

# US Patent & Trademark Office

## Patent Public Search | Text View

United States Patent Application Publication

20250262001

Kind Code

A1

Publication Date

August 21, 2025

Inventor(s)

JIANG; Canhua et al.

### CONNECTION DEVICE AND SURGICAL NAVIGATION SYSTEM

#### Abstract

A connection device and a surgical navigation system are provided. The connection device is configured to connect two adjacent cascade tubes of the surgical navigation system. The connection device includes: a connection tube, a butting tube, a sleeve, and positioning balls. The connection tube and the butting tube are respectively arranged at two ends of the cascade tubes. The butting tube on one of the cascade tubes is configured to sleeve an outer wall of the connection tube on the other cascade tube. The connection tube is provided with a connection protrusion. A connection slot communicated to the inside of the butting tube is provided in an inner wall of the butting tube.

**Inventors:** JIANG; Canhua (Changsha, CN), LIANG; Ye (Changsha, CN), ZUO; Guokun (Ningbo, CN), ZHANG; Jiaji (Ningbo, CN), ZHENG; Yutian (Changsha, CN), XIAO; Cong (Ningbo, CN), SONG; Tao (Ningbo, CN), DENG; Hua (Changsha, CN), JIAN; Ai (Changsha, CN)

**Applicant:** CENTRAL SOUTH UNIVERSITY (Changsha, CN); NINGBO INSTITUTE OF MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING, CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (Ningbo, CN)

**Family ID:** 1000008630677

**Assignee:** CENTRAL SOUTH UNIVERSITY (Changsha, CN); NINGBO INSTITUTE OF MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING, CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (Ningbo, CN)

**Appl. No.:** 18/994640

**Filed (or PCT Filed):** June 05, 2024

**PCT No.:** PCT/CN2024/097391

#### Foreign Application Priority Data

CN

202310699928.2

Jun. 14, 2023

## Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: A61B34/20 (20160101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC A61B34/20 (20160201); A61B2034/2072 (20160201)

---

## Background/Summary

### TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to the technical field of medical instruments, and specifically, to a connection device and a surgical navigation system.

### BACKGROUND TECHNOLOGY

[0002] With the popularization of digital technology, in an oral surgery, a precise surgical operation can be carried out by putting a special instrument into the mouth of a patient. Due to a limited oral space, it is impossible to accurately obtain the position of the instrument after the instrument is put into the mouth, causing an increased surgical

### DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

#### Technical Problem

[0003] At present, a mechanical navigation device is usually used to obtain position information. The suitability of a cascade tube on the mechanical navigation device is related to the accuracy of entire navigation. In the existing technology, a length of the cascade tube in a surgical navigation system is usually not adjustable. When a patient has muscular and fatty cheeks, a length of a part, extending out of the mouth, of the cascade tube cannot meet a clinical need. Even if the cascade tube is fixed, the cascade tube may be loosened during the operation due to the impact of the cheek muscles or the impact of a thickness of the cheek fat, resulting in an error and a serious impact.

#### Technical Solution

[0004] The present invention aims to solve the problem that a length of a cascade tube in an existing surgical navigation system is not adjustable.

[0005] To solve the above problems, the present invention adopts the following technical solutions:

[0006] A connection device, configured to connect two adjacent cascade tubes of a surgical navigation system. The connection device includes: a connection tube, a butting tube, a sleeve, and a plurality of positioning balls; the connection tube and the butting tube are respectively arranged at two ends of the cascade tubes; the butting tube on one of the cascade tubes is configured to sleeve the connection tube on the other cascade tube;

[0007] the connection tube is provided with a connection protrusion; a connection slot communicated to the inside of the butting tube is provided in an inner wall of the butting tube; an opening of the connection slot is oriented away from one end of the cascade tube and is matched with the connection protrusion; when the butting tube sleeves the connection tube, the connection protrusion is configured to move from the opening of the connection slot into the connection slot;

[0008] ball connection slots that are matched with the positioning balls are provided in an outer wall of the connection tube; ball butting holes that are matched with the positioning balls are provided in a side wall of the butting tube in a penetrating manner; when the butting tube sleeves the connection tube, the ball butting holes are configured to be aligned with the ball connection slots to form positioning ball slots;

[0009] a ring slot is provided in an inner wall of the sleeve in a circumferential direction of the sleeve; the plurality of positioning balls are movably arranged in the ring slot; and when the butting

tube sleeves the connection tube, the sleeve is configured to sleeve the butting tube, so that the positioning balls are clamped in the positioning ball slots.

