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Light therapy diagnostic device and method for operating the same

Abstract

A light therapy diagnostic device comprising a shaft, an optical waveguide disposed in a lumen of the shaft and being movable forward and backward in a longitudinal direction of the shaft, and a transparent member disposed in the lumen and located distal to the optical waveguide, wherein: the optical waveguide guides a first light and a second light; the shaft has a lateral emission window which allows the first light and the second light to be emitted toward a lateral direction and a distal emission window which allows the first light to be emitted toward a distal direction; the optical waveguide includes a core and a clad, wherein a distal end surface of the core is inclined with respect to an optical axis of the optical waveguide; the first light passes through the transparent member in a state where the optical waveguide is in contact with the transparent member.

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Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The present invention relates to a light therapy diagnostic device used for a treatment method using light such as a photodynamic therapy (PDT) and photo-immunotherapy (PIT) and a method for operating the same.

BACKGROUND ART

(2) Biomedical treatment methods using light such as PDT and PIT are attracting attention, and as described in the following patent literatures, optical measuring devices that are capable of emitting light for grasping a condition of a treatment site prior to the emission of the light for treatment in a living body are known.

(3) Patent Literature 1 discloses an optical probe comprising a tubular probe outer cylinder, an optical waveguide member, a first irradiation unit, and a second irradiation unit. The optical waveguide member guides a first light and a second light disposed in an inner space of the probe outer cylinder in an axial direction of the probe outer cylinder. The first irradiation unit irradiates the first light emitted from a tip of the optical waveguide member while scanning on an irradiation target placed outside the probe outer cylinder. The second irradiation unit enables the second light emitted from the tip of the optical waveguide member to be irradiated on the irradiation target placed outside the probe outer cylinder and on a trajectory of the first light formed on the irradiation target when the first irradiation unit irradiates while scanning. When the first light and the second light are simultaneously emitted from the optical waveguide member, the first irradiation unit and the second irradiation unit irradiate the first light and the second light, respectively, to different parts on the irradiation target.

(4) Patent Literature 2 discloses an endoscope system comprising an insertion part, an illumination light irradiation unit, a treatment light irradiation unit, a light receiving unit, and a light intensity detection unit. The insertion part is formed to have a tubular shape that can be inserted into a body cavity of a specimen. The illumination light irradiation unit is provided at a tip part of the insertion part, and is configured to irradiate illumination light for illuminating a subject in the body cavity forward of the tip part. The treatment light irradiation unit is provided integrally with or separately from the tip part, and includes a therapeutic light transmission unit that transmits therapeutic light supplied from a therapeutic light supply unit, and a light diffusing unit that diffuses and irradiates the therapeutic light transmitted by the therapeutic light transmission unit into an substantially tubular region forward of the tip part. The light receiving unit receives a return light of the illumination light emitted forward of the tip part and a return light of the therapeutic light emitted into the substantially tubular region forward of the tip part, respectively. The light intensity detection unit detects an intensity of the return light of the therapeutic light received by the light receiving unit.

CITATION LIST

Patent Literature

(5) Patent Literature 1

(6) Japanese Unexamined Laid-open Patent Application Publication No. 2008-125939

Patent Literature 2 Japanese Unexamined Laid-open Patent Application Publication No. 2014-104138

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

Technical Problem

(7) Optical devices used in the apparatuses described in the above patent literatures are all very small in diameter, manufactured using microfabrication technologies such as MEMS, for example. Therefore, the amount of light tends to decrease both in illumination optics that illuminates a surface of a living body and in light receiving optics that receives light returned from the surface of the living body, and there is room for improvement in increasing resolution of an observation image. An object of the present invention is to provide a light therapy diagnostic device that reduces the loss due to reduction in the amount of the light used for biological observation, such as, for example, vignetting and aperture eclipse, and that improves efficiency of light utilization, and a method for operating thereof.

Solution to Problem

(8) One embodiment of the light therapy diagnostic device of the present invention that has achieved the above object is a light therapy diagnostic device comprising: a catheter shaft having a first end and a second end in a longitudinal direction and a lumen extending in the longitudinal direction; an optical waveguide disposed in the lumen of the catheter shaft and being movable forward and backward in the longitudinal direction; and a transparent member disposed in the lumen of the catheter shaft and located distal to the optical waveguide; wherein: the optical waveguide guides a first light and a second light having a wavelength different from that of the first light; the catheter shaft has a lateral emission window located on a lateral part of the catheter shaft and a distal emission window located on a distal end part of the catheter shaft; the lateral emission window allows the first light and the second light to be emitted toward a lateral direction; the distal emission window allows the first light to be emitted toward a distal direction; the optical waveguide includes a core and a clad, wherein a normal of a distal end surface of the core is inclined with respect to an optical axis of the optical waveguide; the first light passes through the transparent member in a state where the optical waveguide is in contact with the transparent member; and the first light guided through the core is reflected at a distal end part of the optical waveguide in a state where the optical waveguide is apart from the transparent member. In the above light therapy diagnostic device, the transparent member is disposed in the lumen of the catheter shaft, the first light guided through the core is reflected at a distal end part of the optical waveguide in the state where the optical waveguide is apart from the transparent member, and the first light passes through the transparent member in the state where the optical waveguide is in contact with the transparent member, and therefore, efficiency of light utilization can be improved by reducing the loss due to reduction in the amount of the light used for biological observation while having an optical system for light therapy.

(9) In the above light therapy diagnostic device, it is preferable that the transparent member is a short optical waveguide having a shorter optical path than the optical waveguide, and a normal of a proximal end surface of the short optical waveguide is inclined with respect to the longitudinal direction of the catheter shaft.

(10) In the above light therapy diagnostic device, it is preferable that a proximal part of the optical waveguide is connected to a circumferential rotating member that is configured to stop rotating at a predetermined rotation angle, and a distal end surface of the optical waveguide and a proximal end surface of the short optical waveguide are parallel to each other in a state where the circumferential rotation member is at the predetermined rotation angle.

