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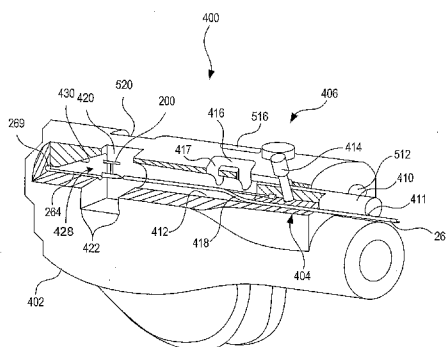
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(54) Title: TISSUE FIXATION ASSEMBLY HAVING PREPOSITIONED FASTENERS AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A tissue fastener assembly delivers a fastener for deployment. The assembly includes a fastener including a first member, a second member, the first and second members having first and second ends, and a flexible connecting member fixed to each of the first and second members intermediate the first and second ends and extending between the first and second members. The first member has a longitudinal axis and a through channel along the axis. The assembly further includes a deployment wire slidably received within the through channel of the first member that pierces into the tissue and guides the first member through the tissue, a guide structure defining a lumen that receives the fastener and deployment wire and guides the deployment wire and fastener to the tissue, and a fastener configuration structure that orientates the second member in a predetermined position relative to the first member within the lumen for dependable deployment.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61B 17/10, 17/20, 19/00 (2006.01)

USPC - 606/139, 143; 128/898; 604/22

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) - A61B 17/04, 17/08, 17/06, 17/00, 17/10; A61F 2/04 (2006.01)

USPC - 606/144, 142, 151, 157, 222, 217, 208; 623/23.65; 227/176.1

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)

USPTO EAST System (US, USPG-PUB, EPO, DERWENT), MicroPatent, DialogPro

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,113,609 A (ADAMS) 05 September 2000 (05.09.2000) entire document	1-6, 8-20, 22-26
-		
Y		7, 21
Y	US 2005/0075653 A1 (SAADAT et al) 07 April 2005 (07.04.2005) entire document.	7 and 21
A	US 6,790,214 B2 (KRAEMER et al) 14 September 2004 (14.09.2004) entire document	1-26
A	US 2005/0085829 A1 (KRAEMER et al) 21 April 2005 (21.04.2005) entire document	1-26
A	US 6,743,239 B1 (KUEHN et al) 01 June 2004 (01.06.2004) entire document	1-26
A	US 6,626,916 B1 (YEUNG et al) 30 September 2003 (30.09.2003) entire document	1-26

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"&" document member of the same patent family

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