

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
3 December 2009 (03.12.2009)

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2009/146155 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

A61B 17/04 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2009/039787

(22) International Filing Date:

7 April 2009 (07.04.2009)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

12/102,260 14 April 2008 (14.04.2008)

US

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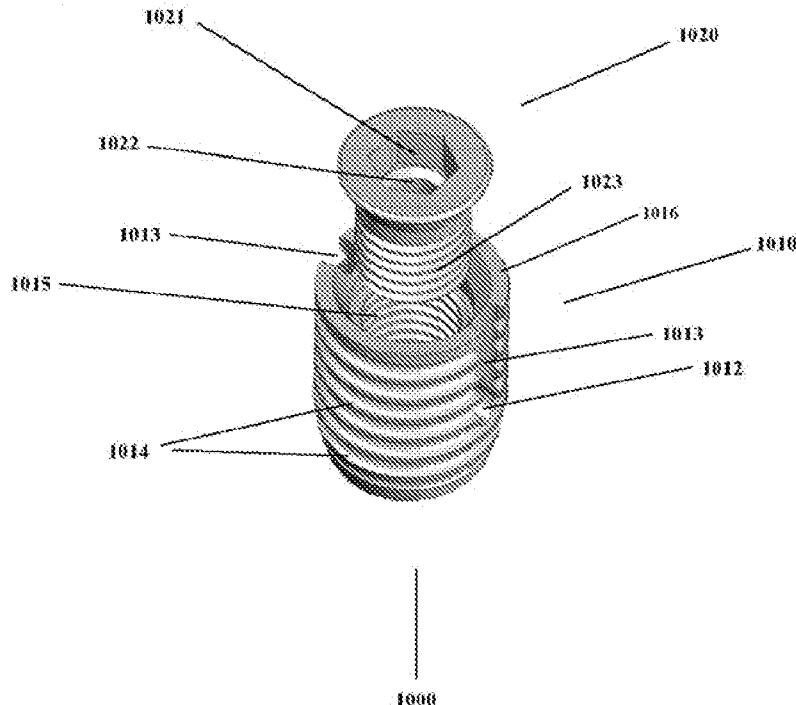
(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, 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, ST, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS

FIG. 10



(57) **Abstract:** A surgical instrument having an anchor and a plug is capable of anchoring a suture. The suture anchor has an anchor body having a top surface, a bottom surface distal to the top surface, a transverse bore and a well, the well having an outer surface, an inner surface, and an inner bottom surface. The plug has a post, a head, and a bottom face. The anchor body and the anchor plus form a suture anchor. The suture anchor may be used during surgical procedures and can be used in the re-tensioning of a suture.



Published:

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application 12/102,260, filed April 14, 2008, which is hereby incorporated by reference, in its entirety, for any and all purposes.

FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure generally related to surgical instruments. More specifically, the disclosure relates to a suture anchor.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Suture anchors are well known in the art. Suture anchors are typically used to anchor soft tissues such as tendons, and the like, to bone using a suture. The suture anchor is typically secured in a bone and sutures, previously having been inserted into tissue, are then threaded through the suture anchor to tension the tissue and hold it in place. The tissue is tensioned to the bone via the suture attached to the anchor.

[0004] Typically, the suture is threaded through a small hole, or series of holes in the anchor and some suture anchors come pre-loaded with the sutures. The suture can then be knotted to prevent release of the suture from the suture anchor. However, the need for knotting can increase surgical time and provide a weak point for suture breakage, hence a need exists for a suture anchor that is fast to use, readily allows for re-tensioning of a suture, and does not introduce knotting weakness to the suture.

[0005] Surgical cannulas are used to enter areas within the body such as the shoulder, knee, or abdomen. The cannula provides a means for passing surgical instruments into and out of a subject. Cannulas are also used as a channel to introduce surgical implements such as surgical instruments, suture anchors, or sutures. Such surgical cannulas typically have a single chamber that is conducive to instruments or items touching and either cross-contaminating one another or disturbing the function of each other. Such surgical cannulas

are also subject to the cannula readily pulling out of the subject or falling into a subject and requiring re-insertion or extraction. A need exists for cannulas that resist the tendency to push out of a subject, or fall into a subject. Also multi-chambered cannulas are desired.

SUMMARY

[0006] In a first aspect, a surgical instrument is provided comprising (a) an anchor comprising (i) a wall comprising (1) an outer surface having threads; and (2) an inner surface; (iii) a first end; and a second end; and (b) a plug comprising a first end, a second end, and an outer wall; wherein the anchor and the plug form a suture anchor capable of anchoring a suture.

[0007] In one embodiment, the outer wall of the plug comprises threads capable of engaging the inner surface of the anchor via a friction fit. In another embodiment, the inner surface comprises threads. In another embodiment, the outer wall of the plug and the inner wall of the anchor each have threads capable of engaging each other in a screw-like fashion to secure the plug in the anchor.

[0008] In another embodiment, the plug is made of a compressible material. For example, the compressible material may be a polymer such as high density polyethylene, polyurethane, silicones, or a mixture thereof.

[0009] In some embodiments, the first end of the plug has the same diameter as the second end of the plug. In other embodiments, the first end of the plug has a larger diameter than the second end of the plug, such that the plug forms conical shape similar to that of the profile of a funnel.

[0010] In another aspect, methods of using a suture anchor is provided comprising: securing the anchor into a bone, draping a suture through an interior of the anchor and touching the inner surface; and inserting the plug in the anchor to secure and tension the suture. In some embodiments, the securing is via screwing or cementing of the anchor in the bone. Other embodiments, further comprise removing the plug; re-tensioning the suture; and replacing the plug in the anchor.

[0011] In another aspect, a suture anchor has an anchor body that has a well, a top surface, a bottom surface, and a transverse bore. The well has an outer surface, an inner surface, and an inner bottom surface. In such embodiments, the anchor and the plug form a suture anchor configured to secure a surgical suture. In some embodiments, the transverse bore is proximally located to the inner bottom surface. In some embodiments, grooves are formed in the outer surface extending from the transverse bore to the top surface. In other embodiments, the outer surface has rungs and the inner surface has threads. In other embodiments, the post is a threaded post.

[0012] In some embodiments, the outer surface has rungs, the inner surface has, the post is a threaded post, and the threads of the inner surface and the threads of the post are configured to engage in a screw-like fashion to secure the anchor plug in the anchor body.

[0013] Methods of using such a suture anchor are also provided. Such methods include boring a nest in a bone; positioning the bottom surface of the anchor body in the nest; threading a suture through the transverse bore; driving the suture anchor into the nest; tensioning the suture; and securing the suture in the anchor body with the anchor plug. Alternatively, the threading of the suture precedes the positioning of the anchor body in the nest. In some embodiments, the methods also include loosening or removing the anchor plug, re-tensioning the suture, and tightening or replacing the anchor plug in the anchor body.

