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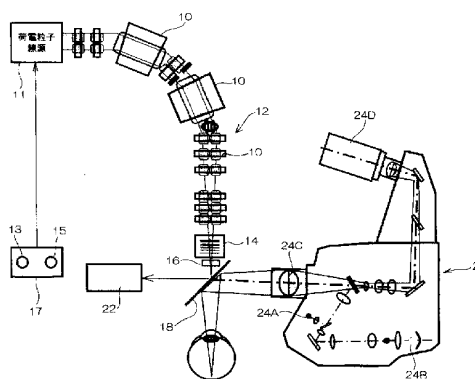
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(54) Abstract Title: **Device for determining aim position of charged particle beam, its using method, and treatment device employing device for determining aim position**

(57) In order to treat a subject such as an eye to be inspected while irradiating it with a charged particle beam, the subject is photographed and the aim position of a charged particle beam for treatment is determined. The device for determining the aim position of a charged particle beam comprises a range regulator (14) for regulating the irradiation position of a charged particle beam emitted from a charged particle beam source in the depth direction of an eye to be inspected, a mirror (18) for transmitting or passing the charged particle beam and reflecting light emitted from a part of the eye to be inspected irradiated with the charged particle beam, and light emitted from a region, including a part of the eye to be inspected, irradiated with the charged particle beam by irradiation with excitation light to the outside of the axis of the charged particle beam, and an eyeground photography instrument (24) located at a position where emitted light reflected off the mirror impinges and photographing a region including the part of the subject irradiated with the charged particle beam by receiving the emitted light, wherein the aim position of a charged particle beam for treatment can be determined from a photography image.



11 CHARGED PARTICLE BEAM SOURCE

GB 2449568 A continuation

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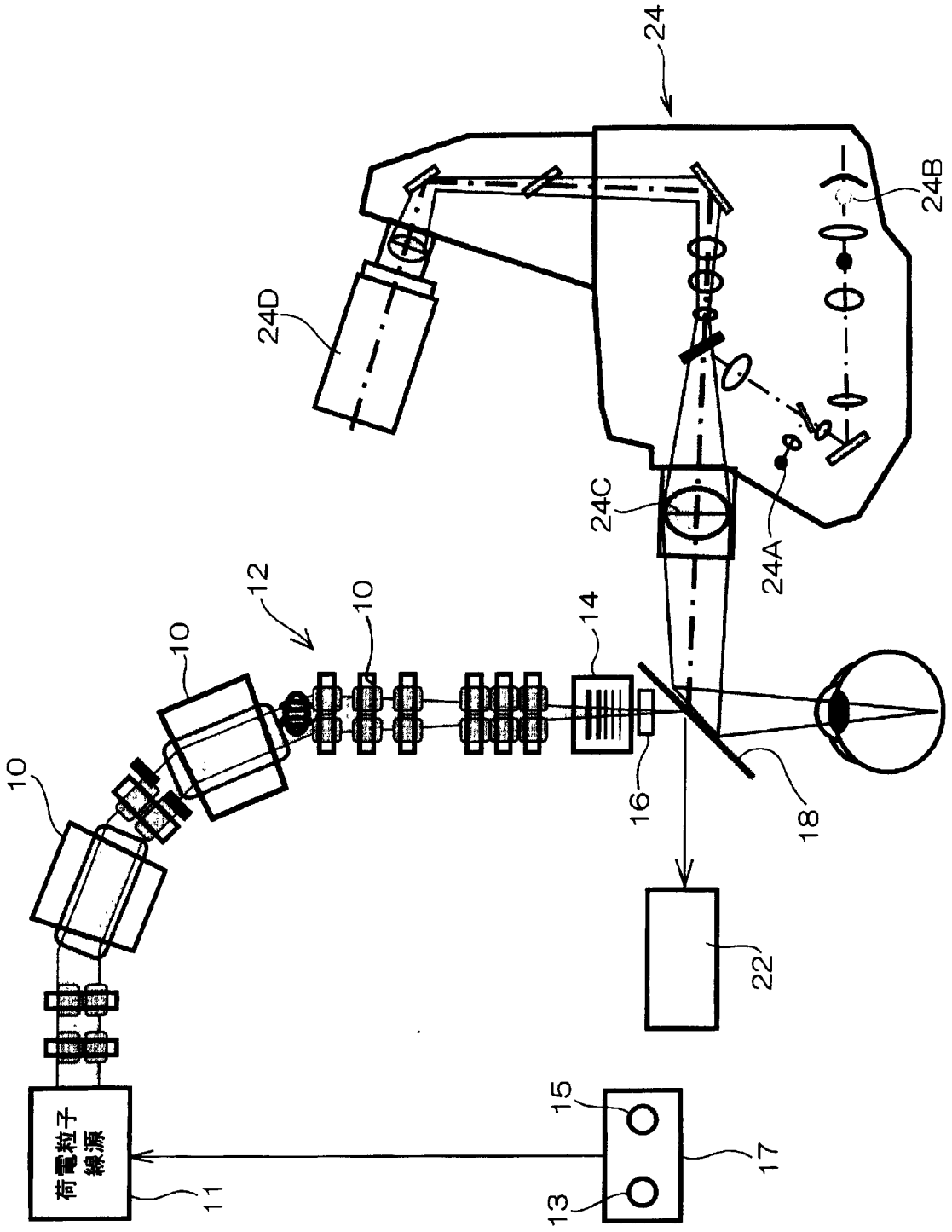
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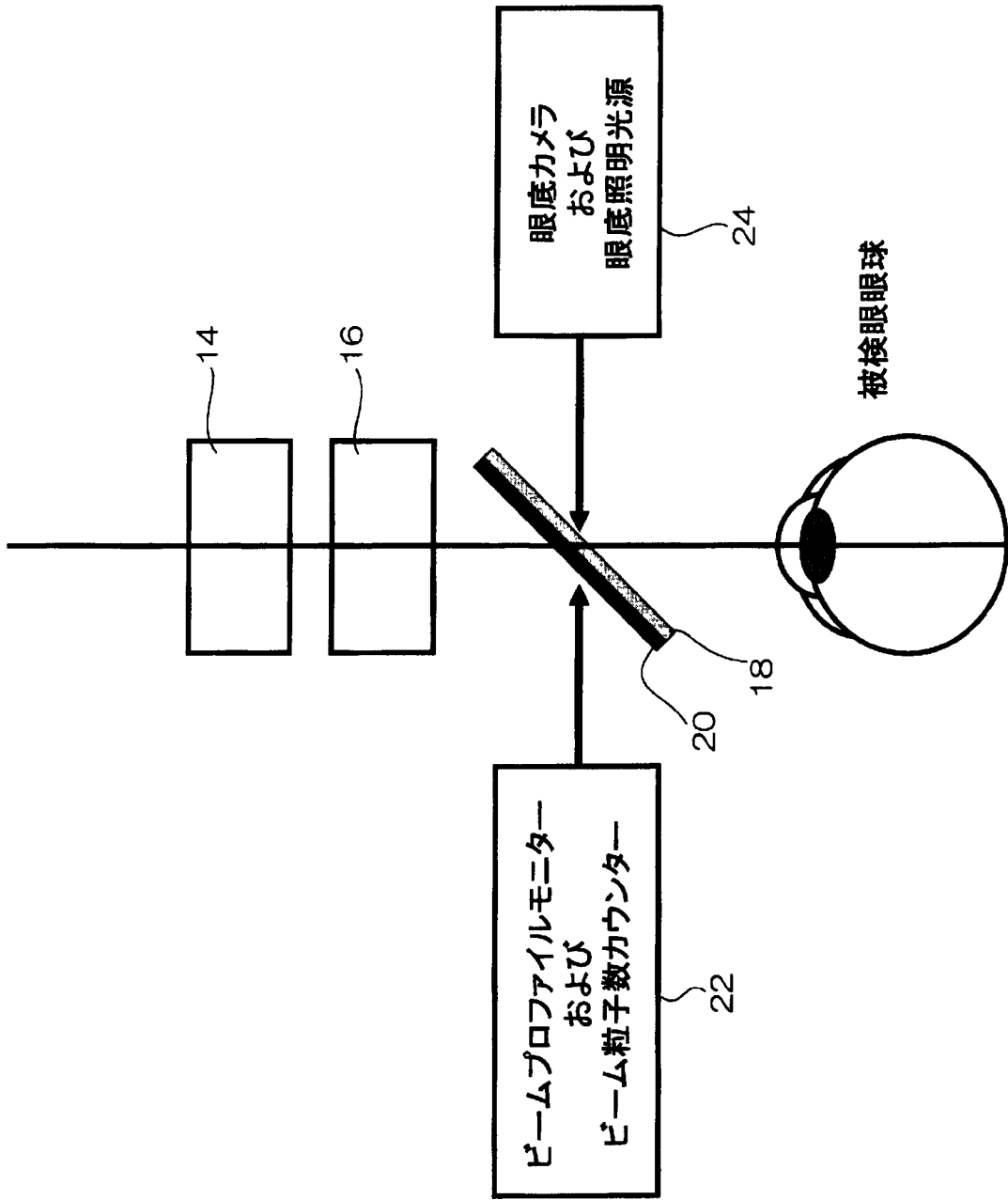
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[図1]