(11) In the above light therapy diagnostic device, it is preferable that the transparent member is made of a material softer than the optical waveguide.

(12) In the above light therapy diagnostic device, it is preferable that a distal end surface of the transparent member is perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the catheter shaft.

(13) In the above light therapy diagnostic device, it is preferable that the lateral emission window is disposed over an entire circumference of the catheter shaft.

(14) In the above light therapy diagnostic device, it is preferable that a proximal part of the optical

waveguide is connected to a circumferential rotating member that rotates the optical waveguide in a circumferential direction of the catheter shaft.

(15) In the above light therapy diagnostic device, it is preferable that the optical waveguide includes a first core, a second core disposed outside the first core, and a clad disposed outside the second core, and a refractive index n_1 of the first core, a refractive index n_2 of the second core, and a refractive index n_3 of the clad satisfy the relationship of $n_1 > n_2 > n_3$.

(16) In the above light therapy diagnostic device, it is preferable that the optical waveguide includes an intermediate clad disposed outside the first core and inside the second core, and the refractive index n_1 of the first core, the refractive index n_2 of the second core, and a refractive index n_4 of the intermediate clad satisfy the relationship of $n_1 > n_2 > n_4$.

(17) In the above light therapy diagnostic device, it is preferable that the lateral emission window is located at a position corresponding to a non-existent area of the clad.

(18) In the above light therapy diagnostic device, it is preferable that the second core has a light diffusion region disposed proximal to the distal end surface of the core.

(19) In the above light therapy diagnostic device, it is preferable that surface roughness R_a of an outer surface of the second core in the light diffusion region is larger than surface roughness R_a of an outer surface of the second core in a distal region located distal to the light diffusion region, wherein the surface roughness R_a is determined based on an arithmetic average roughness R_a specified in JIS B 0601 (2001).

(20) In the above light therapy diagnostic device, it is preferable that the second core contains light diffusing particles in the light diffusion region.

(21) In the above light therapy diagnostic device, it is preferable that a distal end part of the catheter shaft is sharpened.

(22) It is preferable that the above light therapy diagnostic device further comprises a light source that generates the first light, and a lens disposed between the light source and the first mirror.

(23) In the above light therapy diagnostic device, it is preferable that the catheter shaft includes a balloon connected to the lumen thereof.

(24) The present invention also provides a method for operating the above light therapy diagnostic device. One embodiment of a method for operating the light therapy diagnostic device of the present invention comprising the steps of: guiding the first light to the optical waveguide in a state where the core is in contact with the transparent member; guiding the first light to the optical waveguide in a state where the core is apart from the transparent member; and guiding the second light to the optical waveguide to emit the second light from the lateral emission window.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

(25) According to the above light therapy diagnostic device and its operating method, it is possible to reduce the loss due to reduction in the amount of light used for biological observation while having an optical system for light therapy, and improve efficiency of light utilization.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

(1) FIG. 1 shows a lateral view of a light therapy diagnostic device according to an embodiment of the present invention.

(2) FIG. 2 shows an enlarged cross-sectional view of a distal part of the light therapy diagnostic device shown in FIG. 1, and shows a state in which a first light is emitted toward a lateral direction of the catheter shaft.

(3) FIG. 3 shows an enlarged cross-sectional view of the distal part of the light therapy diagnostic device shown in FIG. 1, and shows a state in which a first light is emitted toward a distal direction of the catheter shaft.

(4) FIG. 4 shows an enlarged cross-sectional view of the distal part of the light therapy diagnostic device shown in FIG. 1, and shows a state in which a second light is emitted toward a lateral direction of the catheter shaft.

(5) FIG. 5 shows a cross-sectional view of a modified example of the light therapy diagnostic device of FIG. 2.

(6) FIG. 6 shows a cross-sectional view of a modified example of the light therapy diagnostic device of FIG. 3.

(7) FIG. 7 shows a cross-sectional view taken along a line VII-VII of the light therapy diagnostic device shown in FIG. 2.

(8) FIG. 8 shows a cross-sectional view of a modified example of the light therapy diagnostic device of FIG. 7.

(9) FIG. 9 shows a cross-sectional view of a modified example of the light therapy diagnostic device of FIG. 4.

(10) FIG. 10 shows a cross-sectional view of another modified example of the light therapy diagnostic device of FIG. 2.

DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

(11) Hereinafter, the present invention is specifically explained below based on the following embodiments; however, the present invention is not restricted by the embodiments described below of course, and can be certainly put into practice after appropriate modifications within a range meeting the gist of the above and the below, all of which are included in the technical scope of the present invention. In the drawings, hatching or a reference sign for a member may be omitted for convenience, and in such a case, the description and other drawings should be referred to. In addition, sizes of various members in the drawings may differ from the actual sizes thereof, since priority is given to understanding the features of the present invention.

(12) One embodiment of the light therapy diagnostic device of the present invention is a light therapy diagnostic device comprising: a catheter shaft having a first end and a second end in a longitudinal direction and a lumen extending in the longitudinal direction; an optical waveguide disposed in the lumen of the catheter shaft and being movable forward and backward in the longitudinal direction; and a transparent member disposed in the lumen of the catheter shaft and located distal to the optical waveguide; wherein: the optical waveguide guides a first light and a second light having a wavelength different from that of the first light; the catheter shaft has a lateral emission window located on a lateral part of the catheter shaft and a distal emission window located on a distal end part of the catheter shaft; the lateral emission window allows the first light and the second light to be emitted toward a lateral direction; the distal emission window allows the first light to be emitted toward a distal direction; the optical waveguide includes a core and a clad, wherein a normal of a distal end surface of the core is inclined with respect to an optical axis of the optical waveguide; the first light passes through the transparent member in a state where the optical waveguide is in contact with the transparent member; and the first light guided through the core is reflected at a distal end part of the optical waveguide in a state where the optical waveguide is apart from the transparent member. In the above light therapy diagnostic device, the transparent member is disposed in the lumen of the catheter shaft, the first light guided through the core is reflected at a distal end part of the optical waveguide in the state where the optical waveguide is apart from the transparent member, and the first light passes through the transparent member in the state where the optical waveguide is in contact with the transparent member, and therefore, efficiency of light utilization can be improved by reducing the loss due to reduction in the amount of the light used for biological observation while having an optical system for light therapy.

