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Surgical device

Abstract

A surgical device includes a forceps device that performs a bending movement and opening and closing movements of grasping portions of the forceps device, driven portions to which a driving force is transmitted from outside the surgical device, and plural cords, each being fixed to one of the driven portions, the cords transmitting movements of the driven portions to the forceps device. The forceps device performs one or both of the bending movement and the opening and closing movements when all or a portion of the cords are pulled.

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Background/Summary

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS (1) This application is a continuation application of International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2019/051045, filed on Dec. 25, 2019, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

1. Field

(1) The present disclosure relates to a surgical device.

2. Description of Related Art

(2) For master-slave surgical robots, there have been demands for a technology for transmitting external forces acting on robotic forceps (surgical device) to an operator who operates the robot from an isolated place in order to improve safety and reduce the time for doctors to learn the operation. An external force transmitted to the operator is estimated on the basis of information such as the position and the driving force of an actuator, etc.

(3) A related art method of transmitting driving force generated by a driving source such as an actuator via wires to a surgical device to drive the surgical device tends to have a complicated mechanism.

SUMMARY

(4) It is an aspect to provide a novel structure that relatively simply drives a surgical device.

(5) According to an aspect of one or more embodiments, a surgical device may include a forceps device configured to perform a bending movement and to perform opening and closing movements of grasping portions of the forceps device; a plurality of driven portions to which a driving force is transmitted from outside the surgical device; and a plurality of cords, each being fixed to one of the plurality of driven portions, the plurality of cords transmitting movements of the plurality of driven portions to the forceps device, wherein the forceps device performs at least one of the bending movement and the opening and closing movements when at least a portion of the plurality of cords are pulled.

(6) According to another aspect of one or more embodiments, a surgical device may include a forceps device; a plurality of driven portions to which a driving force is transmitted from outside the surgical device; and a plurality of cords, each being fixed to one of the plurality of driven portions, the plurality of cords transmitting movements of the plurality of driven portions to the forceps device. The forceps device may include a first arm; a second arm connected to the first arm by a first joint that is rotatable about a first axis by a first one of the plurality of cords; and a plurality of grasping portions connected to the second arm by a second joint that is rotatable about a second axis by respective second ones of the plurality of cords, the second axis being different from the first axis, and the first joint and the second joint are rotatable independently of each other.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

(1) FIG. 1 is a drawing for explaining a structure of a surgical device according to an embodiment;

(2) FIG. 2 is a partial cross-sectional view explaining an engaged state of the surgical device in FIG. 1 with an adapter, according to an embodiment;

(3) FIG. 3 is a perspective view explaining arrangement of a first housing part and a second housing part of the surgical device in FIG. 1, according to an embodiment;

(4) FIG. 4 is a top view explaining a structure inside a housing in FIG. 1, according to an embodiment;

(5) FIG. 5 is a partial cross-sectional view explaining the structure inside the housing in FIG. 1,

according to an embodiment;

(6) FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a forceps device, according to an embodiment;

(7) FIG. 7 illustrates the forceps device as viewed in a direction of an arrow A in FIG. 6;

(8) FIG. 8 illustrates the forceps device as viewed in a direction of an arrow B in FIG. 6;

(9) FIG. 9 illustrates the forceps device as viewed in a direction of an arrow C in FIG. 6;

(10) FIG. 10 is a perspective view illustrating a roller base and first to fourth guide rollers, according to an embodiment; and

(11) FIG. 11A is a view in a direction D in FIG. 8, and FIG. 11B illustrates a state in which a first joint is bending from a state illustrated in FIG. 11A, according to an embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

(12) In a related art method for driving a surgical device of a robot, a method of transmitting driving force generated by a driving source such as an actuator via wires to a surgical device, wires are arranged between the driving source and the surgical device, and are adjusted to have a tension within a predetermined range. However, this method for driving the surgical device decelerates the rotating force of a motor via some gears and then drives the surgical device, which makes the mechanism complicated.

(13) A surgical device **100** according to an embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. 1 to 5. FIG. 1 is a drawing for explaining a structure of the surgical device according to an embodiment. FIG. 2 is a partial cross-sectional view explaining an engaged state of the surgical device FIG. 1 with an adapter, according to an embodiment. FIG. 3 is a perspective view explaining arrangement of a first housing part and a second housing part of the surgical device in FIG. 1, according to an embodiment. FIG. 4 is a top view explaining a structure inside a housing in FIG. 1, according to an embodiment. FIG. 5 is a partial cross-sectional view explaining the structure inside the housing in FIG. 1, according to an embodiment.

(14) The surgical device **100** of an embodiment is to be applied to a master-slave surgical robot and to be used in operations. As described in FIG. 1, the surgical device **100** mainly includes a shaft **111** having a leading end at which forceps (operating part) **K** are located, and a housing **20** to be mounted on a surgical robot.

(15) The shaft **111** is a member formed in a rod-like shape extending from the housing **20**. An embodiment is described referring to application to an example in which the shaft **111** is a rod-shaped member extending in a Z-axis direction. A forceps device **K**, which is the operating part, is provided on the leading end, which is an end opposite the housing **20** (an end on a positive side of the Z axis), of the shaft **111**. A space extending from the housing **20** to the forceps device **K** (along the Z-axis direction) is formed inside the shaft **111**. A plurality of wires **35**, which will be described later, may be arranged in the space.