[0014] In another aspect, surgical instrument is provided comprising (a) a cannula comprising a distal end, a proximal end and at least one chamber extending the entire length of the cannula from the proximal end to the distal end; (b) at least one inflatable donut; and (c) an air passageway having an air inlet; wherein the inflatable donut has a circumference at full inflation that is greater than a circumference of the cannula. In some embodiments, the cannula is capable of passing a surgical item into and out of a subject undergoing surgery. For example, surgical items include, but are not limited to, surgical instruments, sutures, and implants.

[0015] In some embodiments, the cannula comprises a divider that divides the at least one chamber extending the entire length of the cannula into at least two chambers. In some embodiments, the divider is a flexible diaphragm or divider. In other embodiments, the divider extends the full length of the cannula.

[0016] In other embodiments, the cannula further comprises a second donut. In some such embodiments, the second donut is rigid or inflatable. In other embodiments, the second donut is capable of preventing insertion of the cannula completely into a subject. In yet other embodiments, the second donut is formed integrally with the cannula. In yet other embodiments, the second donut is formed separately from the cannula and is attached to the cannula.

[0017] In other embodiments of the cannula, the inflatable donut is capable of being inflated via the air passageway. In some embodiments, a pump is used to inflate the inflatable donut via the air passageway. In other embodiments, an air-filled syringe inserted through a valve is used to inflate the inflatable donut via the air passageway.

[0018] In another aspect, a method of using the cannula is provided comprising: making an incision in the subject at the location in which the cannula is to be inserted; inserting the cannula; and inflating the at least one inflatable donut. In other embodiments, the method further comprises: conducting a surgical procedure using the cannula; deflating the inflatable donut; and removing the cannula from the subject.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0019] FIG. 1 is a side view of a suture passer without a suture.

[0020] FIG. 2 is a side view of a suture passer having a suture threaded through the suture passer.

[0021] FIG. 3A is a side view of a suture anchor showing the plug and the nest with sutures passing through, prior to insertion of the plug into the nest, according to one embodiment. FIG. 3B is a side view of a suture anchor showing the plug and the nest with sutures passing through, prior to insertion of the plug into the nest, according to another embodiment.

[0022] FIG. 4 is a top view of a suture anchor showing the plug and the nest with a sutures passing through, prior to insertion of the plug into the nest.

[0023] FIG. 5 is an illustration of a humerus with a hole bored through a portion for the passage of a suture to secure a rotator cuff bed.

[0024] FIG. 6 is an illustration of a humerus with a hole bored through a portion for the passage of a suture to secure a rotator cuff bed.

[0025] FIG. 7 is an illustration of a humerus with a hole bored through a portion for the passage of a suture to secure a rotator cuff bed and a suture anchor secured in the humerus.

[0026] FIG. 8 is an illustration of a humerus with a hole bored through a portion for the passage of a suture to secure a rotator cuff bed and a suture anchor secured in the humerus with the suture beginning to be tensioned.

[0027] FIG. 9 is a side view of a cannula.

[0028] FIG. 10 is a perspective view of a suture anchor, according to one embodiment.

[0029] FIG. 11 is a perspective view of an anchor body, according to one embodiment.

[0030] FIG. 12 is a perspective view of an anchor plug, according to one embodiment.

[0031] FIG. 13 is a side view of a suture anchor, according to one embodiment.

DESCRIPTION

[0032] In one aspect, an instrument comprising a suture passer 100 is described. As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the suture passer 100 comprises a body 110 having a tunnel 115, an articulating arm 120, 190 connected to the body 110 proximally to a first end of the body 110, and a fore end 130 distal to the first end of the body 110. In some embodiments, the suture passer 100, further comprises suture channels 184, 185 through which sutures are threaded to load the suture passer 100. In some embodiments, the suture passer 100 is an arthroscopic instrument. The suture passer 100 may be used to grasp tissue and pass a

sliding, locking suture in a single grasp of the tissue. The suture passer 100 grasps tissue 180 between the body 110 and the articulating arm 120. The suture passer 100 then passes a suture loop 140 through the tissue 180. This may be done by loading the suture 140 in a U fashion. A needle passes through the tunnel 115 then penetrates the tissue 180 passing through the suture loop 140. A second needle or a pass of the same needle passes through a channel within articulating arm 120 and is directed through the suture loop 140 and capturing the other end of the suture. This pulls one end of the suture back in a retrograde fashion through the first loop 140 creating a locking stitch. The suture has one end outside the body 110 and the other end loaded on the other side of the suture passer 100. This allows for it to be passed through the suture loop 140, ultimately forming a locking stitch. One end of the suture is passed below the tissue 180 and one end is passed above the tissue 180. When the bottom suture is pulled longitudinally it pulls the suture loop 140 down perpendicular to the tissue 180 resulting in bringing it downward. When the top suture is pulled it brings the tissue 180 laterally or in line with the sutures. In one embodiment, the articulating arm 120 is connected to the body 110 by a joint or a hinge, such that the articulating arm 120 may move relative to the body 110 in a tweezer-like fashion.

[0033] In other embodiments, the suture passer 100 will grasp tissue, thus allowing for a loop of a single suture (or multiple sutures) to be placed from an inferior aspect of the tissue to a superior aspect of the tissue. A needle or grasping agent will then reach through this loop and pull the other end of the suture back through this suture loop. This will create a locking stitch with one end on the superior and one end on the inferior aspect of the tissue. This is accomplished by a needle driving the loop of suture through the tissue. This needle passes through a channel in the inferior arm of the suture passer. The second needle or grasping agent penetration runs parallel to the first but on the other side of the tissue. This needle may have passage through the superior arm of the suture passer. This allows it to be on the other side of the tissue as the first arm or inferior arm and on the same side as the suture loop. Thus, going through the loop and pulling back the other end of suture. The result is a locking stitch with suture limbs on both sides of the tissue.

[0034] While conventional suture anchors known to those of skill in the art may be used to secure sutures required for tissue repair using the suture passer 100 described above, in another aspect, a suture anchor 300 comprising an anchor 310, and a plug 320 is described

herein and is illustrated in FIGS. 3-8. Such suture anchors 300 may be used with the suture passers 100, described above, or the suture anchors 300 may be used in any suturing application known to those of skill in the art.

[0035] Suture anchors 300 embodied herein, allow for one or more points of fixation of a tissue to be anchored by a single anchor position. As described below, the suture anchors embodied herein are capable allowing the tensioning of a tissue with a suture to be adjustable and re-tensionable.

[0036] Referring to FIGS. 3-8, the anchor 310 comprises a wall having an outer surface 311, an inner surface 312, that may or may not have threads to secure the plug 320, a first end 313, and a second end 314. In the either case of the inner surface 312, having or not having threads, it is a friction fit between the plug 320 and the inner surface 312 that secures the plug 320 into the suture anchor 300. In some cases, a diameter of the first end 313 is larger than a diameter of the second end 314 (FIG. 3B), while in other embodiments, the first end 313 and the second end 314 have the same diameter (FIG. 3A). The plug 320 comprises an outer wall 321 having threads 325 such that when a suture(s) 330 is draped into the anchor 310 and the plug 320 is inserted into the anchor 310, the plug 320 secures the suture(s) 330 via a friction fit between the plug 320 and the inner surface 312 of the wall 311. FIGS. 5-8 further illustrate the suture anchor 300 secured in a humerus 510 and with sutures 530 anchored in the suture anchor 300.