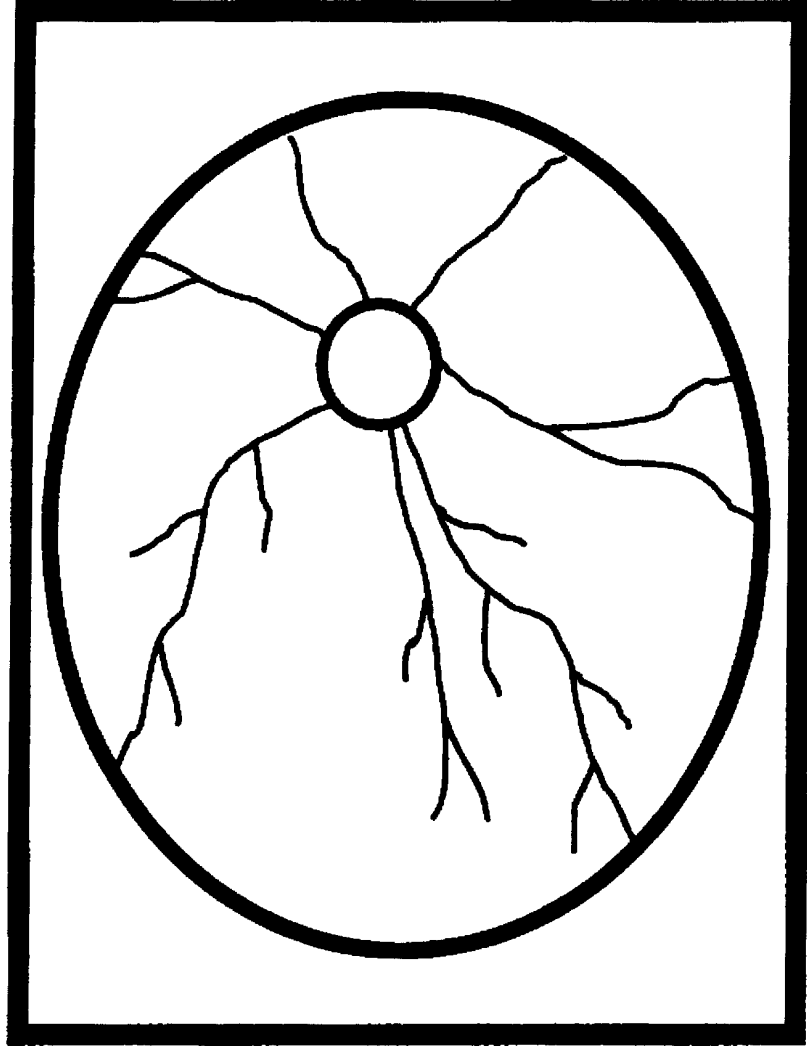


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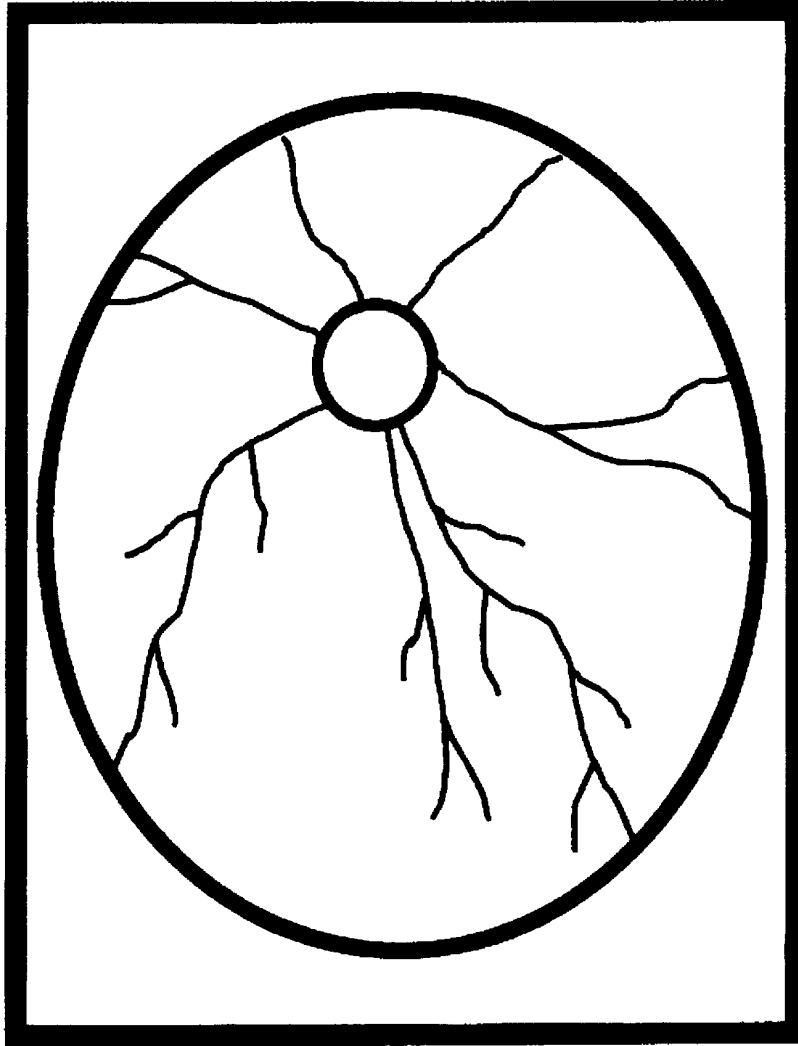
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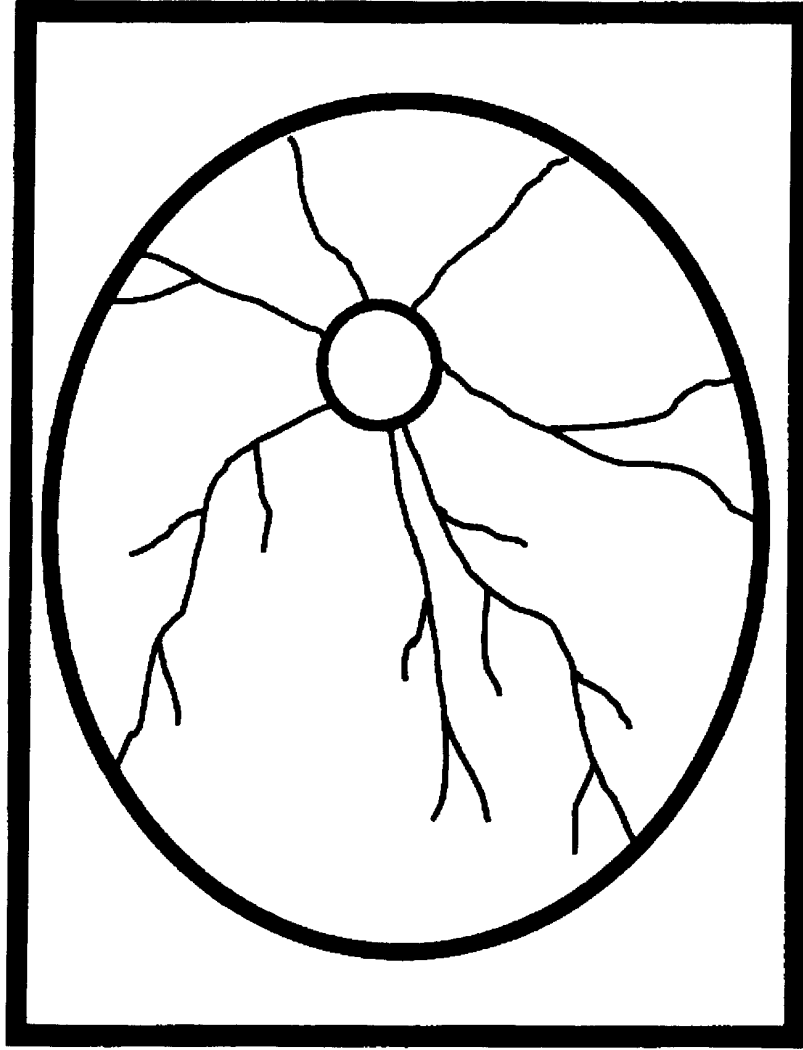
