Title: PROSTHETIC INTERVERTEBRAL DISC AND METHODS FOR USING SAME

Abstract: Prosthetic intervertebral discs (100) and methods for using the same are described. The subject prosthetic discs (100) include upper (110) and lower (120) endplates separated by a compressible core member (130). The prosthetic discs (100) described herein include one-piece, two-piece, three-piece, and four-piece structures. The subject prosthetic discs (100) exhibit stiffness in the vertical direction, torsional stiffness, bending stiffness in the sagittal plane, and bending stiffness in the frontal plane, where the degree of these features can be controlled independently by adjusting the components of the discs (100). The interface mechanism between the endplates (110, 120) and the core members (130) of several embodiments of the described prosthetic discs (100) enables a very easy surgical operation for implantation.
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US04/25056

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61F 2/44
US CL : 623/17.16

According to International Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 623/17.16, 17.11-17.15

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)

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 3,867,728 A (STUBSTAD et al.) 25 February 1975 (25.02.1975), see figures 1-2.</td>
<td>1,21,23</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 2003/0045939 A1 (CASUTT) 06 March, 2003 (06.03.2003) see Figure 3</td>
<td>1,22,30-33,36-37,41,42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230

Authorized officer
Thomas Barrett
Telephone No. 571 272-4746

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