[0037] Anchor 310 may be secured in any bone via a screw mechanism on the outer surface 311 of the wall, or via a cementing of the anchor 310 to the bone, as is known to those of skill in the art. The anchor 310 may also have a means for driving the screw mechanism into bone. For example, the anchor 310 may have a hex-head, slot, Phillips-type head, or other shaped head that may be mated to a driver for screwing the anchor 310 into bone. Cementing of the anchor 310 to the bone may be accomplished using a variety of bone cements known to those of skill in the art. For example, curable polymers such as polymethylmethacrylate may be used.

[0038] Such suture anchors 300 allow for tightening, adjustment, or re-tensioning of a suture by loosening and/or removal of the plug 320 from anchor 310, adjusting or re-tensioning of the suture, and tightening and/or re-insertion of the plug 320 into the anchor

310. Such suture anchors 300 also allow for securing of the suture without the tying of knots (*i.e.* a knotless suture anchor) or replacement of sutures when re-tensioning is required. Suture anchors 300 may be used for the fixation of soft tissue to bone, or of bone to bone.

[0039] Suture anchors 300 and plugs 320 may be made from a variety of materials known to those of skill in the art. For example, for the suture anchors 300 the material is typically a rigid material such as a metal, a polymer, or a ceramic. Biocompatible metals include, but are not limited to stainless steel, titanium, tantalum, aluminum, chromium, molybdenum, cobalt, silver, and gold, or alloys of such metals that are known to those of skill in the art. Biocompatible polymers include, but are not limited to, high-density polyethylenes, polyurethanes, or blends of such polymers, as are known to those of skill in the art. Biocompatible polymers also include absorbable materials such as polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, or mixtures thereof. Biocompatible ceramics include, but are not limited to alumina, silica, silicon carbide, silicon nitride, zirconia, and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

[0040] The plugs 320 may likewise be prepared from similar metals, polymers, and ceramics, however in some embodiments, the plugs 320 are prepared from materials that may be compressed. In such embodiments, the plug material is capable of being compressed from an uncompressed state to a compressed state, prior to or during insertion of the plug 320 into the suture anchor 300. Such compression allows for the material to recoil from the compressed state to the uncompressed state and thereby increasing the friction fit between the plug 320 and the suture anchor 300. Such materials that may be compressed include, but are not limited to, polyethylenes, silicones, polyesters, polyurethanes, polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, or mixtures of any two or more thereof.

[0041] The anchor 300 may be used to secure sutures tensioning tissue without tissue to bone direct contact. Examples of such uses of suture tensioning without tissue to bone contact include, but are not limited to, pelvic surgery, bladder suspension surgery, brow lift or face lift surgery, hand surgery and the like.

[0042] Suture anchors 1000 are also embodied herein, and allow for one or more points of fixation of a tissue to be anchored by a single anchor position. As described below,

the suture anchors embodied herein are capable allowing the tensioning of a tissue with a suture to be adjustable, and re-tensionable.

[0043] Referring to FIGS. 10-13, the anchor 1000 comprises an anchor body 1010 and a plug 1020. The anchor body 1010 has a central region, or well, that is bored out to accept the anchor plug 1020. The well is surrounded by a wall having an outer surface 1017, an inner surface 1018, and a top surface 1016. The well also has a bottom inner surface (i.e. the bottom of the well), and a bottom outer surface (i.e. the bottom of the anchor body 1010). The inner surface 1018 of the anchor body 1010 may have threads 1015 to accept corresponding threads 1023 on the anchor plug 1020. The top edge of the inner surface 1018 of the wall, proximal to the top surface 1016, may have a bevel 1015. The outer surface 1017 of the wall may have rungs or ridges 1014 for securing the plug 1020 in bone or other tissue. The rungs or ridges 1014 provide anchoring ability to the anchor body 1010 and the suture anchor 1000 as a whole to prevent either from readily pulling out of the bone or other tissue when tensioning a suture, or over the time of implantation in a subject. Alternatively, the bored central region of the anchor body 1010 may not be threaded, but is a smooth bore that can accept an anchor plug via a friction fit. The anchor body 1010 may accommodate sutures that are draped into the anchor body 1010, and a friction fit anchor plug is then inserted, or the anchor body 1010 may accommodate sutures that are threaded through a transverse bore 1012 in the anchor body 1010, to be secured in place by an anchor plug 1020.

[0044] The transverse bore 1012 in the anchor body 1010 is capable of receiving one or more sutures to be secured by the suture anchor 1000. The transverse bore 1012 is configured proximally to the bottom of the well, such that a suture may be secured between the bottom of the well and a bottom face 1026 of the anchor plug 1020. Grooves 1013 are provided that extend from the transverse bore 1012 to a top surface 1016 of the anchor body 1010, to allow for movement of a suture through the anchor body 1010 when the anchor body 1010 is in place in a bone. Therefore, once the anchor body 1010 is driven into a bone or other tissue, with a suture threaded through the transverse bore 1012, the suture is movable in the grooves 1013. The suture may be moved to the desired tension or secured in the suture anchor 1000 by engaging the anchor plug 1020 in the anchor body 1010 and driving the anchor plug 1020 until the plug engages the suture, thereby preventing movement of the

suture. The suture is secured between a bottom face 1026 of the anchor plug 1020 and the bottom of the well that is formed in the anchor body 1010.

[0045] The anchor plug 1020 may have a head 1024, a threaded post 1023 for engaging the threaded inner surface 1018 of the anchor body 1010, and a bottom face 1026 that is distal to the head 1024. The anchor plug 1020 may also have a bevel 1025 that is complementary to the bevel 1015 of the inner surface 1018. When the anchor plug 1020 is fully engaged in the anchor body 1010, the bevel 1025 is configured to engage the bevel 1015 of the inner surface 1018.

[0046] The anchor plug 1020 may also be configured to be engaged by a complementary driving device such that the anchor plug 1020 may be tightened or loosened in the anchor body 1010. The head 1024 of the anchor plug 1020 is typically shaped or has a recessed area to accommodate engagement with a driving device. For example, the anchor plug 1020 may have a hexagonal drive 1021, as shown in FIGS. 10 and 11, or it may have a slotted drive, a Philips drive, a square drive, a star drive, a nut drive, or other mechanism that is known to those of skill in the art for engaging a complementary drive device. The anchor plug 1020 may be configured such that the top of the head 1024 of the anchor plug 1020 is flush with the top surface 1016 of the anchor body 1010, recessed in the anchor body 1010, or above the anchor body 1010, when the anchor plug 1020 is fully engaged in the anchor body 1010.