#### Beneficial Effects

[0010] Compared with the existing technology, the connection device according to the present invention has, but not limited to, the following beneficial effects:

[0011] When the cascade tubes in the surgical navigation system are short, more cascade tubes can be added, and two adjacent cascade tubes are connected through the connection device. During mounting, the butting tube on one cascade tube sleeves an outer wall of the connection tube on the other cascade tube, and the connection protrusion on the connection tube moves from the opening of the connection slot in the inner wall of the butting tube into the connection slot, to achieve preliminary fixed connection and align the ball butting holes with the ball connection slots to form the positioning ball slots. Afterwards, the sleeve that originally sleeves the butting tube and is away from the ball butting holes is moved to a position, directly facing the positioning ball slots, on the butting tube, so that the ring slot in the sleeve is aligned with the positioning ball slots. Then, the sleeve is rotated. In the rotation process of the sleeve, the positioning balls are driven to move in the ring slot, and the positioning balls are caused to move into the positioning ball slots, so that secondary fixed connection is then achieved. The ball connection slots and the ball butting holes are configured to accommodate the positioning balls and limit positions of the positioning balls, which ensures that the positioning balls are always in ideal positions. The mutual cooperation between the connection protrusion and the connection slot achieves the preliminary fixed connection, and the mutual cooperation between the sleeve, the positioning balls, and the positioning ball slots achieves secondary fixed connection to prevent relative rotation between the connection tube and the butting tube. On the one hand, the two fixed connections are conducive to adjusting the lengths of the cascade tubes, so that a user can adjust the lengths of the cascade tubes in the surgical navigation system according to an actual situation. On the other hand, it is conducive to reducing a gap between connected parts of two adjacent cascade tubes during connection, so as to improve the stability of connection, improve the connection accuracy, and reduce an error.

[0012] Preferably, the connection tube includes a fixed tube, a connection ring, and connection teeth; the connection protrusion is arranged on an outer wall of the connection ring; the connection teeth are arranged at one end of the connection ring in a protruding manner in an axial direction of the connection ring; the plurality of connection teeth are uniformly spaced apart in a square shape in a circumferential direction of the connection ring;

[0013] the fixed tube is configured for fixed connection with the cascade tubes; the ball connection slots are provided in an outer wall of the fixed tube; tooth slots that are matched with the connection teeth are provided in one end of the fixed tube facing the butting tube; and the connection teeth are configured to be plugged into the tooth slots and are connected in a cold-welding manner.

[0014] Preferably, each connection tooth includes a tip part, a middle part, and a root part; the root part is fixed to an end portion of the connection ring; the middle part is configured to be connected between the tip part and the root part; a cross section of the tip part is of a triangular structure; a cross section of the middle part is of an isosceles trapezoidal structure; a cross section of the root part is of a rectangular structure; one end of a long bottom edge of the cross section of the middle part is connected to the root part; one end of a short bottom edge of the cross section of the middle part is connected to the tip part; and a width of the root part is matched with a width of each tooth slot.

[0015] Preferably, the connection slot includes a first sliding chute, a second sliding chute, and a third sliding chute; the first sliding chute is arranged in an axial direction of the butting tube, and an opening of the first sliding chute penetrates through an end portion of the butting tube; one end of the first sliding chute away from the end portion of the butting tube is connected with the second

sliding chute perpendicular to the first sliding chute; the third sliding chute is arranged in the axial direction of the butting tube; and the third sliding chute is connected to one end of the second sliding chute away from the first sliding chute and is inversed to the first sliding chute.

[0016] Preferably, the connection slot further includes a limiting slot collinear with the third sliding chute, and the limiting slot is provided in one end of the third sliding chute close to the second sliding chute.

[0017] Preferably, a threaded slot is provided in an inner wall of one end of the cascade tube away from the connection tube; a connection thread matched with the threaded slot is formed on an outer wall of one end of the butting tube; and the butting tube is in threaded connection with the cascade tube.

[0018] Preferably, the connection device further includes an auxiliary spring; a spring slot is further provided in an inner wall of one end of the cascade tube away from the connection tube; the spring slot is communicated to the threaded slot; the auxiliary spring is mounted in the spring slot; and one end of the auxiliary spring resists against an inner wall of the spring slot, and the other end resists against the end portion of the butting tube.

