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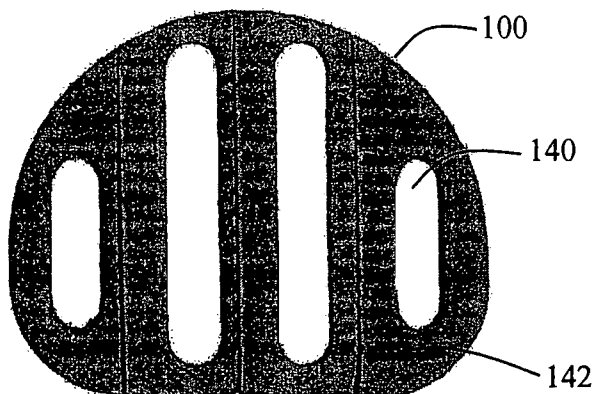
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(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR MINIMALLY INVASIVE MODULAR INTERBODY FUSION DEVICES



(57) Abstract: The invention is a minimally invasive modular interbody fusion device for fusing adjacent spinal vertebrae. The device includes a first modular segment having a width including a first rail extending along one side of the width and beyond a periphery of a body portion of the first modular segment. A second modular segment slidably connected to the first rail on one side of the width and having a second rail extending at least partially along another side of the width and beyond a periphery of a body portion of the second modular segment. A third modular segment slidably connected to the second rail on one side. The modular segments can be extended and are positioned in a generally side by side configuration that defines a unitary body that mimics the planar shape of the vertebra such that the device contacts and supports the adjacent vertebra.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 07/24262

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61F 2/44 (2008.04)

USPC - 623/17.11

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)
623/17.11Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
A61B 17/58 (2006.01); 623/17.11; 623/11.11; 623/16.11; 623/17.15Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
PubWEST (USPT, PGPB, EPAB, JPAB); Google Patent/Scholar: minimally invasive modular spinal fusion; minimally invasive fusion rail; minimally invasive modular spinal fusion interbody slidably; spinal implant rail; spinal implant device having rails, interlocking spinal implant; interlocking vertebral fusion device

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|-------------------------------|
| Y | US 2006/018999 A1 (Zwirkoski) 24 August 2006 (24.08.2006), para [0010, 0012-0020, 0022, 0024, 0068-0073, 0075, 0084]; fig. 4a-4k; fig. 6 | 1-31 |
| Y | US 6,652,587 B2 (Felt et al.) 25 November 2003 (25.11.2003), col 9, ln 25-39; col 15, ln 5-10; col 22, ln 38-50. | 4, 6-8, 11-13, 22, 25, 28, 31 |

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

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