[0047] Such suture anchors 1000 allow for tightening, adjustment, or re-tensioning of a suture by tightening, loosening, re-tightening, and/or removing the anchor plug 1020 from anchor body 1010. Such suture anchors 1000 also allow for securing of the suture without the tying of knots or replacement of sutures when re-tensioning is required. Suture anchors 1000 may be used for the fixation of soft tissue to bone, or of bone to bone.

[0048] Suture anchors 1000 and plugs 1020 may be made from a variety of materials known to those of skill in the art. For example, for the suture anchors 1000 the material is typically a rigid material such as a metal, a polymer, or a ceramic. Biocompatible metals include, but are not limited to stainless steel, titanium, tantalum, aluminum, chromium, molybdenum, cobalt, silver, and gold, or alloys of such metals that are known to those of skill

in the art. Biocompatible polymers include, but are not limited to, high-density polyethylenes, polyurethanes, or blends of such polymers, as are known to those of skill in the art. Biocompatible polymers also include absorbable materials such as polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, or mixtures thereof. Biocompatible ceramics include, but are not limited to alumina, silica, silicon carbide, silicon nitride, zirconia, and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

[0049] The plugs 1020 may likewise be prepared from similar metals, polymers, and ceramics, however in some embodiments, the anchor plugs are prepared from materials that may be compressed. In such embodiments, the plug material is capable of being compressed from an uncompressed state to a compressed state, prior to or during insertion of the plug into the anchor body 1010. Such compression allows for the material to recoil from the compressed state to the uncompressed state and thereby increasing the friction fit between the plug and the anchor body 1010. Such materials that may be compressed include, but are not limited to, polyethylenes, silicones, polyesters, polyurethanes, polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, or mixtures of any two or more thereof.

[0050] The anchor 1000 may be used to secure sutures tensioning tissue without direct contact of tissue to bone. Examples of such uses of suture tensioning without tissue to bone contact include, but are not limited to, pelvic surgery, bladder suspension surgery, brow lift or face lift surgery, hand surgery and the like.

[0051] Methods of using suture anchors 300, 1000 are also provided. For example, referring to FIGS. 5-8 and 10-13, suture anchor 1000 is capable of adjustably retaining a suture. In a typical procedure, a nest, or hole, is drilled into a bone. The anchor body 1010, is then placed at the top of the nest and inserted such that the transverse bore 1012 is not obscured in the bone. The suture is then threaded through a tissue to be secured, and the ends of the suture are threaded through the transverse bore 1012. The anchor body 1010 may then be fully or partially driven into the nest, such that the suture is guided by the grooves 1013 and is freely moving through the grooves 1013 and transverse bore 1012. The anchor plug 1020 may then be engaged in the anchor body 1010 and driven into the anchor body 1010 until sutures are nearly engaged. The tension of the suture may then be set by the surgeon, or other medical professional, and the anchor plug 1020 fully engaged to secure the sutures

within the suture anchor 1000. To re-adjust the tension of the suture, the anchor plug 1020 may be driven in a reverse direction to loosen the anchor plug 1020, thereby allowing for free movement of the suture and the process of tensioning the suture may be repeated.

[0052] Referring now to FIG. 9, in another aspect, a cannula 900 comprising at least one chamber 910, 920, an air passage 930 having a valve 940, and at least one inflatable donut 950 is described. The cannula 900 has a distal end 970 and a proximal end 980. The inflatable donut 950 is located at, or near the distal end 970 of the cannula 900. The cannula may be used in both arthroscopic and endoscopic surgery. The cannula may be used to facilitate the passage of surgical items such as but not limited to instruments, sutures, and implants, into and out of a subject. The cannula 900 may be at least a single chambered passageway or the cannula 900 may be divided into multiple chambers, such as two chambers 910, 920 as illustrated in FIG. 9, or more than two chambers, depending upon the intended use of the cannula for a given procedure or procedures. In some embodiments, a flexible diaphragm is used to divide cannula 900 into multiple chambers 910, 920. In some such embodiments, the flexible diaphragm extends the entire length of the cannula 900. The donut 950 is an inflatable donut that, when inflated, has a larger diameter than a diameter of the cannula 900. Cannula 900 may also comprise a second donut 960, that may be rigid or inflatable. The second donut 960 may be located at or near the proximal end 980. In one aspect, the cannula 900 is inserted through the skin of a subject and the donut 950 is inflated via the air passage 930. In one embodiment, inflation of donut 950 is via a pump connected to the valve 940, and subsequent filling of the air chamber 930 and donut 950 with air from the pump. In another embodiment, inflation of donut 950 is via insertion of an air-filled syringe through the valve 940, and subsequent filling of the air chamber 930 and donut 950 with air from the syringe. The valve 940 may comprise rubber(s), silicone(s), or other materials known to those of skill in the art to be useful for the insertion and removal of syringes or other devices that may be used for inflation of donut 950. Other methods of inflating the donut 950 will be readily apparent to those of skill in the art. Inflation of donut 950 prevents inadvertent removal of the cannula from the subject during surgical procedures. The presence of inflatable donut 950 allows for less trauma to an insertion point in the skin of a subject by allowing for a cannula 900 of small diameter to be inserted, but then the larger diameter donut 950 prevents removal. In embodiments where the second donut 960 is present, the second donut 960 prevents the inadvertent full insertion of the cannula into a

subject beyond the surface of the skin of the subject. As noted above, because the second donut 960 does not pass through the skin of a subject, the second donut may be made of a rigid material or the second donut 960 may be inflatable. The second donut 960 may be integrally formed with cannula 900 or it may be formed separately and attached to cannula 900. In embodiments, where both the first donut 950 and the second donut 960 are inflatable, the donuts 950, 960 may be simultaneously inflatable in a “dumbbell” formation allowing for the inflation both within, via the first donut 950, and external, 960, to the body together.

[0053] Generally, cannulas are used to enter areas within the body such as the shoulder, knee or abdomen. Cannulas are also used as a channel to introduce surgical implements such as surgical instruments, suture anchors, or sutures. The cannulas embodied herein allow for separate chambers which allow multiple instruments or items to be entered into the joint but partitioned from one another. Another feature is an expandable, inflatable device on the end of the cannula which prevents expulsion of the cannula from the cavity as intracavitory pressure increases. The inflatable device, i.e. inflatable donut, locks the cannula in place.