[0019] Preferably, the plurality of ball connection slots are provided in the outer wall of the connection tube in a uniform spacing manner in a circumferential direction of the connection tube, and the ball connection slots are arranged in a plurality of rows; two adjacent rows of the ball connection slots are distributed in a staggered manner; and the ball butting holes are matched with the ball connection slots.

[0020] Preferably, the connection device further includes a limiting ring; the limiting ring is fixed on an outer wall of one end of the butting tube close to the ball butting holes; and an outer diameter of the limiting ring is greater than an inner diameter of the sleeve.

[0021] The present invention further provides a surgical navigation system, including a cascade tube and the above connection device; the cascade tube includes a straight tube, a first bent tube, and a second bent tube; the first bent tube and the second bent tube are respectively fixedly connected to two ends of the straight tube; the connection tube of the connection device is fixedly connected to the first bent tube; and the butting tube of the connection device is in threaded connection with the second bent tube.

[0022] Compared with the existing technology, the beneficial effects of the surgical navigation system are consistent with those of the connection device, and will not be elaborated here.

---

## Description

### DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0023] FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of an entire structure of a connection device according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0024] FIG. 2 is a partially structural enlarged view of part A in FIG. 1 according to an embodiment of the present invention;

[0025] FIG. 3 is a schematic sectional structural diagram of a butting tube according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0026] FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram of an entire sectional structure of a connection device according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

[0027] FIG. 5 is a schematic structural diagram of a cascade tube of a surgical navigation system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

### DESCRIPTIONS OF REFERENCE NUMERALS

[0028] **1**: connection tube; **11**: connection protrusion; **12**: ball connection slot; **13**: fixed tube; **14**: connection ring; **15**: connection tooth; **151**: tip part; **152**: middle part; **153**: root part; **16**: tooth slot; **2**: butting tube; **21**: connection slot; **211**: first sliding chute; **212**: second sliding chute; **213**: third

sliding chute; **214**: limiting slot; **22**: ball butting hole; **23**: limiting ring; **24**: connection thread; **3**: sleeve; **30**: ring slot; **4**: positioning ball; **5**: auxiliary spring; **50**: spring slot; **6**: cascade tube; **61**: straight tube; **62**: first bent tube; **63**: second bent tube; and **64**: swivel bearing.

## IMPLEMENTATION MODES OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

[0029] Implementations of the present application will be described in detail below in conjunction with accompanying drawings and embodiments. The following embodiments are used for explaining the present application, but not intended to limit the scope of the present application.

[0030] In the description of the present invention, it should be understood that orientations or positional relationships indicated by the terms “upper”, “lower”, “front”, “rear”, “left”, “right”, and the like are orientations or positional relationships as shown in the drawings, and are only for the purpose of facilitating and simplifying the description of the present invention instead of indicating or implying that components or elements indicated must have particular orientations, and be constructed and operated in the particular orientations, so that these terms are not construed as limiting the present invention.

[0031] It should be noted that in a coordinate system XYZ provided herein, the positive X-axis represents the right; the negative X-axis represents the left; the positive Y-axis represents the front; the negative Y-axis represents the back; the positive Z-axis represents the top; and the negative Z-axis represents the bottom. Meanings of Z-axis, X-axis, and Y-axis are only for the convenience of describing the present invention and simplifying the description, and do not indicate or imply that the components or elements referred to need have a specific orientation and be constructed and operated in a specific orientation. Therefore, they may not be understood as limiting the present invention.

[0032] Referring to FIG. 1 to FIG. 5, the present invention provides a connection device, configured to connect two adjacent cascade tubes **6** of a surgical navigation system. The connection device includes: a connection tube **1**, a butting tube **2**, a sleeve **3**, and a plurality of positioning balls **4**. The connection tube **1** and the butting tube **2** are respectively arranged at two ends of the cascade tubes **6**; and the butting tube **2** on one of the cascade tubes **6** is configured to sleeve the connection tube **1** on the other cascade tube **6**.

[0033] Referring to FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, the connection tube **1** is provided with a connection protrusion **11**; a connection slot **21** communicated to the inside of the butting tube **2** is provided in an inner wall of the butting tube **2**; and an opening of the connection slot **21** is oriented away from one end of the cascade tube **6**, and the connection slot **21** is matched with the connection protrusion **11**. When butting tube **2** sleeves the connection tube **1**, the connection protrusion **11** is configured to move from the opening of the connection slot **21** into the connection slot **21**.

