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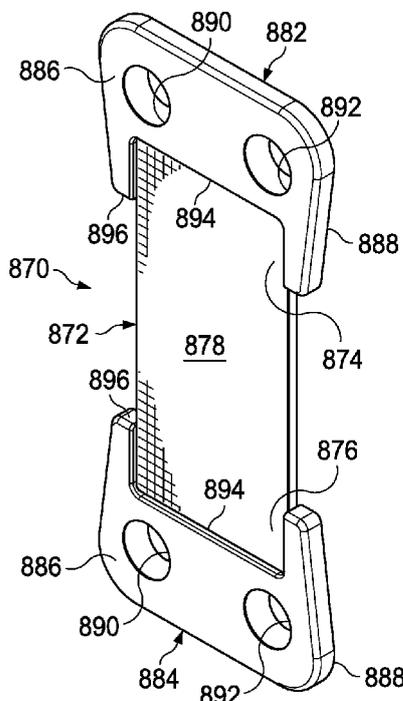
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: TENSION BAND

Fig. 1



(57) Abstract: Various embodiments of a vertebral tension band assembly and associated connection structure are provided. The tension band assemblies may be attached to vertebral bodies to, for example, connect one vertebrae to another, retain the band in approximately a preferred position by application of tension to the band during insertion and/or limit, impede, inhibit, reduce or interfere with the separation from one vertebra to another and may further block, impede, interfere with, inhibit, reduce or present an obstacle to dislodgement of a spinal implant from between the vertebrae to which it is attached. Flexible band portions of the assemblies may be treated and/or configured to promote bony integration between the band and the associated vertebrae, limit tissue adhesion to the band, and/or to elute a therapeutic substance from the installed band to the surgical site.

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**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 00-59388 A1 (SURGICAL DYNAMICS, INC.) 12 October 2000 See page 6 line 13- page 7 line 4, fig 4	12, 13
A	See figs. 1, 4, 7, claims 1, 4, 11	1-11, 14, 15
A	US 6475219 B1 (SHELOKOV; ALEXIS P.) 05 November 2002 See abstract, figs. 1-5, Col. 2 line 30-col.3 line 12	1-15
A	WO 97-22306 A1 (SMITH & NEPHEW INC.) 26 June 1997 See figs. 1-3, page 6 lines 1-23	1-15
A	US 5683391 A1 (BOYD; LAWRENCE M.) 04 November 1997 See abstract, fig.3, claim 8	1-15
A	EP 1197181 A1 (MICHELSON, GARY KARLIN) 17 April 2002 See figs. 1, 7, 8, claims 1-2	1-15

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

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