  
25 medical purposes, such as to improve the vascular function. The pressure exerted depends primarily on the relative sizes of the body part and compression garment, and to reduce the variation in pressure for body parts of various sizes - that is, to reduce the variation between individuals - the compression garment is usually available in multiple sizes. A common  
30 example of such a compression garment is the compression sock, which exerts pressure on a leg.

By varying the circumference of the compression garment in the

longitudinal direction, such as giving it a tapered shape, different pressures can be achieved along the body part. For instance, it is often desired to achieve an increase in pressure (a pressure gradient) in the distal direction. Instead of, or as a complement to, varying the circumference one can adjust  
5 the elastic properties of the garment along the longitudinal/distal direction.

However, these garments, using the techniques known in the prior art, create a pressure profile that strongly depends on the shape of the body part. For instance, if the body part itself has a strongly tapered shape, the increase in pressure in the longitudinal direction is much less than that for a body part  
10 with less tapered shape. A common solution to this problem, as discussed e.g. in US 3 845 769, US 4 215 687 and US 6 109 267, US 2012/031 6480, is to construct a garment or boot that uses a set of bands, which may or may not be of high elasticity, that wrap around a body part. By using for instance hook and loop fasteners, it is possible to control the stretching of the bands  
15 and thus implicitly also determine the pressure exerted on the body part. If there are multiple bands, it is also possible to vary the pressure along the body part. For instance, it is possible to create a pressure gradient that increases the pressure in the distal direction or to reduce, perhaps only temporarily, the pressure over a sensitive section of the body part.

20 However, with this approach it is in practice very difficult to achieve a prescribed pressure, even for body parts with essentially circular cross sections. The reason for this is, inter alia, that the exerted pressure depends both on the stretching force in the garment or boot and on the circumference of the essentially circular body part. In the medical literature the relationship  
25 between the pressure, the longitudinal force and the circumference is called Laplace's law.

Hence, there is need for a compression garment that will give a predictable and controllable pressure profile for a wide range of body part sizes but at the same time allows the pressure profile to be easily adjusted in  
30 a precise manner.

### Summary of the invention

There is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a compression garment providing an adjustable pressure towards a body part at least partly overcoming the above-discussed deficiencies and drawbacks of the prior art, as well as a corresponding method for adjusting the range of  
5 compression level applied by a compression garment.

This object is achieved by means of a compression garment and a method for adjusting the range of compression level applied by a compression garment according to the enclosed claims.

According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided a  
10 compression garment providing an adjustable pressure towards a body part, comprising a unitary single sheet of elastic material arranged to encircle the full circumference of a body part, the sheet being folded or arranged to be folded in at least one predefined way, the folding forming one or more defined overlap(s) forming at least two overlaying layers of the sheet encircling the full  
15 circumference of a part of said body part.

By "unitary single sheet" is in the context of this application meant a sheet which is formed in one continuous piece. However, this sheet may be arranged in various shapes, such as in a planar disc/plate shape, a torus/doughnut shape, a cylindrical shape, a spherical shape, etc. The sheet  
20 is preferably provided as a one-layer material, but may also comprise two or more layers being arranged in a sandwich construction.

By folding in a "predefined way" is in the context of the present invention meant a folding where the shape of the garment, the shape of the enclosed body part, markings or other types of indicia exist which provide  
25 clear guidance to the user how to provide the folding to obtain a desired pressure profile.

It has surprisingly been found by the present inventors that by providing the compression garment as a single sheet material, and providing predefined folding possibilities, a compression garment is provided in which  
30 various pressure profiles are easily obtained. Further, use of the compression garment to obtain the various pressure profiles can also be made very intuitive, making provision of the desired profile simple, reliable and

controllable. Further, this compression garment can be produced very cost-efficiently. Further, the compression garment can easily be provided with a multitude of various folding possibilities, thereby providing a plurality of easily obtainable pressure profiles.

5 By folding the compression garment, a well-defined increased pressure is obtained in the overlap area, thereby providing adjustability of the pressure exerted by the compression garment. In the simplest case, this adjustability may be provided in only two states: folded and unfolded. However, two or more predefined folding possibilities may be provided, providing additional  
10 pressure profiles. The folding may be a single folding, providing a doubling of the material in an overlap area. However, the folding may also be a double fold, providing three layers of material in the overlap area, and even more complex foldings may be used.

The compression garment may be of a general type, applicable to two  
15 or more different body parts, such as the upper or lower part of a leg, the upper and lower part of an arm, etc. However, the compression garment may also be dedicated to a specific body part, such as the head. Specifically, the compression garment may be a head covering, a leg covering, to extend from the knee to the ankle, a stocking to extend between the foot and a part or all  
20 of the leg, a sock, being a short stocking, a pantyhose, extending beyond the legs, a tubular bandage, a sleeve to cover all or a part of the arm, or a girdle to cover the lower torso, etc.

The compression garment may be useable on various body parts, such as on a body limb, such as an arm, or leg, and a body head.

25 The sheet preferably comprises at least one marking, indicating a defined overlap for a part of the sheet folded over another part of the sheet. The at least one marking may e.g. preferably indicate a plurality of various overlaps, providing a corresponding plurality of compression profiles. By the provision of such markings, a desired degree of overlap may easily be  
30 obtained during application. This allows the overlap to be very controllable and predictable. The markings may e.g. comprise markings arranged along at least one line extending in the circumferential/transversal direction of the

compression garment.

The markings may be arranged or extend over a substantial part of the compression garment, such as extending over more than 50% of the circumference of the garment. However, alternatively the markings may  
5 comprise markings having a limited extension in the width and length direction of the compression garment.

The markings may e.g. comprise characters, digits and/or colour or pattern codes forming a continuous or discontinuous scale in the length direction of the compression garment. This may also enable the use of  
10 different markings for different folding, thereby providing a multitude of different pressure profiles.

The markings may also be repeatedly and equidistantly arranged over a part of the lengthwise extension of the compression garment.

The marking(s) may also be arranged to provide a plurality of defined  
15 overlaps when folding a part of the sheet over another part of the sheet, thereby forming a corresponding plurality of defined overlaps transversally encircling the full circumference of a part of said body part.

The marking(s) are preferably visually and/or tactilely discernible. For example, the markings may be printed markings, discernible structures in the  
20 textile material, openings, etc.

In one line of embodiments, the garment is provided with at least one opening, wherein the overlap is formed by folding a part of said garment from said opening towards the rest of the garment, thereby forming an overlap at least in the vicinity of said opening. For example, the compression garment  
25 may be formed as a stocking or a sock, whereby the folding may occur at the upper part.

In another line of embodiments, the garment may have a tubular shape having two openings, wherein the markings may be defining overlaps when folding the sheet from one or both of said openings. This is e.g.  
30 advantageous when the compression garment is used as a sleeve, a leg covering or the like.

In yet another line of embodiments, the compression garment may

have a tubular shape having two openings and the sheet being arranged in a torus shape, forming a double layer tube, wherein difference in folding makes different parts overlap each other.

In another line of embodiments, the sheet of the garment in one  
5 disposition encloses an internal cavity, and in a second disposition is folded so that one part of the sheet is inverted into the remaining part of the sheet, thereby forming a double layer shape having one opening.

The sheet of the compression garment may have a uniform pressure profile. However, it is in many cases advantageous to use a non-uniform  
10 pressure profile in the longitudinal direction. The pressure profile may in such embodiments be essentially uniform, but having one or more areas with increased pressure. The pressure profile may also be continuously or discontinuously varying in the length direction. For example, the pressure may be continuously rising or falling from one end to the other, or form a  
15 sinusoidal curve, or the like.

The elastic material preferably has an elastic property such that the stretching force and the circumference cancel out in Laplace's law. Hence, such a material will produce the same or essentially the same pressure profile for a variety of dimensions, so that a single size of the compression garment  
20 will produce the same pressure profile for a large range of body part sizes. This makes the product very versatile, since the same garment can be used for body parts of different sizes, such as on different parts of the legs and/or arms. It also makes production and distribution easier and more cost-efficient, since one and the same size of the garment can be used by users having  
25 different sizes, so that only one or a few different sizes need to be provided to serve a full range of body sizes.

An elastic material having such elastic properties is per se disclosed in the PCT-application PCT/EP2013/065281 by the same applicant, said document hereby being incorporated in its entirety by reference.

30 More specifically, it is preferred that the elastic property of the elastic material is such that when the same length of unstretched elastic material is stretched to encircle a circular object with different circumferences at different



yield rates the pressure exerted by the elastic material varies less than 30% over a range of approximately circular circumferences providing a range of yield rates from  $\lambda_1$  to  $\lambda_2$ , wherein  $\lambda_2/\lambda_1 > 1.8$ .

The use of such a material is based on the realization that when an elastic bandage is stretched and wrapped around a body part, the body part will be compressed by a normal force. As the force locally is close to constant, it is convenient to instead consider the pressure, the force per surface area. Theoretically, this pressure is given by the stretching force in the compression garment, divided by the product of the stretched elastic garment width and the local radius of curvature. For body parts that can be considered to have circular cross sections, such as limbs, the radius of curvature can be approximated by the radius of a circle with the same circumference as the body part.

By use of such an elastic material, the same garment size may also be used on different individuals, different body parts, etc., since the same result will automatically be achieved regardless of the size of the circumference - and hence the radius of curvature, over a large range of diameters.

The engineering principles of this material will now be explained in the context of an elastic bandage, as in the above-discussed PCT-application PCT/EP2013/065281. The same principles apply when using the material in a compression garment. If we consider a stretched elastic bandage wrapped around the axis of symmetry of the frustum of a right circular cone with radii ranging from  $r_1$  to  $r_2$ , where  $r_1 < r_2$ , then the pressure on the cone is given by the formula

$$V = \frac{F n}{w r}$$

25

where  $F$  is the longitudinal force in the elastic bandage;  $n$  is the number of layers;  $w$  is the width of the elastic bandage; and  $r$  is the radius. In the medical literature, this formula is sometimes referred to as Laplace's law. This formula assumes that the longitudinal stress in the elastic bandage - which is easy to measure - coincides with the hoop stress. However, if the elastic

30

bandage progresses along the axis of the cone as it is wrapped around the cone, then these quantities no longer coincide. Nevertheless, the difference is quite small when the overlap is 50 percent or more, and it can usually be accounted for by calibration. Furthermore, in this case the number of layers **n** should be interpreted as the average number of layers, where the boundary effects are ignored. That is, if the elastic bandage at every turn is shifted a fraction **t** of the bandage width, then **n** is the linear interpolation, as a function of **t**, between  $i/t$  rounded down to the nearest integer and  $i/t$  rounded up to the nearest integer. The closer  $i/t$  is to an integer, the closer to constant the average number of layers will be.