[0034] Referring to FIG. 4, ball connection slots **12** that are matched with the positioning balls **4** are provided in an outer wall of the connection tube **1**. Ball butting holes **22** that are matched with the positioning balls **4** are provided in a side wall of the butting tube **2** in a penetrating manner. When the butting tube **2** sleeves the connection tube **1**, the ball butting holes **22** are configured to be aligned with the ball connection slots **12** to form positioning ball slots.

[0035] Referring to FIG. 4, a ring slot **30** is provided in an inner wall of the sleeve **3** in a circumferential direction of the sleeve **3**. The plurality of positioning balls **4** are movably arranged in the ring slot **30**. When the butting tube **2** sleeves the connection tube **1**, the sleeve **3** is configured to sleeve the butting tube **2**, so that the positioning balls **4** are clamped in the positioning ball slots.

[0036] In this embodiment, when the cascade tubes **6** in the surgical navigation system are short, more cascade tubes **6** can be added, and two adjacent cascade tubes **6** are connected through the connection device. During mounting, the butting tube **2** on one cascade tube **6** sleeves an outer wall of the connection tube **1** on the other cascade tube **6**, and the connection protrusion **11** on the connection tube **1** moves from the opening of the connection slot **21** in the inner wall of the butting tube into the connection slot **21** into the connection slot **21**, to achieve preliminary fixed connection and align the ball butting holes **22** with the ball connection slots **12** to form the positioning ball

slots. Afterwards, the sleeve **3** that originally sleeves the butting tube **2** and is away from the ball butting holes **22** is moved to a position, directly facing the positioning ball slots, on the butting tube **2**, so that the ring slot **30** in the sleeve **3** is aligned with the positioning ball slots. Then, the sleeve **3** is rotated. In the rotation process of the sleeve **3**, the positioning balls **4** are driven to move in the ring slot **30**, and the positioning balls **4** are caused to move into the positioning ball slots, so that secondary fixed connection is then achieved. The ball connection slots **12** and the ball butting holes **22** are configured to accommodate the positioning balls **4** and limit positions of the positioning balls **4**, which ensures that the positioning balls **4** are always in ideal positions. The mutual cooperation between the connection protrusion **11** and the connection slot **21** achieves the preliminary fixed connection, and the mutual cooperation between the sleeve **3**, the positioning balls **4**, and the positioning ball slots achieves secondary fixed connection to prevent relative rotation between the connection tube **1** and the butting tube **2**. On the one hand, the two fixed connections are conducive to adjusting the lengths of the cascade tubes, so that a user can adjust the lengths of the cascade tubes in the surgical navigation system according to an actual situation. On the other hand, it is conducive to reducing a gap between connected parts of two adjacent cascade tubes during connection, so as to improve the stability of connection, improve the connection accuracy, and reduce an error.

[0037] Referring to FIG. 1 to FIG. 2, preferably, the connection tube **1** includes a fixed tube **13**, a connection ring **14**, and connection teeth **15**. The connection protrusion **11** is arranged on an outer wall of the connection ring **14**. The connection teeth **15** are arranged at one end of the connection ring **14** in a protruding manner in an axial direction of the connection ring **14**. The plurality of connection teeth **15** are uniformly spaced apart in a square shape in a circumferential direction of the connection ring **14**.

[0038] The fixed tube **13** is configured for fixed connection with the cascade tubes **6**. The ball connection slots **12** are provided in an outer wall of the fixed tube **13**. Tooth slots **16** that are matched with the connection teeth **15** are provided in one end of the fixed tube **13** facing the butting tube **2**. The connection teeth **15** are configured to be plugged into the tooth slots **16** and are connected in a cold-welding manner.

[0039] Specifically, the connection teeth **15** are arranged in one-to-one correspondence with the tooth slots **16**. When the connection device is connected at a preset position, the connection teeth **15** are engaged with the tooth slots **16** one by one.

