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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **DEPUY SPINE, INC.** [US/US]; 325 Paramount Drive, Raynham, MA 02767 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **O'NEIL, Michael, J.** [US/US]; 121 Lombard Avenue, West Barnstable, MA 02668 (US). **RUBERTE, Ramone, A.** [US/US]; 3060 Whisperwood Drive, Apt. 409, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 (US). **STAD, Shawn, D.** [US/US]; 17 Courtney Street, Apt 10, Fall River, MA 02720 (US). **HAWKINS, John, Riley** [US/US]; 40 Cook Road, Cumberland, RI 02864 (US).

(74) Agent: **MAGINOT, Paul, J.**; Maginot, Moore & Beck LLP, Chase Tower, 111 Monument Circle, Suite 3250, Indianapolis, IN 46204-5109 (US).

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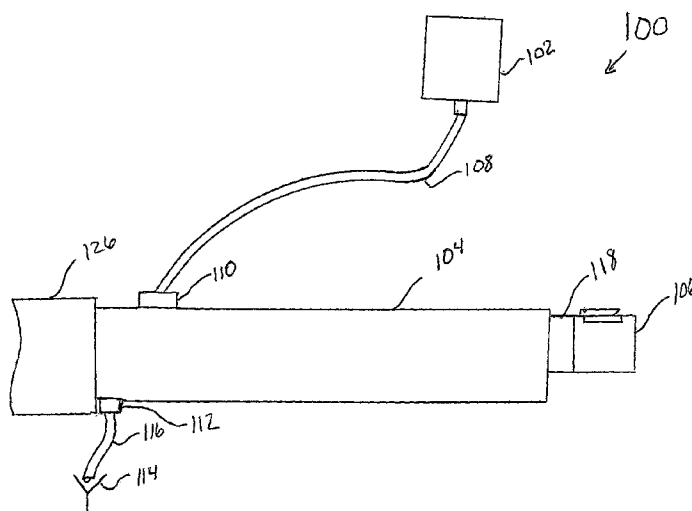
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(54) Title: EXPANDABLE INTERVERTEBRAL TOOL SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: The invention includes a system and method for loosening of tissue. In one embodiment, an intervertebral tissue removal system includes at least one abrading member and at least one expandable member operable to be expanded from a first condition to a second condition, wherein the volume defined by the expandable member in the second condition is greater than the volume defined by the expandable member in the first condition, the expandable member operably connected to the abrading member such that as the expandable member expands from the first condition to the second condition, the abrading member is moved from a first position to a second position. The system includes an expansion media for insertion within the expandable member and an expansion media conduit for delivering the expansion media to the expandable member to expand the expandable member from the first condition to the second condition.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61B 17/00 (2008.01)

USPC - 606/79

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)

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USPC - 606/79, 80, 83, 84, 85, and 170

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 WEST System (US, USPG-PUB)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2005/0043737 A1 (REILEY et al) 24 February 2005 (24.02.2005) entire document	1-52
A	US 2006/0229625 A1 (TRUCKAI et al) 12 October 2006 (12.10.2006) entire document	1-52
A	US 2006/0224160 A1 (TRIEU et al) 05 October 2006 (05.10.2006) entire document	1-52

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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"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

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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. 571-273-3201

Authorized officer:

Blaine R. Copenheaver

PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300

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