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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: IMPLANT EQUIPPED FOR NERVE LOCATION AND METHOD OF USE

(57) Abstract: The invention describes a surgical implant that is equipped to provide neurological data during and after implantation. Neurological monitoring ensures accurate insertion of the implant with minimal disturbance of neural structures. The implant includes at least one electrically conductive region that is utilized to determine the distance from and direction to a nerve with respect to the implant.

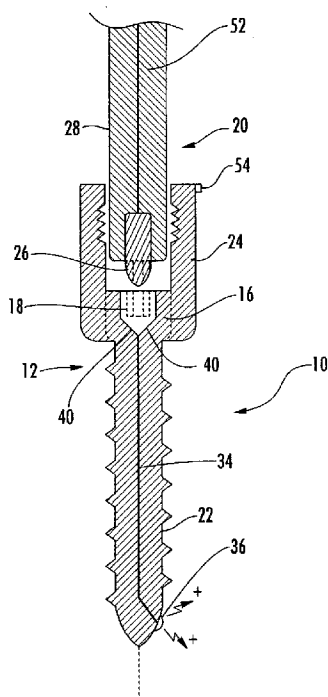


FIG. 1





MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61B 17/86

USPC - 600/375

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)

IPC: A61B 17/86 (2009.01)

USPC: 600/375

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
A61B 5/04, 5/05, 17/84, 17/68, 17/58: A61B 1/02, 1/04, 1/05: 600/300, 372, 373, 375, 377, 382, 554: 606/60, 300, 301: 607/1, 43

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

WEST: PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB: GOOGLE: SCHOLAR, PATENTS

SEARCH TERMS: electrical, electron, anode, pedicle, screw, rotation, axis, stimulate, neuron, nerve, electromyography, somatosensory, evoked potential

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2006/0111767 A1 (Olson et al.) 25 May 2006 (25.05.2006) see paragraphs [0038], [0039], [0042], [0044], [0049], [0057], [0058], [0060], [0084]	1-7, 9-10
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Y		8, 11-13
Y	US 2006/0200023 A1 (Melkent et al.) 07 September 2006 (07.09.2006) see paragraph [0019]	12
Y	US 2005/0085743 A1 (Hacker et al.) 21 April 2005 (21.04.2005) see paragraph [0080]	8, 11-13



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