(13) The configuration of the light therapy diagnostic device is explained with reference to FIGS. 1 to 4. FIG. 1 shows a lateral view of a light therapy diagnostic device according to an embodiment of the present invention, and FIGS. 2 to 4 show enlarged cross-sectional views of a distal part of the light therapy diagnostic device shown in FIG. 1. FIG. 2 represents a state in which a first light

is emitted toward a lateral direction of the catheter shaft, FIG. 3 represents a state in which a first light is emitted toward a distal direction of the catheter shaft, and FIG. 4 represents a state in which a second light is emitted toward a lateral direction of the catheter shaft. A light therapy diagnostic device **1** comprises a catheter shaft **10**, an optical waveguide **20** and a transparent member **30**. Hereinafter, the light therapy diagnostic device **1** may be simply referred to as a device **1**, and the catheter shaft **10** may be simply referred to as a shaft **10**.

(14) The device **1** can be used for PDT and PIT. In the device **1**, an optical coherence tomography (OCT) method is preferably adopted for observing a living tissue by image diagnosis, however, an ultrasonic imaging method or a fluorescence imaging method may be adopted.

(15) The shaft **10** has a first end and a second end that define a longitudinal direction. A distal side of the device **1** and the shaft **10** means a first end side in the longitudinal direction of the shaft **10** (in other words, a longitudinal axis direction of the shaft **10**) and refers to a treatment target side. A proximal side of the light therapy diagnostic device **1** and the shaft **10** means a second end side in the longitudinal direction of the shaft **10** and refers to a hand side of a user (operator). In FIG. 1, the left side represents the distal side, and the right side represents the proximal side. Further, in a radial direction of the shaft **10**, an inner side means a direction toward a center of the longitudinal axis of the shaft **10**, and an outer side means a direction opposite to the inner side, namely a radiation direction.

(16) The shaft **10** has a lumen **11** extending in the longitudinal direction. The shaft **10** has a tubular structure to dispose an optical waveguide **20** in the lumen **11**. Since the shaft **10** is inserted into a body, it preferably has flexibility. Examples of the tubular structure of the shaft **10** include: a hollow body formed by arranging one or a plurality of wires in a certain pattern; the hollow body of which at least one of an inner surface and an outer surface thereof is coated with a resin; a cylindrical resin tube; and combination thereof (for example, those connected in the longitudinal direction of the shaft **10**). As the hollow body in which wires are arranged in a certain pattern, a tubular body having a mesh structure by which wires are simply crossed or knitted, or a coil in which a wire is wound is exemplified. The wire may be one or a plurality of single wires, or may be one or a plurality of stranded wires. The resin tube can be manufactured, for example, by extrusion molding. In the case where the shaft **10** is made of a tubular resin tube, the shaft **10** can be composed of a single layer or a plurality of layers. A part of the shaft **10** in the longitudinal direction or a circumferential direction may be composed of a single layer, and another part of that may be composed of a plurality of layers. As shown in FIG. 1, a handle **40** gripped by an operator is preferably connected to a proximal part of the shaft **10**. The device **1** may be incorporated in an endoscope or may be used as a combined device. This enables more detailed observation and treatment of a target site.

(17) The shaft **10** can be composed of, for example, a synthetic resin such as a polyolefin resin (for example, polyethylene, polypropylene), a polyamide resin (for example, nylon), a polyester resin (for example, PET), an aromatic polyetherketone resin (for example, PEEK), a polyether polyamide resin, a polyurethane resin, a polyimide resin and a fluoro resin (for example, PTFE, PFA, ETFE), or a metal such as stainless steel, carbon steel and nickel-titanium alloy. These may be used alone or in combination of two or more.

(18) The optical waveguide **20** is disposed in the lumen **11** of the shaft **10** and can move forward and backward in the longitudinal direction of the shaft **10**. The optical waveguide **20** guides a first light **51** and a second light **52** having a wavelength different from that of the first light **51**. Since the optical waveguide **20** is disposed so as to be movable forward and backward in the longitudinal direction of the shaft **10**, it is possible to switch between contact and non-contact between the optical waveguide **20** and the transparent member **30**. The optical waveguide **20** has a core **21** and a clad **23**, and a normal of a distal end surface **22** of the core **21** is inclined with respect to an optical axis of the optical waveguide **20**. Examples of the optical waveguide **20** include an optical fiber. A light source is preferably connected to a proximal part of the optical waveguide **20**. Thereby, the

first light **51** and the second light **52** can enter the optical waveguide **20**.

(19) By moving the optical waveguide **20** in the lumen **11** of the shaft **10** in the longitudinal direction of the shaft **10**, a position of the optical waveguide **20** relative to the shaft **10** can be changed. Thereby, a user can switch between a lateral observation mode, in which a lateral side of the device **1** is observed by emitting the first light **51** from a lateral emission window **12**, and a forward observation mode, in which a front of the device **1** is observed by emitting the first light **51** from a distal emission window **13**. A risk of the device **1** puncturing a blood vessel can be reduced when puncturing the device **1** into a body by switching it to the forward observation mode. After inserting the device **1** to a predetermined position, a target site can be observed by switching it to the lateral observation mode.