(16) As illustrated in FIG. 2, the housing **20** is attachable to and detachable from an adapter **102** of a surgical robot. Driving force for driving the forceps device **K** is transmitted from a power unit **104** to the housing **20** via a power transmission part (external) **103** of the adapter **102**.

(17) As illustrated in FIGS. 3 to 5, the housing **20** mainly includes a first housing part (support part) **21**, a second housing part (support part) **22**, drive elements (driven portions) **31**, the wires (cords) **35**, pulleys (rotating members) **41**, pulley rotating shafts (rotating shaft parts) **46**, fixing blocks (fixing parts) **51**, and fixing screws (fixing elements) **56**.

(18) As illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 5, the first housing part **21** and the second housing part **22** are plate-shaped members constituting at least part of the body of the housing **20**. An embodiment will be described referring to application to an example in which the first housing part **21** is located on a side of the housing **20** facing the adapter **102** (a face on the Y axis negative side of the housing **20**), and the second housing part **22** is located on a side of the housing **20** opposite the adapter **102** (a face on the Y axis positive side of the housing **20**). In addition, an embodiment is described referring to application to an example in which the first housing part **21** and the second housing part **22** are parallel to the X-Z plane.

(19) As illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 5, at least the wires 35, guide pulleys 26, the pulleys 41, the pulley rotating shafts 46, and the fixing blocks 51 are arranged between the first housing part 21 and the second housing part 22.

(20) In regions near the ends of the first housing part 21 and the second housing part 22 on a side opposite the shaft 111 (on the Z axis negative side), long holes 23 for pulley used for arrangement of the pulleys 41 are formed.

(21) The long holes 23 for pulley are through-holes extending toward the shaft 111 side (the Z axis positive side) of the first housing part 21 and the second housing part 22. In other words, the long holes 23 for pulley are long holes extending along the Z-axis direction. An embodiment is described referring to application to an example in which three long holes 23 for pulley are arranged in the X-axis direction with a space therebetween. Alternatively, the number of long holes 23 for pulley may be more than or less than three.

(22) The first housing part 21 has long holes 24 for driving in which the drive elements 31 are disposed. The long holes 24 for driving allow movement of the drive elements 31 in a direction along the first housing part 21, and restrict movement thereof in a direction away from the first housing part 21 (the Y-axis direction).

(23) The long holes 24 for driving are located at positions on the first housing part 21 closer to the shaft 111 than the long holes 23 for pulley are. For example, the long holes 24 for driving are located in a central region in the Z-axis direction of the first housing part 21.

(24) The long holes 24 for driving are through-holes extending linearly toward the shaft 111 side (the Z axis positive side). In other words, the long holes 24 for driving are long holes extending along the Z-axis direction. An embodiment is described referring to application to an example in which three long holes 24 for driving are arranged in the X-axis direction with a space therebetween. Alternatively, the number of long holes 24 for driving may corresponds to the number of long holes 23 for pulley, and may be more than or less than three.

(25) An embodiment is described referring to application to an example in which three long holes 24 for driving have an equal length in the Z-axis direction. Note that the lengths in the Z-axis direction of the three long holes 24 for driving may be equal to each other as mentioned above, or may be different from each other.

(26) The guide pulleys 26 guide the wires 35, which extend from the drive elements 31 to the shaft 111, into an internal space of the shaft 111. More specifically, the guide pulleys 26 guide the wires 35, which extend from the drive elements 31 each located on the positive side or the negative side in the X-axis direction with respect to the shaft 111 with a space from the shaft 111, to the shaft 111.

(27) As illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 5, the guide pulleys 26 are arranged in an end region on the shaft 111 side (on the Z axis positive side) between the first housing part 21 and the second housing part 22. In other words, the guide pulleys 26 are arranged between the long holes 24 for driving and the shaft 111 in a space between the first housing part 21 and the second housing part 22.

(28) The guide pulleys 26 are attached to at least one of the first housing part 21 and the second housing part 22, and are each rotatable about an axis along the Y-axis direction. The shapes and structures of the guide pulleys 26 may be known shapes and structures, which are not particularly limited.

(29) As illustrated in FIGS. 4 and 5, the drive elements 31 receives driving force transmitted from the power transmission part 103 of the adapter 102, and transmit the transmitted driving force to the wires 35. The drive elements 31 are caused to reciprocate along the long holes 24 for driving by the driving force transmitted from the power transmission part 103.

(30) The face of each drive element 31 facing the long hole 24 for driving has a projecting and recessed shape that allows relative movement of the element 31 along the first housing part 21 and restricts movement thereof away from the first housing part 21. Each long hole 24 for driving has a projecting and recessed shape to be engaged with the projecting and recessed shape of the drive

element **31**. Note that the projecting and recessed shapes may be known shapes, and are not particularly limited.

(31) Furthermore, a region of each drive element **31** facing the power transmission part **103** has a projecting and recessed shape used for transmission of the driving force. The projecting and recessed shape is a shape allowing the drive elements **31** and the power transmission part **103** to be engaged with and separated from each other in the Y-axis direction. Note that the projecting and recessed shape may be a known shape, and is not particularly limited.

(32) The wires **35** transmit the driving force transmitted to the drive elements **31** to the forceps device K. In other words, the wires **35** transmit the movement of the drive elements **31** to the forceps device K. Known materials and shapes may be used for the material and the shape of the wires **35**, and are not particularly limited.