Now we may introduce the stretch quotient, also referred to as the yield rate,  $\lambda$ , defined by

$$\lambda = \frac{L}{L_0}$$

where  $L, L_0$  are the stretched and unstretched lengths, respectively.

Further, the stretched length will be  $L = 2\pi r$ , or equivalently  $r = \lambda \frac{L_0}{2\pi}$ , and from this we see that

$$V = \frac{2\pi F n}{w \lambda L_0} \tag{1}$$

Now, let  $p_0$  denote the desired lowest pressure and, by way of example only, assume that the desired smallest overlap is 50 percent, so that  $n = 2$ .

Then as long as

$$\frac{F}{w \lambda} = \frac{p_0 L_0}{4\pi} \tag{2}$$

the applied pressure is  $p_0$  when the elastic bandage is wrapped with an overlap of 50 percent. By changing the overlap, and hence  $n$ , the applied pressure changes by a factor of  $n/2$ .

With the elastic bandage material of the present invention, this relation (2) approximately holds for stretch quotients covering all relevant radii. That is, it approximately holds at least for  $\lambda$  satisfying

$$\frac{2\pi r_1}{L_0} \leq \lambda \leq \frac{2\pi r_2}{L_0} \tag{3}$$

In practice,  $\lambda$  is measured experimentally and is found to be approximately a constant  $K$  for  $\lambda$  in some interval  $\lambda_1 \leq \lambda \leq \lambda_2$ . In this case, we may choose the unstretched length  $L_0$  as

$$L_0 = \frac{4\pi K}{P_0},$$

and the pressure  $p_0$  then satisfies

$$\frac{2\lambda_1 K}{r_1} \leq P_0 \leq \frac{2\lambda_2 K}{r_2}$$

5

In particular, one single elastic bandage type may be used for multiple target pressures by varying the length  $L_0$ . Furthermore, we see from (1) that if the left hand of (2) is constant up to a certain relative error, then the pressure is constant up to the same relative error, when  $n$ ,  $w$ , and  $L_0$  are fixed.

10

As the compression garment of the present invention satisfies equation (2) with only a small error, the present invention offers a compression garment that yields a homogeneous pressure on body parts of varying circumference.

15

It may also easily be made sure that the compression garment is not used outside the domain given in (3). For example, it is sufficient to measure - or often to just estimate the size of - the body part where it is the narrowest and also where it is the widest. In the case of legs, this is usually at the ankle and at the upper thigh, respectively, and in all cases it suffices to measure the circumference of the body part at two points only.

20

That the elongation is within the desired domain can also be verified using any of the techniques known in the art for indicating elongation. For instance, one may print two sets of rectangles on the compression garment with side lengths chosen so that they become squares at elongations  $\lambda_1$  and  $\lambda_2$ , respectively. In this latter case, it is not necessary to do any

25

measurements of circumference. Furthermore, these elongation indicators may be incorporated in the markings used to define the folded overlaps.

By way of example, consider using the compression garment on legs. If the person is standing up, then gravity will cause the pressure in the blood vessels to increase in the distal direction. According to physiological studies,

the increase of pressure at a point is approximately proportional to the height of the blood column between the point and the heart. In a healthy blood vessel, this increase in pressure is countered by a corresponding increase in pressure in the surrounding tissue, since the densities are almost the same.

5 However, in case of certain medical conditions, such as deep venous insufficiency, an additional pressure has to be applied at all times, and to achieve this, the forces of gravity might need to be countered by applying the bandage with an decreasing pressure in the proximal direction.

As the present invention makes it possible to vary the pressure in the longitudinal direction of the body part, a compression garment may be applied  
10 to automatically yield a decreasing pressure in the proximal direction.

In a similar manner, other types of graduated pressure - including arbitrary pressure changes in the longitudinal direction of the body part - can also be achieved, including a pressure that increases rather than decreases  
15 in the proximal direction.

For certain medical conditions, it is desired that the applied pressure on the leg is higher when standing up than when lying down. Customarily, this is achieved by making use of the fact that fluid accumulates in the legs, thereby increasing their volume, when standing up. If the compression  
20 garment is such that the force increases rapidly with the elongation, then the increase in volume causes an increase in pressure.

With a compression garment of the present invention, which preferably satisfies equation (2), then there will be no increase at all in the pressure from the compression garment when the person stands up. For some situations,  
25 such as for certain patients who are mainly lying down, this is desirable. If, however, an increase in pressure is desired, this can still be achieved using the present invention: e.g. by applying a specified folding.

Preferably, the elastic properties of the elastic material are such that the pressure exerted by such turns having the same length of unstretched  
30 material varies less than 20% over a range of circumferences providing a range of yield rates from  $\lambda_1$  to  $\lambda_2$ , and even more preferably varies less than 10%. Further, it is preferred that the range of yield rates in which this property

exist are such that  $\lambda_2/\lambda_1 > 2.5$ , and most preferably  $\lambda_2/\lambda_1 > 3.0$ . Hereby, an even more flexible and useful compression garment is obtained.

In particular it is preferred that the elastic properties of the elastic material are such that the pressure exerted by the material varies less than  
5 20% over a range of circumferences providing a range of yield rates from  $\lambda_1$  to  $\lambda_2$ , wherein the range of yield rates in which this property exist are such that  $\lambda_2/\lambda_1 > 2.5$ . Even more preferred, the elastic properties of the material are such that the pressure varies less than 10% over a range of circumferences providing a range of yield rates from  $\lambda_1$  to  $\lambda_2$ , wherein the range of yield rates  
10 in which this property exist are such that  $\lambda_2/\lambda_1 > 3.0$ . Hereby, an even more flexible and useful compression garments are obtained.

The elastic material is preferably a textile, and preferably comprising both elastic and non-elastic yarns and threads.

The elastic material may comprise synthetic fibres selected from the  
15 group consisting of polyester, polyamide, polypropylene or PLA (polylactic acid). The elastic material may further comprise natural fibres, such as cotton or regenerated fibres such as viscose or a mixed spun yarn with multifilament synthetic fibres and natural staple fibres or other mixtures thereof.

In a preferred embodiment, the elastic material comprises threads or  
20 yarns of at least one of: elastomeric polymers such as natural rubber, polyisoprene, synthetic rubber, a mix of polyisoprene rubber and styrene butadiene copolymer or a mix of thermoplastic and elastomeric polymers such as polyurethane-polyurea copolymer, and other mixtures thereof.

The elastic material is preferably a woven or knitted material.

25 It has been found that these elastic materials are very useable for obtaining the above-discussed elastic properties.

The above-discussed compression garment is particularly useful for applying a controlled compression to parts of the body, for use in at least one of prophylactic treatment, therapeutic treatment, performance-enhancing and  
30 recovery. However, in addition to compression therapy, it is also useful for other known uses of compression garments.

The adjustable compression garment of the present invention is

useable to create localized pressure, e.g. to inhibit or treat established swelling. The compression garment may also be used to enhance the venous return in individuals with either venous insufficiency or obstruction. The compression garment is also useable for non-medical indications, to reduce  
5 the risk of muscle sprain and strains and to improve recovery after physical activities.

A particular line of medical use for the compression garments is for compression therapy of venous insufficiency, oedema and venous ulcers. Another line of medical use is localized compression treatment of  
10 subcutaneous, or muscle, bleeding following for example surgery or blunt trauma. Yet another use is to facilitate the transportation of blood in the deep system. A subgroup of compression garments with this purpose deliver graduated compression.

The compression garment is also useable to prevent swelling to  
15 emerge or reduce risk for venous thrombus formation. Examples of the latter are in connection to surgery or intercontinental flights. Swelling can also commonly be seen in connection to heart failure.

The compression garment is also useful as sport equipment, in order to: improve recovery, faster warm up and enhance overall circulation,  
20 enhance stability and agility, reduce fatigue and reduce damage.

Further, even though the compression garment is intended for use on humans, it is equally possible to use the compression garment on animals.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided an integrated compression garment assembly, comprising at least two integrated  
25 sections, wherein each section comprises a compression garment of the type discussed in the foregoing. The integrated sections may e.g. be connected by seams, adhesive or other connection means. However, the integrated sections may also be connected by being made of a common sheet of material, so that the material sheet forming one section extends into, and  
30 forms, also the other section(s). The sections may be arranged to encircle different body parts. For example, one section may be arranged to be applied on the leg, another section on the foot, yet other sections on each separate

toe, etc. Similarly, separate sections may be arranged to be applied on each or some of the fingers, in case of a garment to be used over the hand and/or arm.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a  
5 method of adjusting the range of compression level applied by a compression garment, comprising:

providing a unitary single sheet of elastic material arranged to encircle the full circumference of a body part;

10 folding the sheet in at least one predefined way, the folding forming one or more defined overlap(s) forming at least two overlaying layers of the sheet encircling the full circumference of a part of said body part.

Hereby, similar advantages and specific features as discussed above in relation to the first aspect are obtainable and useable.

15 These and other aspects of the invention will be apparent from and elucidated with reference to the embodiments described hereinafter.

### **Brief description of the drawings**

For exemplifying purposes, the invention will be described in closer detail in the following with reference to embodiments thereof illustrated in the  
20 attached drawings, wherein:

Figures 1-4 show perspective views of an embodiment of a compression garment for a body limb in accordance with the present invention.

25 Figures 5-9 show perspective views of other embodiments of a compression garments for body limbs in accordance with the present invention.

Figures 10-12 show a cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a compression garment for a body limb in accordance with the present invention. The figures illustrate various intermediate steps during application  
30 of the garment.

Figures 13-16 show perspective view of another embodiment of a compression garment, here for use on a head, in accordance with the present

invention. The figures illustrate various intermediate steps during application of the garment.

Figures 17 and 18 are perspective views illustrating a compression garment in accordance with yet another embodiment of the present invention, where figure 17 shows the garment in a non-applied state, and figure 18 shows the garment in an applied state.

Figure 19 shows, in a perspective view, an exemplary compression garment in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, the garment being similar to the one illustrated in figure 8.

Figure 20 shows a schematic representation of the folding configuration of the compression garment in figure 19, schematically showing the extension of the sheet in the marked area of figure 19.

Figure 21 is a schematic diagram showing a first example of pressure profile in the sheet material of a compression garment in accordance with the present invention.

Figures 22-24 are schematic diagrams illustrating pressure profiles of the compression garment, when the garment of figure 21 is folded in the folding configurations represented schematically beneath each diagram.

Figure 25 is a schematic diagram showing a second example of pressure profile in the sheet material of a compression garment in accordance with the present invention.

Figures 26-30 are schematic diagrams illustrating pressure profiles of the compression garment, when the garment of figure 25 is folded in the folding configurations represented schematically beneath each diagram.

Figure 31 is a schematic diagram showing a third example of pressure profile in the sheet material of a compression garment in accordance with the present invention.

