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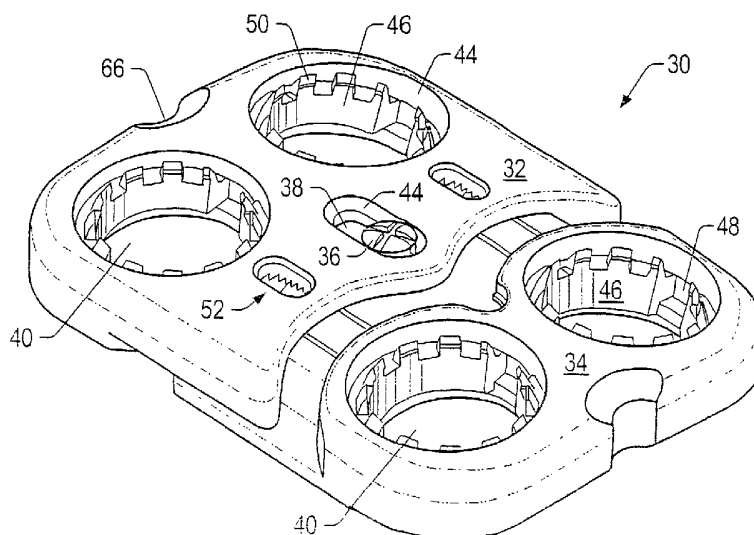
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(54) Title: SPINAL PLATE SYSTEM FOR STABILIZING A PORTION OF A SPINE



(57) Abstract: A spinal plate system (30) that maintains intervertebral spacing and spinal stability is provided. In an embodiment, a spinal compression plate (30) may include two or more plates (32, 34) coupled together form an adjustable-length plate. Movement of plates (32, 34) in a spinal compression plate (30) may be uni-directional. Compression of a spinal compression plate movement may mimic natural settling of bones in a spine and/or distribute at least a portion of a vertebral load to an implant positioned between two vertebrae. Maintaining at least a portion of the vertebral load on an insert may increase bone growth and increase fusion between an implant and surrounding vertebrae.



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 17/56

US CL : 606/69

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)

U.S. : 606/69,61,70,71

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)

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## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,672,177 A (Seldin) 30 September 1997, see entire document.	1-130
X	US 6,306,136 B1 (Baccelli) 23 October 2001, see entire document.	1-130
A	US 3,604,414 A (Borges) 14 September 1971, see entire document.	1-130
A	US 5,470,333 A (Ray) 28 November 1995, see entire document.	1-130
A	US 5,484,439 A (Olson et al.) 16 January 1996, see entire document.	1-130
A	US 5,616,142 A (Yuan et al.) 01 April 1997, see entire document.	1-130

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"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
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"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
"I" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A, P	US 6,402,756 B1 (Ralph et al.) 11 June 2002, see entire document	1-130
A	US 5,601,553 A (Trebing et al.) 11 February 1997, see entire document.	1-130