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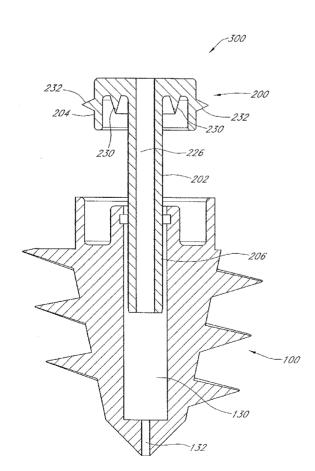
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ATTACHING SOFT TISSUE TO BONE



(57) Abstract: Disclosed herein are methods and devices for securing soft tissue to a rigid material such as bone. A non-metallic bone anchor is described that comprises a base and a top such that suture material may be compressed between surfaces on the base and top to secure the suture to the anchor by ultrasonically welding the surfaces. Also described is an inserter/welder that can be used to insert the bone anchor into bone and move the anchor top relative to the anchor base to clamp suture material there between and to weld the suture material within the clamping area.



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FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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Name and r	nailing address of the ISA/	Authorized officer		
	European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk			
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International application No PCT/US2007/084180

Cotoman	Citation of the surrent with indication, where convented of the relevant	Delovant to claim No.
Category* '	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 7 001 411 B1 (DEAN) 21 February 2006 (2006-02-21) abstract; figures column 3, line 9 - column 4, line 30 column 4, line 49 - column 5, line 15 column 5, lines 39-57 column 6, lines 35-42	1-3, 15-23
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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. X Cla	nims Nos.: 24–33 cause they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:				
	ule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by urgery				
be	tims Nos.: cause they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:				
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	aims Nos.: cause 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 Interna	tional Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:				
S	ee additional sheet				
	all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable ims.				
	all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of ditional fees.				
3. As	only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search reportcovers				
on	ly those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:				
4. X No	required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is stricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:				
-	1- 23				
Remark on	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.				

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1- 23

An anchor comprising a welding feature for securing a suture to bone.

2. claims: 34- 36 and 54- 56

A device for inserting an anchor into bone comprising means for ultrasonically weld an area of the anchor.

3. claims: 37~ 43

A suture anchor comprising an anchor top having a crimp-shaping mechanism and an anchor base having a crimpable extension adapted to deform upon receiving pressure from the crimp-shaping mechanism.

4. claims: 44-53

A suture anchor comprising: an anchor top comprising a distal member having protrusions on its exterior portion and a proximal member slidably attached to the distal member; and an anchor base having a central bore for receiving the distal member.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/US2007/084180

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