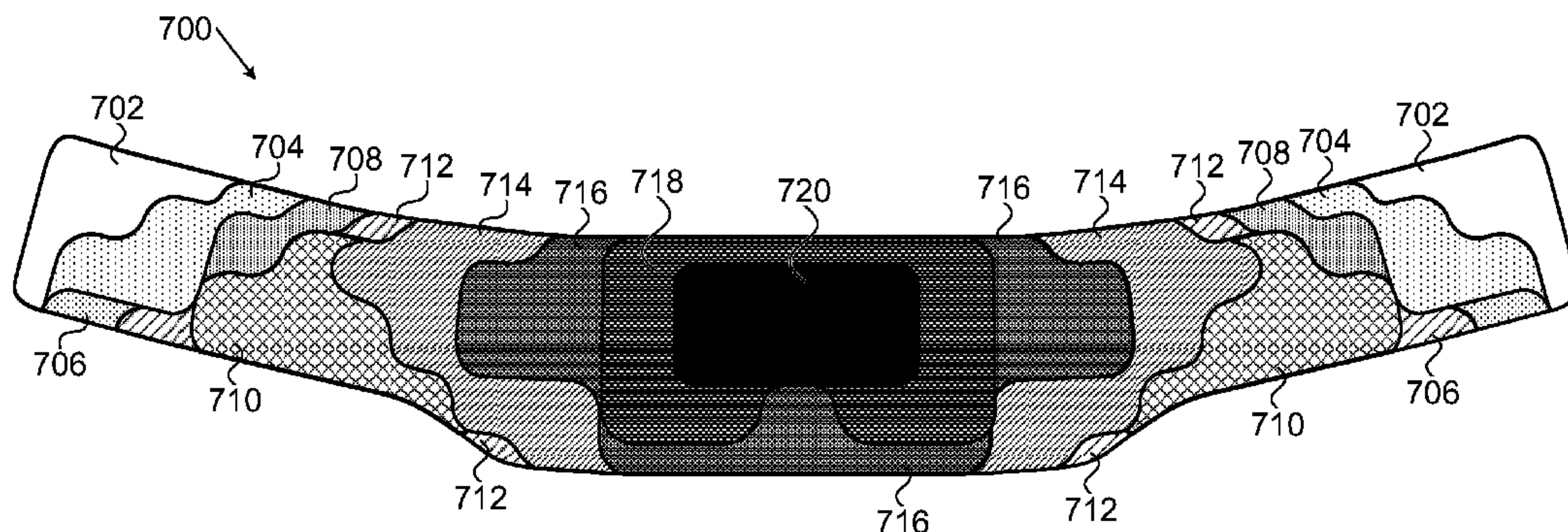




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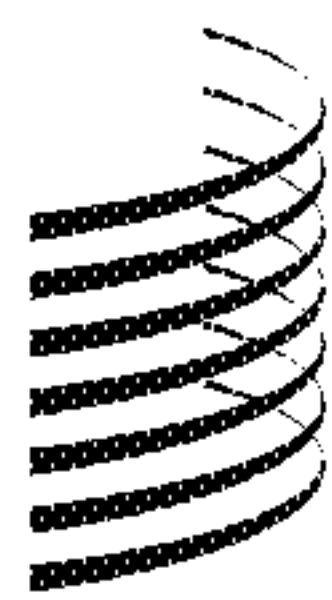
A radiation protection device for providing protection of a body part that includes active bone marrow from ionizing radiation may include a radiation protection component configured to be placed adjacent to and externally cover the body part so as to reduce a radiation dose absorbed in that body part.