(20) It is preferable that the first light **51** is an observation light for grasping a condition of a treatment site or its surrounding site, and the second light **52** is a treatment light. Thereby, both grasping a condition of a treatment site and providing treatment with one device **1** can be conducted, and it is possible to perform diagnosis and treatment at the same time, which has been difficult in the past. By observing a target site with the observation light after irradiation of the treatment light, a result of treatment of the target site can be confirmed. As a result, procedure time and treatment period can be shortened.

(21) For the observation of a living tissue by OCT, the first light **51** is preferably near-infrared light, and more preferably infrared light. As a result, passability of the first light **51** to the living tissue is increased. The light source of the first light **51** may be a super luminescent diode light source, a super continuum light source, or a wavelength sweep laser. The wavelength (center wavelength) of the first light **51** may be, for example, 1.3 μm or longer, 1.35 μm or longer, or 1.4 μm or longer, and may also be allowable to be 1.8 μm or shorter, 1.75 μm or shorter, or 1.7 μm or shorter.

(22) The second light **52** is preferably a laser beam which irradiates a living tissue and has a wavelength suitable for phototherapy such as PDT and PIT. The wavelength of the second light **52** is preferably shorter than the wavelength of the first light **51**. The wavelength of the second light **52** may be, for example, 0.64 μm or longer, 0.65 μm or longer, or 0.66 μm or longer, and may also be allowable to be 0.72 μm or shorter, 0.71 μm or shorter, or 0.7 μm or shorter.

(23) The first light **51** and the second light **52** may be emitted from one light source, or the first light **51** and the second light **52** may be emitted from different light sources from each other.

(24) It is preferable that the device **1** comprises a light source **42** that generates the first light **51** and a lens (not shown) disposed between the light source **42** and a distal end surface **22** of the core **21**. The first light **51** can enter the optical waveguide **20** by the light source **42** and the lens focuses the first light **51**, whereby it is possible to obtain an image of a living tissue on a lateral side of the lateral emission window **12** or an image of a living tissue on a distal side of the distal emission window **13**. The lens may be located proximal to the optical waveguide **20**, may be located in the optical waveguide **20**, or may be located distal to the optical waveguide **20**. As the lens, a so-called GRIN lens, which is composed of a continuously changing refractive index, is preferably used.

(25) The shaft **10** has the lateral emission window **12** located on a lateral part of the shaft **10** and the distal emission window **13** located on a distal end part of the shaft **10**. The lateral emission window **12** allows the first light **51** and the second light **52** to be emitted toward a lateral direction therefrom, and the distal emission window **13** allows the first light **51** to be emitted toward a distal direction therefrom. By providing the emission windows on the shaft **10** in this manner, the lights can be emitted from the emission windows.

(26) The lateral emission window **12** is preferably formed on a sidewall of the shaft **10**. The lateral emission window **12** is preferably disposed so as to extend in a circumferential direction of the shaft **10**, and more preferably disposed over an entire circumference of the shaft **10**. Thereby, the second light **52** can be emitted over a wide area at once, so that a burden on a patient can be reduced.

(27) The lateral emission window **12** is preferably located proximal to a distal end of the shaft **10**. A proximal end of the lateral emission window **12** can be placed, for example, within 10 cm from the distal end of the shaft **10**.

(28) The distal emission window **13** is preferably formed on a distal end surface of the shaft **10**. This makes it easier to emit the first light **51** toward a distal direction from the distal emission window **13**. The distal end surface of the shaft **10** may be a flat surface or a curved surface. As a result, the distal emission window **13** can also be formed in a flat surface or a curved surface.

(29) The lateral emission window **12** and the distal emission window **13** may be made of a material that transmits the first light **51** or the second light **52**. It is preferable that a constituent material of the lateral emission window **12** and the distal emission window **13** has a higher transmittance than a constituent material of a part of the shaft **10** where the emission window is not formed. Regarding the material constituting the lateral emission window **12** and the distal emission window **13**, the description of the constituent materials of the shaft **10** and the below-described transparent material **30** can be referred to. The material constituting the lateral emission window **12** and the distal emission window **13** may be the same or different from each other.

(30) As shown in FIG. 2, the transparent member **30** is disposed in the lumen **11** of the shaft **10** and is located distal to the optical waveguide **20**. A normal of the distal end surface **22** of the core **21** of the optical waveguide **20** is inclined with respect to the optical axis of the optical waveguide **20**. Therefore, as shown in FIG. 2, in the state where the optical waveguide **20** is apart from the transparent member **30**, the first light **51** guided through the core **21** is reflected at a distal end part of the optical waveguide **20**. As a result, the first light **51** can be emitted from the side emission window **12** toward a lateral direction, and so it becomes possible to grasp a condition of a living tissue on a lateral side of the shaft **10**. In OCT, a tomographic image is created based on the reflected light when the first light **51** is irradiated to a living tissue. In detail, the reflection of the first light **51** at the distal end part of the optical waveguide **20** is caused by difference between a refractive index of the core **21** of the optical waveguide **20** and a refractive index of the air present in the lumen **11** of the shaft **10**. For example, when the refractive index of the core **21** is set to 1.45, $\sin \theta_c = 1/1.45 = 0.6896$ according to Snell's law is derived, since the refractive index of air is about 1, and so the critical incident angle θ_c comes to be about 43.6° . Therefore, by making the angle between the normal of the distal end surface **22** of the core **21** and the optical axis of the optical waveguide **20** larger than 43.6° , the first light **51** incident on the reflection interface from the core **21** side can be emitted toward a lateral direction through the lateral emission window **12**. The above refractive index indicates are values for light of wavelength 589.3 nm (D ray of sodium).

