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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **DEPUY SPINE, INC.** [US/US]; 325 Paramount Drive, Raynham, MA 02767 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **KWAK, Seungkyu, Daniel** [US/US]; 168 Upton Str. #2, Grafton, MA 01519 (US). **BORGSTROM, Amie** [US/US]; 21 Ash Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760 (US). **HAWKINS, John, Riley** [US/US]; 40 Cook Road, Cumberland, RI 02864 (US). **DUNBAR, William** [US/US]; 108 Burt Street, Norton, MA 02766 (US).

(74) Agents: **GEARY, William, C. III** et al; Nutter McClennen & Fish, LLP, World Trade Center West, 155 Seaport Boulevard, Boston, MA 02210-2604 (US).

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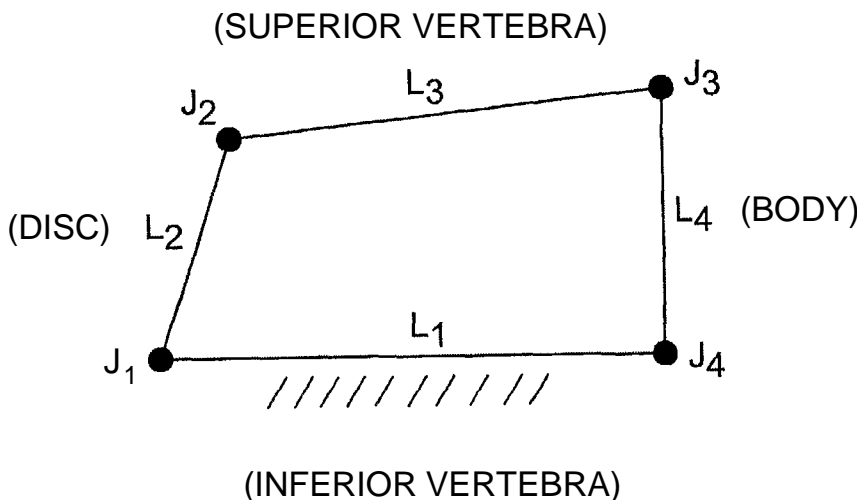
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(54) Title: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR POSTERIOR STABILIZATION



(57) Abstract: Various methods and devices for replacing damaged, injured, diseased, or otherwise unhealthy posterior elements, such as the facet joints, the lamina, the posterior ligaments, and/or other features of a patient's spinal column, are provided. In certain exemplary embodiments, a four bar linkage mechanism can be used to construct spinal stabilization devices and methods for restoring function to adjacent vertebrae. In particular, spinal stabilization devices can be provided that kinematically form a four-bar linkage mechanism with adjacent vertebrae and a disc or other element disposed between the adjacent vertebrae.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: **A61F** 2/30(2006.01)

USPC: 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

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2004/0002708 A1 (RITLAND) 01 January 2004 (01.01.2004), whole document.	1-28
X	US 2004/0133203 A1 (YOUNG et al) 08 July 2004 (08.07.2004), whole document.	1-5,10-15,18-20

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

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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		

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 223 13-1450
Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Authorized officer
Eduardo C. Robert
Telephone No. (571) 272^4719

