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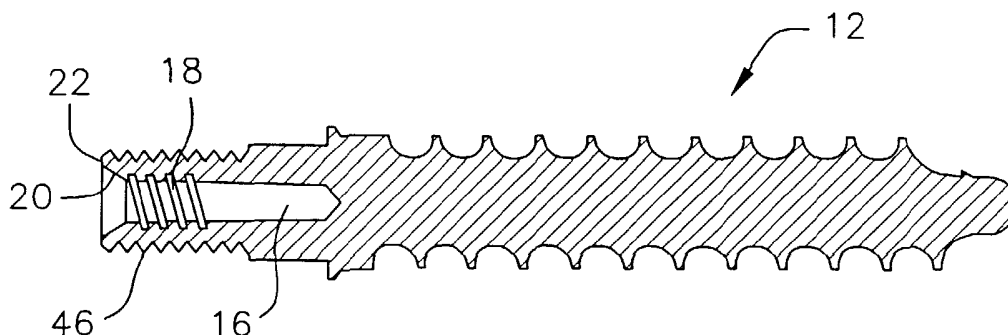
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(54) Title: VERTEBRAL ALIGNMENT SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for aligning and fixing vertebral bodies is provided. The vertebral alignment system of the current invention comprises an integrated system of alignment rods (10), cannulated pedicle screws (12), filler plugs (14) and fixation hardware. The components are designed such that a surgeon can accurately manipulate and align vertebral bodies using the removable alignment rods attached to the cannulated pedicle screws (12) and to enable the installation of fixation system hardware while the alignment rods (10) are still in place. A system and method for aligning vertebral bodies using the vertebral alignment system of the invention is also provided.



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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL :606/61

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)

,U.S. : 606/61,65,72,73

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)

EAST

search terms: alignment, screw, thread

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,885,299 A (WINSLOW et al) 23 March 1999, see whole document and figures.	1-34
X --- Y	US 5,139,499 A (SMALL et al) 18 August 1992, see whole document and figures.	1-3, 5, 9, 11, 32, 34 --- 13
X --- Y	US 6,056,753 A (JACKSON) 2 May 2000, see whole document.	1-3,5,9,11 --- 13
A	US 6,074,423 A (LAWSON) 13 June 2000, see whole document.	1-34
A	US 5,100,405 A (MCLAREN) 31 March 1992, see whole document.	1-34

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

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## C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4,463,753 A (GUSTILO) 7 August 1984, see whole document.	1-34
A	US 6,077,267 A (HUENE) 20 June 2000, see whole document.	1-34
A	US 5,971,987 A (HUXEL et al) 26 October 1999, see whole document.	1-34