[0054] In another aspect, methods for using instruments described herein, are provided. For example in some embodiments, methods are disclosed for using the suture passer 100, suture anchor 300, and cannula 900 are described. The embodied methods allow for tissue repair. In some embodiments, the methods provided allow for arthroscopic rotator cuff repair, by attempting to recreate the true native footprint of the rotator cuff of a subject. In some embodiments, such methods comprise preparing the rotator cuff bed, boring a tunnel 510 (FIGS. 5-8), or hole, through a portion of bone such as a humerus 520, passing a suture 530 through the tunnel 510, suturing the tissue using a suture passer 100, and anchoring the sutures 530 in the suture anchor 300, thereby securing the rotator cuff muscles to the bone

[0055] In some embodiments of the methods, the suture passer 100 descends through one chamber 950, 960 of the cannula 900, grasping tissue. The suture passer 100 passes a locking stitch as described above, followed by removal of the suture passer 100, with the sutures remaining in the chamber 950, 960 of the cannula 900. The other chamber 950, 960 of the cannula 900 has a humerus drill inserted. A small hole is bored in a greater tuberosity. One limb of a suture is then passed through the bone. A suture anchor 300 is then placed into

the greater tuberosity. Sutures may be placed through the suture anchor 300 either before or after insertion. If not previously completed, the suture anchor 300 is then fixated in the bone. The sutures are then tensioned thus tensioning the tissue. The plug 320 of the suture anchor 300 is then engaged in the anchor 310 and locked into position, thus securing the sutures. This step can be repeated to alter the tension of the sutures and therefore re-tensioning the sutures and tissue.

[0056] For the purposes of this disclosure and unless otherwise specified, “a” or “an” means “one or more.”

[0057] One skilled in the art will readily realize that all ranges discussed can and do necessarily also describe all subranges therein for all purposes, and that all such subranges also form part and parcel of this invention. Any listed range can be easily recognized as sufficiently describing and enabling the same range being broken down into at least equal halves, thirds, quarters, fifths, tenths, etc. As a non-limiting example, each range discussed herein can be readily broken down into a lower third, middle third and upper third, etc.

[0058] While some embodiments have been illustrated and described, it should be understood that changes and modifications can be made therein in accordance with ordinary skill in the art without departing from the invention in its broader aspects as defined in the following claims.

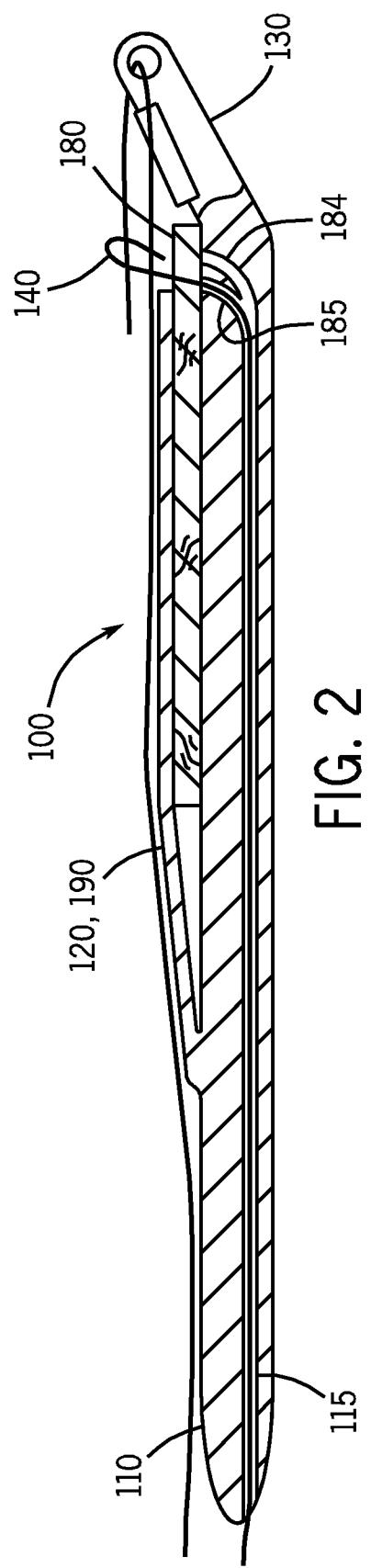
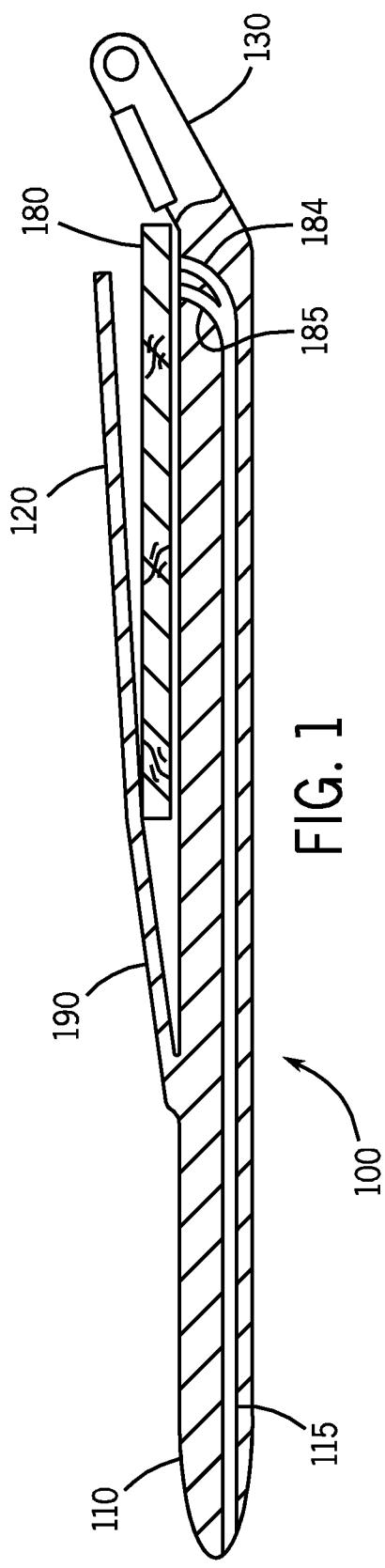
CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A suture anchor comprising:
 - an anchor body comprising:
 - a well comprising:
 - an outer surface;
 - an inner surface; and
 - an inner bottom surface;
 - a top surface;
 - a bottom surface distal to the top surface; and
 - a transverse bore;
 - an anchor plug comprising:
 - a post;
 - a head; and
 - a bottom face;

wherein the anchor body and the anchor plug form a knotless suture anchor configured to secure an unknotted suture.
2. The suture anchor of Claim 1, wherein the transverse bore is proximal to the inner bottom surface.
3. The suture anchor of Claim 1, further comprising grooves in the outer surface extending from the transverse bore to the top surface.
4. The suture anchor of Claim 1, the outer surface comprising rungs and the inner surface comprising threads.
5. The suture anchor of Claim 1, wherein the post is a threaded post.
6. The suture anchor of Claim 1, the outer surface comprising rungs, the inner surface comprising threads, and wherein the post is a threaded post, and the threads of the inner surface and the threads of the post are configured to engage to secure the anchor plug in the anchor body.

7. The suture anchor of Claim 1, wherein a region between the top surface of the anchor body and the inner surface of the well is a bevel surface of the anchor body.
8. The suture anchor of Claim 7, wherein the anchor plug further comprises a bevel surface on a bottom face of the head.
9. The suture of anchor of Claim 8, wherein the bevel surface of the head and the bevel of the anchor body are configured to engage one another when the anchor plug is fully engaged in the anchor body.
10. A method of using the suture anchor of Claim 1, comprising:
 - boring a nest in a bone;
 - positioning the bottom surface of the anchor body in the nest;
 - threading a suture through the transverse bore;
 - driving the suture anchor into the nest;
 - tensioning the suture without knotting the suture; and
 - securing the knotless suture in the anchor body with the anchor plug.
11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the threading of the suture precedes the positioning of the anchor body in the nest.
12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising:
 - loosening or removing the anchor plug;
 - re-tensioning the suture without knotting the suture; and
 - tightening or replacing the anchor plug in the anchor body.