(31) Meanwhile, as shown in FIG. 3, in the case where the optical waveguide **20** is in contact with the transparent member **30**, the first light **51** transmits through the transparent member **30**. As a result, the first light **51** can be emitted toward the distal direction from the distant emission window **13**, and so it becomes possible to grasp a condition of a living tissue on a distal side of the device **1**. In detail, it is preferable to set the refractive indexes of the core **21** of the optical waveguide **20** and the transparent member **30** to the same value or close to each other. Since reflection does not occur at the interface between the core **21** and the transparent member **30** when the core **21** and the transparent member **30** are in contact with each other, the first light **51** incident from the core **21** side passes through the transparent member **30**. As a result, the first light **51** can be emitted in the distal direction of the shaft **10**.

(32) By making the optical waveguide **20** and the transparent member **30** contact or non-contact as described above, the emission direction of the first light **51** can be easily switched between the lateral direction and the distal direction. Therefore, according to the device **1**, efficiency of light utilization can be improved by reducing the loss due to reduction in the amount of the light used for biological observation while having an optical system for light therapy.

(33) As shown in FIG. 4, in the state where the optical waveguide **20** is apart from the transparent member **30**, the second light **52** guided through the core **21** is preferably reflected at a distal end

part of the optical waveguide **20**. As a result, the second light **52** can be emitted in the lateral direction from the side emission window **12**. By irradiating the second light **52** to a living tissue on a lateral side of the shaft **10**, treatment of living using the light can be performed.

(34) The distal end surface **22** of the core **21** is preferably a flat surface. Thereby, in the state where the optical waveguide **20** is apart from the transparent member **30**, the first light **51** guided through the core **21** is easily reflected on the distal end surface **22** of the core **21**.

(35) The inclination angle of the normal of the distal end surface **22** of the core **21** with respect to the optical axis of the optical waveguide **20** can be appropriately set in relation with the refractive indexes of the core **21** of the optical waveguide **20** and the transparent member **30**. The inclination angle may be, for example, 40 degrees or larger, 41 degrees or larger, or 42 degrees or larger, and may also be allowable to be 47 degrees or smaller, 46 degrees or smaller, or 45 degrees or smaller.

(36) The refractive index of the core **21** of the optical waveguide **20** may be larger than the refractive index of the clad **23**, and may be, for example, 1.4 or more, 1.41 or more, 1.43 or more, or 1.45 or more, and may also be allowable to be 1.7 or less, 1.6 or less, or 1.5 or less.

(37) The transparent member **30** may be made of a material which the first light **51** is capable of transmitting. It is preferable that the refractive indexes of the core **21** of the optical waveguide **20** and the transparent member **30** are the same or close to each other. Thereby, in the state where the core **21** of the optical waveguide **20** is in contact with the transparent member **30**, the first light **51** can be reliably emitted in the distal direction. Therefore, the refractive index of the transparent member **30** is preferably 1.4 or more, more preferably 1.41 or more, even more preferably 1.43 or more, still even more preferably 1.45 or more, and may be also allowable to be 1.7 or less, 1.6 or less, or 1.5 or less.

(38) The transparent material **30** may be made of a material which the first light **51** transmits. The transparent member **30** can be made of a synthetic resin such as (meth)acrylic resin (for example, polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA)), polycarbonate resin (for example, polydiethylene glycol bisallyl carbonate (PC)), polystyrene resin (for example, methyl methacrylate/styrene copolymer resin (MS)), acrylonitrile styrene resin (SAN)), polyamide resin (for example, nylon), and polyolefin resin. These may be used alone or in combination of two or more.

(39) As shown in FIGS. **2** to **4**, the transparent member **30** is preferably a resin lump **31**. This makes it easier to place the transparent member **30** inside the shaft **10**. The resin lump **31** preferably closes the lumen **11** of the shaft **10**. Thereby, a contact area is secured when the optical waveguide **20** and the resin lump **31** come into contact.

(40) It is preferable that the transparent member **30** is made of a material softer than the optical waveguide **20**. When the optical waveguide **20** and the transparent member **30** come into contact, the transparent member **30** can easily adhere to the optical waveguide **20**, thereby facilitating irradiation of the first light **51** in the distal direction.

(41) It is preferable that a distal end surface of the transparent member **30** is perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the shaft **10**. Thereby, reflection loss of the first light **51** at the distal end surface of the transparent member **30** is suppressed, and the first light **51** is easily emitted in the distal direction.

(42) FIGS. **5** and **6** show an example where the transparent member **30** is a short optical waveguide **32**. As shown in FIG. **5**, the transparent member **30** may be a short optical waveguide **32** having a shorter optical path than the optical waveguide **20**. The short optical waveguide **32** may have a core **33** and a clad **34**. Also by configuring the transparent member **30** in this manner, the emission direction of the first **51** can be easily switched. For example, as shown in FIG. **5**, in the state where the optical waveguide **20** and the short optical waveguide **32** (in detail, the core **21** of the optical waveguide **20** and the core **33** of the short optical waveguide **32**) are separated from each other, the first light **51** guided through the core **21** is reflected at the distal end part of the optical waveguide **20**. Also, as shown in FIG. **6**, in the state where the optical waveguide **20** and the short optical waveguide **32** are in contact with each other, the optical waveguide **20** and the short optical

waveguide **32** function as one waveguide, and so it becomes possible to emit the first light **51** in the distal direction.

(43) It is preferable that a normal of a proximal end surface **35** of the short optical waveguide **32** is inclined with respect to the longitudinal direction of the shaft **10**. This makes it easier to bring the distal end surface **22** of the core **21** of the optical waveguide **20** into contact with the proximal end surface **35** of the short optical waveguide **32**. As a result, it becomes easy to connect the optical waveguide **20** to the short optical waveguide **32**, and the first light **51** is easily emitted in the distal direction.

