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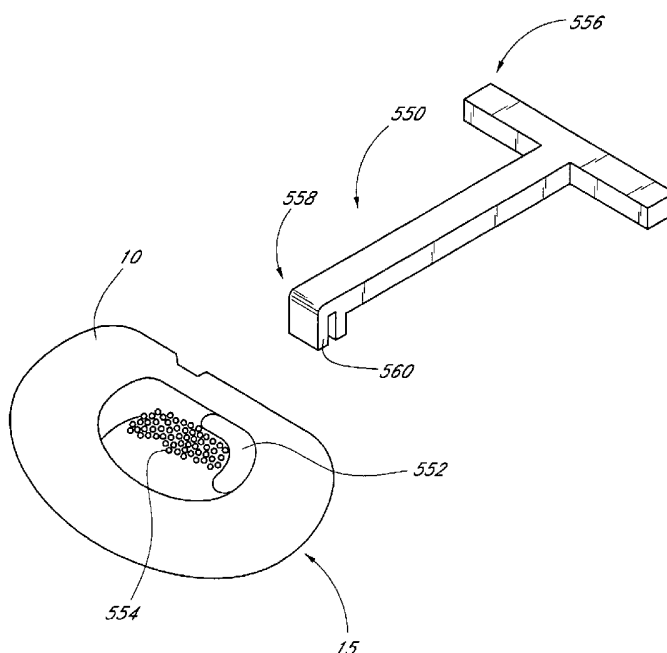
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DEVICES AND METHOD FOR NUCLEUS PULPOSUS AUGMENTATION AND RETENTION



(57) Abstract: Systems for minimally invasive disc augmentation include an annulus augmentation component (552) and a nucleus augmentation component (554). Both are suited for minimally invasive deployment. The nucleus augmentation component (554) restores disc height and/or replaces missing nucleus pulposus. The annulus augmentation (552) component shields weakened regions of the annulus fibrosis and/or resists escape of natural nucleus pulposus and/or the nucleus augmentation component (554). Methods and deployment devices are also disclosed.



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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61F 2/44; A61B 19/00

US CL : 623/17.11, 17.12, 17.13, 17.14, 17.15, 17.16; 128/898

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 623/17.11, 17.12, 17.13, 17.14, 17.15, 17.16; 128/898

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

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

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,755,797 A (BAUMGARTNER) 26 May 1998 (26.05.1998), Fig. 3	1-7, 9, and 21-22
A	US 5,888,220 A (FELT et al.) 30 March 1999 (30.03.1999), all	1-21
A	US 5,171,280 A (BAUMGARTNER) 15 December 1992 (15.12.1992), all	1-21
A	US 5,192,326 A (BAO et al.) 09 March 1993 (09.03.1993) all	1-21
A	US 5,645,597 A (KRPIVA) 08 July 1997 (08.07.1997), all	1-21

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

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"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

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document member of the same patent family

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