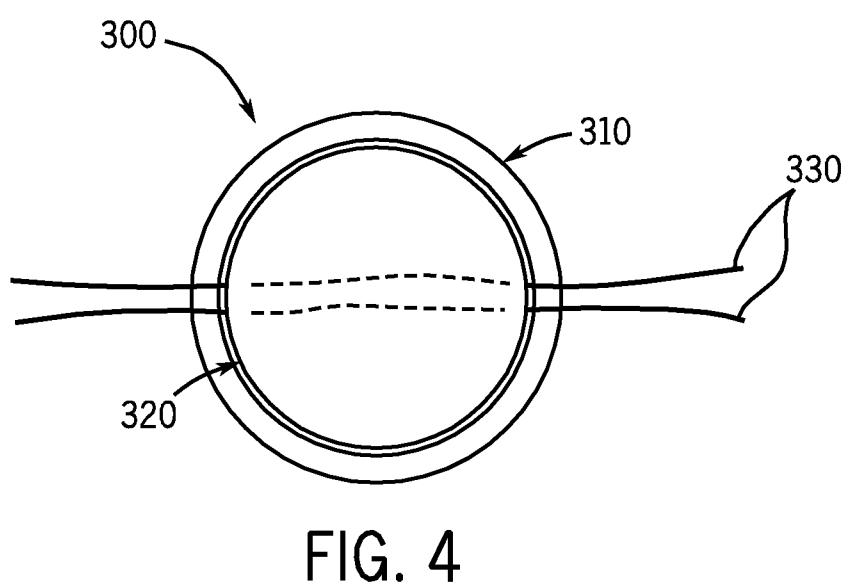
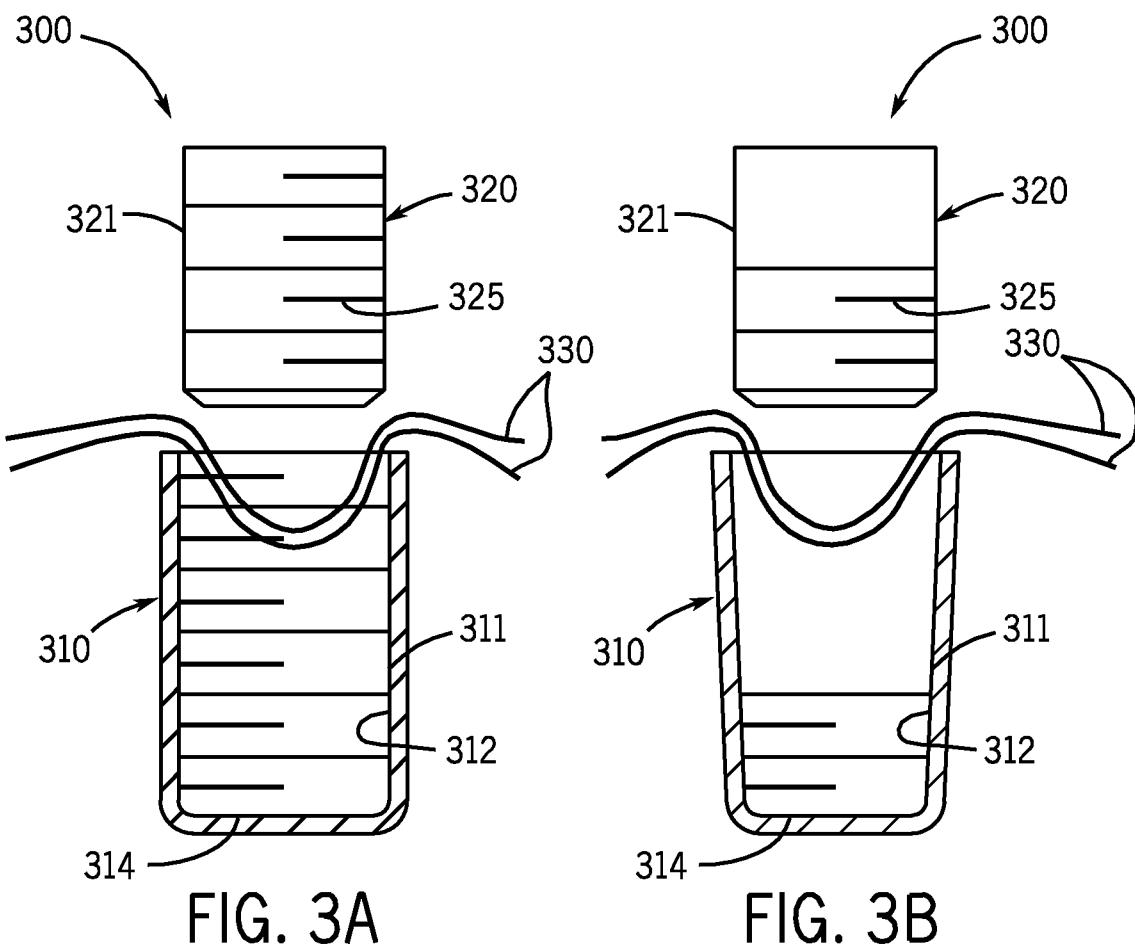