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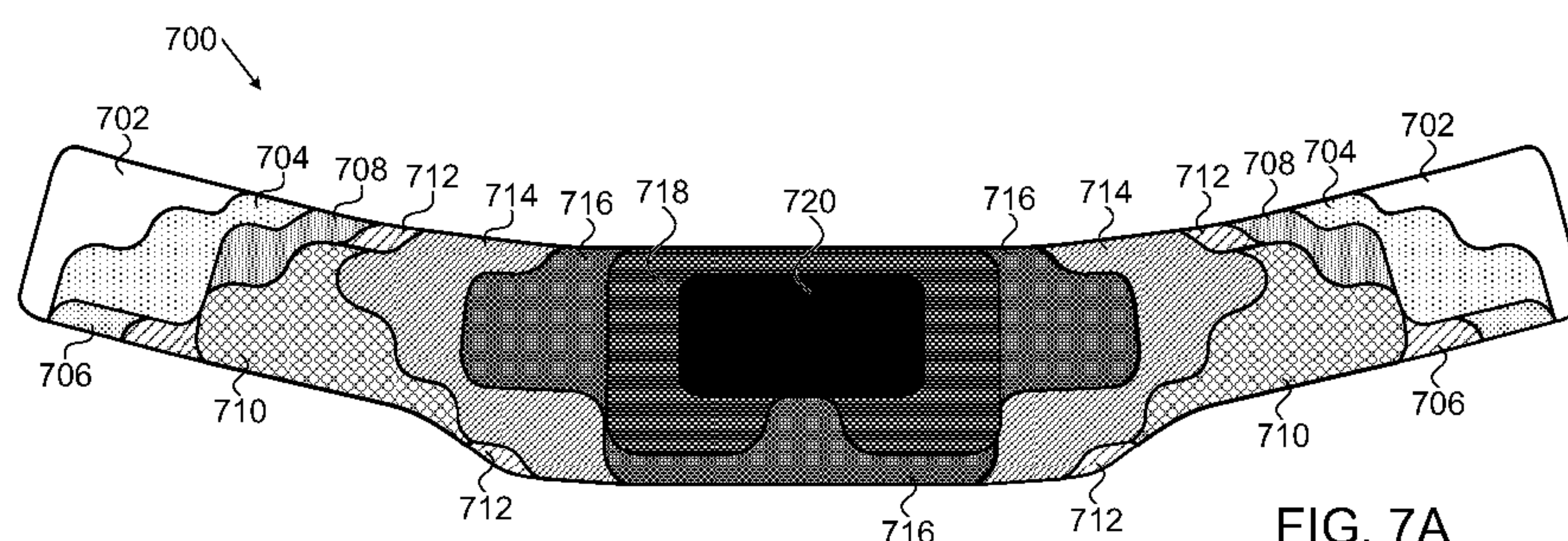


FIG. 7A

(57) Abstract: A radiation protection device for providing protection of a body part that includes active bone marrow from ionizing radiation may include a radiation protection component configured to be placed adjacent to and externally cover the body part so as to reduce a radiation dose absorbed in that body part.

RADIATION PROTECTION DEVICE AND METHODS THEREOF

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[001] The present invention relates to personal protection against ionizing radiation. More particularly it relates to a radiation protection device and methods thereof.

BACKGROUND

[002] Bone marrow is a flexible tissue found in the hollow interior of bones. In adults, marrow in large bones produces new blood cells. It constitutes some 4 per cent of the total body weight, i.e., about 3 kg in adults. There are two types of bone marrow: red marrow (consisting mainly of myeloid tissue) and yellow marrow (consisting mainly of fat cells). Red blood cells, platelets and most white blood cells arise in red marrow; some white blood cells develop in yellow marrow. Both types of bone marrow contain numerous blood vessels and capillaries. At birth, all bone marrow is red. With age, more and more of it is converted to the yellow type. About half of the bone marrow is red. Red marrow is found mainly in the flat bones, such as the hip bone, breast bone, skull, ribs, vertebrae and shoulder blades, and in the cancellous ("spongy") material at the proximal ends of the long bones femur and humerus. Yellow marrow is found in the hollow interior of the middle portion of long bones.

[003] Exposure to radiation may be attributed to natural or man-made radiation sources. Natural radiation sources may include cosmic radiation from outer space or radioactive materials that are found in soil or in building materials. Man-made radiation sources of radioactive materials may be found in consumer products, industrial equipment, nuclear facilities (e.g. nuclear reactors), nuclear fallout and even in hospital waste. Nuclear experiment sites are also highly polluted with radioactive materials.