[0040] In this embodiment, during mounting, the connection protrusion **11** on the connection ring **14** is first aligned with the opening of the connection slot **21** on the butting tube **2**. Then, the connection ring **14** is moved into the butting tube **2**, and the connection protrusion **11** is moved into the connection slot **21** to prevent the connection ring **14** from rotating in the butting tube **2**. Afterwards, the connection ring **14** is connected to the fixed tube **13**, namely, the connection teeth **15** on the connection ring **14** are plugged into the tooth slots **16** and are connected in a cold-welding manner. The arrangement of the connection protrusion **11** and the connection slot **21** is conducive to preventing a rotation vacancy in the connection device. During actual use, if the connection protrusion **11** is directly arranged on the fixed tube **13**, it cannot ensure that the connection protrusion is aligned with the connection slot **21** during mounting. Therefore, by the arrangement of the connection ring **14**, during mounting, the connection ring **14** can be first rotated to first align the connection protrusion **11** to the connection slot **21** and is mounted in the butting tube **2**. Then, the connection teeth **15** are connected to the tooth slots **16** to fix the connection ring **14** on the fixed tube **13**. This structure is conducive to adjusting a circumferential position of the connection protrusion **11**, so that the connection protrusion **11** can be aligned with the opening of the connection slot **21**, to improve the convenience of mounting.

[0041] Referring to FIG. 2, preferably, each connection tooth **15** includes a tip part **151**, a middle part **152**, and a root part **153**; the root part **153** is fixed to an end portion of the connection ring **14**; the middle part **152** is configured to be connected between the tip part **151** and the root part **153**; a

cross section of the tip part **151** is of a triangular structure; a cross section of the middle part **152** is of an isosceles trapezoidal structure; a cross section of the root part **153** is of a rectangular structure; one end of a long bottom edge of the cross section of the middle part **152** is connected to the root part **153**; one end of a short bottom edge of the cross section of the middle part **152** is connected to the tip part **151**; and a width of the root part **153** is matched with a width of each tooth slot **16**.

[0042] Specifically, the tip part **151** is an isosceles triangle, the bottom edge of one end of the cross section of the middle part **152** has a consistent edge length with the bottom edge of the triangle of the tip part **151**. An edge length of the bottom edge of the other end of the cross section of the middle part **152** is consistent with a width of the root part **153**. When the connection tooth **15** is plugged into the tooth slot **16**, the root part **153** is configured to provide a friction force with the tooth slot **16**, so that the connection tooth **15** and the tooth slot **16** are engaged with each other.

[0043] An acute angle formed by a waistline of the cross section of the tip part **151** of the connection tooth **15** and an axis of the connection ring **14** is 40 degrees, and an acute angle formed by a waistline of the cross section of the middle part **152** and the axis of the connection ring **14** is 8 degrees. This structure is conducive to quickly plugging the connection tooth **15** into the tooth slot **16**.

[0044] In this embodiment, the arrangement of the tip part **151**, the middle part **152**, and the root part **153** facilitates the quick plugging of the connection tooth **15** into the tooth slot **16**, to maintain friction with the tooth slot **16** through the root part **153**. In addition, the cold-welding effect is beneficial for enhancing the connection between the connection ring **14** and the fixed tube **13**.

[0045] Referring to FIG. 3, preferably, the connection slot **21** includes a first sliding chute **211**, a second sliding chute **212**, and a third sliding chute **213**; the first sliding chute **211** is arranged in an axial direction of the butting tube **2**, and an opening of the first sliding chute **211** penetrates through an end portion of the butting tube **2**; one end of the first sliding chute **211** away from the end portion of the butting tube **2** is connected with the second sliding chute **212** perpendicular to the first sliding chute **211**; the third sliding chute **213** is arranged in the axial direction of the butting tube **2**; and the third sliding chute **213** is connected to one end of the second sliding chute **212** away from the first sliding chute **211** and is inversed to the first sliding chute **211**.

[0046] Specifically, one end of the connection protrusion **11** away from the fixed tube **13** is a first end, and the other end is a second end. A cross-sectional width of the first end is less than that of the second end. A width of the first sliding chute **211** is greater than a cross-sectional width of the second end of the connection protrusion **11**, which facilitates the connection protrusion **11** to smoothly enter the connection slot **21** from the opening of the first sliding chute **211**. A connection between the second sliding chute **212** and the first sliding chute **211** is provided with a circular arc structure, and a width of the second sliding chute **212** is greater than a length of the connection protrusion **11**, which facilitates rotation when the connection ring **14** is located at the deepest part of the first sliding chute **211**, so that the connection protrusion **11** can be twisted towards the second sliding chute **212**. A width of one end of the third sliding chute **213** close to the second sliding chute **212** is greater than the cross-sectional width of the second end of the connection protrusion **11**. A width of one end of the third sliding chute **213** away from the second sliding chute **212** is matched with the cross-sectional width of the first end of the connection protrusion **11**. Two waistlines of the third sliding chute **213** are respectively parallel to the two waistlines of the connection protrusion **11**, so as to facilitate the connection protrusion **11** to move to the third sliding chute **213** to achieve fixed clamping.

