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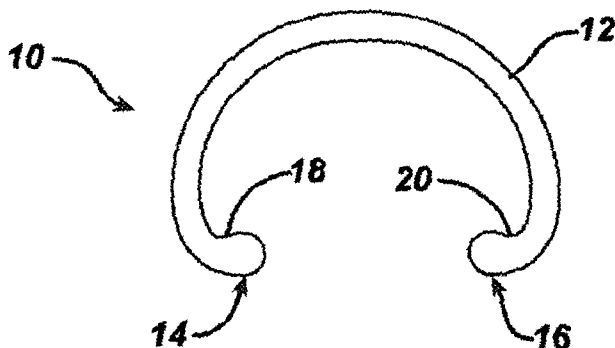
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(54) Title: NUCLEUS ANTI-EXPULSION DEVICES AND METHODS

FIG. 1



(57) Abstract: Devices and methods for preventing the migration or expulsion of a nucleus disc replacement implant are provided. In one embodiment, an anti-expulsion device includes a body that is movable between a compressed configuration where it is adapted to fit through an opening in an annulus of a spinal disc, and an expanded configuration where it has a size that is larger than a size of the opening in the annulus of a spinal disc. The body can also include one or more mating features that allow the body to interact with a nucleus disc replacement implant and/or an annular wall of an annulus. As a result, since the body is larger than the opening of the annulus in the expanded configuration, the interlocking connection between the body and the nucleus disc replacement implant and/or annular wall will allow the body to prevent the nucleus disc replacement implant from being

expulsed from the opening in the annulus.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC: **A61F 2/44(2006.01)**

USPC: **623/17.11**
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : 623/17.11

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 6,592,625 (CAUTHEN) 15 July 2003 (15.07.2003), see whole document	1,9-12,14,16-24,27-29
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Y		2-8,13,15,25,26

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

* Special categories of cited documents:	Symbol
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
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"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)	"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
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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