[004] There are basically two types of radiation: electromagnetic radiation (e.g., radio waves, light) and particulate radiation (i.e., mass given off with the energy of motion). Gamma radiation and X-rays are examples of electromagnetic radiation. Beta and alpha radiation are examples of particulate radiation. Ionizing radiation is radiation with enough energy so that during an interaction with an atom, it can remove tightly bound electrons from the orbit of an atom, causing the atom to become charged or ionized. In general, particles or photons with energies above about 10 electron volts (eV) are considered as ionizing.

[005] Ionizing radiation, having high penetrating power, can reach the most vulnerable part of a cell, an organ, or a whole organism, and is thus very effective. In terms of the energy absorbed per unit mass of a biological entity in which an effect is produced, some ionizing radiations are more effective than others. The relative biological effectiveness (RBE) depends in fact on the density of ionization (also termed the specific ionization or linear energy transfer, LET) along the path of the ionizing particle rather than on the nature of the particle itself. Relative biological effectiveness depends also on many other factors. See also Radiation biology.

[006] Nuclear fallout is the residual radiation hazard from a nuclear explosion. It consists of radiation-emitting particles ranging in sizes together creating a radioactive dust. The closer to ground an atomic bomb is detonated, the more dust and debris is thrown into the air, resulting in greater amounts of nuclear fallout. Whenever individuals remain in an area contaminated with fallout, such contamination leads to an immediate external radiation exposure as well as a possible later internal hazard from inhalation and ingestion of radiocontaminants. The radioactive dust emanating from nuclear accidents or from radiological bomb (dirty bomb) detonations pose dangers similar to that of fallout

[007] Radiation is highly damaging to human tissue and is especially lethal to haematopoietic stem cells which reside in the bone marrow. Hematopoietic stem cells are ultimately responsible for the constant renewal of blood by giving rise to billions of new blood cells each day. Due to their high rate of proliferation, hematopoietic stem cells are especially vulnerable to ionizing radiation-induced damage. Owing to their central role in blood production, disabling these cells by irradiation may lead to death from aplasia (blood cell deficiency). Thus, many of the casualties of lethal exposure to ionizing radiation may be avoided by sparing hematopoietic stem cells from being damaged by ionizing radiation. Indeed, hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (i.e. bone marrow transplantation) is the method of choice in cases of lethal total body irradiation (TBI) and has been shown to rescue individuals exposed to lethal doses of radiation. In cases where the bone marrow was harvested and stored before irradiation the ensuing transplantation is autologous and does not require tissue matching. Very few individuals have preemptively stored their own bone marrow. Allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation is a challenging procedure, requiring that the donor and recipient be of matched tissue types (i.e. human leukocyte antigen types). Tissue type-matched donors are a scarcity due to the tremendous polymorphism in the human leukocyte antigen locus. Moreover, transplantation must take

place in the immediate days following radiation exposure. In the event of a catastrophe there will likely be a very large number of victims; the time frame imposed is not likely to enable isolation of matched donors.

[008] Based on previous nuclear disasters, such as the atomic bombings of Japan and the Chernobyl meltdown, the median lethal dose (LD50) of radiation in the human population has been established to be around 400 rads. For doses between 200 and 1,000 rads (2-10Gy), the only significant life endangering threat is bone marrow damage according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. For those few individuals who are able to obtain matched or otherwise engraftable bone marrow transplants, the LD50 (dose at which 50% of the population perishes) increases to at least 1,000 rads (10Gy), a fact that is readily demonstrable in medical practice where thousands of individuals to date have undergone TBI for purposes of cancer therapy. At doses in excess of 1000 rads (10Gy) damage to gastrointestinal tissue may become a survival factor.

[009] According to official estimates of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security the large majority of deaths resulting from a surface detonation of a nuclear weapon in an urban area would be from acute radiation exposure. According to these estimates, a large portion of said deaths would result from exposure to radiation levels of 200-1000 rads (2-10Gy), a dose spectrum in which bone marrow is the only bodily tissue to sustain irreversible damage.

[0010] According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, many survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs in the 1940s and many of the firefighters who first responded after the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant accident in 1986 became ill due to acute radiation exposure.

[0011] In contrast to blood cells which are dispersed throughout the body, hematopoietic stem cells are confined to the bone marrow. Thus bone marrow tissue is the site of hematopoiesis (blood cell production). Being rich in stem cells, bone marrow is of great regenerative potential. Indeed, when hematopoietic stem cells are extracted from a single active marrow site for transplantation, it is sufficient to support the complete reconstitution of the hematopoietic stem cell compartment in a lethally irradiated recipient.