(44) In the state that the device **1** is viewed from the longitudinal direction of the shaft **10**, it is preferable that the core **21** of the optical waveguide **20** and the core **33** of the short optical waveguide **32** are arranged so as to overlap with each other, and more preferably, the optical axis of the short optical waveguide **32** is arranged so as to overlap with the optical axis of the optical waveguide **20**. Thereby, when the optical waveguide **20** is brought into contact with the short optical waveguide **32**, the first light **51** can easily enter the short optical waveguide **32** from the optical waveguide **20**.

(45) As shown in FIGS. **2** to **6**, the transparent member **30** is preferably disposed in contact with the distal emission window **13**, but may be disposed adjacent to the distal emission window **13**.

(46) The configuration of the optical waveguide **20** is explained with reference to FIGS. **7** to **8**. The optical waveguide **20** may have one or more single-core fibers in which one core is disposed in one clad, or may have one or more multi-core fibers in which a plurality of cores are disposed in one clad.

(47) As shown in FIG. **7**, the optical waveguide **20** preferably includes a first core **21A**, a second core **21B** disposed outside the first core **21A**, and a clad **23** disposed outside the second core **21B**. Here, a refractive index $n1$ of the first core **21A**, a refractive index $n2$ of the second core **21B**, and a refractive index $n3$ of the clad **23** satisfy the relationship of $n1 > n2 > n3$. By disposing the second core **21B** on an outer circumference of the first core **21A** in this manner, the second light **52** can be easily emitted from the entire circumference of the shaft **10**, so that it can be emitted over a wide range at once. The first core **21A**, the second core **21B** and the clad **23** are preferably arranged concentrically. As a result, the first light **51** can be guided by the first core **21A**, and the second light **52** can be guided by the first core **21A** and the second core **21B**, while the clad **23** prevents the lights from leaking.

(48) FIG. **8** shows a cross-sectional view of a modified example of the optical waveguide **20** shown in FIG. **7**. As shown in FIG. **8**, the optical waveguide **20** preferably includes an intermediate clad **24** disposed outside the first core **21A** and inside the second core **21B**. Here, the refractive index $n1$ of the first core **21A**, the refractive index $n2$ of the second core **21B**, and a refractive index $n4$ of the intermediate clad **24** satisfy the relationship of $n1 > n2 > n4$. Thereby, the light guided by the first core **21A** can be confined by the intermediate clad **24**, and the light guided by the second core **21B** can be confined by the intermediate clad **24** and the clad **23**. As a result, leakage of the light from the optical waveguide **20** can be prevented. The refractive index $n4$ of the intermediate clad **24** may be the same as or different from the refractive index $n3$ of the clad **23**.

(49) FIG. **9** shows a cross-sectional view of a modified example of the device **1** of FIG. **4**. As shown in FIG. **9**, the lateral emission window **12** is preferably located at a position corresponding to a non-existing region **23a** of the clad **23**. Thereby, the first light **51** or the second light **52** guided by core **21** can be emitted toward the lateral direction from the non-existing region **23a** of the clad **23**. Specifically, it is preferable that the second light **52** is emitted toward the lateral direction from the non-existing region **23a** of the clad **23**. That the lateral emission window **12** is located at a position corresponding to the non-existing region **23a** of the clad **23** means that the non-existing region **23a** of the clad **23** and the lateral emission window **12** of the shaft **10** overlaps with each other at least in part when the optical waveguide **20** is located at a certain position of the shaft **10**.

(50) The non-existing region **23a** of the clad **23** is a region in which the core **21** (the first core **21A**

or the second core **21B**, preferably the second core **21B**) inside the clad **23** is exposed to the outside due to the absence of the clad **23**. Examples of a method of forming the non-existing region **23a** of the clad **23** in this manner include a method of mechanically or chemically removing the clad **23**, and for example, laser processing and etching processing are mentioned.

(51) The non-existing region **23a** of the clad **23** is preferably disposed so as to extend in the circumferential direction, and more preferably disposed over the entire circumference of the optical waveguide **20**. Thereby, the second light **52** can be emitted over a wide area at once.

(52) As shown in FIG. **9**, the second core **21B** preferably has a light diffusion region **21Ba** proximal to the distal end surface **22** of the core **21**. By providing the light diffusion region **21Ba** in the second core **21B** in this manner, the second light **52** can be suitably diffused, so that the second light **52** can be emitted over a wide range at once.

(53) It is preferable that the surface roughness *Ra* of an outer surface of the second core **21B** in the light diffusion region **21Ba** is larger than the surface roughness *Ra* of an outer surface of the second core **21B** in a distal region distal to the light diffusion region **21Ba**. Here, the surface roughness *Ra* is determined based on an arithmetic average roughness *Ra* specified in JIS B 0601 (2001). By setting the surface roughness in this manner, the second light **52** can be efficiently diffused from the light diffusion region **21Ba**, so that it can be emitted over a wide range at once.

(54) Examples of a method of roughening the outer surface of the second core **21B** in the light diffusion region **21Ba** include a method of mechanically or chemically roughening the surfaces, and for example, etching, blasting, scribing, wire-brushing, a method of using sandpaper, and the like are mentioned.

(55) It is preferable that the second core **21B** contains light diffusing particles in the light diffusion region **21Ba**. Thereby, the second light **52** can be efficiently diffused in the light diffusion region **21Ba**, so that it can be emitted over a wide range at once. Examples of the light diffusing particles include inorganic particles such as titanium oxide, barium sulfate and calcium carbonate, and organic particles such as crosslinked acrylic particles and crosslinked styrene particles.

(56) It is preferable that the length of the light diffusion region **21Ba** of the second core **21B** or the length of the non-existing region **23a** of the clad **23** in the longitudinal direction of the shaft **10** is shorter than that of the lateral emission window **12**. This makes it easier to emit the second light **52** toward the lateral direction of the shaft **10** without loss.

(57) As shown in FIGS. **2** to **6**, it is preferable that a distal end of the shaft **10** is closed. Thereby, liquids such as body fluids are prevented from entering the lumen **11** of the shaft **10**. A normal of a distal end surface of the shaft **10** may be parallel to the optical axis of the optical waveguide **20**.

