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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

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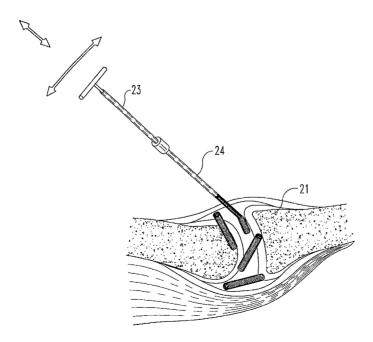
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21 December 2007

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.

(54) Title: COLLAGEN-BASED MATERIALS AND METHODS FOR AUGMENTING INTERVERTEBRAL DISCS



(57) Abstract: A method of augmenting an intervertebral disc by injecting particles of collagen-based material into the disc. The particles may be dehydrated before implantation, and rehydrated after implantation, or they may be implanted in a "wet" state - such as a slurry or gel. Radiocontrast materials may be included to enhance imaging of the injected material. Other additives may include analgesics, antibiotics, proteoglycans, growth factors, and/or other cells effective to promote healing and/or proper disc function.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/US 03/29278

			PC1/05 03	1/292/0			
A. CLASSI IPC 7	FICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER A61F2/44						
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC							
B. FIELDS	SEARCHED	-					
Minimum do IPC 7	Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)						
	tion searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that s			rched			
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal							
C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT						
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X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Patent family members are listed in annex.							
° Special cal	* Special categories of cited documents : "T" later document published after the international filing date						
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filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another		 "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 "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention 					
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"P" docume later th	nt published prior to the international filing date but an the priority date claimed	in the art. *&" document member of	of the same patent fo	amily			
Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search			oh report				
2:	1 May 2004	02/06/2	004				
Name and m	ialling address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2	Authorized officer					
	NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Тх. 31 651 еро пl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Stach,	R				

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International Application No
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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.1

Claims Nos.: 1-34

the claims.

Claims 1-17: Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery Claims 18-34: The subject matter of these claims concerns an intervertebral disc within a living body and is thus neither susceptible of industrial application nor patentable. The International Search Authority is therefore not required to search this subject matter (see Article 17(2)(a)(i) and PCT International Search Guidelines, Chapter VIII-1.1). Consequently, in the light of the description, the search has been restricted to the particulate collagen-based material mentioned in

International application No. PCT/US 03/29278

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box I	Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This Inte	ernational Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1. X	Claims Nos.: 1-34 because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
	see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
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:
з. 🗌	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 II	Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This Inte	rnational 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 o	The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.