(33) A wire **35** that extends from a drive element **31** in the Z-axis negative direction is wound around a pulley **41**. After being wound around the pulley **41**, the wire **35** extends in the Z-axis positive direction and is guided into the shaft **111**.

(34) A wire **35** that extends in the Z-axis positive direction from a drive element **31** that is located away from the shaft **111** in the X-axis direction, for example, is wound around a guide pulley **26** and guided into the shaft **111**.

(35) The wires **35** that are guided into the shaft **111** transmit the driving force to the forceps device K. The structure for transmitting the driving force may be a known structure. For example, the end of each of the wires **35** guided into the shaft **111** may be attached to the forceps device K, or the ends of the respective wires **35** may be connected in a loop shape and wound around a pulley in the forceps device K. The connection between forceps and each wire will be described with reference to a forceps device, which will be describe later.

(36) The pulleys **41** are members formed in a cylindrical shape having a circumferential face around which a wire **35** is wound. Each pulley **41** changes the direction of a wire **35** extending from a drive element **31** in the Z-axis negative direction to the Z-axis positive direction.

(37) Each of the pulleys **41** is arranged in a long hole **23** for pulley with a pulley rotating shaft **46**, a fixing block **51**, and a fixing screw **56**. In other words, the pulleys **41** are positioned so that the drive elements **31** are between the shaft **111** on which the forceps device K is provided and the pulleys **41**.

(38) Each of the cylindrical pulleys **41** has a length in the central axis direction, that is, a height in the Y-axis direction shorter (lower) than the distance between the first housing part **21** and the second housing part **22**.

(39) The internal space of each cylindrical pulley **41** is a space in which the pulley rotating shaft **46** is located, and bearings **44** that support the pulley **41** so that the pulley **41** is rotatable about the rotation axis L are disposed between the pulley **41** and the pulley rotating shaft **46**. Note that the central axis of the pulley **41** is coincident with the rotation axis L.

(40) The circumferential face of each cylindrical pulley **41** has three annular grooves arranged at regular intervals in the central axis direction of the pulley **41** (the Y-axis direction). The embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 4-5 is described referring to application to an example in which the grooves have a width equal to a length corresponding to the width of two wires **35** arranged adjacent to each other. Alternatively, the width of each of the grooves may be larger or smaller than the width of two wires **35** arranged adjacent to each other.

(41) Each of the pulleys **41** further has two cutouts connecting adjacent grooves. The cutouts are formed by cutting off portions of ridge-like projections defining adjacent grooves, and each have a width allowing a wire **35** to extend from one groove to another. The embodiment illustrated in FIGS. 4-5 is described referring to application to an example in which two cutouts are arranged at the same phase on the circumferential face of the pulley **41**. Note that the two cutouts may be arranged at the same phase, or may be arranged at different phases from each other.

(42) As illustrated in FIG. 5, the pulley rotating shafts **46** are each a member formed in a

cylindrical or columnar shape that rotatably supports the pulley **41**. Each of the pulley rotating shafts **46** mainly includes an insertion portion **47** inserted through the bearings **44** disposed in the internal space of the pulley **41**, and an enlarged diameter portion **48** disposed at one end of the insertion portion **47**. A leading end (projecting portion) **49** of the insertion portion **47** is to be inserted in a recessed portion **52** of a fixing block **51**, which will be described later.

(43) The enlarged diameter portion **48** has a shape with a diameter larger than the inner diameter of the bearings **44** through which the insertion portion **47** is inserted. The pulley rotating shafts **46** each have a length with which an end of the insertion portion **47** and an end of the enlarged diameter portion **48** stick out from the pulley **41** in a state in which the insertion portion **47** is inserted through the bearings **44** and the enlarged diameter portion **48** is in contact with one of the bearings **44**.

(44) An end of each pulley rotating shaft **46** has a screw hole **50**, which is to be engaged with the fixing screw **56**, on an end face thereof adjacent to the enlarged diameter portion **48**. The screw hole **50** is located on the central axis of the cylindrical or columnar pulley rotating shaft **46**. Note that the screw hole **50** may be a hole extending through the pulley rotating shaft **46** or may be a bottomed hole.

(45) The fixing blocks **51** are each a member formed in a cylindrical or columnar shape that supports the pulley rotating shaft **46** and the pulley **41**. The end of each fixing block **51** adjacent to the pulley rotating shaft **46** has the recessed portion **52** in which the leading end **49** of the insertion portion **47** is inserted, and the opposite end of the fixing block **51** has a screw hole **53** to be engaged with the fixing screw **56**.

(46) While the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 5 is described referring to application to an example in which the recessed portion **52** is formed on the fixing block **51** and the leading end **49** of the insertion portion **47** is inserted in the recessed portion **52**, alternatively, a recessed portion may be formed on the insertion portion **47** and a projecting portion formed on the fixing blocks **51** may be inserted in the recessed portion.

(47) The fixing block **51** is located between the leading end **49** of the pulley rotating shaft **46** and the second housing part **22**. The fixing block **51** may move in the Z-axis direction relative to the second housing part **22**, and may be fixed. In addition, the position of the fixing block **51** relative to the pulley rotating shaft **46** may be changed along the Y-axis direction, and the movement of the fixing block **51** in the X-axis direction and the Z-axis direction relative to the pulley rotating shaft **46** is restricted.

