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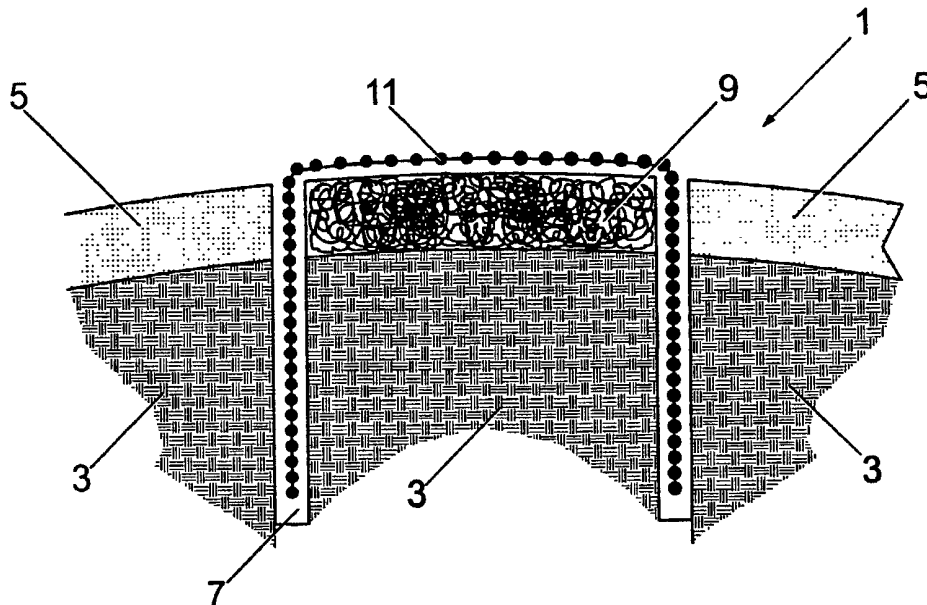
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: REPAIR OF DAMAGED TISSUE



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method for the repair of damaged tissue present at or on the surface (5, 27) of bone in an animal, the method comprising forming a narrow groove (7, 25) around at least part of said damaged tissue, which groove extends (7, 25) into the bone (3, 29) below the damaged tissue, replacing the tissue around which the groove (7, 25) extends by at least one layer of biocompatible replacement material (9), and anchoring the material (9) to the bone (3, 29) by the use of retaining means (11) extending from the material (9) into the groove (7, 25); instruments for use in the repair of damaged tissue and kits comprising said instruments.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter. Appl. No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61B17/16 A61B17/32 A61F2/46 A61F2/30 A61F2/28
A61L27/00

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 7 A61B A61F

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 782 835 A (HART) 21 July 1998 (1998-07-21)	18-20
Y	the whole document	21-25, 28, 29, 40
A	---	34, 35
Y	US 5 535 756 A (PARASHER) 16 July 1996 (1996-07-16)	21, 23
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Y	the whole document	
Y	WO 96 24302 A (SCHWARTZ) 15 August 1996 (1996-08-15)	24
A	the whole document	18, 34, 35, 39, 40

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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

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- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 September 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern. Patent Application No

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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.
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Y		25, 40
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Y		37, 38
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB 00/04624

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 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. Claims Nos.: 1-17, 42
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- 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: 18-33

A set of instruments for repairing damaged tissue at or on the bone surface comprising: - means for forming a narrow groove around said damaged tissue; - means for removing said damaged tissue from the space inside said groove; - means for anchoring replacement material retaining means inside said space.

2. Claims: 34-41

A replacement element, and a replacement kit, for repairing damaged tissue at or on the bone surface comprising: - a pad of bio-compatible material shaped and sized to occupy a site from which said damaged tissue has been removed.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Intern. Appl. No.

PCT/GB 00/04624

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

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