[0012] Radiation exposure may be reduced by shielding. Radiation exposure may also be reduced by increasing one's distance from the source of radiation. Both actions constitute different forms of radioprotection.

[0013] There is a severe lack of effective Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that is suited to deal with external radiation. The protective equipment that does exist, such as simple respirators, only protects from inhalation or ingestion of radioactive particles. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, emergency workers entering high-radiation areas in the first few days after a nuclear detonation are likely to receive lethal doses of radiation; PPE is used to control contamination, but does not protect workers from external radiation doses (National Planning Scenarios, 2006).

[0014] Radiation-attenuating systems, garments and radiation-shielding devices have been described in the past. Most of these were made to offer whole-body protection or to cover as much bodily surface area as possible. Due to the heavy weight of radiation-attenuating materials, to remain of a bearable weight these shielding solutions are made with only a thin layer of radiation-attenuating material. Such thin layers attenuate radiation transmission in a manner that may be beneficial for reducing the incidence of long-term effects of low energy radiation, but are insufficient in preventing the acute effects of radiation (i.e Acute Radiation Syndrome) resulting from the loss of active bone marrow in an individual receiving large doses of highly penetrating radiation. Moreover, these radiation-attenuating systems, garments or radiation-shielding devices are not specifically intended for protecting bone marrow.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0015] There is thus provided, in accordance with some embodiments of the present invention, a radiation protection device for providing protection of a body part that includes active bone marrow from ionizing radiation. The device includes a radiation protection component configured to be placed adjacent to and externally cover the body part so as to reduce a radiation dose absorbed in that body part.

[0016] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the body part that includes active bone marrow includes a bone selected from the group of bones consisting of: skull, sternum, ribs, vertebrae, humerus, pelvis and femur.

[0017] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, wherein the radiation protection component comprises a radiation attenuating component.

[0018] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the radiation attenuating component is configured to provide varying radiation attenuation levels across the radiation attenuating component.

[0019] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the varying radiation attenuation levels across the radiation attenuating component are inversely related to radiation attenuation levels of tissue present between a given point of the radiation attenuating component and the active bone marrow.

[0020] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments the varying radiation attenuation levels are determined by the formula $A_R(x, y, z) = \frac{A_D}{A_T}$, where A_R is a required radiation attenuation at point x,y,z on the radiation attenuating component, A_D is a radiation attenuation level needed to reduce the radiation dose absorbed in the active bone marrow contained within the body part to a desired level, and A_T is the tissue radiation attenuation level between the point x,y,z and the active bone marrow contained in the body part .

[0021] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the device is configured to provide a substantially uniform radiation protection to the active marrow.

[0022] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the radiation attenuating component comprises radiation attenuating material of varying thickness or density.

[0023] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the radiation attenuating component comprises layers of radiation attenuating material.

[0024] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the layers of radiation attenuating material have unique shapes and when compiled define a topography related to tissue radiation attenuation levels between points on the radiation attenuating component and the active bone marrow contained within the body part..

[0025] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the radiation attenuating component comprises one or more materials selected from the group of materials consisting of barium compounds, barium sulfate, barium chloride, tungsten compounds, tungsten carbide, tungsten oxide, tungsten, bismuth compounds, bismuth, lead, tantalum compounds, titanium, titanium compounds, diatrizoate meglumine, acetrizate sodium, boron, boric acid, boron oxide, boron salts, other boron compounds, beryllium, beryllium compounds, bunamiodyl sodium, diatrizoate sodium, ethiodized oil, lobenzamic acid, locarmic acid,

Iocetamic acid, Iodipamide, Iodixanol, Iodized oil, Iodoalphonic acid, o-Iodohippurate sodium, Iodophthalein sodium, Iodopyracet, Ioglycamic acid, Iohexol, Iomeglamic acid, Iopamidol, Iopanoic acid, Iopentol, Iophendylate, Iophenoxic acid, water, Iopromide, Iopronic acid, Iopydol, Iopydone, Iothalamic acid, Iotrolan, Ioversol, Ioxaglic acid, Ioxilan, Ipodate, meglumine acetrizoate, meglumine ditrizoate methiodal sodium, metrizamide, metrizoic acid, phenobutiodil, phentetiothalein sodium, propyl iodone, sodium Iodomethamate, sozoiodolic acid, thorium oxide, trypanoate sodium, uranium and depleted uranium.