(48) As illustrated in FIG. 5, the fixing screw **56** is an external thread inserted in the long hole **23** for pulley, and screwed with the pulley rotating shaft **46** and the fixing block **51**. The first housing part **21** is sandwiched between the fixing screw **56** screwed in the screw hole **50** of the pulley rotating shaft **46** and the pulley rotating shaft **46**, and the fixing screw **56** presses the pulley rotating shaft **46** against the first housing part **21** and thus fixes the pulley rotating shaft **46**. The second housing part **22** is sandwiched between the fixing screw **56** screwed in the screw hole **53** of the fixing block **51** and the fixing block **51**, and the fixing screw **56** presses the fixing block **51** against second housing part **22** and thus fixes the fixing block **51**.

(49) Next, the operation of the surgical device **100** having the structure described above will be explained. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the driving force for driving the forceps device K of the surgical device **100** is transmitted from the power unit **104** to the drive elements **31** via the power transmission part **103** of the adapter **102**. As illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 4, the drive elements **31** reciprocate along the long holes **24** for driving in the Z-axis direction relative to the housing **20**.

(50) The movement of the drive elements **31** is transmitted to the wires **35**. Each wire **35** reciprocates along a direction in which the wire **35** extends. A wire **35** that extends from a drive element **31** toward the forceps device K (on the positive side of the Z-axis direction) reciprocates along the directions in which the wire **35** is guided by a guide pulley **26**. A wire **35** that extends from a drive element **31** toward a pulley **41** (on the negative side in the Z-axis direction)

reciprocates along the directions in which the wire **35** is guided by a pulley **41** and a guide pulley **26**.

(51) The wires **35** extend through the internal space of the shaft **111** to the forceps device K, and the reciprocating movements of the wires **35** are transmitted to the forceps device K. The forceps device K performs opening and closing movements on the basis of the reciprocating movements of the wires **35**. While the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. **4-5** is described referring to application to an example in which the forceps device K performs opening and closing operations on the basis of the reciprocating movements of the wires **35**, the forceps device K may also perform other movements such as a bending movement for changing the orientation thereof.

(52) In the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. **4-5**, three wires (three braided wires) are provided to achieve two bending movements and one opening and closing (pinching) movement of the forceps. The layout of the wires in the housing will now be described.

(53) A wire **35a** has one end or a portion fixed to one side, closer to the forceps device K, of a drive element **31a**, and the other end or another portion fixed to the other side, closer to the pulleys **41**, of the drive element **31a**. The wire **35a** extending from the side, closer to the forceps device K, of the drive element **31a** is passed over guide pulleys **26a** and **26b**, and guided to the internal space of the shaft **111**. In addition, the wire **35a** extending from the side, closer to the pulleys **41**, of the drive element **31a** is passed over a pulley **41a** and guide pulleys **26c** and **26d**, and guided to the internal space of shaft **111**.

(54) A wire **35b** has one end or a portion fixed to one side, closer to the forceps device K, of a drive element **31b**, and the other end or another portion fixed to the other side, closer to the pulleys **41**, of the drive element **31b**. The wire **35b** extending from the side, closer to the forceps device K, of the drive element **31b** is guided directly to the internal space of shaft **111**. In addition, the wire **35b** extending from the side, closer to the pulleys **41**, of the drive element **31b** is passed over a pulley **41b** and the guide pulley **26d**, and guided to the internal space of shaft **111**.

(55) A wire **35c** has one end or a portion fixed to one side, closer to the forceps device K, of a drive element **31c**, and the other end or another portion fixed to the other side, closer to the pulleys **41**, of the drive element **31c**. The wire **35c** extending from the side, closer to the forceps device K, of the drive element **31c** is passed over the guide pulleys **26c** and **26d**, and guided to the internal space of shaft **111**. In addition, the wire **35c** extending from the side, closer to the pulleys **41**, of the drive element **31c** is passed over a pulley **41c** and the guide pulleys **26a** and **26b**, and guided to the internal space of shaft **111**.

(56) Note that each of the pulleys illustrated in FIG. **4** is actually one of a plurality of pulleys, which overlap each other in the drawing, having a common axis. The wires are passed over different pulleys that overlap each other. In other words, no more than one wire may be passed over each groove of the pulleys.

Forceps Device

(57) Next, the forceps device according to an embodiment will be described in detail with reference to the drawings where appropriate.

(58) The embodiment illustrated in FIGS. **1-5** relates to a forceps device including wire-driven forceps of a surgical robot. Specifically, the embodiment illustrated in FIGS. **1-5** relates to a wire guide structure of a forceps manipulator having multi-degree-of-freedom bendable joints. Note that forceps are one of surgical instruments used for pinching tissue, a foreign substance, or the like.

(59) Note that, in order to avoid interference between joints, a wire for driving a leading end joint needs to pass the rotation center of a joint located on a base side thereof. In addition, a bending point of the wire needs to bend in such a manner as to fold with zero curvature. This is because passing the rotation center and bending in a folding manner enable the wire to have a constant path length regardless of the bending angle of the joint.

(60) In addition, in order to restrict the wire path without increasing sliding friction of a wire at a joint, the radius of curvature of a wire guide needs to be increased or a guide roller is needed.

Because the radius of curvature of a wire guide or the radius of a guide roller has a finite value, the wire bends in such a manner as to curve along the radius of the wire guide or the guide roller, and thus cannot bend in such a manner as to fold with zero curvature. Thus, a change in the path length cannot actually be completely avoided. Various embodiments described herein, however, propose a mechanism that minimizes the change in the path length.

