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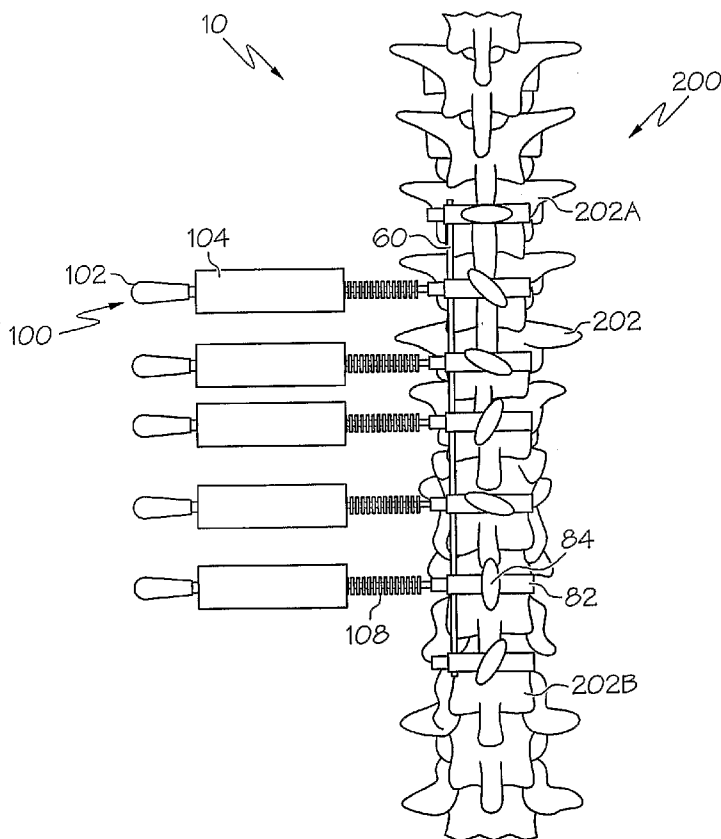
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR MINIMALLY INVASIVE POSTERIOR CORRECTION OF SPINAL DEFORMITY



(57) Abstract: An apparatus is operable to correct spinal deformities caused by scoliosis and the like. The apparatus may be used in a minimally invasive fashion and through the posterior side of the patient. A combination of internal screws and rods, as well as external pins, rods, and correction mechanisms, are used to obtain facet unlocking and translational correction of the affected vertebrae. The internal rods are inserted percutaneously and are secured to the affected vertebrae to maintain the deformity correction. External components are then removed, and the small incisions are sutured.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED  
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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)  
 USPTO EAST System (US, USPG-PUB, EPO, DERWENT), MicroPatent

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 5,649,926 A (HOWLAND) 22 July 1997 (22.07.1997) entire document.	1-2, 4-5, 7-8, 10-11, 13-14, 18-20
Y	US 2005/0124991 A1 (JAHNG) 9 June 2005 (09.06.2005) entire document	3, 6, 12
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