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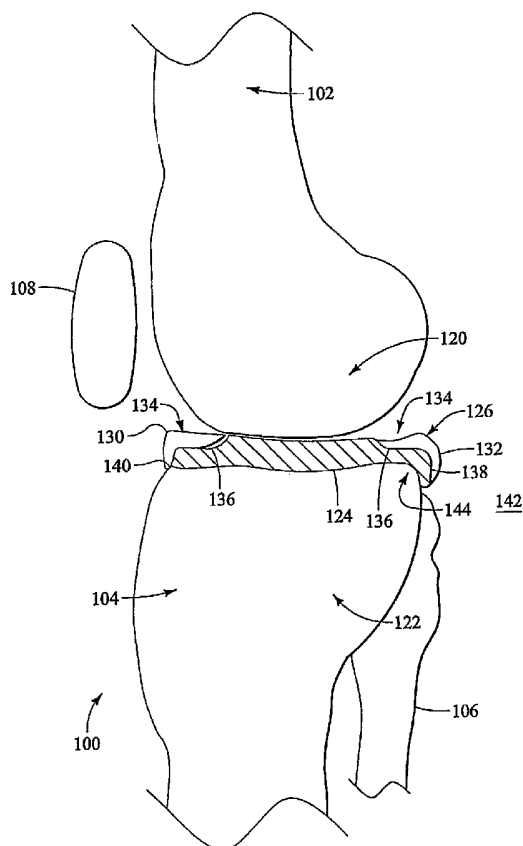
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MENISCUS PRESERVING IMPLANT METHOD AND APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: The invention includes an interpositional arthroplasty implant (124) adapted to be retained in position in apposition to a joint surface, at least in part, by surrounding healthy tissue. In some embodiments the implant comprises a knee implant. The implant can include one or more structural features adapted to be fixedly positioned within and/or in apposition to the natural meniscus.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/20458

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61F 02/08

US CL : 623/14.12

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. : 623/14.12

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. |
|------------|---|-----------------------|
| X | US 2002/0127264 A1 (FELT et al) 12 September 2002 (12.09.2002), Figures 1B and 2 A, and paragraph 0080. | 1-10,21-23 |
| X | US 2002/0151975 A1 (FARR II et al.) 17 October 2002 (17.10.2002), see entire document. | 11-16,18 |

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 application or patent 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 |
| "L" 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 | | |
| "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed | | |

Date of the actual completion of the international search

27 December 2004 (27.12.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/20458

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

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.: 17
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Please See Continuation Sheet

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).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

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 fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
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.
 No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/20458

Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable 1. because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

Claim 17 is directed to or including within its scope a human being or portions thereof and is not considered to be patentable subject matter since the grant of a limited, but exclusive property right in a human being is prohibited.