(61) The forceps device according to an embodiment includes a roller base (guide base) supporting a guide roller (wire guide) that guides a wire to or near a bendable joint portion. The roller base is rotatable independently of components, such as an arm and joints, constituting the forceps device. This minimizes interference between wires when being bent in a case where a plurality of wires are controlled by guide rollers.

(62) FIG. 6 is a perspective view of the forceps device K according to an embodiment. FIG. 7 illustrates the forceps device K according to the embodiment as viewed in the direction of an arrow A in FIG. 6. FIG. 8 illustrates the forceps device K according to the embodiment as viewed in the direction of an arrow B in FIG. 6. FIG. 9 illustrates the forceps device K according to the embodiment as viewed in the direction of an arrow C in FIG. 6. The forceps device K according to an embodiment includes a pair of grasping portions **1a** and **1b** on the leading end side thereof, a first joint **2** on the base side thereof, and a second joint **3** therebetween.

(63) The pair of grasping portions **1a** and **1b** has a function of pinching and releasing an object. The first joint **2** is a junction of a first arm **4** on the base side and a second arm **5** at a middle position, and allows bending of the first arm **4** and the second arm **5** relative to each other. In other words, the first arm **4** and the second arm **5** bend about the rotation center **C1** of the first joint **2** (arrows $\alpha11$ and $\alpha12$ in FIGS. 6 and 7).

(64) Thus, a second arm pulley **5a** formed at one end of the second arm **5** is supported to be turnable about the rotation center **C1** by a connecting portion **4a** at one end of the first arm **4** on the base side. A third wire **w3** for turning the second arm **5** about the rotation center **C1** is passed over the second arm pulley **5a** integrated with the second arm **5**. Because the second arm pulley **5a** is supported to be turnable about the rotation center **C1**, the relation between the moving length of the third wire **w3** and the turning angle of the second arm **5** may be kept constant.

(65) The second joint **3** turns each of the grasping portion **1a** and the grasping portion **1b** relative to the second arm **5** about a rotation center **C2** to grasp and release an object. Specifically, the grasping portion **1a** is turned about the rotation center **C2** (arrows $\alpha21$ and $\alpha22$ in FIGS. 6 and 7), and the grasping portion **1b** is turned about the rotation center **C2** (arrows $\alpha31$ and $\alpha32$ in FIG. 6).

(66) Thus, a first pulley **3a** is formed integrally with the grasping portion **1a**. The grasping portion **1a** and the first pulley **3a** are supported to be turnable about the rotation center **C2**. In addition, a second pulley **3b** is formed integrally with the grasping portion **1b**. The grasping portion **1b** and the second pulley **3b** are supported to be turnable about the rotation center **C2**.

(67) For pinching an object with the grasping portion **1a** and the grasping portion **1b**, the grasping portion **1a** is turned in the direction of the arrow $\alpha21$ and the grasping portion **1b** is turned in the direction of the arrow $\alpha31$. In contrast, for releasing the grasping portion **1a** and the grasping portion **1b** from a state in which an object is pinched, the grasping portion **1a** is turned in the direction of the arrow $\alpha22$ and the grasping portion **1b** is turned in the direction of the arrow $\alpha32$.

(68) A first wire **w1** for turning the first pulley **3a** in the directions of the arrows $\alpha21$ and $\alpha22$ in FIGS. 6 and 7 is therefore passed over the first pulley **3a**. In addition, a second wire **w2** for turning the second pulley **3b** in the directions of the arrows $\alpha31$ and $\alpha32$ in FIG. 6 is passed over the second pulley **3b**. A roller base **6** having a columnar shape is rotatably supported by the connecting portion **4a**, which constitutes the first joint **2**, of the first arm **4**.

(69) The roller base **6** rotatably supports a first guide roller **8a**, a second guide roller **9a**, a third guide roller **10a**, and a fourth guide roller **11a** for guiding the first wire **w1**. In addition, the roller base **6** rotatably supports a first guide roller **8b**, a second guide roller **9b**, a third guide roller **10b**, and a fourth guide roller **11b** for guiding the second wire **w2**.

(70) The outer circumferential face **6g** of the roller base **6** slides relative to the connecting portion **4a** of the first arm **4**, so that the roller base **6** is supported to be rotatable about the rotation center **C1** of the first joint **2** or about the vicinity of the rotation center **C1**. In other words, the roller base **6** may perform rotational movement independently of the movements of the first arm **4**, the second arm **5**, and the first joint **2**.

(71) The first guide rollers **8a** and **8b** and the second guide rollers **9a** and **9b** are rotatably supported on one base side of the columnar roller base **6**. As illustrated in FIGS. **8** and **9**, the third guide rollers **10a** and **10b** and the fourth guide rollers **11a** and **11b** are rotatably supported on the other base side of the roller base **6**.

(72) Note that the center **10O** around which the first wire **w1** and the second wire **w2** are guided between the guide rollers (**8** and **9**) and/or around which the first wire **w1** and the second wire **w2** are guided between the guide rollers (**10** and **11**) (FIGS. **11A** and **11B**) is coincident or substantially coincident with the rotation center **6O** of the roller base **6**. This configuration enables prevention or reduction of a change in the path lengths of the wires (**w1** and **w2**).