Figures 32-34 are schematic diagrams illustrating pressure profiles of the compression garment, when the garment of figure 31 is folded in the folding configurations represented schematically beneath each diagram.

Figure 35 is a schematic diagram showing a fourth example of pressure profile in the sheet material of a compression garment in



accordance with the present invention.

Figures 36-41 are schematic diagrams illustrating pressure profiles of the compression garment, when the garment of figure 35 is folded in the folding configurations represented schematically beneath each diagram.

5 Figure 42 is a schematic diagram showing a fifth example of pressure profile in the sheet material of a compression garment in accordance with the present invention.

Figures 43-45 are schematic diagrams illustrating pressure profiles of the compression garment, when the garment of figure 42 is folded in the  
10 folding configurations represented schematically beneath each diagram.

Figures 46-50 are perspective views schematically illustrating various embodiments of compression garments in accordance with the present invention, where the garments are provided with markings to indicate predefined folding positions.

15 Figures 51-57 are schematic views of other possible markings useable in compression garments in accordance with the present invention.

Figures 58-60 are perspective views schematically illustrating other embodiments of compression garments in accordance with the present invention, where the garments are provide with markings to indicate  
20 predefined folding positions.

### **Detailed description of preferred embodiments**

In the following detailed description, preferred embodiments of the present invention will be described. However, it is to be understood that  
25 features of the different embodiments are exchangeable between the embodiments and may be combined in different ways, unless anything else is specifically indicated. It may also be noted that, for the sake of clarity, the dimensions of certain components illustrated in the drawings may differ from the corresponding dimensions in real-life implementations. Even though in the  
30 following description, numerous specific details are set forth to provide a more thorough understanding of the present invention, it will be apparent to one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these

specific details. In other instances, well known constructions or functions are not described in detail, so as not to obscure the present invention. Further, the same reference signs are used to designate equal or similar parts throughout the drawings.

5 In figure 1, a long compression garment, here in the form of a sock, is illustrated with an optional marking for an optional folding position 1. By folding, the upper part of the sock over the remainder of the sock, a different pressure profile may be obtained. In figures 2 and 3, two preferred configurations of the sock in figure 1 are illustrated. In figure 2 the sock is applied as a single layer in its full length. In figure 3, the upper part is folded on top of itself, which creates a double layer, and increased pressure. The double layer starts at the fold 2 and ends at a point that might be marked 4. In figure 4, there is an illustration on how the sock is applied.

Figure 5 is an embodiment of the garment similar to the one in figure 1, but here the sock is open for the toes 5, i.e. the garment is topological<sup>^</sup> a cylinder.

In figure 6, there is another embodiment similar to the one of figure 1, but this version of the compression garment includes compression on separate toes 6.

20 Figure 7 illustrate a tubular compression garment similar to the one in figure 1, but the compression garment in this embodiment is instead arranged to be applied as a sleeve on an arm. Such a sleeve may extend only from the wrist and upwards. However, preferably, as is also illustrated in figure 7, the sleeve may extend over the wrist and over the upper part of the hand. In such a realization, the sleeve is also preferably provided with a lateral opening for the thumb.

Figure 8 shows a cylindrical compression garment that is folded from the upper part, but also folded from below, 6. Such folding may extend over different length, and may e.g. extend so far that the ends meet each other at a certain point 7. Those configurations in which the two ends met can also be realized as a double layered tube, that is as a compression garment which is topological<sup>^</sup> a torus. A double layer tubular compression garment, a torus,

corresponding to that in figure 8, is illustrated in figure 9. In such embodiments, the pressure profile of the sheet material is preferably non-uniform, as is discussed in more detail in the following. Thus, the overall pressure profile of the compression garment may then e.g. be adjusted by  
5 displacing the two layers in relations to each other - which for the case for the cylinder in figure 8 means adjusting the meeting point 7 upwards or downwards - something that will be displayed and elaborated with reference to figures 19 to 48.

Figures 10-12 illustrate a compression garment in which the sheet in  
10 one disposition encloses an internal cavity, as shown in figure 10, and in a second disposition, as shown in figure 12, is folded so that one part of the sheet is inverted into the remaining part of the sheet. Hereby, a double layer shape is formed, having one opening. The garment of this embodiment is topological<sup>^</sup> a sphere. Figure 10 shows the unfolded garment, figure 11 how  
15 it is folded, during an intermediate step, and figure 12 the final, applied state. In this exemplary embodiment, the compression garment is a sock to be applied on a leg, but similar compression garment may also be used for other limbs or the head.

Figures 13-16 show how a tubular compression garment can be  
20 transformed into a garment which is topological<sup>^</sup> a multilayered disc, which can be folded and applied to for instance a head. Figure 13 shows the garment in its tubular form with an upper part 8 and a lower part 9. Figure 14 illustrates the same garment after twisting the parts 8 and 9 relative to each other. Figure 15 illustrate the garment in the form of the resulting cap after  
25 downfolding the upper part 8. Figure 16 shows the tubular compression garment applied on a head. By applying the twisting and folding differently on the tube, various configurations having different pressure profiles become possible. Further, if the tubular garment is a torus, it can, as in figure 9, get different configurations by sliding the torus in 13 before it is twisted in 14.

30 Figures 17 and 18 illustrate a compression garment in the form of an openable torus, i.e. having a longitudinal openable seam or connection. Figure 17 illustrate the garment in its open form, whereas figure 18 illustrates

the garment when applied on a leg. The sides 10 can be attached to each other using for example hooks and loops. Such an embodiment can for example be useful if one wants to apply the compression garment without threading it over the foot. That might be especially useful for treating animals, such as for example a leg of a horse.

Figures 19 and 20 schematically illustrate a specific configuration of the compression garment. This embodiment is similar to the one discussed above with reference to figure 8. Figure 20 illustrate a schematic cross-sectional view of the sheet at the part within the box 11 of figure 19. In figure 20, the point 12 represents the meeting point 7 of the both folded ends.

The following figures 21 to 45 use the schematic illustration in figure 20 to show how one can vary the resulting pressure profiles using different folding configurations based on a few underlying pressure profiles of the unfolded compression garment. Note that an end that has not been folded need not represent an actual end of a garment section, and the same schematic illustration; for instance, the schematic illustration in figure 22 can be used to illustrate garment sections of the garments in figures 3, 5 and 9.

Figure 21 shows an unfolded garment, and made by a sheet having a uniform pressure profile. By folding at one end of the garment section, as shown in figure 22, a localized increase in pressure is achieved in the overlap area, i.e. in the vicinity of the opening where the folding occurred. Folding at both ends, as illustrated in figure 23, yields a garment having a lower pressure in the interior section than at the ends. Naturally, the longitudinal extension of all these sections having different pressure can be adjusted. It is also possible to fold the garment at the interior of a section, as shown in figure 24, with a z-shaped double fold, which yields a localized area with high pressure.

Figure 25 shows an unfolded garment, and made by a sheet having a linear pressure profile. This garment, when unfolded, consequently exerts a very low pressure at one end, a relatively high pressure at the other end, and a linear transition there between. In this case, folding one of the ends, as illustrated in figure 26, or both ends, as illustrated in figure 27, yields a

constant pressure in the overlap areas. If the folds are extended to meet in the interior of the garment, as shown in figures 28, 29, 30, the pressure increases stepwise at the meeting point and is constant elsewhere. The position of the meeting point determines both the size of the stepwise  
5 increase, and where this transition occurs in the longitudinal direction.

Figure 31 shows an unfolded garment, and made by a sheet having a pressure profile exhibiting a sinusoidal shape. In this example, the pressure is about the same at the ends and in the centre, whereas the sections there between form a maximum and a minimum, respectively, and continuous  
10 transitions there between. If one end of the garment section is folded to meet the other end, a constant pressure profile is achieved, as shown in figure 32, and by keeping both ends together and gradually moving their point of contact, various smooth and monotone pressure profiles are achieved, as shown in figures 33, 34.

15 Figure 35 shows an unfolded garment, and made by a sheet having a pressure profile that linearly increases at the ends of the garment or garment section. If the ends of such a garment are folded to meet in the interior, a continuous increase in pressure is achieved in the interior of the garment section, as shown in figures 36, 37, 38. The folding, and in this case the  
20 meeting point for the ends, define where the pressure is increased. By allowing the ends to overlap, an even higher increase in pressure can be achieved, as shown in figure 39. Extending the overlap even more, as shown in figure 40, yields a stepwise increase in pressure in the interior of the garment section, complementary to that in figure 23. The same pressure  
25 profile can also be achieved by folding the ends over themselves, as shown in figure 41.

Figure 42 shows an unfolded garment, and made by a sheet having a pressure profile that smoothly decreases at the ends of the garment section. Folding the ends of the garment so that they meet result in a localized  
30 decrease in pressure in the interior of the garment, as shown in figures 43, 44 and 45.

The above-discussed non-uniform pressure profiles of the sheet, and

the pressure profiles obtained by various folding configurations are only exemplary, and many other pressure profiles and folding configurations are feasible.

Figures 46 and 47 show a pressure indicator/marking for an  
5 embodiment of the present invention that has at least one fold at an end of a garment section. Folding the garment at an end of a garment section turns the garment inside out between the fold 2 and the end of the garment section 4, exposing a portion of the interior of the unfolded garment section. In figure 46, the interior of the unfolded garment section has one or more markings 13,  
10 and the exposed marking 14 that is closest to the fold, 2, indicates the pressure profile. The indicator in figure 47 is similar, but has instead markings 13 on the exterior of the unfolded garment section, utilizing the fact that this side of the garment section is hidden, either covered or turned inside out, from the end of the garment section 4 to the line of contact between 4 and the  
15 garment section.

An indicator can be supplied for each fold if the garment section is folded at multiple ends, and different ends need not use the same sort of indicator. The same sort of indicator can also be used if the garment section is folded multiple times at a single end.

20 Figures 48-50 show how the indicator/marking can be simplified in the case when the garment section is folded in such a way that two ends meet, including the case where the two ends are fused together and the garment section is topological<sup>^</sup> equivalent to a torus. In figure 48, the ends 4 and 15 of the garment section meet along different transversal sections of the  
25 garment section. Manually slightly lifting an end 4 or 15 of the garment section exposes a single marking 14 of the markings on the exterior of the unfolded garment section. Similarly, the garment in figure 49 has a portion 16, such as a hole or an at least semitransparent fabric, which exposes a marking 14 on the interior layer of the garment section. In figure 50, transversal  
30 markings 13 - which are initially facing the skin - become exposed as the folding is adjusted, so that the pressure profile can be indicated on the marking 14 closest to a specified end of the garment section.