FIG. 5

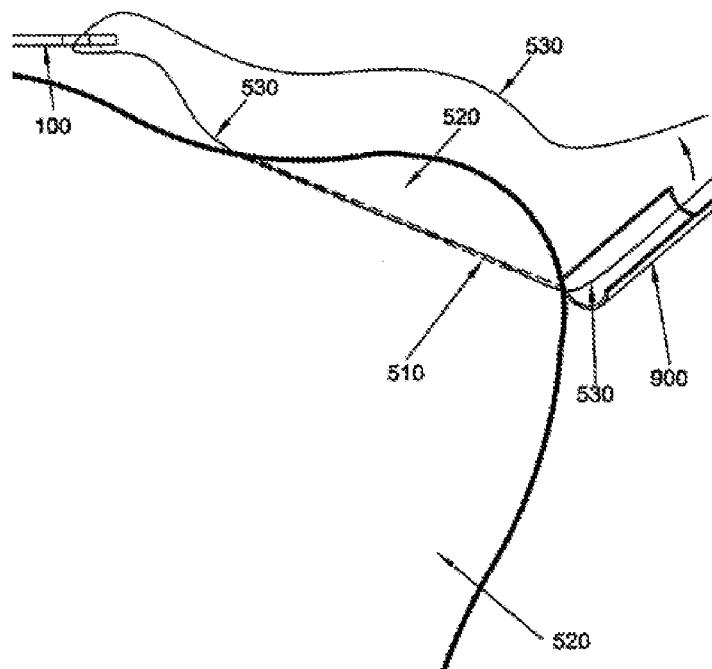


FIG. 6

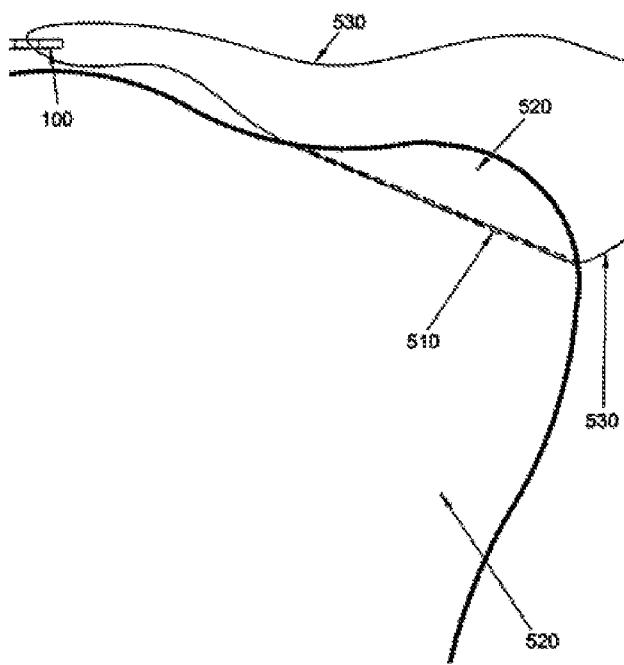


FIG. 7

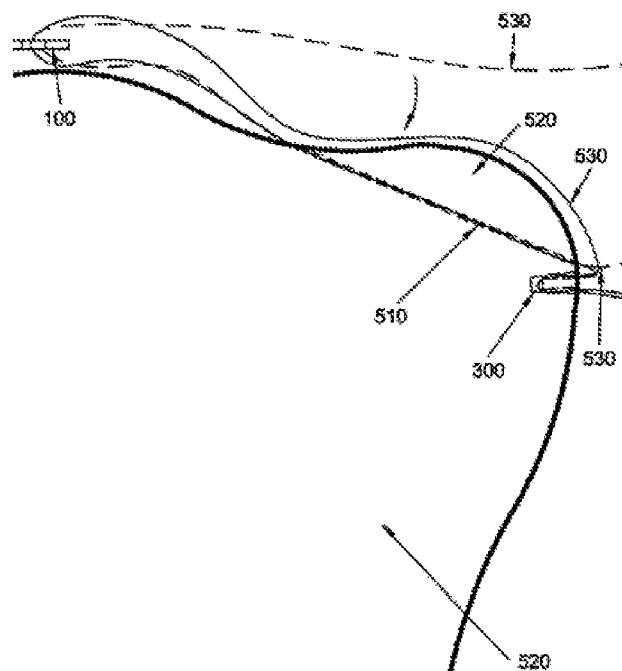
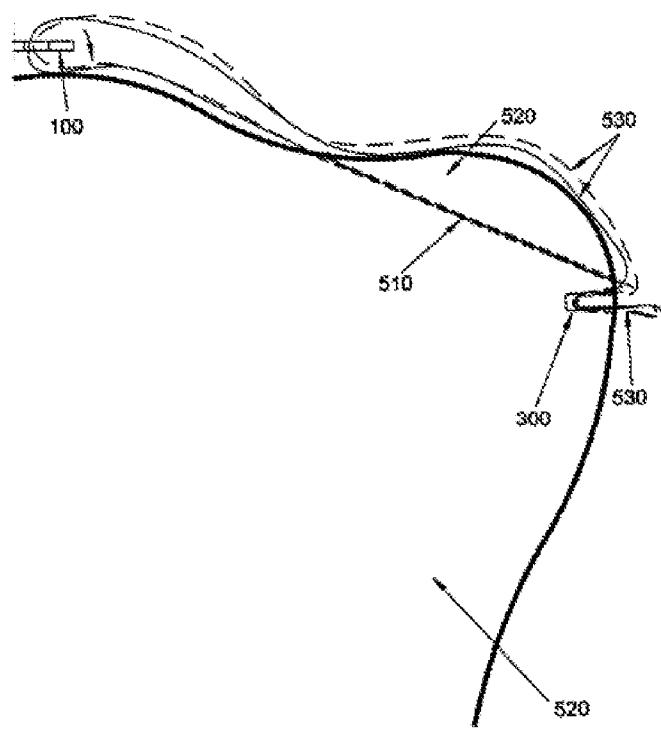