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事前診断における
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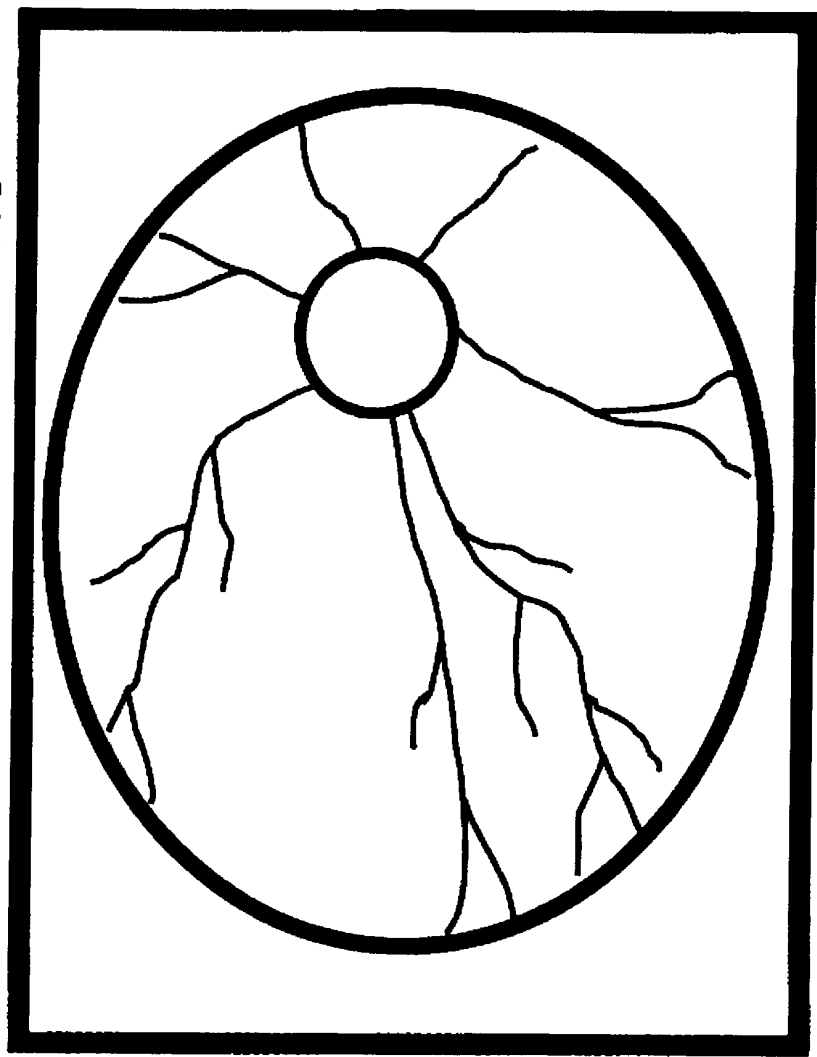
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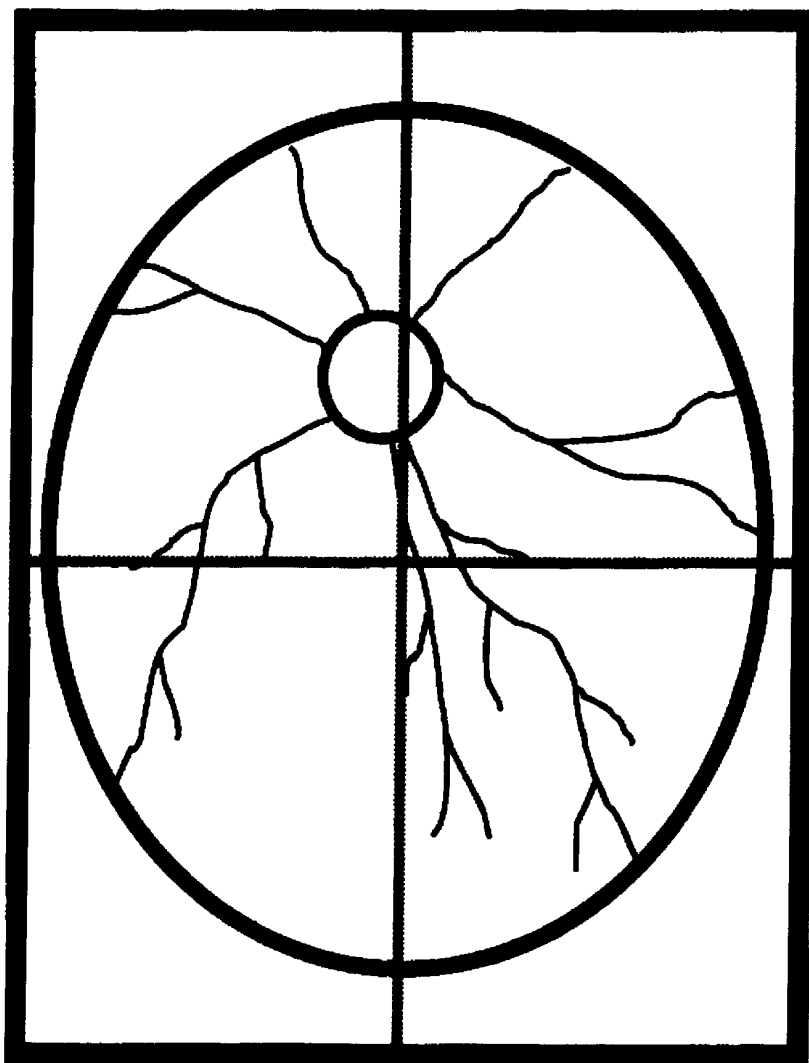
[図3D]