Figures 51 to 55 show different embodiments of a single pressure profile indicator 14. The indicator in figure 51 shows the pressures 17 and 18, here 30/10, or in a different embodiment the mean pressures, in a customary unit such as mmHg for two subsections of the garment section, where the subsections may either be fixed - such as the upper and lower half of the garment section - or depend on the position of the indicator.

Figures 52 and 53 illustrate that the indicator can be based on different color or various tactile structures, one can also use different overlay effects from the different layers - that can be semitransparent - such as moire effects.

Figures 54 and 55 illustrate two extensions of the indicator/markings in figure 51, showing the exact pressure profile in the form of different charts. In addition to the graphical representation, numeric values indicating for instance the maximum 17 and minimum 18 or the mean pressure can be shown in the charts.

Figures 56 and 57 show a continuum of indicators/markings, where 19 is the longitudinal direction of the garment. Each transversal section 20 determines a certain pressure profile, and e.g. the markings shown in figures 46-50 can be used to identify such a section. In figure 56, each transversal section 20 determines two lengths 21 and 22 - similar to figure 54 - having a constant sum, making it suitable to illustrate pressure profiles such as those in figures 28 - 30. In one embodiment, the two areas 23 and 24 have different colors, in another they can be tactilely discerned, and in a third only one of the sections may be present at each transversal section. In figure 57, there is instead a plurality of transversal sections 20, which in one embodiment has different colors, in a second embodiment has different patterns or in a third embodiment can be tactilely discerned.

Figure 58 shows a garment with transversal sections 20 which can be discerned on the outermost layer of the garment, where each transversal section indicates the pressure or relative pressure exerted on the body part at that transversal section. In the embodiment in figure 59, suitable for instance for the pressure profiles in figures 28-30, the parts 25 and 26 of the garment can have different colors to indicate that the pressure exerted by 25 is lower

than that exerted by 26. In another embodiment illustrated in figure 60, suitable for instance for the pressure profiles in figures 36-38 or 43-45, the transversal sections 20 indicates which sections of the garment that exerts a different pressure from the rest. In yet another embodiment - suitable for  
5 garments with a free end, such as the garment in figure 8 - the ends of the garments function as the transversal sections 20.

Furthermore, all the preceding indicators may be used together. For instance, each transversal section 20 in figure 57 can also have numerical indicators 17 and 18 like those in figure 51, an indicator like that in figure 56  
10 can be used to show how much further the pressure profile may be adjusted, and additionally an indicator like that in figure 59 to show which part of the garment that exerts the highest pressure.

However, many other types of markings and indicia are also feasible for conferring information to the user of how to fold the compression garment  
15 to obtain a desired pressure profile.

There are various ways to manufacture the pressure garments as discussed in the foregoing.

One preferred embodiment is weft knitting. In this technique elastic threads are incorporated into the textile construction in order to give the textile  
20 material its characteristic stretch properties for pressure garments. The elastic threads are preferably inlaid into the knitted structure under a certain elongation (tension). The elastic threads are also preferably incorporated as a continuous inlay, into the knitted loops; hence the elastic thread never creates any loops. Another way to incorporate the elastic threads is by using tuck  
25 knitting, where the elastic yarn can be knitted as a tuck every 2nd, 3rd, 4th. . . stitch.

The ground yarn in the construction can consist of only inelastic yarns, only elastic yarns, but preferably a combination of inelastic and elastic yarns. There are numerous ways to knit a stretch fabric. In one preferred  
30 embodiment the ground construction is a rib knit, e.g. 1:1 rib, 1:2 rib, 2:2 rib or the like. In another embodiment the ground construction could be shifted in different parts of the garment, in order to e.g. create a stiffer or more elastic



local area on a certain part of the garment.

There are at least two possible weft knitting methods for this purpose. In one embodiment one could use circular weft knitting. This enables a good way to manufacture a tube with open ends. There are however circular  
5 knitting machines where e.g. toes and heels are possible to knit. Another embodiment is flat weft knitting. This technique enables a wider spectrum of different shapes. Both in a garment shaped like a single tube as well as in a so-called "whole garment" with a more complex shape e.g. in a garment with integrated toes or fingers.

10 Yet another technique to manufacture the described pressure garment is warp knitting. The construction should preferably include both inelastic yarns and elastic threads to get the preferred elastic properties. In one embodiment a tube can be produced on a Raschel warp knitting machine, with two needle bars, where the ground construction is knitted on the needles  
15 of both beds and the elastic yarn is inlaid transverse to the knitted whales in order to bind the construction together but also to give the textile its elastic properties.

In yet another embodiment, flat warp knitting is used on a Raschel warp knitting with one needle bed. Here, the maximum length of e.g. a tube  
20 would have the same length as the needle bed. In this technique a flat fabric is produced, that can be folded lengthwise and sewn together in order to form e.g. a tube or a sock. Another technique to manufacture a flat textile that can be sewn together is to use the above described flat weft knitting.

In one embodiment an over-lock seam is used to sew the flat textile  
25 surfaces together. Another seam can for example be a flatlock seam, avoiding seam allowance that can cause marks on the skin. In another embodiment welding is used to merge the two textile surfaces together, in order to form a tube or a sock. One can use solely thermoplastic material in the textile but preferably a thermoplastic tape is used, that works as an  
30 adhesive between the two surfaces.

The invention has now been disclosed by reference to preferred embodiments. However, it is to be acknowledged by the skilled addressee

that several further modifications are feasible. For example, other elastic materials, and combinations of in-elastic and elastic materials may be used, other production technologies may be employed, etc. Further, the markings defining the folding may be realized in many different ways, some of which  
5 have been disclosed in the foregoing. However, many other alternative embodiments would be feasible to the same or similar ends.

Such and other obvious modifications must be considered to be within the scope of the present invention, as it is defined by the appended claims. It should be noted that the above-mentioned embodiments illustrate rather than  
10 limit the invention, and that those skilled in the art will be able to design many alternative embodiments without departing from the scope of the appended claims. In the claims, any reference signs placed between parentheses shall not be construed as limiting to the claim. The word "comprising" does not  
15 exclude the presence of other elements or steps than those listed in the claim. The word "a" or "an" preceding an element does not exclude the presence of a plurality of such elements.

## CLAIMS

1. A compression garment providing an adjustable pressure towards a body part, comprising a unitary single sheet of elastic material  
5 arranged to encircle the full circumference of a body part, the sheet being folded or arranged to be folded in at least one predefined way, the folding forming one or more defined overlap(s) forming at least two overlaying layers of the sheet encircling the full circumference of a part of said body part.
2. The compression garment of claim 1, wherein the sheet  
10 comprises at least one marking, indicating a defined overlap for a part of the sheet folded over another part of the sheet.
3. The compression garment of claim 2, wherein the at least one marking indicates a plurality of various overlaps, providing a corresponding plurality of compression profiles.
- 15 4. The compression garment of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the garment is provided with at least one opening, said overlap being formed by folding a part of said garment from said opening towards the rest of said garment, thereby forming an overlap at least in the vicinity of said opening.
- 20 5. The compression garment of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the garment has a tubular shape having two openings, wherein said markings are defining overlaps when folding the sheet from one or both of said openings.
6. The compression garment of any one of the preceding claims,  
25 as dependent on claim 2, wherein the marking(s) provide a plurality of defined overlaps when folding a part of the sheet over another part of the sheet, thereby forming a corresponding plurality of defined overlaps concentrically encircling the full circumference of a part of said body part.
7. The compression garment of any one of the preceding claims,  
30 wherein the elastic material has the elastic property that when the same length of unstretched elastic material is stretched to encircle a circular object with different circumferences at different yield rates the pressure exerted by

the elastic material varies less than 30% over a range of approximately circular circumferences providing a range of yield rates from  $\lambda_1$  to  $\lambda_2$ , wherein  $\lambda_2/\lambda_1 > 1.8$ .

8. The compression garment of claim 7, wherein the pressure  
5 exerted by the material varies less than 20% over a range of circumferences providing a range of yield rates from  $\lambda_1$  to  $\lambda_2$ , and preferably varies less than 10%
9. The compression garment of claim 7 or 8, wherein the  $\lambda_2/\lambda_1 >$   
2.5, and preferably  $\lambda_2/\lambda_1 > 3.0$ .
- 10 10. The compression garment of any one of the preceding claims,  
wherein the elastic material comprises synthetic fibres selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyamide, polypropylene or PLA (polylactic acid).
- 15 11. The compression garment of claim 9, wherein the elastic  
material further comprises natural fibres, such as cotton or regenerated fibres such as viscose or a mixed spun yarn with multifilament synthetic fibres and natural staple fibres or other mixtures thereof.
- 20 12. The compression garment of any one of the preceding claims,  
wherein the elastic material comprises threads or yarns of at least one of:  
elastomeric polymers such as natural rubber, polyisoprene, synthetic rubber, a mix of polyisoprene rubber and styrene butadiene copolymer or a mix of thermoplastic and elastomeric polymers such as polyurethane-polyurea copolymer, and other mixtures thereof.
- 25 13. The compression garment of any one of the preceding claims,  
wherein the elastic material is a woven or knitted material.
14. The compression garment of any one of the preceding claims,  
wherein the body part is at least one of a body limb and a body head.
15. The compression garment of any one of the preceding claims,  
as dependent on claim 2, wherein the marking(s) is visually and/or tactilely  
30 discernible.
16. The compression garment of any one of the preceding claims,  
wherein the garment has a tubular shape having two openings and the sheet

being arranged in a torus shape, forming a double layer tube, wherein difference in folding makes different parts overlap each other.

17. The compression garment of any one of the preceding claims, wherein sheet of the garment in one disposition encloses an internal cavity,  
5 and in a second disposition is folded so that one part of the sheet is inverted into the remaining part of the sheet, thereby forming a double layer shape having one opening.

18. The compression garment of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sheet has a non-uniform pressure profile in its longitudinal  
10 direction.

19. An integrated compression garment assembly, comprising at least two integrated sections, each section comprising a compression garment in accordance with any one of the claims 1-18.

20. A method of adjusting the range of compression level applied by  
15 a compression garment, comprising:

providing a unitary single sheet of elastic material arranged to encircle the full circumference of a body part;

folding the sheet in at least one predefined way, the folding forming one or more defined overlap(s) forming at least two overlaying layers of the  
20 sheet encircling the full circumference of a part of said body part.