FIG. 8



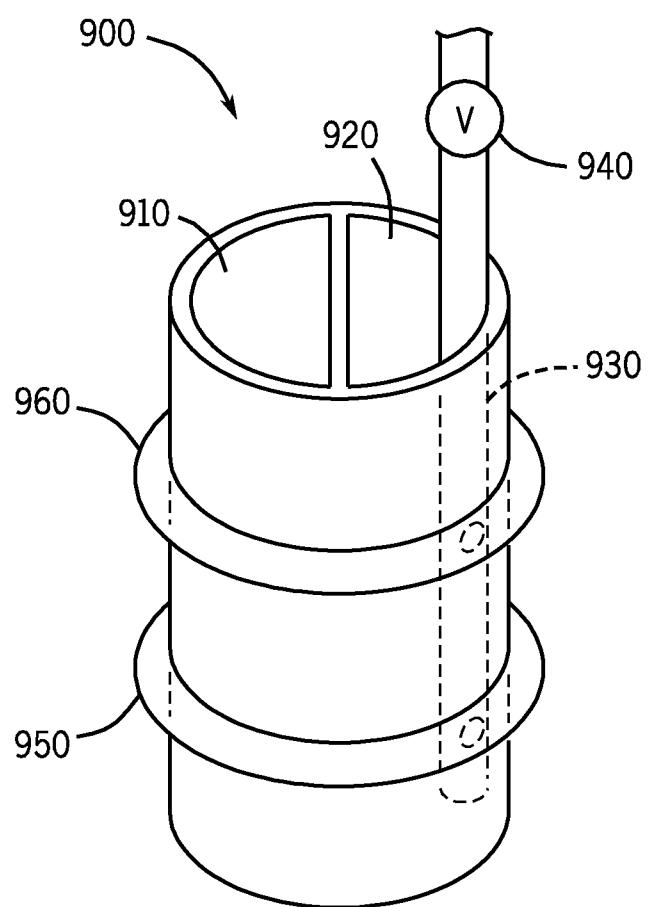


FIG. 9

FIG. 10

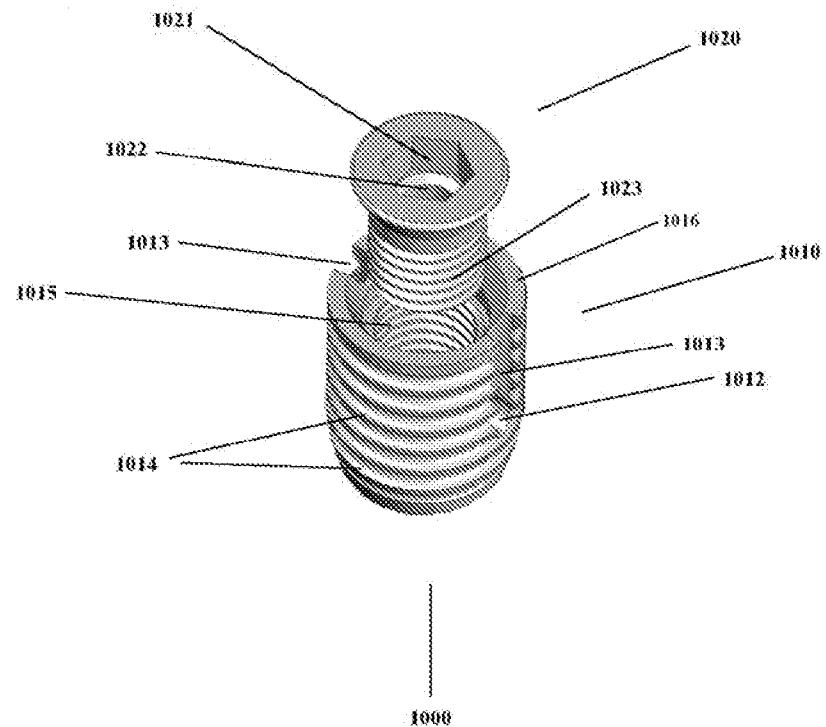


FIG. 11

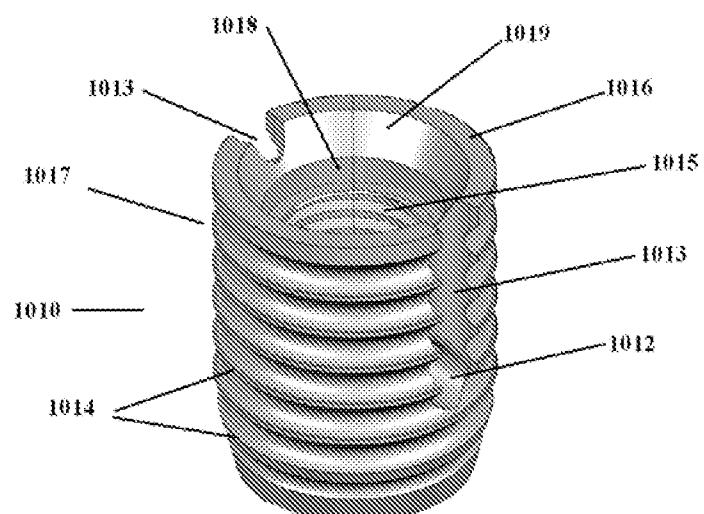


FIG. 12

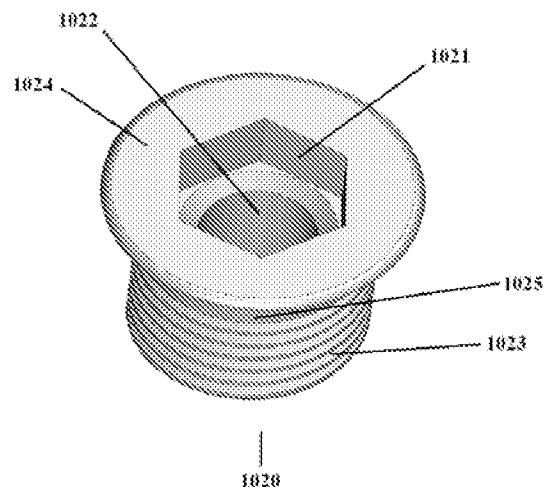
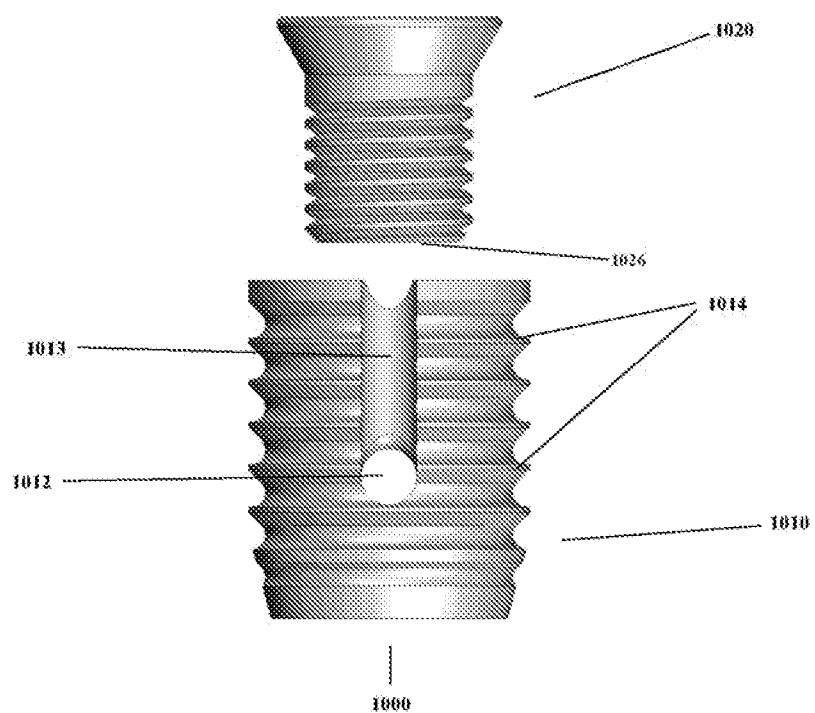


FIG. 13



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 09/39787

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61B 17/04 (2009.01)

USPC - 606/232

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)

USPC: 606/232

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
USPC: 606/148, 139, 151, 232, 228, 53, 60, 300 (text searched-see terms below)

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

PubWest (PGPB, USPT, USOC, EPAB, and JPAB); Google Scholar

Search Terms: suture, thread, anchor\$, device, holder, instrument, tension\$, fasten\$3, bore, channel, open\$, hole, transverse, perpendicul\$, across, groove, slit, bone, fixat\$, drill\$, screw\$, and cement\$

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2008/0077161 A1 (KAPLAN) 27 March 2008 (27.03.2008), entire document, more specifically, Fig 3-8, para[0007]-[0010], and [0028]-[0034]	1-12
Y	US 2006/0253119 A1 (BERBERICH et al.) 09 November 2006 (09.11.2006), entire document, more specifically, Fig 1-4, para[0032], [0033], [0047], [0048], [0061]-[0063], and [0065]-[0074]	1-12
Y	US 2008/0051836 A1 (FOERSTER et al.) 28 February 2008 (28.02.2008), Fig 2D, para[0048]	4 and 6

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



* Special categories of cited documents:

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" 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

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"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

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

08 May 2009 (08.05.2009)

Date of mailing of the international search report

14 MAY 2009

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