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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))
- of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

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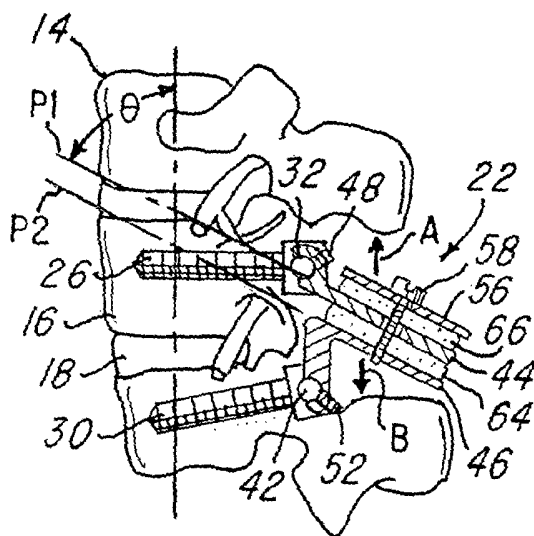
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(54) Title: DISK AUGMENTATION SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: This invention relates to a disk augmentation system and method for situating a retainer comprising artificial supports posterior to or exterior of a spinal column and a spinal column axis. The system and method provides an external retainer having supports for receiving at least one artificial compression body and securing at least one artificial compression body in a supported relationship to facilitate reducing load on the one or more natural disks of a patient.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US05/11736

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 17/56, 17/58; A61F 2/44

US CL : 606/61; 623/17.11

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. : 606/61, 69, 70; 623/17.11-17.16

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)  
Please See Continuation Sheet

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 5,092,866 A (BREARD et al) 03 March 1992 (03.03.1992), See Figures 1-3c and 5-7 and column 1, line 8 - column 2, line 68.	1-3, 6-8, 10-13, 16-18, 21, 23-34, 37, 39-42, 45-48, 52-54, 57-77, 82-85, 88, 89, 94-98, 100-111, 114-119, 122-124 and 128 ----- 4, 5, 9, 14, 15, 19, 20, 22, 35, 36, 38, 43, 44, 49-51, 55, 56, 78-81, 86, 87, 90-93, 99, 112, 113, 120, 121 and 125-127
A	US 4,309,777 A (PATIL) 12 January 1982 (12.01.1982), See entire document.	1-128



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



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