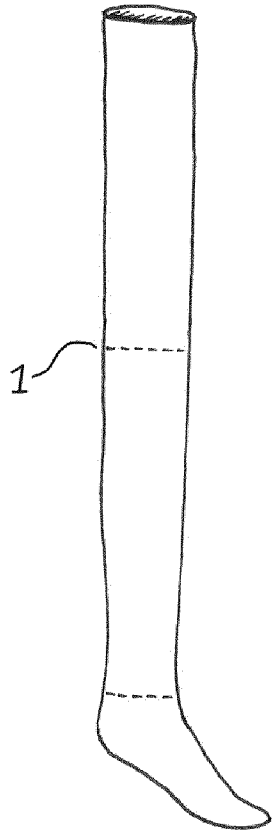


Fig. 1

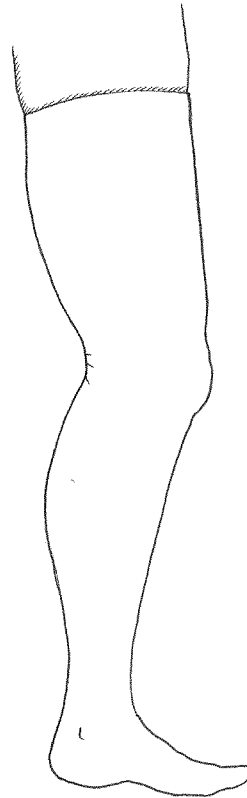


Fig. 2

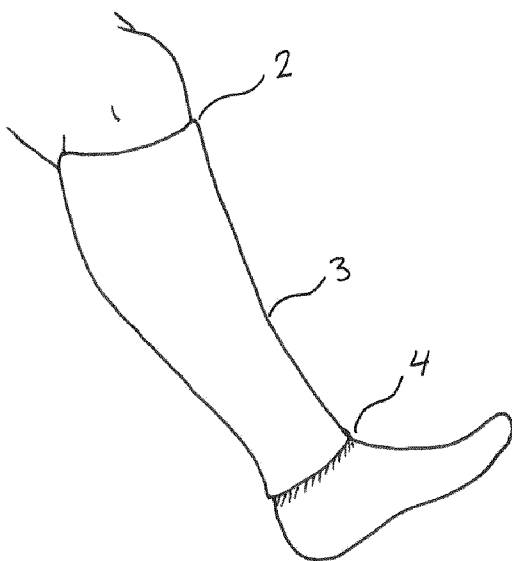


Fig. 3

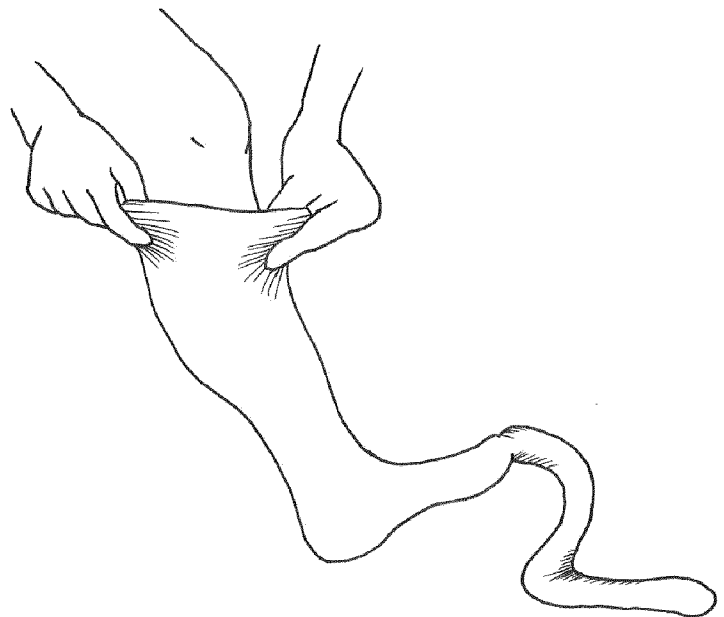


Fig. 4

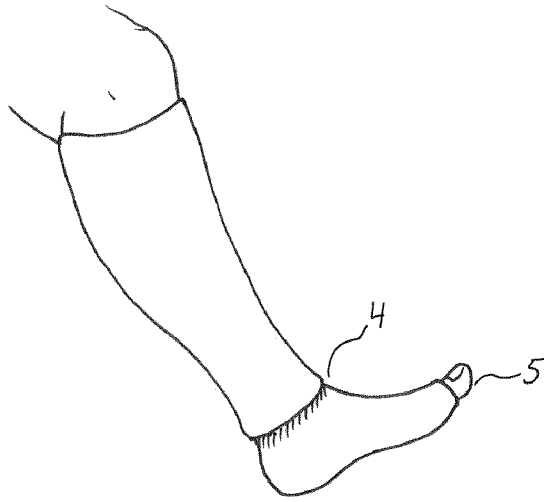


Fig. 5

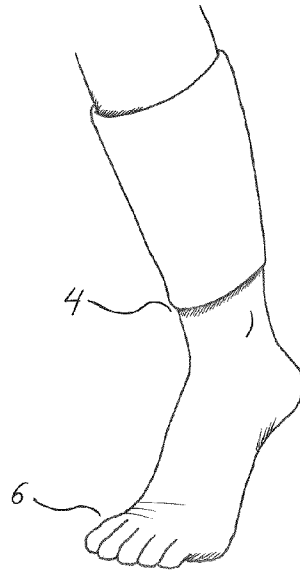


Fig. 6

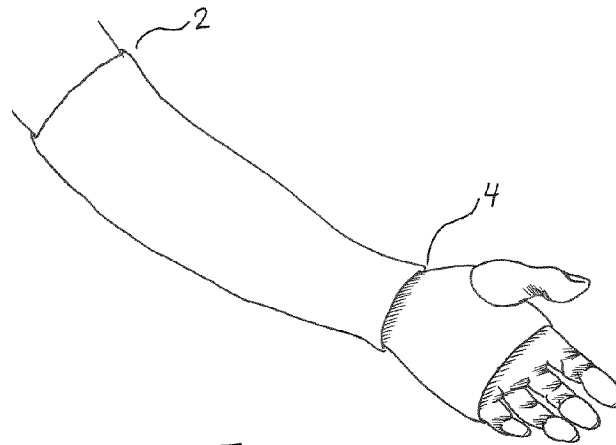


Fig. 7

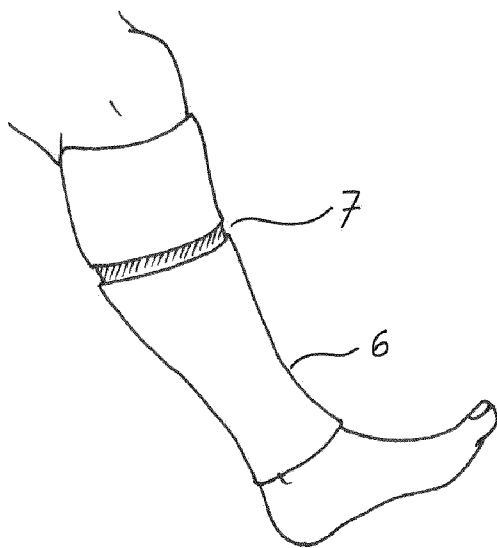


Fig. 8

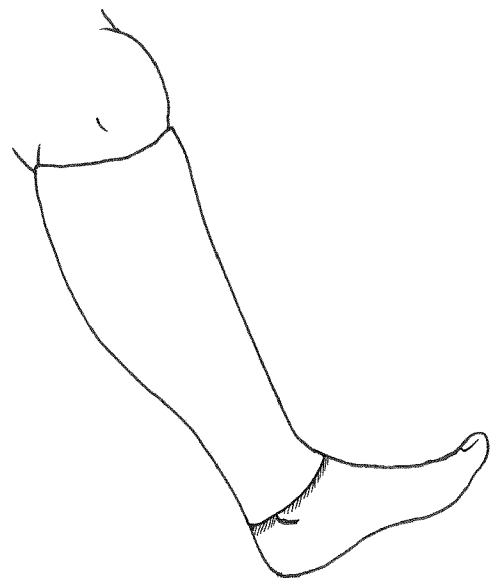


Fig. 9

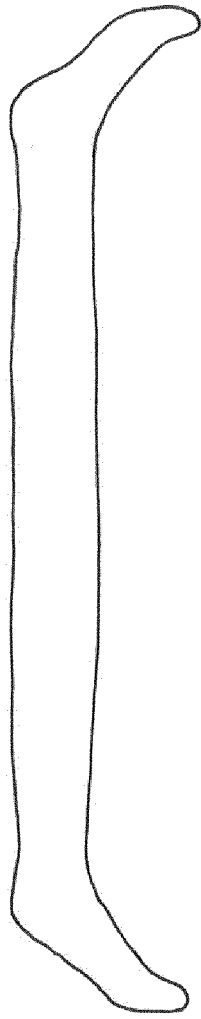


Fig. 10



Fig. 11

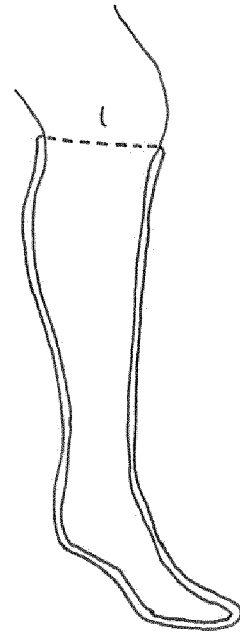


Fig. 12

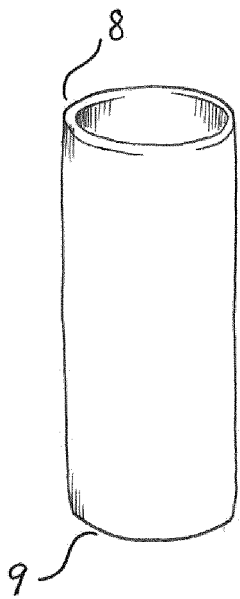


Fig. 13

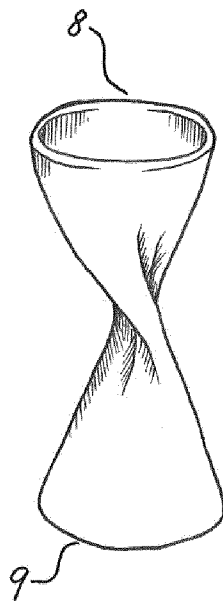


Fig. 14

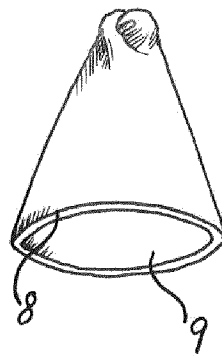


Fig. 15

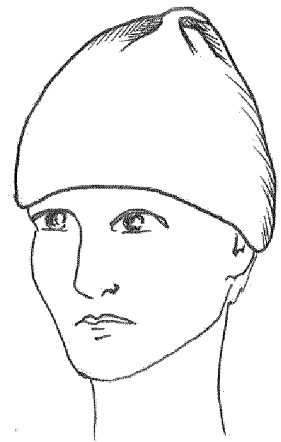


Fig. 16



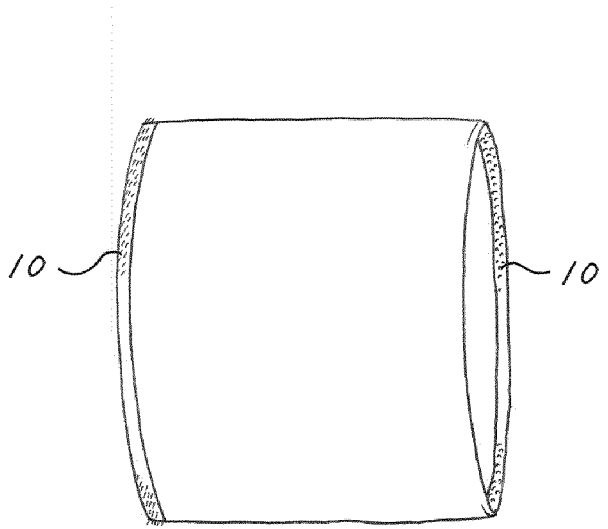


Fig. 17

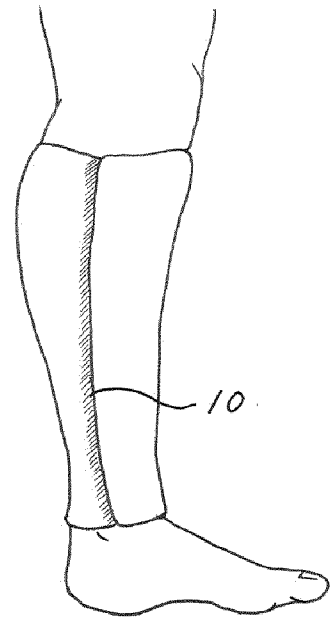


Fig. 18

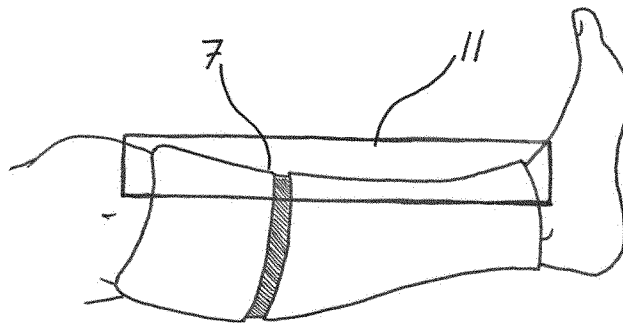


Fig. 19



Fig. 20

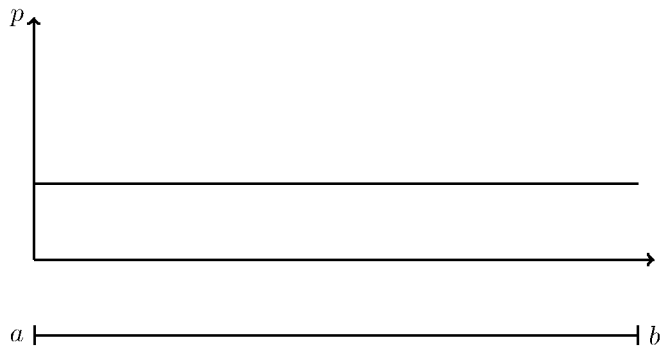


Figure 21

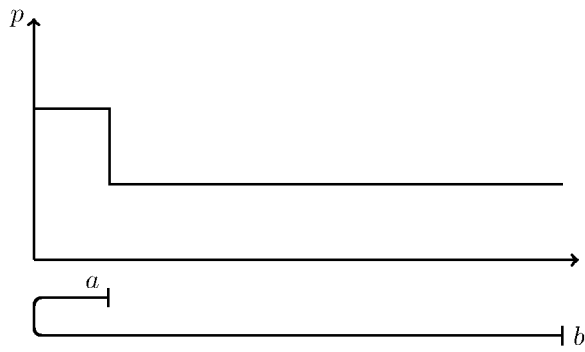


Figure 22

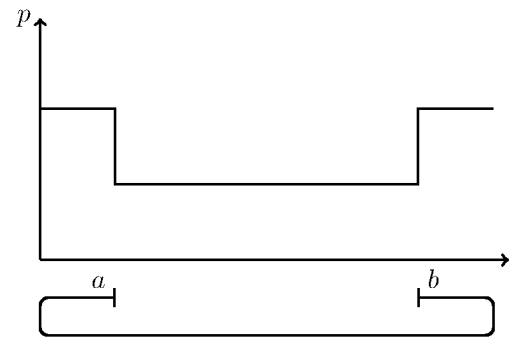


Figure 23

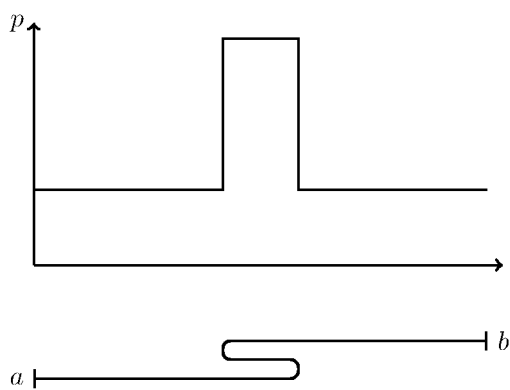


Figure 24

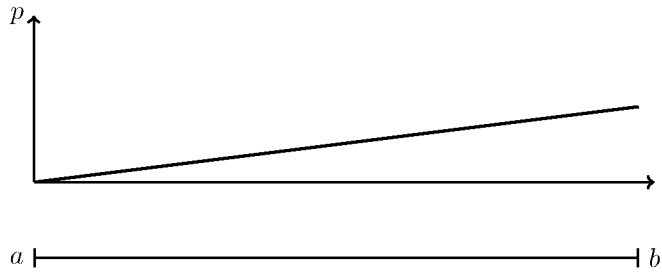


Figure 25

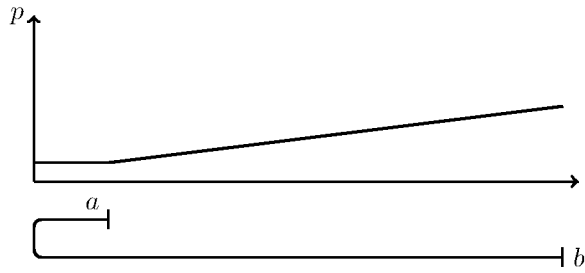


Figure 26

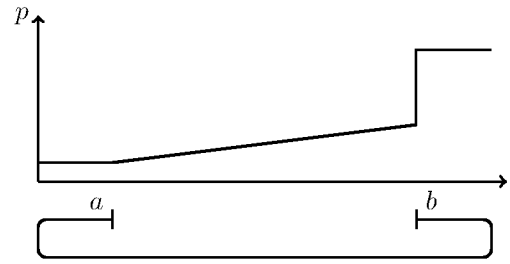


Figure 27

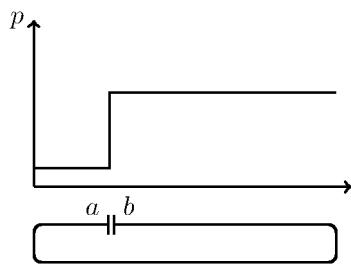


Figure 28

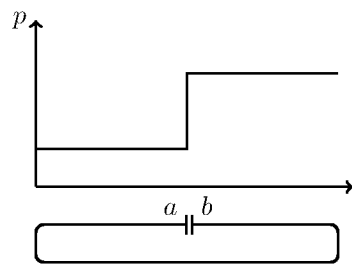


Figure 29

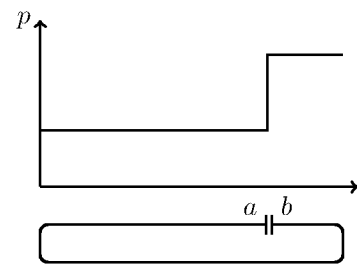


