Abstract: An orthopedic implant for the partial replacement of joint surfaces. In one exemplary embodiment, the orthopedic implant includes an articulating portion having a concave articular surface and a base body. The orthopedic implant may be sized to replace a small portion of the patient's natural cartilage. In this manner, the orthopedic implant allows for the repair and/or replacement of a small portion of the articular cartilage of the acetabulum. In one exemplary embodiment, a plurality of different sized orthopedic implants may be connected together to replace a larger portion articulating cartilage.
Published: with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
30 October 2008
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC:

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

INV. A61F2/34

**B. RELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A61F

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>WO 88/07356 A (MACARTHUR A CREIG [US]) 6 October 1988 (1988-10-06) page 22, line 24 - page 36, line 33; figures 7-14</td>
<td>1-15</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>DE 199 04 126 A1 (CERAMTEC AG [DE]) 10 August 2000 (2000-08-10) the whole document</td>
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**D.** Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

**X.** See patent family annex.

**Date of the actual completion of the international search**

17 July 2008

**Date of mailing of the international search report**

28/07/2008

**Name and mailing address of the ISA/Authorized officer**

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
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Cuiper, Ralf
Continuation of Box II.I

Claims Nos.: 16-23

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery. The steps
- "removing the defect in the bearing surface of the acetabulum",
- "shaping the acetabulum" and
- "implanting the acetabular implant"
fall unambiguously under the definition of a surgical operation in the sense of R. 39.1(iv) PCT.
This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: 16-23
   because they relate to subject matter required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
   see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

2. Claims Nos.:
   because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
   because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant’s protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant’s protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.
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