[0047] In this embodiment, the connection protrusion **11**, the first sliding chute **211**, the second sliding chute **212**, and the third sliding chute **213** cooperate with each other, so that the connection ring **14** achieves preliminary fixation with the butting tube **2** by movement and rotation when the connection ring is inserted into the butting tube **2**, which is conducive to strengthening the fixing effect.

[0048] Referring to FIG. 3, preferably, the connection slot **21** further includes a limiting slot **214** collinear with the third sliding chute **213**, and the limiting slot **214** is provided in one end of the third sliding chute **213** close to the second sliding chute **212**.

[0049] In this embodiment, due to the arrangement of the limiting slot **214**, it is conducive to preventing the connection protrusion **11** from falling off from the connection slot **21**, thus facilitating prevention of the connection tube **1** from falling off from the butting tube **2**.

[0050] Referring to FIG. 3, preferably, a threaded slot is provided in an inner wall of one end of the cascade tube **6** away from the connection tube **1**; a connection thread **24** matched with the threaded slot is formed on an outer wall of one end of the butting tube **2**; and the butting tube **2** is in threaded connection with the cascade tube **6**.

[0051] In this embodiment, the butting tube **2** is in threaded connection to the end of the cascade tube **6** away from the connection tube **1**. By this structure, the butting tube **2** is detachably mounted on the cascade tube **6**, to improve the convenience of mounting or removal for a user.

[0052] Referring to FIG. 4, preferably, the connection device further includes an auxiliary spring **5**; a spring slot **50** is further provided in an inner wall of one end of the cascade tube **6** away from the connection tube **1**; the spring slot **50** is communicated to the threaded slot; the auxiliary spring **5** is mounted in the spring slot **50**; and one end of the auxiliary spring **5** resists against an inner wall of the spring slot **50**, and the other end resists against the end portion of the butting tube **2**.

[0053] Specifically, one end of the auxiliary spring **5** can further sleeve the butting tube **2** and is fixedly connected to the outside of the butting tube **2**, and the other end of the auxiliary spring **5** resists against the inner wall of the spring slot **50**, so that the auxiliary spring **5** is connected between the butting tube **2** and the inner wall of the spring slot **50**.

[0054] In this embodiment, after the connection thread **24** is tightened, the auxiliary spring **5** is pushed to apply a force to the butting tube **2** towards the connection tube **1**, which is conducive to avoiding an axial vacancy generated after the butting tube **2** and the cascade tube **6** are tightened.

[0055] Referring to FIG. 1, preferably, the plurality of ball connection slots **12** are provided in the outer wall of the connection tube **1** in a uniform spacing manner in a circumferential direction of the connection tube, and the ball connection slots **12** are arranged in a plurality of rows; two adjacent rows of the ball connection slots **12** are distributed in a staggered manner; and the ball butting holes **22** are matched with the ball connection slots **12**.

[0056] Specifically, a number of the positioning balls **4** is consistent with a number of the ball connection slots **12**.

[0057] In this embodiment, two adjacent rows of the ball connection slots **12** are distributed in a staggered manner, so that two adjacent rows of positioning ball slots are also distributed in a staggered manner. The positioning balls **4** are clamped into the staggered positioning ball slots, which is conducive to improving the stability of secondary connection.

[0058] Referring to FIG. 3 to FIG. 4, preferably, the connection device further includes a limiting ring **23**; the limiting ring **23** is fixed on an outer wall of one end of the butting tube **2** close to the ball butting holes **22**; and an outer diameter of the limiting ring **23** is greater than an inner diameter of the sleeve **3**.

[0059] In this embodiment, due to the arrangement of the limiting ring **23**, it is conducive to preventing the sleeve **3** from falling off from the butting tube **2**.

[0060] Referring to FIG. 5, the present invention further provides a surgical navigation system, including a cascade tube **6** and the above connection device; the cascade tube **6** includes a straight tube **61**, a first bent tube **62**, and a second bent tube **63**; the first bent tube **62** and the second bent tube **63** are respectively fixedly connected to two ends of the straight tube **61**; the connection tube **1** of the connection device is fixedly connected to the first bent tube **62**; and the butting tube **2** of the connection device is in threaded connection with the second bent tube **63**.