深さ位置決めビーム (Φ1-10mm)
による眼底蛍光造影画像



[図3E]

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眼底蛍光造影画像



DESCRIPTION

DEVICE FOR DETERMINING AIM POSITION OF CHARGED PARTICLE BEAM, METHOD OF USING THE DEVICE, AND TREATMENT DEVICE EMPLOYING DEVICE FOR DETERMINING AIM POSITION

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to a device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam, a method of using the device, and a treatment device employing the device for determining an aim position. More particularly, the present invention relates to a device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam that determines an aim position of a charged particle beam by irradiating the charged particle beam such as a carbon ion beam and excitation light on an eyeground of an eye to be inspected which is a subject and imaging an eyeground image, a method of using the device, and a treatment device employing the device for determining an aim position.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] In a treatment using a charged particle beam, by using a characteristic of the charged particle beam in which energy centrality due to a Bragg peak is very high, a Bragg peak in which a width of the charged particle beam is spread to size of a field of irradiation is formed and is uniformly irradiated to a focus of disease, so that only an affected part can be efficiently irradiated.

[0003] On the other hand, a charged particle beam may be very narrowly focused by using a magnetic field or an electric field, and by using the focused charged particle beam, a beam may be precisely irradiated on a small region and the energy can be locally concentrated. As a technique of narrowly focusing a beam, a microbeam forming technique and a pencil beam forming technique is developed. By using these techniques in particle beam treatment, a technique for treatments of a small lesion, i.e., an ion micro surgery treatment technique or the like is theoretically possible. However, since a technique for aiming a deep irradiation position with a high precision and a technique for precisely confirming, in real time, a

position which is irradiated for treatment, i.e., a position where a beam reaches are not present, the ion micro surgery treatment technique is not yet realized up to now.

[0004] An eyeground observing method using a conventional eyeground observation and diagnosis device employs a method of irradiating an eyeground using eyeground excitation light, intravenously injecting an eyeground fluorescence contrast agent into a patient as needed, and observing the fluorescence from the eyeground of a subject's eye. As the eyeground excitation light source, a visible light source for observing an eyeground and an eyeground blood vessel at a retina side of a cell than the retinal pigment epithelium and a near infrared light source for observing as well an eyeground blood vessel on a choroid side of the cell of the retinal pigment epithelium are used.