Figure 30

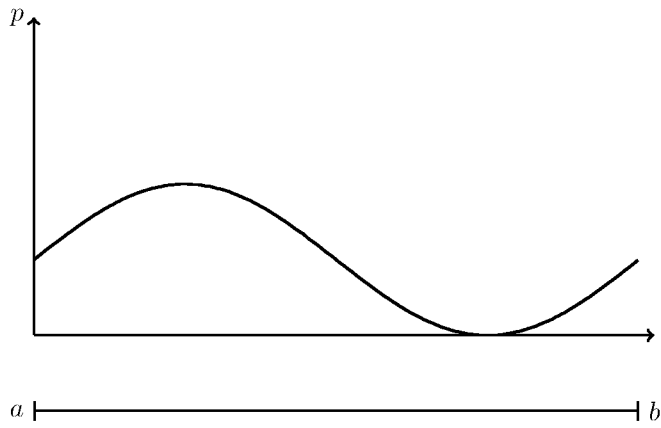


Figure 31

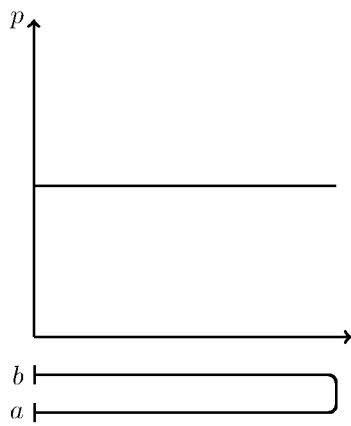


Figure 32

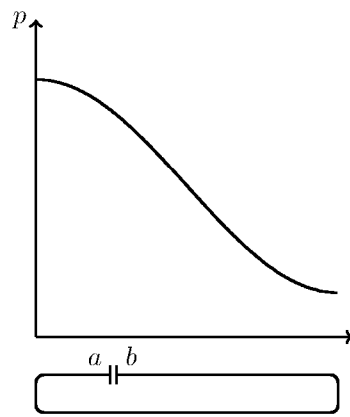


Figure 33

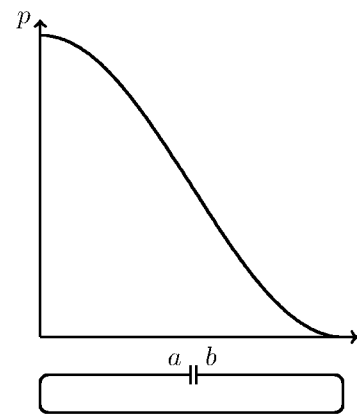


Figure 34

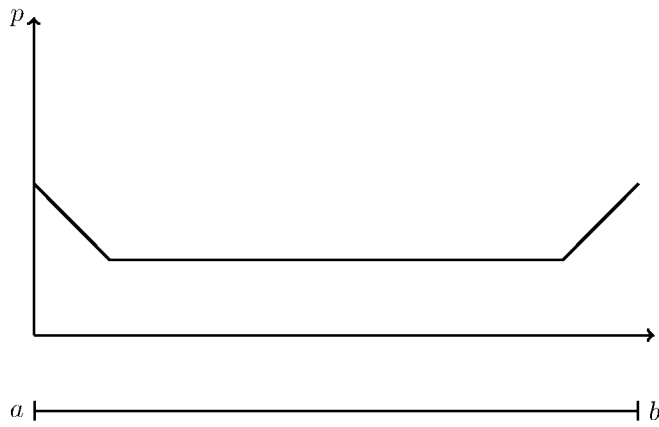


Figure 35

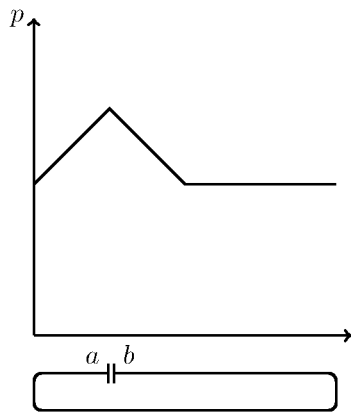


Figure 36

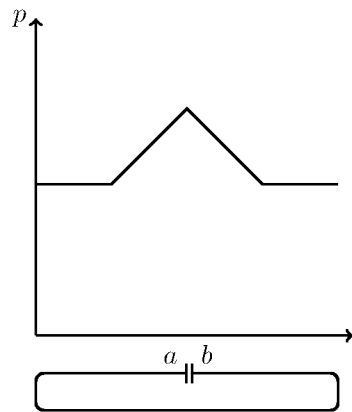


Figure 37

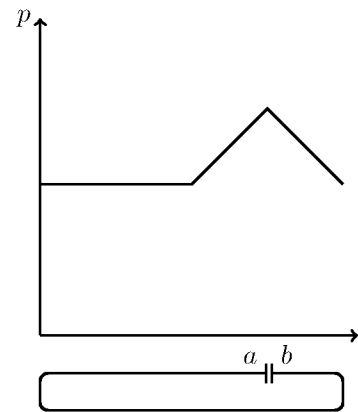


Figure 38

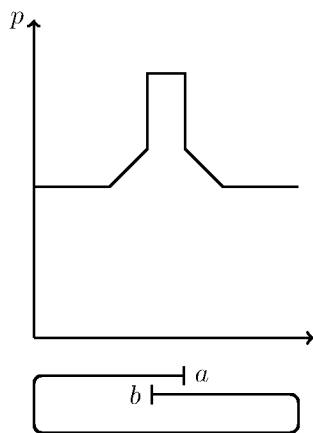


Figure 39

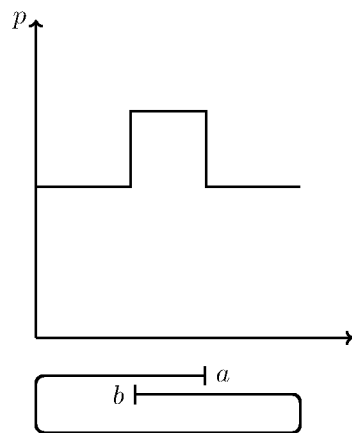


Figure 40

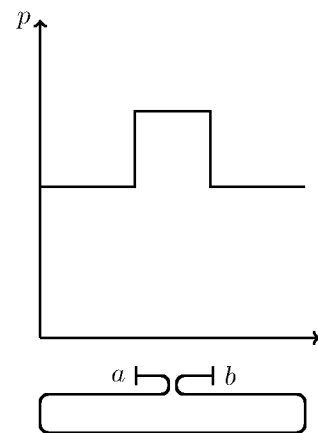


Figure 41

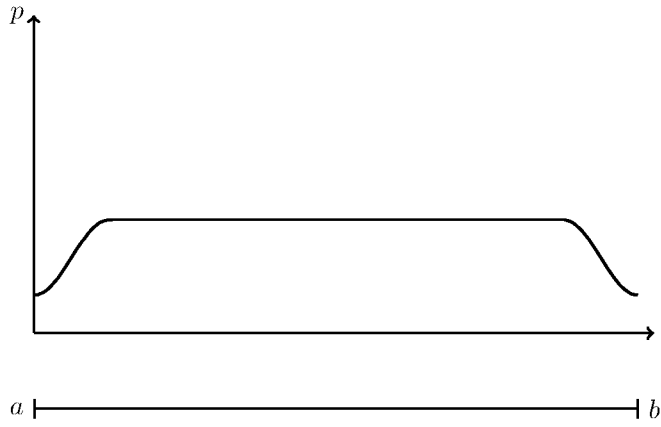


Figure 42

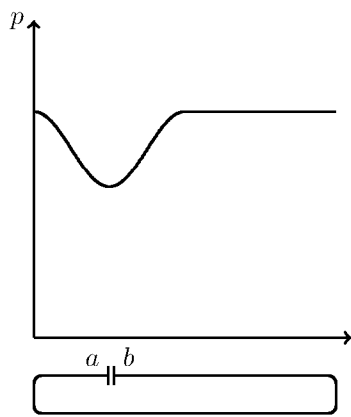


Figure 43

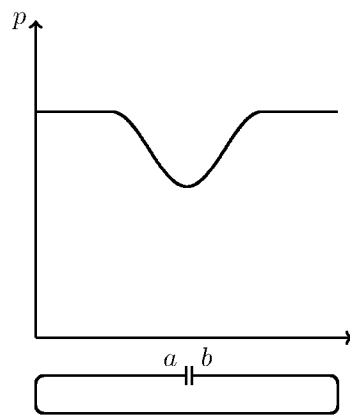


Figure 44

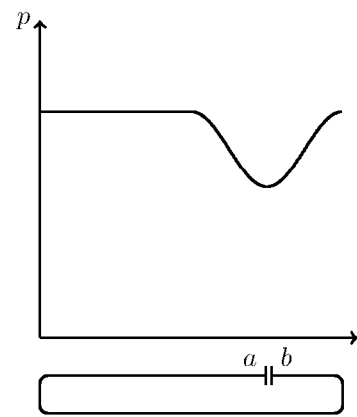


Figure 45

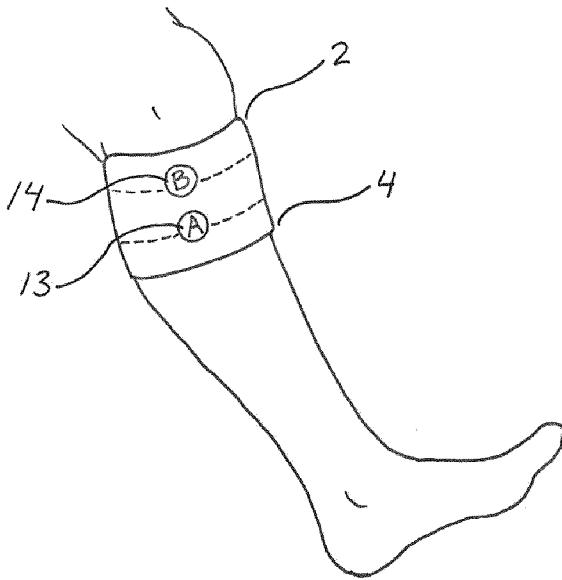


Fig. 46

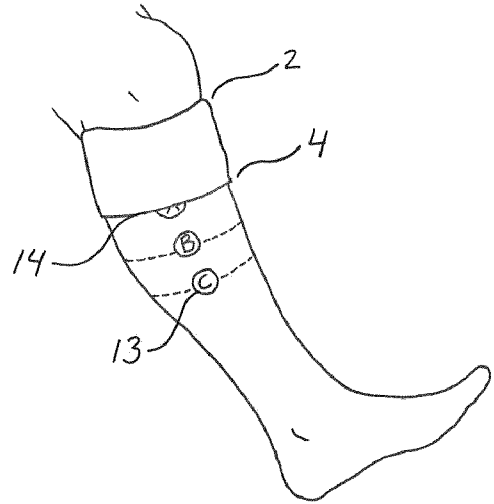


Fig. 47

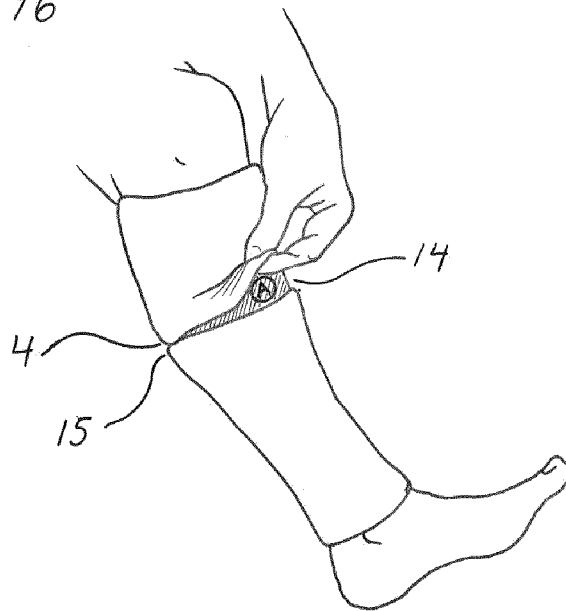


Fig. 48

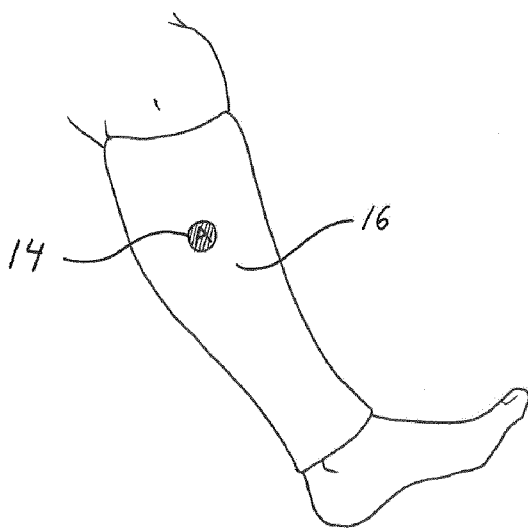


Fig. 49

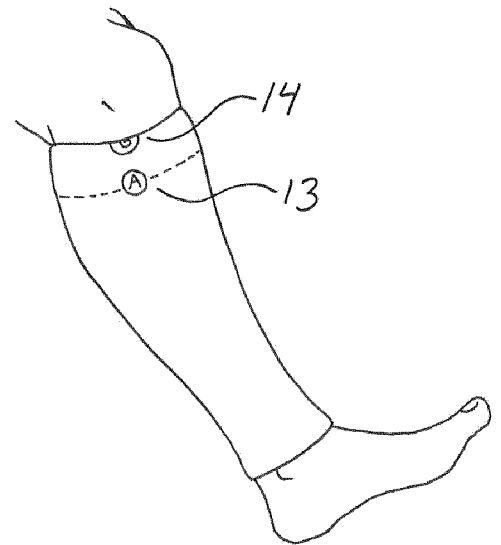


Fig. 50

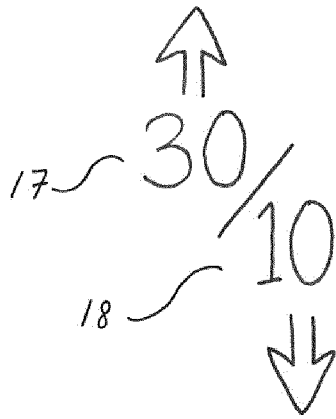


Fig. 51

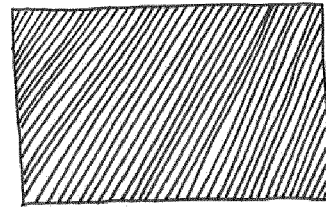


Fig. 52

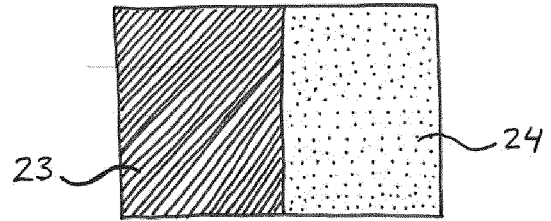


Fig. 53

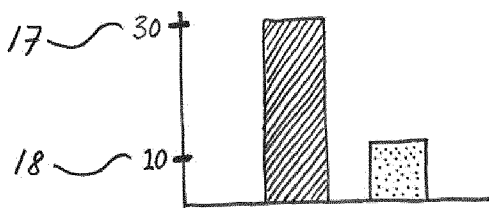


Fig. 54

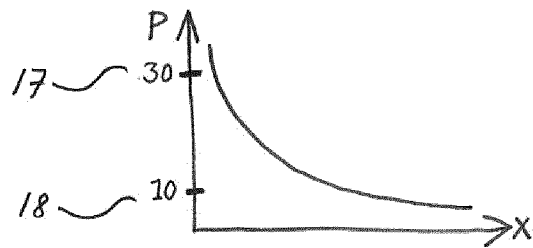


Fig. 55

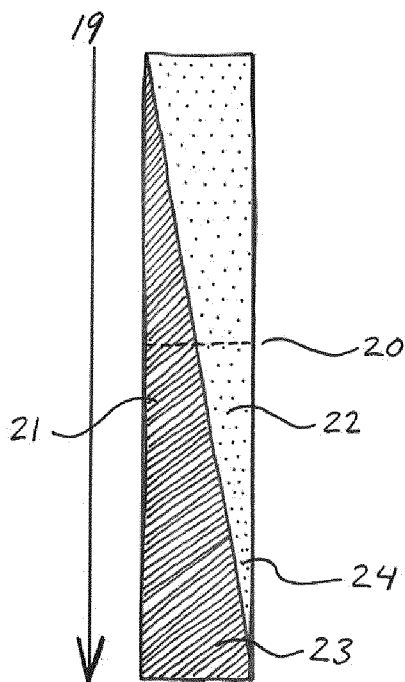


Fig. 56

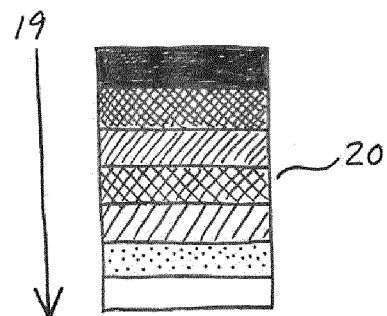


Fig. 57