[0061] Compared with the existing technology, the beneficial effects of the surgical navigation system are consistent with those of the connection device, and will not be elaborated here.



[0062] Referring to FIG. 5, the surgical navigation system further includes a swivel bearing **64**, a sensor, and an operating device. The swivel bearing **64** is arranged on the second bent tube **63** and the straight tube **61** to enable the cascade tube **6** to rotate according to an actual need, thereby ensuring an accurate navigation position. The operating device is arranged at a tail end of the last cascade tube **6** of the surgical navigation system. The operating device is configured to extend into an oral cavity and perform surgery on the oral cavity.

[0063] In this embodiment, the sensor is configured to: obtain a position of the cascade tube **6** and calculate and locate the operating device, and the precise position of the operating device is presented through coordinates, so as to perform ranging, leveling and orientation determination in a surgery, which is conducive to improving the accuracy of the surgical navigation system in use and improving the surgical safety.

[0064] Although the present invention is as described above, the scope of protection of the present invention is not limited to this. For those skilled in the art, various changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention, and these changes and modifications shall fall within the scope of protection of the present invention.

## Claims

1. A connection device, configured to connect two adjacent cascade tubes of a surgical navigation system, wherein the connection device comprises: a connection tube, a butting tube, a sleeve, and a plurality of positioning balls; the connection tube and the butting tube are respectively arranged at two ends of the two adjacent cascade tubes; the butting tube on a first one of the two adjacent cascade tubes is configured to sleeve the connection tube on a second one of the two adjacent cascade tubes; the connection tube is provided with a connection protrusion; a connection slot-communicated to an inside of the butting tube is provided in an inner wall of the butting tube; an opening of the connection slot is oriented away from one end of the cascade tube, and the connection slot is matched with the connection protrusion; when the butting tube sleeves the connection tube, the connection protrusion is configured to move from the opening of the connection slot into the connection slot; ball connection slots that are matched with the plurality of positioning balls are provided in an outer wall of the connection tube; ball butting holes that are matched with the plurality of positioning balls are provided in a side wall of the butting tube in a penetrating manner; when the butting tube sleeves the connection tube, the ball butting holes are configured to be aligned with the ball connection slots to form positioning ball slots; a ring slot is provided in an inner wall of the sleeve in a circumferential direction of the sleeve; the plurality of positioning balls are movably arranged in the ring slot; and when the butting tube sleeves the connection tube, the sleeve is configured to sleeve the butting tube, wherein the plurality of positioning balls are clamped in the positioning ball slots; wherein the connection tube comprises a fixed tube, a connection ring, and connection teeth; the connection protrusion is arranged on an outer wall of the connection ring; the connection teeth are arranged at one end of the connection ring in a protruding manner in an axial direction of the connection ring; the plurality of connection teeth are uniformly spaced apart in a square shape in a circumferential direction of the connection ring; the fixed tube is configured for fixed connection with the two adjacent cascade tubes; the ball connection slots are provided in an outer wall of the fixed tube; tooth slots that are matched with the connection teeth are provided in one end of the fixed tube facing the butting tube; and the connection teeth are configured to be plugged into the tooth slots and are connected in a cold-welding manner.

2. (canceled)

3. The connection device according to claim 1, wherein each connection tooth comprises a tip part, a middle part, and a root part; the root part is fixed to an end portion of the connection ring; the middle part is configured to be connected between the tip part and the root part; a cross section of