[0005] When the method is combined with a device which irradiates a charged particle beam on a small lesion such as an affected part of an eye and detects a generated signal, charged particles must be often deflected from a geometric arrangement. However, a very large deflecting electromagnet is required to deflect the charged particles, and the charged particle beam may not be easily deflected in the small area.

[0006] As conventional techniques related to the present invention, techniques disclosed in Patent Document 1 and Patent Document 2 are known.

Patent Document 1: Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open (JP-A) No. 2000-237168

Patent Document 2: JP-A No. 2002-034919

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION

[0007] Therefore, it is disadvantageously difficult to precisely determine an aim position of a small region by using a conventional treatment device that uses a charged particle beam.

[0008] In order to cubically determine and check an aim position of a small lesion of a charged particle beam with respect to an eyeground while varying a depth of the charged particle beam, a predetermined depth and a position of an affected part of the eyeground must be observed while irradiating a charged particle beam for position determining. However, such technique is not yet implemented to a conventional device for determining an aim position.

[0009] The present invention is to solve this problem, and an object of the invention is to provide a device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam that allows to determine the aim position of the charged particle beam for treatment by imaging a subject of treatment such as an subject's eye while irradiating a charged particle beam such as an ion beam on the subject, a method of using this device, and a treatment device employing this device for determining an aim position.

MEANS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM

[0010] In order to achieve the object, the present invention includes: an adjusting unit that adjusts an irradiation position, in a depth direction of a subject, of an irradiation position determining charged particle beam irradiated from a charged particle beam source; a reflecting unit that transmits or allows the position determining charged particle beam to pass, and reflects a first emitted light emitted from a region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated and a second emitted light emitted, due to an irradiation of an excitation light, from a region including the region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated, toward the outside of the axis of the charged particle beam; and an imaging unit that is arranged at a position where the first emitted light and the second emitted light reflected from the reflecting unit are incident and images the region including the region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated by allowing incidence of the first emitted light and the second emitted light.

[0011] According to the invention, the reflecting unit that reflects the first emitted light emitted from the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated and the second emitted light emitted, due to the irradiation of the excitation light, from the region including the region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated, toward the outside of the axis of the charged particle beam is provided. Therefore, the axis of the charged particle beam does not interfere with an optical axis of the imaging unit which images the subject, and the region including the region of the subject on which the charged particle beam is irradiated may be imaged while irradiating the position determining charged particle beam. Based on the obtained image, an aim position of a

charged particle beam for treatment may be determined.

[0012] The present may invention include a light emitter that is disposed in a path of the position determining charged particle beam irradiated on the subject, and emits light due to the irradiation of the position determining charged particle beam; and a detection unit that detects a position of the charged particle beam irradiated on the subject, on a plane orthogonal to the axis of the charged particle beam, based on the light emitted from the light emitter. In this manner, since, in addition to the irradiation position in the depth direction of the subject, i.e., a range of the charged particle beam, a position on a plane orthogonal to the axis of the charged particle beam irradiated on the subject may be checked, so that the aim position of the position determining charged particle beam may be three-dimensionally adjusted.

[0013] In the invention, the light emitter and the reflecting unit may be integrated in order to make it easy to handle the device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam.

[0014] In the invention, a device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam for an eyeground (eyeground device for determining an aim position) includes: an adjusting unit that adjusts an irradiation position, in a depth direction of an optic axis of an eye to be inspected which is a subject, of an irradiation position determining charged particle beam irradiated from a charged particle beam irradiation source, i.e., that adjusts a range of the position determining charged particle beam; a reflecting unit that transmits or allows the position determining charged particle beam to pass, and reflects a first emitted light emitted from a region of the eye on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated and a second emitted light emitted, due to an irradiation of an excitation light, from a region including the region of the eye on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated, toward the outside of the axis of the charged particle beam; and an imaging unit that is arranged at a position where the first emitted light and the second emitted light reflected from the reflecting unit are incident, and images the region including the region of the eye on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated by allowing incidence of the first emitted light and the second emitted light.

[0015] The eyeground device for determining an aim position may include a light emitter that is disposed in a path of the position determining charged particle beam irradiated on the eye, and emits light due to the irradiation of the position determining charged particle beam; and a

detection unit that detects a position of the charged particle beam irradiated on the eye on a plane orthogonal to the axis of the beam, based on the emitted light emitted from the light emitter. The light emitter and the reflecting unit may be integrated.

[0016] In use of the eyeground position determining device, in a plurality of steps, an irradiation position along the direction of an optic axis of the eye of the charged particle beam, which is irradiated from the charged particle beam irradiation source, is adjusted by the adjusting unit in a direction from the sclera of the eyeground to the retina; the first emitted light emitted from the region of the eye on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated, to be incident to the imaging unit and imaging, in every step, the region including the region of the eye on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated; the irradiation position of the position determining charged particle beam to a target position is adjusted by the adjusting unit on the basis of an image obtained by the imaging; and the second emitted light reflected from the reflecting unit is made to be incident thereon and imaging the region including the region of the eye on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated to determine an aim position of a charged particle beam for treatment.

[0017] A standard position determining device according to the present invention may be applied to a treatment device using a charged particle beam. For example, the treatment device is configured as described below.

[0018] The treatment device includes: an adjusting unit that adjusts an irradiation position, in a depth direction of a subject, of an irradiation position determining charged particle beam irradiated from a charged particle beam source; a reflecting unit that transmits or allows the position determining charged particle beam to pass and reflects a first emitted light emitted from a region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated and a second emitted light emitted, due to an irradiation of an excitation light, from a region including the region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated, toward the outside of the axis of the charged particle beam; and an imaging unit that is arranged at a position where the first emitted light and the second emitted light reflected from the reflecting unit are incident and images a region including the region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated by allowing

incidence of the first emitted light and the second emitted light, wherein the adjusting unit adjusts, in a plurality of steps, an irradiation position, along a depth direction of a subject, of the position determining charged particle beam irradiated from the charged particle beam irradiation source, the imaging unit images, in every step, a region including the region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated by allowing the first emitted light emitted from the part of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated to be incident on the imaging unit, the adjusting unit adjusts the irradiation position of the position determining charged particle beam toward a target position on the basis of an image obtained by the imaging, the imaging unit images, by allowing the second emitted light reflected from the reflecting unit to be incident thereon, the region including the region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated to determine an aim position of a charged particle beam for treatment, and the irradiation position determining charged particle beam is switched with the charged particle beam for treatment, and the charged particle beam for treatment is irradiated on the aim position.

