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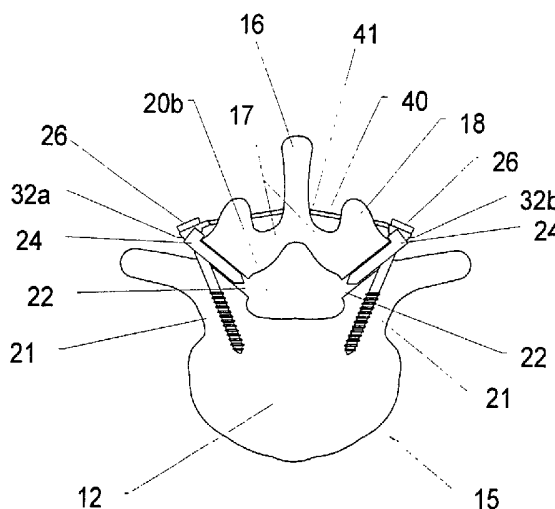
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(54) Title: METHOD AND IMPLANT FOR EXPANDING SPINAL CANAL



(57) Abstract: The present invention expands a spinal canal by making two pedicle cuts in a vertebra, separating each vertebra cut by inserting an implant into the cut which expands the spinal canal, and securing each separated vertebral cut allowing the vertebra to heal with the spinal canal expanded. The implant (11) includes two stents(24), two washers (32a), two screws (26) and a cable (40). One stent is impacted into each pedicle cut in the vertebra. One screw is inserted through one washer and one stent and is threaded into an anterior portion of the vertebra for each pedicle cut in the vertebra. The cable is attached at each end to a washer and is strapped around and through a posterior portion of the vertebra to secure the posterior portion of the vertebra to the anterior portion of the vertebra, stabilizing the expanded spinal canal and allowing the vertebra to heal with the spinal canal expanded.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 17/70

US CL : 606/103, 61; 623/17.11

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. : 606/103, 61, 74; 623/17.11, 17.16

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

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,258,031 A (SALIB et al) 02 November 1993, whole document	1-26
A	US 5,425,772 B1 (BRANTIGAN) 20 June 1995, whole document	1-26
A	US 6,077,268 A (FARRIS et al) 20 June 2000, whole document	1-26
A,P	US 6,224,599 A (BAYNHAM et al) 01 May 2001, whole document	1-26
A,P	US 6,248,106 B1 (FERREE) 19 June 2001, whole document	1-26



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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"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
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