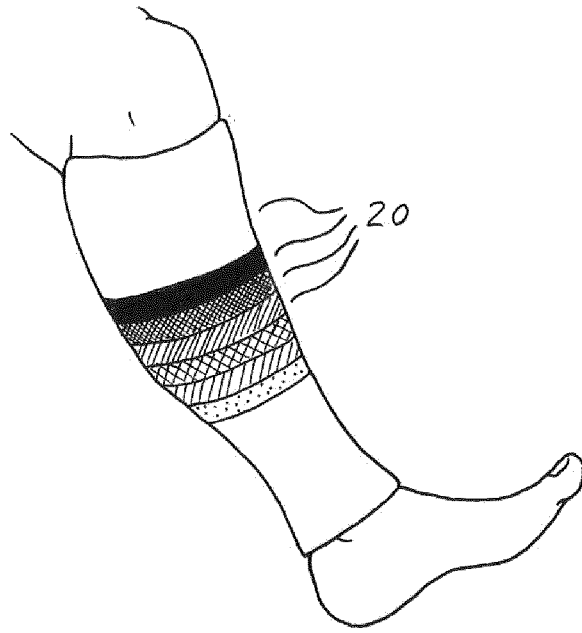


Fig. 58

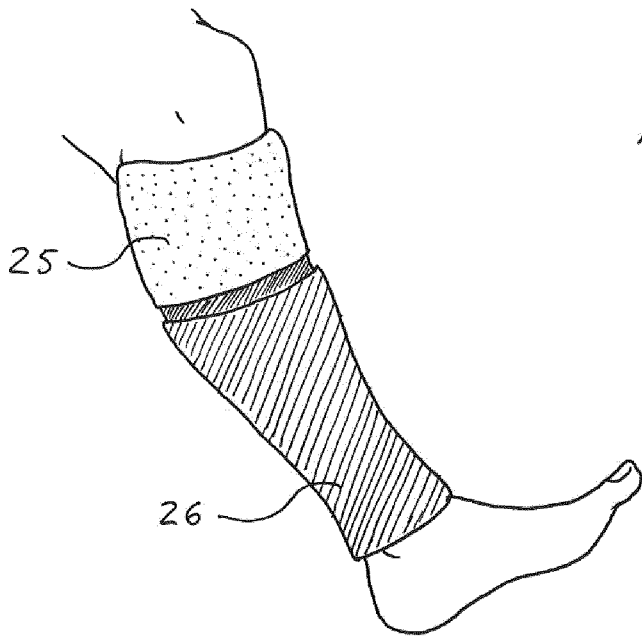


Fig. 59

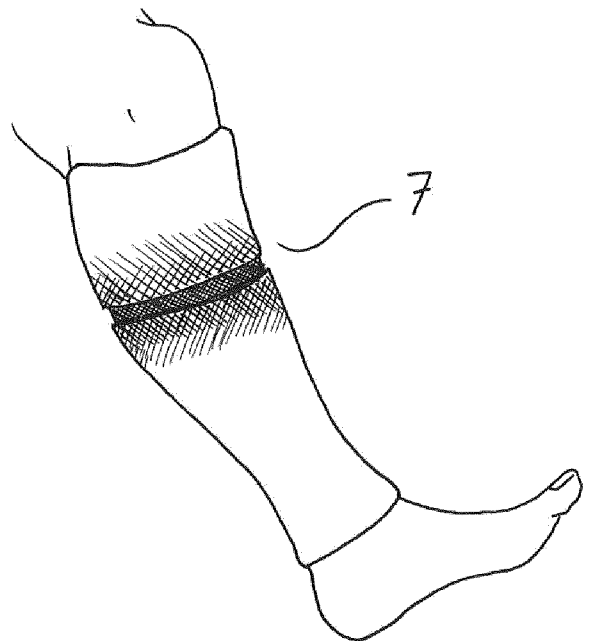


Fig. 60

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No  
PCT/EP2015/050775

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
**INV. A61F13/06 A61F13/08 A61F13/10**  
 ADD.  
 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)  
**A61F**

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)  
**EPO-Internal , WPI Data**

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	wo 01/00118 AI (CAROLON COMPANY [US]; REID LAWRENCE [US]) 4 January 2001 (2001-01-04)	1-9 , 13-20
Y	page 5, line 26 - page 6, line 2 page 13, line 29 - page 14, line 2 page 18, line 23 - line 24 page 16, line 30 - page 17, line 30 figures 3,4 claims 42-58,66	10-12
Y	----- wo 2011/025396 AI (LEVANA TEXTILES LTD [NZ]; REES-JONES BLYTHE GUY [NZ]; SIMONS ROGIER R0) 3 March 2011 (2011-03-03) the whole document	10-12
A	----- US 2002/172781 AI (RICCI STEFANO [IT] ET AL) 21 November 2002 (2002-11-21) the whole document	1-20
	----- -/- .	

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search <b>15 September 2015</b>	Date of mailing of the international search report <b>23/09/2015</b>
---	---

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer <b>Mauhin, Viviane</b>
--	--

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/EP2015/050775