Roller Base 6 and First to Fourth Guide Rollers 8 to 11

(73) FIG. **10** is a perspective view illustrating the roller base **6** and the first to fourth guide rollers **8** to **11**. The roller base **6** is formed of metal, resin, or the like into a columnar shape. The roller base **6** has a first insertion hole **6a** and second insertion hole **6b** formed therethrough along its axial direction. The first insertion hole **6a** is a hole for arranging the first guide rollers **8** (**8a** and **8b**) and the third guide rollers **10** (**10a** and **10b**). The second insertion hole **6b** is a hole for arranging the second and fourth guide rollers **9** (**9a** and **9b**) and **11** (**11a** and **11b**). For the guide rollers (**8a** to **11b**), stainless steel is used, for example. Alternatively, the guide rollers (**8a** to **11b**) may be made of other metal, resin, or the like as long as the material meets such conditions as friction, weatherability, and sterilization.

(74) A shaft part **12b** of a first support shaft **12** is inserted in the first insertion hole **6a** through the first guide rollers **8a** and **8b** and fixed therein by press-fitting or the like. The first support shaft **12** has the shaft part **12b** and a head part **12a** having a larger diameter. The first guide rollers **8a** and **8b**, through which the shaft part **12b** of the first support shaft **12** is inserted, are rotatably supported by the first support shaft **12**. The first guide rollers **8a** and **8b** are arranged between the roller base **6** and the head part **12a** of the first support shaft **12**.

(75) In addition, a shaft part **14b** of a third support shaft **14** is inserted in the opposite side of the first insertion hole **6a** through the third guide rollers **10a** and **10b** and fixed therein by press-fitting or the like. The third support shaft **14** has the shaft part **14b** and a head part **14a** having a larger diameter. The third guide rollers **10a** and **10b**, through which the shaft part **14b** of the third support shaft **14** is inserted, are rotatably supported by the third support shaft **14**. The third guide rollers **10a** and **10b** are arranged between the roller base **6** and the head part **14a** of the third support shaft **14**.

(76) A shaft part **13b** of a second support shaft **13** is inserted in the second insertion hole **6b** through the second guide rollers **9a** and **9b** and fixed therein by press-fitting or the like. The second support shaft **13** has the shaft part **13b** and a head part **13a** having a larger diameter. The second guide rollers **9a** and **9b**, through which the shaft part **13b** of the second support shaft **13** is inserted, are rotatably supported by the second support shaft **13**. The second guide rollers **9a** and **9b** are arranged between the roller base **6** and the head part **13a** of the second support shaft **13**.

(77) In addition, a shaft part **15b** of a fourth support shaft **15** is inserted in the opposite side of the second insertion hole **6b** through the fourth guide rollers **11a** and **11b** and fixed therein by press-fitting or the like. The fourth support shaft **15** has the shaft part **15b** and a head part **15a** having a larger diameter. The fourth guide rollers **11a** and **11b**, through which the shaft part **15b** of the fourth support shaft **15** is inserted, are rotatably supported by the fourth support shaft **15**. The fourth guide rollers **11a** and **11b** are arranged between the roller base **6** and the head part **15a** of the fourth support shaft **15**.

(78) As illustrated in FIG. 6, the first wire w1 is passed between the first guide roller 8a and the second guide roller 9a. The first wire w1 is then passed over the first pulley 3a and, as illustrated in FIG. 8, guided between the third guide roller 10a and the fourth guide roller 11a, which are rotatably supported on the other side of the roller base 6.

(79) As illustrated in FIG. 7, the second wire w2 is passed between the first guide roller 8b and the second guide roller 9b. The second wire w2 is then passed over the second pulley 3b and, as illustrated in FIG. 9, guided between the third guide roller 10b and the fourth guide roller 11b, which are rotatably supported on the other side of the roller base 6. The first wire w1 and the second wire w2 are arranged to pass the rotation center C1 of the first joint 2 or the vicinity thereof.

Bending Movement at First Joint 2 of Forceps Device K

(80) With the structure as described above, the forceps device K performs a first bending movement as described below. FIG. 11A is a view in a direction D in FIG. 8, and FIG. 11B illustrates a state in which the first joint 2 is bending from a state illustrated in FIG. 11A.

(81) In the forceps device K, when the third wire w3 is pulled in a direction $\beta 31$ in FIG. 11A from the state in FIG. 11A, the second arm pulley 5a turns about the rotation center C1, which turns the second arm 5 about the rotation center C1 relative to the first arm 4 (in the direction of an arrow $\alpha 12$ in FIG. 11A) as illustrated in FIG. 11B.

(82) In contrast, in the forceps device K, when the third wire w3 is pulled in a direction $\beta 32$ in FIG. 11A from the state in FIG. 11A, the second arm pulley 5a turns about the rotation center C1, which turns the second arm 5 about the rotation center C1 relative to the first arm 4 in a direction opposite the direction in which the second arm 5 is turned in FIG. 11B (in the direction of an arrow $\alpha 11$ in FIG. 11A).

Grasping Movement at Second Joint 3 of Forceps Device K

(83) For pinching an object with the grasping portions 1a and 1b, the first wire w1 is moved in a direction of an arrow $\beta 11$, so that the first pulley 3a and the grasping portion 1a are turned about the rotation center C2 in the direction of the arrow $\alpha 21$ as illustrated in FIG. 6. In addition, the second wire w2 is moved in the direction of an arrow $\beta 21$, so that the second pulley 3b and the grasping portion 1b are turned about the rotation center C2 in the direction of the arrow $\alpha 31$.

