Title: INTRA- FACET FIXATION DEVICE AND METHOD OF USE

Abstract: A implantable interference device configured for intra-facet placement within a facet joint is provided. The device includes a shank capable of engaging opposing faces of the facet joint. The shank can further include a head extending from a proximal end of the shank wherein the head is configured to engage and/or buttress opposing faces of the joint, and also configured for preventing over-insertion of the device. Optionally, at least a portion of the shank can include or be formed of a fusion-promoting bioactive material. Further, a method for providing fixation of a facet joint by intra-facet placement of an interference device within the facet joint is provided.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61F 2/44
USPC - 606/247

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)

IPC(8) - A61F2/44
USPC - 606/247

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

A61B17/70, 17/68, 17/84, 17/86
606/246, 60, 53

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

PubWEST (USPTO, PGPB, EPAB, JPAB), Google Scholar

Search Terms Used: fuse, facet, intra-facet, facet screw, head, protrusion, barb, hook, shank, thread, undulate, interference, diameter, radius, stenosis, facet spacer

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 2006/0064039 A1 (PAVLOV et al.) 23 March 2006 (23.03.2006) Entire document, especially para[0012], para[0017], para[0038], para[0037], para[0047] and FIG. 2a.</td>
<td>1, 4, 6, 7, 15, 16, 18 &amp; 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 5,275,601 A (GOGOLEWSKI et al.) 04 January 1994 (04.01.1994) col 2, ln 14-24 and FIG. 1.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 4,878,794 A (POTUCEK) 07 November 1989 (07.11.1989) col 2, ln 30-37 and FIG. 1.</td>
<td>8-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 3,934,444 A (SIMONS) 27 January 1976 (27.01.1976) col 6, ln 20-33 and FIG. 3.</td>
<td>11-13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

□ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:
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  *E* earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
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  *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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  * 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
  * A* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
20 July 2008 (20.07.2008)

Date of mailing of the international search report
25 JUL 2008

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PCT I/C: 571-272-4500
PCT GSP: 571-272-7774

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2007)