- the tip part is of a triangular structure; a cross section of the middle part is of an isosceles trapezoidal structure; a cross section of the root part is of a rectangular structure; one end of a long bottom edge of the cross section of the middle part is connected to the root part; one end of a short bottom edge of the cross section of the middle part is connected to the tip part; and a width of the root part is matched with a width of each tooth slot.
- 4.** The connection device according to claim 1, wherein the connection slot comprises a first sliding chute, a second sliding chute, and a third sliding chute; the first sliding chute is arranged in an axial direction of the butting tube, and an opening of the first sliding chute penetrates through an end portion of the butting tube; one end of the first sliding chute away from the end portion of the butting tube is connected with the second sliding chute perpendicular to the first sliding chute; the third sliding chute is arranged in the axial direction of the butting tube; and the third sliding chute is connected to one end of the second sliding chute away from the first sliding chute and is inversed to the first sliding chute.
- 5.** The connection device according to claim 4, wherein the connection slot further comprises a limiting slot collinear with the third sliding chute, and the limiting slot is provided in one end of the third sliding chute close adjacent to the second sliding chute.
- 6.** The connection device according to claim 1, wherein a threaded slot is provided in an inner wall of one end of the cascade tube away from the connection tube; a connection thread matched with the threaded slot is formed on an outer wall of one end of the butting tube; and the butting tube is in threaded connection with the cascade tube.
- 7.** The connection device according to claim 6, further comprising an auxiliary spring, wherein a spring slot is further provided in an inner wall of the one end of the cascade tube away from the connection tube; the spring slot is communicated to the threaded slot; the auxiliary spring is mounted in the spring slot; and a first end of the auxiliary spring resists against an inner wall of the spring slot, and a second end of the auxiliary spring resists against an end portion of the butting tube.
- 8.** The connection device according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of ball connection slots are provided in the outer wall of the connection tube in a uniform spacing manner in a circumferential direction of the connection tube, and the ball connection slots are arranged in a plurality of rows; two adjacent rows of the ball connection slots are distributed in a staggered manner; and the ball butting holes are matched with the ball connection slots.
- 9.** The connection device according to claim 1, further comprising a limiting ring, wherein the limiting ring is fixed on an outer wall of one end of the butting tube adjacent to the ball butting holes; and an outer diameter of the limiting ring is greater than an inner diameter of the sleeve.
- 10.** A surgical navigation system, comprising a cascade tube and the connection device according to claim 1, wherein the cascade tube comprises a straight tube, a first bent tube, and a second bent tube; the first bent tube and the second bent tube are respectively fixedly connected to two ends of the straight tube; the connection tube of the connection device is fixedly connected to the first bent tube; and the butting tube of the connection device is in threaded connection with the second bent tube.
- 11.** The surgical navigation system according to claim 10, wherein in the connection device, each connection tooth comprises a tip part, a middle part, and a root part; the root part is fixed to an end portion of the connection ring; the middle part is configured to be connected between the tip part and the root part; a cross section of the tip part is of a triangular structure; a cross section of the middle part is of an isosceles trapezoidal structure; a cross section of the root part is of a rectangular structure; one end of a long bottom edge of the cross section of the middle part is connected to the root part; one end of a short bottom edge of the cross section of the middle part is connected to the tip part; and a width of the root part is matched with a width of each tooth slot.
- 12.** The surgical navigation system according to claim 10, wherein in the connection device, the connection slot comprises a first sliding chute, a second sliding chute, and a third sliding chute; the

first sliding chute is arranged in an axial direction of the butting tube, and an opening of the first sliding chute penetrates through an end portion of the butting tube; one end of the first sliding chute away from the end portion of the butting tube is connected with the second sliding chute perpendicular to the first sliding chute; the third sliding chute is arranged in the axial direction of the butting tube; and the third sliding chute is connected to one end of the second sliding chute away from the first sliding chute and is inversed to the first sliding chute.

**13.** The surgical navigation system according to claim 12, wherein in the connection device, the connection slot further comprises a limiting slot collinear with the third sliding chute, and the limiting slot is provided in one end of the third sliding chute adjacent to the second sliding chute.

**14.** The surgical navigation system according to claim 10, wherein in the connection device, a threaded slot is provided in an inner wall of one end of the cascade tube away from the connection tube; a connection thread matched with the threaded slot is formed on an outer wall of one end of the butting tube; and the butting tube is in threaded connection with the cascade tube.

**15.** The surgical navigation system according to claim 14, wherein the connection device further comprises an auxiliary spring, wherein a spring slot is further provided in an inner wall of the one end of the cascade tube away from the connection tube; the spring slot is communicated to the threaded slot; the auxiliary spring is mounted in the spring slot; and a first end of the auxiliary spring resists against an inner wall of the spring slot, and a second end of the auxiliary spring resists against an end portion of the butting tube.

**16.** The surgical navigation system according to claim 10, wherein in the connection device, the plurality of ball connection slots are provided in the outer wall of the connection tube in a uniform spacing manner in a circumferential direction of the connection tube, and the ball connection slots are arranged in a plurality of rows; two adjacent rows of the ball connection slots are distributed in a staggered manner; and the ball butting holes are matched with the ball connection slots.

**17.** The surgical navigation system according to claim 10, wherein the connection device further comprises a limiting ring, wherein the limiting ring is fixed on an outer wall of one end of the butting tube adjacent to the ball butting holes; and an outer diameter of the limiting ring is greater than an inner diameter of the sleeve.

---