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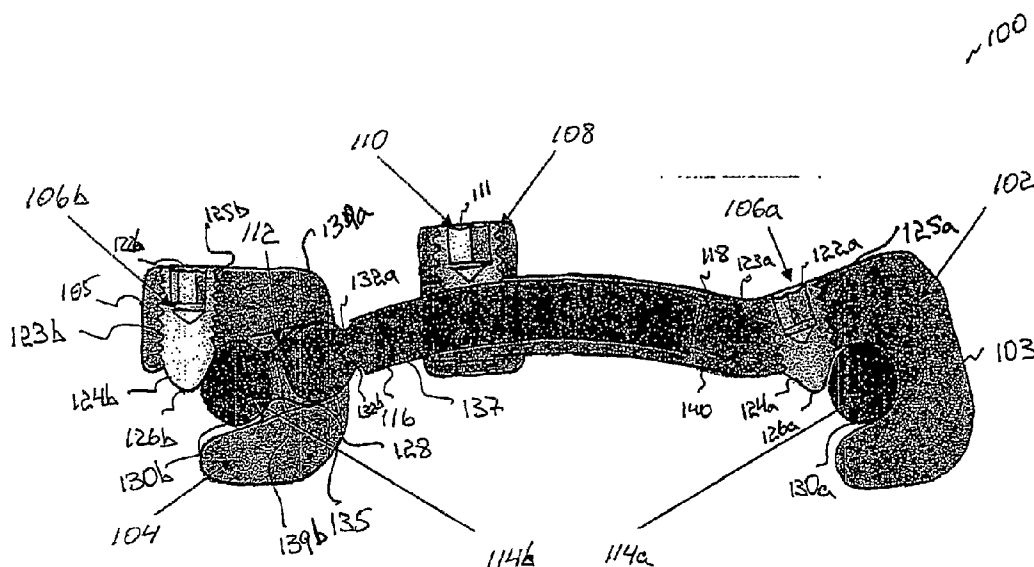
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(54) Title: MULTI-AXIAL TRANSVERSE ROD CONNECTOR



(57) Abstract: A multi-axial rod connector for connecting spinal rods is provided. The rod connector includes a poly-axial rod assembly configured to include a lateral translation mechanism and a fixed hook configured to be rigidly coupled to one end of the poly-axial rod assembly. The fixed hook includes a fixed hook cavity configured to secure a spinal rod. The rod connector also includes a variable hook configured to be rotatably coupled another end of the poly-axial rod. The variable hook includes a variable hook cavity configured to secure another spinal rod. The lateral translation mechanism is configured to change distance between the fixed hook and the variable hook.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2007/021655

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61B17/70

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)

A61B

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 302 169 A (DEPUY ACROMED INC [US]) 16 April 2003 (2003-04-16)	1-3, 10, 11
Y	figure 7	4-6
X	US 2002/169448 A1 (VANACKER GERARD M [FR]) 14 November 2002 (2002-11-14)	1-3, 10, 11
Y	figure 4	4-6
Y	US 2004/049188 A1 (SLIVKA MICHAEL ANDREW [US] ET AL) 11 March 2004 (2004-03-11)	4-6
Y	US 2005/228377 A1 (CHAO NAM T [US] ET AL) 13 October 2005 (2005-10-13)	4-6
	figures 4A-5B	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

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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

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

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 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.

Z document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2007/021655

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.: 12-19
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
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 fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
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 and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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US 2005228377	A1	13-10-2005	NONE	