(84) In contrast, for releasing an object pinched with the grasping portion 1a and the grasping portion 1b, the first wire w1 is moved in a direction of an arrow $\beta 12$, so that the first pulley 3a and the grasping portion 1a are turned about the rotation center C2 in the direction of the arrow $\alpha 22$ as illustrated in FIG. 6. In addition, the second wire w2 is moved in a direction of an arrow $\beta 22$, so that the second pulley 3b and the grasping portion 1b are turned about the rotation center C2 in the direction of the arrow $\alpha 32$.

Bending Movement at Second Joint 3 of Forceps Device K

(85) With the structure as described above, the forceps device K performs a second bending movement as described below. For bending the grasping portions 1a and 1b at the same time in one direction, the first wire w1 is moved in the direction of the arrow $\beta 11$, so that the first pulley 3a and the grasping portion 1a are turned about the rotation center C2 in the direction of the arrow $\alpha 21$ as illustrated in FIG. 6. In addition, the second wire w2 is moved in the direction of the arrow $\beta 22$, so that the second pulley 3b and the grasping portion 1b are turned about the rotation center C2 in the direction of the arrow $\alpha 32$. In this manner, at the second joint 3, the entire grasping portions 1a and 1b may be bent about the rotation center C2 in the direction of the arrow $\alpha 21$ (the direction of the arrow $\alpha 32$).

(86) In contrast, for bending the grasping portions 1a and 1b at the same time in the other direction, the first wire w1 is moved in the direction of the arrow $\beta 12$, so that the first pulley 3a and the grasping portion 1a are turned about the rotation center C2 in the direction of the arrow $\alpha 22$ as illustrated in FIG. 6. In addition, the second wire w2 is moved in the direction of the arrow $\beta 21$, so that the second pulley 3b and the grasping portion 1b are turned about the rotation center C2 in the direction of the arrow $\alpha 31$. In this manner, at the second joint 3, the entire grasping portions 1a and

1b may be bent about the rotation center **C2** in the direction of the arrow $\alpha 22$ (the direction of the arrow $\alpha 31$).

Relation Between Wires **w1**, **w2**, and **w3** in Forceps Device **K** and Wires **35a**, **35b**, and **35c** in Housing **20**

(87) In the forceps device, three wires **w1**, **w2**, and **w3** are used, which have different roles. For example, the first wire **w1** corresponds to extension of the wire **35a** in the housing **20** through the shaft **111**, the second wire **w2** corresponds to extension of the wire **35c** in the housing **20** through the shaft **111**, and the third wire **w3** corresponds to extension of the wire **35b** in the housing **20** through the shaft **111**.

(88) The driving force from the power unit **104**, in which pistons like pneumatic actuators linearly move, linearly moves the drive elements **31** in the housing **20**. As a result, the wires are pulled in predetermined directions, which allows the bending movements of the forceps device and the opening and closing movements of the grasping portions thereof. In the surgical device **100** according to an embodiment, the movements of individual components of the forceps device **K** are controlled via the three wires (three braided wires).

Operations and Effects

(89) (1) The surgical device **100** according to an embodiment includes the forceps device **K** capable of performing bending movements, and opening and closing movements of the grasping portions thereof, a plurality of drive elements **31a**, **31b**, and **31c** to which driving force is transmitted from outside, and a plurality of wires **35a**, **35b**, and **35c** fixed to the drive elements **31a**, **31b**, and **31c**, respectively, to transmit linear movements of the drive elements **31a**, **31b**, and **31c** to the forceps device **K**. The forceps device **K** is structured to perform at least any of the bending movements and the opening and closing movements when all or some of the wires **35a**, **35b**, and **35c** are pulled.

(90) Thus, linear movements of the drive elements **31a**, **31b**, and **31c** are transmitted to the forceps device **K** via the wires **35a** (and the first wire **w1**), **35b** (and the third wire **w3**), and **35c** (and the second wire **w2**), and all or some of the wires **35a**, **35b**, and **35c** are pulled, which enables at least any of the bending movements and the opening and closing movements. In addition, because the movements of the drive elements **31a**, **31b**, and **31c** transmitted by the wires **35a**, **35b**, and **35c** are linear, the structure of the drive elements **31a**, **31b**, and **31c** may be made simple.

(91) In addition, a plurality of driven portions according to an embodiment are the drive element **31a**, the drive element **31b**, and the drive element **31c**. A plurality of cords according to an embodiment are the wire **35a** fixed to the drive element **31a**, the wire **35b** fixed to the drive element **31b**, and the wire **35c** fixed to the drive element **31c**. Thus, the movements of the drive elements **31a**, **31b**, and **31c** may be individually controlled, which enables the bending movements and the opening and closing movements of the forceps device **K** to be controlled independently of each other.

(92) The drive elements **31a**, **31b**, and **31c** each linearly move in the first direction (the **Z** direction in FIG. 4), that is, in parallel with each other, and are arranged in a second direction (the **X** direction in FIG. 4) intersecting the first direction. This prevents the linear movement of each of the drive elements **31a**, **31b**, and **31c** from interfering with the movements of the other drive elements. In addition, the arrangement of the drive elements **31a**, **31b**, and **31c** in the second direction facilitates the layout of the drive elements **31a**, **31b**, and **31c**.