(58) Although it is not shown in the drawings, the shaft **10** may be composed of a plurality of members. For example, the shaft **10** may include a cylindrical shaft body having an opening at a distal end thereof, and a cap provided at a distal end part of the shaft body and closing the opening of the shaft body. In that case, the distal emission window **13** may be formed on the cap. Thereby, a part of the distal emission window **13** and the shaft **10**, where the emission window is not formed, can be easily composed of a different material. Regarding a material constituting the cap, the description of the constituent material of the shaft **10** can be referred to.

(59) FIG. **10** shows a cross-sectional view of a modified example of the device **1** of FIG. **2**. As shown in FIG. **10**, in a cross section along the longitudinal direction of the shaft **10**, a distal end part of the shaft **10** may be formed in a sharp shape formed by one line or may be formed in a sharp shape formed by two or more lines. A distal end of the shaft **10** may be located at an outer end of the shaft **10** in a radial direction or may be located at a center of the longitudinal axis of the shaft **10**. In this manner, it is preferable that the distal end part of the shaft **10** is sharpened. Since the distal end part of the shaft **10** can be punctured into a tissue, a position of the shaft **10** in a body can be fixed. As a result, it becomes easy to emit the first light **51** and the second light **52** for image diagnosis and treatment.

(60) As shown in FIG. **1**, a proximal part of the optical waveguide **20** is preferably connected to a

circumferential rotating member **41** that rotates the optical waveguide **20** in the circumferential direction of the shaft **10**. More preferably, the optical waveguide **20** rotates with respect to the shaft **10** around its optical axis. Since the optical waveguide **20** can be rotated around its optical axis, the emission position of the light from the lateral emission window **12** in the circumferential direction of the shaft **10** can be adjusted.

(61) It is preferable that the proximal part of the optical waveguide **20** is connected to the circumferential rotating member **41**, the circumferential rotating member **41** is configured to stop rotating at a predetermined rotation angle, and the distal end surface of the optical waveguide **20** (preferably the distal end surface **22** of the core **21**) and the proximal end surface **35** of the short optical waveguide **32** come to be parallel to each other in the state where the circumferential rotating member is at the predetermined rotation angle. By rotating the circumferential rotating member **41**, it is possible to switch between contact and non-contact between the optical waveguide **20** and the short optical waveguide **32**. In addition, by forming the distal end surface of the optical waveguide **20** and the proximal end surface **35** of the short optical waveguide **32** parallel to each other, it becomes easy to bring the optical waveguide **20** into contact with the short optical waveguide **32**.

(62) Although it is not shown in the drawings, the shaft **10** may be provided with a balloon on a distal part thereof. In particular, the shaft **10** may include a balloon connected to the lumen thereof. The balloon may be located so as to cover the lateral emission window **12** or may be located distal to or proximal to the lateral emission window **12**, in relation to the lateral emission window **12** provided on the shaft **10**. Alternatively, the balloon may cover the distal emission window **13** or both the lateral emission window **12** and the distal emission window **13**. It is preferable that the balloon is attached to the shaft **10** so that an attaching part of the balloon to the shaft **10** does not overlap with the lateral emission window **12** and the distal emission window **13**. In the case where the light can pass through the balloon, the balloon may be attached to the shaft **10** so as to overlap with the lateral emission window **12**. By providing the balloon on the shaft **10**, the device **1** can be fixed in a body cavity, and the light can be stably emitted from the lateral emission window **12**. In the case where the balloon is arranged on the shaft **10** so as to cover the lateral emission window **12**, the balloon is preferably made of a highly transparent material to prevent attenuation of the light emitted from the lateral emission window **12**.

(63) Each of the above preferred embodiments can be combined as necessary to form a part of the configuration of the light therapy diagnostic device of the present invention.

(64) The present invention also provides a method for operating the above light therapy diagnostic device **1**. One embodiment of the method for operating the light therapy diagnostic device **1** of the present invention comprises steps of: guiding the first light **51** to the optical waveguide **20** in the state where the core **21** is in contact with the transparent member **30**; guiding the first light **51** to the optical waveguide **20** in the state where the core **21** is apart from the transparent member **30**; and guiding the second light **52** to the optical waveguide **20** to emit the second light **52** from the lateral emission window **12**.

(65) The first light **51** is guided to the optical waveguide **20** in the state where the core **21** is in contact with the transparent member **30**. Thereby, the first light **51** can be emitted from the distal emission window **13** toward a distal direction, and therefore, a condition of a living tissue located on a distal side of the device **1** can be grasped.

(66) The first light **51** is guided to the optical waveguide **20** in the state where the core **21** is apart from the transparent member **30**. Thereby, the first light **51** can be emitted from the lateral emission window **12** toward a lateral direction, and therefore, a condition of a living tissue located on a lateral side of the device **1** can be grasped.

(67) The second light **52** is guided to the optical waveguide **20** and the second light **52** is emitted from the lateral emission window **12**. Thereby, the second light **52** can be emitted to a tissue located on a lateral side of the shaft **10**, and therefore, treatment of living using the light can be

conducted.

(68) This application claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2019-109903, filed on Jun. 12, 2019. All of the contents of the Japanese Patent Application No. 2019-109903, filed on Jun. 12, 2019, are incorporated by reference herein.

