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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR TREATING INTERVERTEBRAL DISC HERNIATIONS

(57) Abstract: Methods and compositions are provided for treating an intervertebral disc herniation by local administration of one or more biodegradable drug depots comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a glucocorticoid at or near the intervertebral disc herniation to reduce the size of the intervertebral disc herniation.

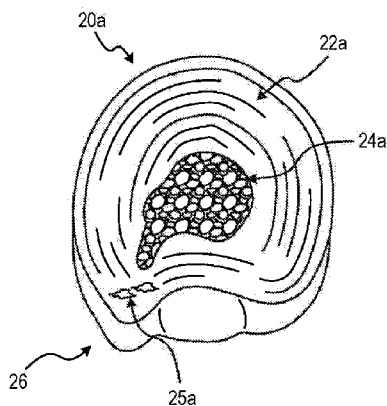


FIG. 1A

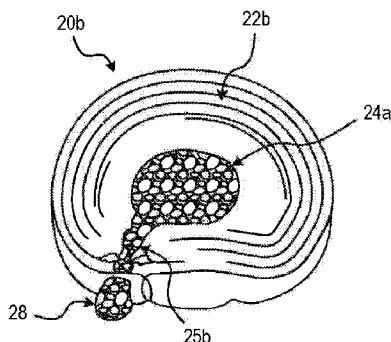


FIG. 1B



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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
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- with information concerning incorporation by reference of missing parts and/or elements (Rule 20.6)

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

28 January 2010

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER*A61K 31/573(2006.01)i, A61P 19/00(2006.01)i, A61K 47/34(2006.01)i, A61K 9/00(2006.01)i*

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: A61K 31/573, A61P 19/00, A61K 47/34, A61K 9/00

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)

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P, X	US 2008/0317805 A1 (MCKAY, W. F. ET AL.) 25 December 2008 see abstract; claims 1-22.	13, 14
Y	US 5336505 A (NG. S. ET AL.) 09 August 1994 see claims 1-31; column 10, lines 44-54; example 6.	13, 14
Y	RIEW, K.D. ET AL., "THE EFFECT OF NERVE-ROOT INJECTIONS ON THE NEED FOR OPERATIVE TREATMENT OF LUMBAR RADICULAR PAIN" THE JOURNAL OF BONE AND JOINT SURGERY, 2000, Vol. 82-A, No. 11, pages 1589-1593. see abstract.	13, 14

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

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"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

23 NOVEMBER 2009 (23.11.2009)

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01 DECEMBER 2009 (01.12.2009)

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Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 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.: 1-12, 15
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Claims 1-12 & 15 pertain to method for treatment of the human body by therapy and thus relate to a subject matter which this International Searching Authority is not required, under Article 17(2)(a)(i) of the PCT and Rule 39.1(iv) of the Regulations under the PCT, to search.
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 No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

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

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 and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2009/040234

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2008/0317805 A	25.12.2008	WO 2008/157057 A2	24.12.2008
US 5336505 A	09.08.1994	WO 91/03510 A1	21.03.1991
		JP 05502465 T2	28.04.1993
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		AU 6402490 A1	08.04.1991