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	wo 2014/144790 AI (COMPRESSION DYNAMICS LLC [US] ; WINKLER MARTIN J [US] ; NEIL ALAN S [US] ) 18 September 2014 (2014-09-18) the whole document	1-20
A	----- us 2009/137938 AI (PARIVASH JAMES [US] ) 28 May 2009 (2009-05-28) the whole document -----	1-20

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No <b>PCT/EP2015/050775</b>
--

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date	
WO 0100118	A1	04-01-2001	AT 234596 T	15-04-2003
			AU 768953 B2	08-01-2004
			AU 6336900 A	31-01-2001
			CA 2376026 A1	04-01-2001
			DE 60001707 D1	24-04-2003
			DE 60001707 T2	25-03-2004
			DK 1104275 T3	21-07-2003
			EP 1104275 A1	06-06-2001
			ES 2198335 T3	01-02-2004
			JP 2003503105 A	28-01-2003
			NZ 516052 A	29-08-2003
			PT 1104275 E	29-08-2003
			US 6613007 B1	02-09-2003
			WO 0100118 A1	04-01-2001
-----				
WO 2011025396	A1	03-03-2011	AU 2010287071 A1	19-04-2012
			EP 2473145 A1	11-07-2012
			NZ 598013 A	31-10-2014
			US 2012159692 A1	28-06-2012
			WO 2011025396 A1	03-03-2011
-----				
US 2002172781	A1	21-11-2002	AT 368436 T	15-08-2007
			AU 1400002 A	06-05-2002
			AU 2002214000 B2	28-07-2005
			CA 2389413 A1	02-05-2002
			CN 1575156 A	02-02-2005
			CZ 20031117 A3	17-09-2003
			DE 60129733 T2	30-04-2008
			EP 1337211 A1	27-08-2003
			ES 2291365 T3	01-03-2008
			IT MI20002281 A1	22-04-2002
			US 2002172781 A1	21-11-2002
			WO 0234179 A1	02-05-2002
			ZA 200303202 A	26-04-2004
			-----	
WO 2014144790	A1	18-09-2014	NONE	
-----				
US 2009137938	A1	28-05-2009	NONE	
-----				