REFERENCE SIGNS LIST

- (69) **1**: light therapy diagnostic device
- (70) **10**: catheter shaft
- (71) **11**: lumen
- (72) **12**: lateral emission window
- (73) **13**: distal emission window
- (74) **20**: optical waveguide
- (75) **21**: core
- (76) **21A**: first core
- (77) **21B**: second core
- (78) **21Ba**: light diffusion region
- (79) **22**: distal end surface of core
- (80) **23**: clad
- (81) **23a**: non-existent region of clad
- (82) **24**: intermediate clad
- (83) **30**: transparent member
- (84) **31**: resin lump
- (85) **32**: short optical waveguide
- (86) **33**: core of short optical waveguide
- (87) **34**: clad of short optical waveguide
- (88) **35**: proximal end surface of short optical waveguide
- (89) **40**: handle
- (90) **41**: circumferential rotating member
- (91) **42**: light source
- (92) **51**: first light
- (93) **52**: second light

Claims

1. A light therapy diagnostic device comprising: a shaft having a distal end and a proximal end in a longitudinal direction and a lumen extending in the longitudinal direction; an optical waveguide disposed in the lumen of the shaft such that the optical waveguide is movable forward and backward in the longitudinal direction; and a transparent member disposed in the lumen of the shaft and located distal to the optical waveguide, wherein: the optical waveguide guides a first light and a second light; the shaft has a lateral emission window located on a lateral part of the shaft and a distal emission window located on a distal end part of the shaft; the lateral emission window is configured to allow the first light and the second light to be emitted from the optical waveguide toward a lateral direction, which is perpendicular to the longitudinal direction; the distal emission window is configured to allow the first light to be emitted from the optical waveguide toward a distal direction, which is parallel to the longitudinal direction; the optical waveguide comprises a core and a clad, wherein a distal end surface of the core is inclined with respect to an optical axis of the optical waveguide; and the light therapy diagnostic device provides a forward observation mode in which the first light passes through the transparent member toward the distal direction in a state where the optical waveguide is in contact with the transparent member, and a lateral observation mode in which the first light guided through the core is reflected toward the lateral direction at a distal end part of the optical waveguide in a state where the optical waveguide is apart

from the transparent member; and the shaft and the optical waveguide are configured such that the forward observation mode and the lateral observation mode are switched by moving the optical waveguide forward or backward in the lumen of the shaft while keeping the optical waveguide remaining in the shaft, without withdrawing the optical waveguide from the shaft.

2. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, wherein the transparent member is a short optical waveguide having a shorter optical path than the optical waveguide, and a proximal end surface of the short optical waveguide is inclined with respect to the longitudinal direction of the shaft.

3. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 2, further comprising a circumferential rotating member, to which a proximal part of the optical waveguide is connected, that is configured to stop rotating at a predetermined rotation angle, wherein the optical waveguide and the short optical waveguide are configured such that a distal end surface of the optical waveguide and a proximal end surface of the short optical waveguide are parallel to each other in a state where the circumferential rotation member is at the predetermined rotation angle.

4. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, wherein the transparent member is made of a material softer than the optical waveguide.

5. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, wherein a distal end surface of the transparent member is perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the shaft.

6. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, wherein the lateral emission window is disposed over an entire circumference of the shaft.

7. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, further comprising a circumferential rotating member, wherein the circumferential rotating member is connected to a proximal part of the optical waveguide such that the optical waveguide is rotatable by rotating the circumferential rotating member in a circumferential direction of the shaft.

8. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, wherein the core of the optical waveguide comprises a first core, a second core disposed on the first core, and the clad disposed on the second core, and a refractive index n_1 of the first core, a refractive index n_2 of the second core, and a refractive index n_3 of the clad satisfy the relationship of $n_1 > n_2 > n_3$.

9. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 8, wherein the optical waveguide further comprises an intermediate clad disposed between the first core and the second core, and the refractive index n_1 of the first core, the refractive index n_2 of the second core, and a refractive index n_4 of the intermediate clad satisfy the relationship of $n_1 > n_2 > n_4$.

10. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 8, wherein the optical waveguide has a non-existent area of the clad where the clad does not exist on the second core, and the lateral emission window is located at a position corresponding to the non-existent area of the clad such that the second light is allowed to be emitted from the optical waveguide toward the lateral direction through the lateral emission window.

11. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 8, wherein the second core has a light diffusion region disposed proximal to the distal end surface of the core such that the second light is allowed to be emitted toward the lateral direction.

12. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 11, wherein the second core contains light diffusing particles in the light diffusion region.

13. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, wherein a distal end part of the shaft is tapered.

14. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, further comprising a light source that generates the first light; and a lens disposed between the light source and a distal end surface of the core, wherein the light source, the lens and the optical waveguide are configured such that the first light is guided through the optical waveguide.

15. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, further comprising a balloon, wherein the balloon is connected to the lumen of the shaft.

16. A method for operating the light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, comprising the steps of: guiding the first light to the optical waveguide in the forward observation mode to emit the first light from the distal emission window toward the distal direction; moving the optical waveguide in the lumen of the shaft in the longitudinal direction to switch the forward observation mode to the lateral observation mode while keeping the optical waveguide remaining in the shaft, without withdrawing the optical waveguide from the shaft; guiding the first light to the optical waveguide in the lateral observation mode to emit the first light from the lateral emission window toward the lateral direction; and guiding the second light to the optical waveguide to emit the second light from the lateral emission window in a state where the optical waveguide is apart from the transparent member.

17. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, further comprising at least one light source for generating the first light and the second light, wherein the light source and the optical waveguide are configured such that the first and second lights are guided through the optical waveguide, and a wavelength of the second light is different from a wavelength of the first light.

18. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, wherein the first light is an observation light and the second light is a treatment light.

19. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, wherein the light therapy diagnostic device is a device used for a photodynamic therapy or a photo-immunotherapy.

20. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, wherein a distal end surface of the shaft is a flat surface perpendicular to the longitudinal direction or a curved surface.

21. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, wherein the distal end surface of the core is a flat surface, and an inclination angle of normal of the distal end surface of the core with respect to the optical axis of the optical waveguide is 40 degrees or larger and 47 degrees or smaller.

22. The light therapy diagnostic device according to claim 1, wherein refractive indexes of the core of the optical waveguide and the transparent member are the same value.
