



US 20110015620A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**  
**Oikonomidis**

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2011/0015620 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Jan. 20, 2011**

(54) **TENSIONING SYSTEM**

**Publication Classification**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**  
*A61B 18/20* (2006.01)  
*A61B 18/18* (2006.01)  
(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **606/9; 606/33**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An apparatus and a method for stretching a biaxially or radially deformable, resilient, flat or curved surface, comprising a radiation supplying means, such as intense pulsed light (IPL) or laser radiation, having an end portion through which said radiation is supplied to a radiation receiving part of said surface, and a handpiece comprising at its tip at least one anchoring means to be applied to said surface, said anchoring means being positioned laterally to said end portion and being operable to move in the direction of at least one of the axes of said biaxially or radially deformable, flat or curved surface and away from said radiation receiving part of said surface. In operation, said movement of the anchoring means away from said radiation receiving part of said surface can be achieved by pressing said anchoring means against said surface. By tensioning the surface at the periphery of the radiation receiving part, the end of the optical element at the end portion of the radiation supplying means does not contact the radiation receiving surface and leaves enough space for the supply of cooling air.

(21) Appl. No.: **12/811,557**

(22) PCT Filed: **Jan. 13, 2009**

(86) PCT No.: **PCT/GR2009/000002**

§ 371 (c)(1),  
(2), (4) Date: **Oct. 5, 2010**

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Jan. 16, 2008 (GR) ..... 20080100022