EFFECT OF THE INVENTION

[0019] As described above, according to the present invention, an effect can be achieved that an aim position of a charged particle beam for treatment can be precisely determine by imaging a subject to observe and diagnosing the subject such as an eye to be inspected while irradiating the position determining charged particle beam on the subject.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0020] FIG. 1 is a schematic view showing an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a schematic enlarged view of a film mirror portion according to the exemplary embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 3A is a diagram showing a fluorescein fundus angiographic image obtained by an excitation light image.

FIG. 3B is a diagram showing a fluorescein fundus angiographic image obtained by

preliminary diagnosis.

FIG. 3C is a diagram showing a fluorescein fundus angiographic image obtained by an excitation light source.

FIG. 3D is a diagram showing a fluorescein fundus angiographic image obtained by a feint beam for depth position determination.

FIG. 3E is a diagram showing a fluorescein fundus angiographic image obtained by an excitation light source.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0021] An exemplary embodiment of the present invention will be described below in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. The example is obtained by applying the invention to a particle beam treatment device having a device for determining an aim position of an eyeground.

EXAMPLE 1

[0022] As shown in FIG. 1, the particle beam treatment device having the eyeground aim position determining device according to the Example is provided with an electromagnet group 12 for deflecting a charged particle beam, in which a plurality of electromagnets 10 which guide a charged particle beam irradiated from a charged particle beam irradiation source 11 toward an eye to be inspected as a subject is arranged. The charged particle beam that may be used includes a heavy ion beam such as a carbon ion beam and a charged particle beam such as a proton beam having a Bragg curve.

[0023] Connected to the charged particle beam irradiation source 11 is an operation unit 17 including a switch 13 for starting and stopping irradiation of the charged particle beam and a turn-over switch 15 which switches between a charged particle beam for determining an irradiation position and a charged particle beam for treatment by adjusting an intensity of the charged particle beam.

[0024] At an outgoing side of the charged particle beam of the electromagnet group 12 is disposed a range adjuster 14, which, due to a plurality of range shifters that are formed of polymer films and that are arranged in a stack, adjusts a beam irradiation position, in a depth direction of an optic axis of the eye to be inspected, of a charged particle beam irradiated on

the eye to be inspected, i.e., adjusts a range of the charge particle beam. The beam irradiation position in the depth direction of the optic axis of the eye, i.e., the irradiation position in an axial direction of the charged particle beam can be adjusted by, for example, several 50 μm increments, by adjusting the number and the thicknesses of the range shifters in the range adjuster 14.

[0025] At the charged particle beam outgoing side of the range adjuster 14, a bolus 16 to shape a distribution of the charged particle beam in a plane orthogonal to the axis of the charged particle beam is arranged. By the bolus, the distribution of the charged particle beam is shaped corresponding to the shape or curve of a retina to prevent damage in the retina.

[0026] At the charged particle beam outgoing side of the bolus 16, a film mirror 18 consisting of a polymeric material such as polycarbonate or polyethylene terephthalate is arranged at an angle of 45° with respect to the axis of the charged particle beam. As shown in FIG 2, at a side of the film mirror 18 to which the charged particle beam is irradiated, a light emitter consisting of a luminescent material such as a fluorescent material which emits light due to an irradiation of a charged particle beam is applied to form a scintillator 20. A surface opposite to the surface to which the light emitter of the film mirror 18 is applied functions as a reflecting surface.

[0027] In this manner, by applying the light emitter to the film mirror 18, a reflecting unit according to the invention that transmits the charged particle beam, emits light from a region on which the charged particle beam is irradiated, and reflects the light being incident on the reflecting surface toward the outside of the axis of the charged particle beam can be configured.

[0028] In the reflecting unit, the scintillator and the mirror may be integrally formed by applying a light emitter on the film mirror as described above. However, a material which can form a reflecting surface may be vapor-deposited on a light emitter member which emits light due to the irradiation of the charged particle beam in order to integrally structure the scintillator and the mirror. Further, the scintillator and the film mirror may be integrally formed by being stuck to each other. When at least one of the scintillator and the mirror is formed of a material which does not transmit a charged particle beam, a hole may be formed

in a portion of the member corresponding to an axis of the charged particle beam, so that the charged particle beam partially passes through the hole. The charged particle beam which does not pass through the hole is irradiated on the scintillator and cause the light emitter to emit light.

[0029] A material of the member constituting the mirror is not limited to a specific material. However, it is preferable to use a material which does not considerably reduce the energy of the charged particle beam and does not diffuse the charged particle beam.

[0030] The example in which the scintillator and the mirror are integrally formed is described above. However, the scintillator and the mirror may be separated from each other and disposed by a predetermined interval in an axial direction of the charged particle beam. Or, it may be formed such that a light emitter is applied to one surface of a single base material, and a material which forms the reflecting surface may be vapor-deposited on the other surface thereof.

[0031] At a position where the light emitter of the scintillator 20 may be observed, a beam state observing device 22 having a beam profile monitor formed by a micro-strip gas chamber or the like to monitor a beam profile of the light emitter, and a counter which counts particles of the beam, is disposed. Since the beam state observing device 22 can monitor the beam profile, a position of the charged particle beam on a plane orthogonal to an axis of the charged particle beam irradiated on the eye may be detected.

[0032] Further, at a position on which the light reflected from the film mirror 18 may be incident, an eyeground imaging device 24 which images an eyeground of the eye is disposed.

[0033] In the eyeground imaging device 24, an excitation light source to irradiate an excitation light on an eyeground is stored. In the Example, a semiconductor laser 24A which irradiates near infrared light and a halogen lamp 24B which irradiates visible light are used as the excitation light source. Any light source which may emit a radiation (ionized or nonionized) to cause a light emission from an eyeground fluorescence contrast agent may be used as the excitation light source.

