METHOD AND DEVICE FOR MONITORING FORCE, ESPECIALLY FORCE IN LABOR AND DELIVERY

An apparatus (40) for monitoring a force applied to an object by a person includes a support (46') upon which the person stands, and one or more force sensors (60, 62, 64) for detecting the reaction force applied through the person to the support (46') resulting from the application of force to the object. A computing accessory (48) may be included for computing the magnitude of the force, and a display for the result or other output devices may also be provided. A method of monitoring force is also disclosed.

The apparatus (40) and method may be used to determine the amount of force applied to an infant during delivery. The apparatus (40) and method may also be used for a broad range of applications requiring measurement of applied force.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : A 61 B 5/103
US CL : 600/587
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)
U.S. : 600/587,588,594

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
None

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
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</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

Date of the actual completion of the international search
20 May 2002 (20.05.2002)

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06 AUG 2002

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