(93) The forceps device **K** is structured to perform the first bending movement (turning about the rotation center **C1**), the second bending movement (turning about the rotation center **C2**) in a direction different from the first bending movement, and the opening and closing movements (opening and closing of the grasping portions **1a** and **1b** about the rotation center **C2**) by the movements of the first wire **w1**, the second wire **w2**, and the third wire **w3**. As a result, complicated movements of the forceps device **K** may be achieved by linear movements of a plurality of wires.

(94) The forceps device **K** is structured such that the movements of the first wire **w1** and the second

wire w2 cause the second bending movement (turning about the rotation center C2) and the opening and closing movements (opening and closing of the grasping portions 1a and 1b about the rotation center C2), and the movement of the third wire w3 causes the first bending movement (turning about the rotation center C2).

(95) Note that the technical scope of the present disclosure is not limited to the embodiment described above, and various modifications may be made without departing from spirit and scope of the appended claims.

(96) For example, in an embodiment described above, the first wire w1 corresponds to extension of the wire 35a through the shaft 111, the second wire w2 corresponds to extension of the wire 35c through the shaft 111, and the third wire w3 corresponds to extension of the wire 35b through the shaft 111. Alternatively, the second wire w2 may correspond to extension of the wire 35b, and the third wire w3 may be extension of the wire 35c.

(97) In addition, in an embodiment described above, cooperation of the first wire w1 and the second wire w2 achieves the second bending movement in a direction different from the first bending movement and the grasping movement (opening and closing movements) of the grasping portions at the leading end of the forceps. Alternatively, the forceps device K may be structured such that one of the first wire w1 and the second wire w2 causes the second bending movement and the other causes the grasping movement. In addition, the correspondence between the wires w1, w2, and w3 in the forceps device K and the wires 35a, 35b, and 35c in the housing 20 may be different from the combinations in the various embodiments described above.

Claims

1. A surgical device comprising: a forceps device configured to perform a bending movement and to perform opening and closing movements of grasping portions of the forceps device; a plurality of driven portions to which a driving force is transmitted from outside the surgical device; and a plurality of cords, each being fixed to one of the plurality of driven portions, the plurality of cords transmitting movements of the plurality of driven portions to the forceps device, wherein the forceps device performs at least one of the bending movement and the opening and closing movements when at least a portion of the plurality of cords are pulled, wherein the plurality of driven portions include a first driven portion, a second driven portion, and a third driven portion, wherein the plurality of cords include a first wire fixed to the first driven portion, a second wire fixed to the second driven portion, and a third wire fixed to the third driven portion, and wherein the first driven portion, the second driven portion, and the third driven portion linearly move in parallel with each other in a first direction, and are arranged in a second direction that intersects the first direction.

2. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the forceps device performs: a first bending movement; a second bending movement in a direction different from a direction of the first bending movement; and the opening and closing movements, and wherein the first bending movement, the second bending movement, and the opening and closing movements are caused by movements of the first wire, the second wire, and the third wire, respectively.

3. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the forceps device performs: a first bending movement; a second bending movement in a direction different from a direction of the first bending movement; and the opening and closing movements, and wherein the first bending movement, the second bending movement, and the opening and closing movements are caused by movements of the first wire, the second wire, and the third wire.

4. The surgical device according to claim 2, wherein the forceps device performs: the second bending movement and the opening and closing movements caused by the movements of the first wire and the second wire; and the first bending movement caused by the movement of the third wire.

5. The surgical device according to claim 3, wherein the forceps device performs: the second bending movement and the opening and closing movements caused by the movements of the first wire and the second wire; and the first bending movement caused by the movement of the third wire.
 6. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the forceps device performs at least one of the bending movement and the opening and closing movements when all of the plurality of cords are pulled.
 7. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the forceps device performs the bending movement when all of the plurality of cords are pulled.
 8. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the forceps device performs the opening and closing movements when all of the plurality of cords are pulled.
 9. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the forceps device simultaneously performs the bending movement and the opening and closing movements when a portion of the plurality of cords are pulled.
 10. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the forceps device simultaneously performs the bending movement and the opening and closing movements when all of the plurality of cords are pulled.
 11. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the forceps device comprises: a first arm; a second arm comprising a second arm pulley, the second arm configured to rotate with respect to the first arm about a first axis with rotation of the second arm pulley; and a plurality of grasping portions, each comprising a pulley, the plurality of grasping portions configured to rotate with respect to the second arm about a second axis with rotation of the pulleys, the second axis being different than the first axis, and wherein the plurality of cords are configured to rotate the second arm pulley and the pulleys of the grasping portions.
 12. The surgical device according to claim 11, wherein the second arm comprises a connecting portion that rotatably connects to the first arm, wherein the connecting portion rotatably supports a roller base comprising a plurality of guide rollers, and wherein first cords of the plurality of cords are configured to rotate the pulleys of the plurality of grasping portions, and a second cord of the plurality of cords is configured to rotate the second arm pulley, and the first cords pass through the plurality of guide rollers.
 13. The surgical device according to claim 1, wherein the forceps device comprises a first joint rotatable about a first axis and a second joint rotatable about a second axis that is different from the first axis, and wherein the first joint is configured to rotate independently of a rotation of the second joint.
 14. The surgical device according to claim 13, wherein the first joint generates the bending movement and the second joint generates the opening and closing movements.
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