[0034] An objective lens 24C having a focal length in which an eyeground may be focused, and an eyeground (fundus) camera 24D for imaging the eyeground are provided in the eyeground imaging device 24.

[0035] Positions of the electromagnet group and the eyeground imaging device are defined in advance such that an optical axis portion of the eyeground imaging device 24 from the film mirror 18 to the eye coincides to a beam axis portion of the charged particle beam from the film mirror 18 to the eye. Therefore, an irradiation position of the charged particle beam substantially coincides to a light irradiation position of the excitation light source.

[0036] As an eyeground fluorescence contrast agent, a contrast agent containing fluorescein, indocyanine green, or the like may be used. When the contrast agent containing indocyanine green is used, the excitation light from the semiconductor laser 24A which irradiates near infrared light is used. When the contrast agent containing fluorescein is used, the excitation light from the halogen lamp 24B is used.

[0037] Next, a method of treatment by determining an aim position of an eyeground by the particle beam treatment device including the device for determining an aim position of an eyeground according to the exemplary embodiment will be described below. An eyeground fluorescence contrast agent is injected into the eye to be inspected in advance. Further, a charged particle beam is adjusted in advance such that a depth position determining beam having a diameter of about 1 to 10 mm and each irradiation intensity is set to 1% or less of a therapeutic dose.

[0038] The device for determining an aim position of an eyeground is arranged immediately in front of the eyeball of the eye, and the excitation light from the excitation light source is irradiated to photograph the eyeground, so that an fluorescein fundus angiographic image (for example, FIG. 3A) obtained by the excitation light is matched with an fluorescein fundus angiographic image (for example, FIG. 3B) obtained in a preliminary diagnosis, and an object to which a treatment irradiation is confirmed.

[0039] Further, the depth position determining beam is irradiated on the eye, and position information on a plane orthogonal to the axis of the charged particle beam is acquired by the beam state observing device 22 from the profile of the charged particle beam passing through the light emitter. When the position is offset with respect to a target position, the eye is moved such that the irradiation position of the charged particle beam is adjusted to coincide with the target position on the plane orthogonal to the axis.

[0040] After the object of irradiation treatment is confirmed by the matching between the

fluorescein fundus angiographic images, while performing multiple-step incremental adjustment of the position of the depth position determining beam in increments of several 50 μ m, from the sclera of the eyeground towards the retina, that is, while performing adjustment multiple times for each specific depth, the charged particle beam is irradiated, at each specific depth, to the eyeground. into which the eyeground fluorescence contrast agent is injected. At this time, distortion of a dose distribution of the charged particle beam is compensated by the bolus. Further, in response to the irradiation of the charged particles, luminescence is emitted from the eyeground fluorescence contrast agent containing fluorescein, indocyanine green, or the like.

[0041] The emission from the eyeground fluorescence contrast agent for every specific depth due to the irradiation of the charged particle beam is reflected by the film mirror 18. incident on the eyeground imaging device having a predetermined operation distance, and an eyeground blood vessel image (for example, an fluorescein fundus angiographic image shown in FIG 3D) is imaged by the fundus camera. Thus, eyeground blood vessel images for each of the specific depths are obtained. Then, a target eyeground blood vessel image is selected from the plural eyeground blood vessel images, the range adjuster is adjusted to a state of the range adjuster when the selected eyeground blood vessel image is obtained, so that the irradiation depth of the charged particle beam, i.e., the irradiation position may be adjusted to the target position.

[0042] Subsequently, the turn-over switch 15 of the operation unit 17 is operated to switch the intensity and size of the charged particle beam from those of the depth position determining beam to those a therapeutic beam for treatment, the excitation light is irradiated from the excitation light source of the eyeground imaging device to cause the eyeground fluorescence contrast agent in the eyeground of the eye to emit luminescence, and an image (for example, FIG. 3C) of the eyeground irradiated by the light emission is imaged as a moving image in real time by using the fundus camera. A cross representing an aim to perform treatment irradiation is displayed on the imaged image (FIG. 3E) to determined the aim position of the therapeutic beam, and the therapeutic beam is irradiated. In this manner, the therapeutic beam is irradiated on the aim position indicated by the cross while checking the charged particle beam irradiation position in a planar direction of a focus of decrease of the

eye to perform treatment.

[0043] According to the exemplary embodiment, since a light from the eyeground of the eye is reflected toward the outside of the axis of the charged particle beam, the optical system for eyeground charged particle beam irradiation may be prevented from interfering with the optical system of the eyeground imaging device.

[0044] Further, according to the exemplary embodiment, since a charged particle beam can be precisely irradiated on a small region, the invention may be applied to an eyeball (especially, eyeground) disorder in which a charged particle beam is required to be precisely irradiated on a small lesion. Furthermore, the invention may be used as an innovative checking and treatment technique which minimizes an impact on a patient without affecting the patient or the retina of the eye.

[0045] In the above description, the eyeground is targeted as a subject. However, treatment using the device according to the invention may be performed to not only the eyeground but other also affected parts.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

[0046] The invention may be applied to treatment for an affected part by irradiating a charged particle beam such as a carbon ion beam and an excitation light on an eyeground of an eye to be inspected, obtaining an eyeground image to determine an aim position of the charged particle beam, and irradiating a charged particle beam for treatment on the determined aim position.

DESCRIPTION OF REFERENCE NUMERAL AND SIGNS

[0047]

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 14 | Range adjuster |
| 18 | Film mirror |
| 20 | Light Emitter |
| 24 | Eyeground imaging device |

CLAIMS

1. A device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam comprising:
an adjusting unit that adjusts an irradiation position, in a depth direction of a subject,
of an irradiation position determining charged particle beam irradiated from a charged particle
beam source;

a reflecting unit that transmits or allows the position determining charged particle
beam to pass, and reflects a first emitted light emitted from a region of the subject on which
the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated and a second emitted light
emitted, due to an irradiation of an excitation light, from a region including the region of the
subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated, toward the
outside of the axis of the charged particle beam; and

an imaging unit that is arranged at a position where the first emitted light and the
second emitted light reflected from the reflecting unit are incident and images the region
including the region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is
irradiated by allowing incidence of the first emitted light and the second emitted light.

