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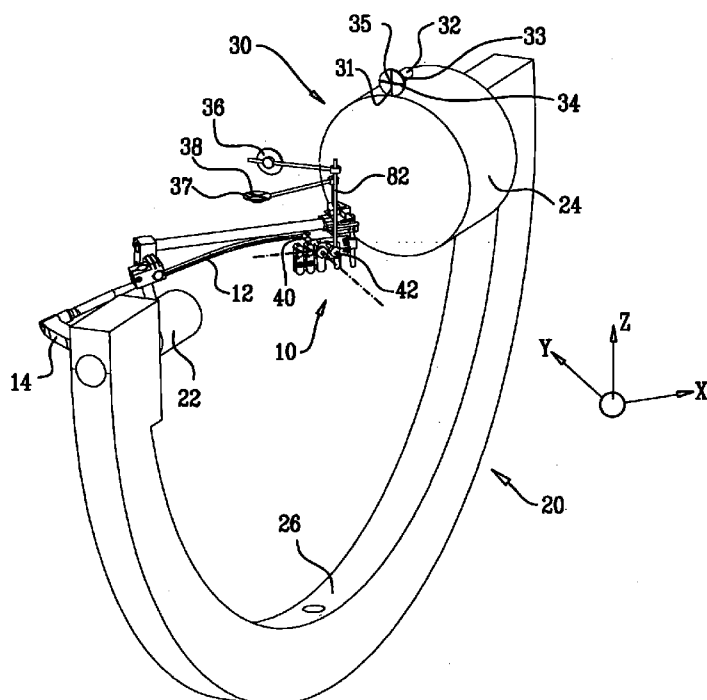
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- (54) Title: DRILL-AIMING METHOD AND APPARATUS

FIG. 4



(57) Abstract: A method is described for aligning a bone-penetration device (42) with a nail-hole (54) at a distal end (52) of an implantable nail (12). At least one lateral x-ray image of a drill-guide (40) and the distal end of the nail is generated. It is determined that the drill-guide is aligned with the nail-hole by determining that, in the lateral x-ray image: (a) a line corresponding to a longitudinal axis of the drill-guide, and (b) a line corresponding to a longitudinal axis of the distal end of the nail are substantially collinear. The bone-penetration device is aligned with the nail-hole, using the drill-guide, in response to determining that the drill-guide is aligned with the nail-hole. Other embodiments are also described.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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USPC - 606/97

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)  
606/97

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
606/96, 102  
378/162, 163, 164

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

PubWest, Google

Search Terms Used: bone, nail, drill-guide, Xray, image, implant, alignment, radiopaque, light, mirror,

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X — Y	US 2005/0251113 A1 (Kienzle) 10 November 2005 (10.11.2005), abstract, para [0012], [0018], para [0021], [0025], [0028]-[0029], Fig.1.	1-2 ----- 3-34
Y	US 4,418,422 A (Richter et al.) 29 November 1983 (29.11.1983), Col 1, In 53-67, Col 2, In 1-2, Fig. 1.	3-34
Y	US 4,223,227 A (Horwitz) 16 September 1980 (16.09.1980), Col 7, In 12-17, Fig. 9.	4-8, 19-29
Y	US 2006/0098851 A1 (Shoham et al.) 11 May 2006 (11.05.2006), Pra [0053], [0055], [0060]-[0061], Fig.2 and 3.	10, 13-14, 16, 30-33

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

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