2. The device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam according
to claim 1, further comprising:

a light emitter that is disposed in a path of the position determining charged particle
beam irradiated on the subject, and emits light due to the irradiation of the position
determining charged particle beam; and

a detection unit that detects a position of the charged particle beam irradiated on the
subject, on a plane orthogonal to the axis of the charged particle beam, based on the light
emitted from the light emitter.

3. The device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam according
to claim 2, wherein the light emitter and the reflecting unit are integrated.

4. The device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam according

to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein a fluorescent contrast agent is injected into the subject.

5. A device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam comprising:
an adjusting unit that adjusts an irradiation position, in a depth direction of an optic axis of an eye to be inspected which is a subject, of an irradiation position determining charged particle beam irradiated from a charged particle beam irradiation source;

a reflecting unit that transmits or allows the position determining charged particle beam to pass, and reflects a first emitted light emitted from a region of the eye on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated and a second emitted light emitted, due to an irradiation of an excitation light, from a region including the region of the eye on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated, toward the outside of the axis of the charged particle beam; and

an imaging unit that is arranged at a position where the first emitted light and the second emitted light reflected from the reflecting unit are incident, and images the region including the region of the eye on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated by allowing incidence of the first emitted light and the second emitted light.

6. The device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam according to claim 5, further comprising:

a light emitter that is disposed in a path of the position determining charged particle beam irradiated on the eye, and emits light due to the irradiation of the position determining charged particle beam; and

a detection unit that detects a position of the charged particle beam irradiated on the eye on a plane orthogonal to the axis of the beam, based on the emitted light emitted from the light emitter.

7. The device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam according to claim 6, wherein the light emitter and the reflecting unit are integrated.

8. The device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam according

to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the charged particle beam includes particles having a Bragg peak.

9. The device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam of any one of claims 5 to 8, wherein a fluorescence agent is injected into the eye.

10. A method of using the device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam according to any one of claims 5 to 9, the method comprising:

adjusting, by the adjusting unit, in a plurality of steps, an irradiation position along the direction of an optic axis of the eye of the charged particle beam, which is irradiated from the charged particle beam irradiation source, in a direction from the sclera of the eyeground to the retina;

allowing the first emitted light, emitted from the region of the eye on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated, to be incident to the imaging unit and imaging, in every step, the region including the region of the eye on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated;

adjusting, by the adjusting unit, the irradiation position of the position determining charged particle beam to a target position on the basis of an image obtained by the imaging;
and

allowing the second emitted light reflected from the reflecting unit to be incident thereon and imaging the region including the region of the eye on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated to determine an aim position of a charged particle beam for treatment.

11. A treatment device comprising the device for determining an aim position of a charged particle beam according to any one of claims 1 to 9.

12. A treatment device using a charged particle beam comprising:

an adjusting unit that adjusts an irradiation position, in a depth direction of a subject, of an irradiation position determining charged particle beam irradiated from a charged particle

beam source;

a reflecting unit that transmits or allows the position determining charged particle beam to pass and reflects a first emitted light emitted from a region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated and a second emitted light emitted, due to an irradiation of an excitation light, from a region including the region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated, toward the outside of the axis of the charged particle beam; and

an imaging unit that is arranged at a position where the first emitted light and the second emitted light reflected from the reflecting unit are incident and images a region including the region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated by allowing incidence of the first emitted light and the second emitted light, wherein

the adjusting unit adjusts, in a plurality of steps, an irradiation position, along a depth direction of a subject, of the position determining charged particle beam irradiated from the charged particle beam irradiation source ,

the imaging unit images, in every step, a region including the region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated by allowing the first emitted light emitted from the part of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated to be incident on the imaging unit,

the adjusting unit adjusts the irradiation position of the position determining charged particle beam toward a target position on the basis of an image obtained by the imaging,

the imaging unit images, by allowing the second emitted light reflected from the reflecting unit to be incident thereon, the region including the region of the subject on which the position determining charged particle beam is irradiated to determine an aim position of a charged particle beam for treatment, and

the irradiation position determining charged particle beam is switched with the charged particle beam for treatment, and the charged particle beam for treatment is irradiated on the aim position.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2007/050347

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

A61N5/10(2006.01)i, A61B3/12(2006.01)i, A61B3/14(2006.01)i, A61F9/007
(2006.01)i

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)

A61N5/10, A61B3/12, A61B3/14, A61F9/007

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

Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2007

Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2007 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2007

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 2004-97471 A (Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.), 02 April, 2004 (02.04.04), (Family: none)	1-9, 11-12
A	Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 22438/1988 (Laid-open No. 126257/1989) (Nippon Fujitekku Kiki Kabushiki Kaisha), 29 August, 1989 (29.08.89), (Family: none)	1-9, 11-12

 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
27 February, 2007 (27.02.07)Date of mailing of the international search report
06 March, 2007 (06.03.07)Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2007/050347

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JP 2002-200182 A (Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co., Ltd.), 16 July, 2002 (16.07.02), Par. No. [0017] (Family: none)	1-9,11-12
A	JP 10-15087 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 20 January, 1998 (20.01.98), (Family: none)	1-9,11-12
A	JP 2005-21366 A (Keio University), 27 January, 2005 (27.01.05), (Family: none)	1-9,11-12
A	CD-ROM of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 52830/1991 (Laid-open No. 7251/1993) (NEC Corp.), 02 February, 1993 (02.02.93), (Family: none)	1-9,11-12
A	JP 9-173376 A (Hamamatsu Photonics Kabushiki Kaisha), 08 July, 1997 (08.07.97), (Family: none)	1-9,11-12
A	JP 2003-516830 A (LIGHT SCIENCES CORP.), 20 May, 2003 (20.05.03), & WO 2001/043825 A1 & US 6319273 B1 & CA 2392313 A1	1-9,11-12
A	WO 2004/065923 A1 (MEDIZINISCHES LASERZENTRUM LUBECK GMBH), 05 August, 2004 (05.08.04), & JP 2006-517028 A & DE 10301416 B3	1-9,11-12
A	JP 9-192106 A (Nippon Telegraph And Telephone Corp.), 29 July, 1997 (29.07.97), (Family: none)	1-9,11-12

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP2007/050347

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 10
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Claim 10 pertains to methods for treatment of the human body by surgery or therapy and diagnostic methods and thus relates to a subject matter which this International Searching Authority is not required, under the provisions of the PCT Rule 39.1(iv), to search.
2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest
the

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, payment of a protest fee..
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.