[0026] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the radiation attenuating component is incorporated in a wearable item selected from the groups of items consisting of a helmet, a bifurcated garment and a belt.

[0027] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the device includes a blower.

[0028] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the radiation protection component comprises a blower for blowing radioactive particles away from the body part that includes active bone marrow.

[0029] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the device includes a sealable opening for intraosseous injection of a substance into an underlying bone within the body part.

[0030] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, there is provided a method for protecting bone marrow of a subject from ionizing radiation. The method includes placing a radiation protection device that includes a radiation protection component adjacent to and externally covering a body part of the subject that includes active bone marrow.

[0031] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, there is provided a method for enhancing survival chances of a subject facing exposure to ionizing radiation. The method includes placing a radiation protection device that includes a radiation protection component adjacent to and externally covering a body part of the subject that includes active bone marrow to protect that active bone marrow.

[0032] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the radiation protection component comprises radiation attenuating material.

[0033] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the radiation protection component comprises a blower, and the method includes operating the blower to blow radioactive particles away from the body part that includes the active bone marrow.

[0034] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the method further includes administering a substance to the subject for enhancing hematopoietic reconstitution or inducing proliferation of hematopoietic stem cells or progenitors.

[0035] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the substance is selected from the group of substances consisting of G-CSF, PEGylated G-CSF, GM-CSF, M-CSF (CSF-1), AMD3100, Filgrastim (Neupogen), Pegfilgrastim, Stem cell factor (c-kit ligand or Steel Factor), Interleukin 11, Interleukin 3, Interleukin 7, Interleukin 6, Interleukin 12, Interleukin 1, Interleukin 2, Interleukin 4, Interleukin 8, Interleukin 9, Interleukin 15, Erythropoietin (EPO), Epoetin alfa (Epogen), Darbepoetin alfa (Aranesp), Omontys (peginesatide), SDF-1, friend of GATA-1 (FOG-1), PTH and active PTH fragments or PTH/PTHrP receptor agonists, leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF), Platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), Angiotensin-(1-7), Leridistimor, Flt3-ligand, thrombopoietin, Keratinocyte growth factor (KGF), TGF β , MPL receptor agonists, Promegapoeitin-1 α (PMP-1 α), hyaluronic acid and K-7/D-6.

[0036] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the method further includes administering a substance to the subject for inhibiting apoptosis of hematopoietic stem cells or progenitors.

[0037] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the substance is selected from the group of substances consisting of G-CSF, PEGylated G-CSF, GM-CSF, M-CSF (CSF-1), AMD3100, Filgrastim (Neupogen), Pegfilgrastim, Stem cell factor (c-kit ligand or Steel Factor), Interleukin 11, Interleukin 3, Interleukin 7, Interleukin 6, Interleukin 12, Interleukin 1, Interleukin 2, Interleukin 4, Interleukin 8, Interleukin 9, Interleukin 15, Erythropoietin (EPO), Epoetin alfa (Epogen), Darbepoetin alfa (Aranesp), Omontys (peginesatide), SDF-1, friend of GATA-1 (FOG-1), PTH and active PTH fragments or PTH/PTHrP receptor agonists, leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF), Platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), Angiotensin-(1-7), Leridistimor, Flt3-ligand, thrombopoietin, Keratinocyte growth factor (KGF), TGF β , MPL receptor agonists, Promegapoeitin-1 α (PMP-1 α), hyaluronic acid and K-7/D-6, δ -Tocotrienol (DT3), Angiotensin-(1-7), Inducers of nuclear factor-Kappa B, Flagellin, vitamin C, WR-2721 and WR-1065, CBLB502.

[0038] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the method further includes administering a substance to the subject to prevent hematopoietic stem cells or progenitors within the active bone marrow from leaving the protected active bone marrow and circulating.

[0039] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the substance is selected from the group of substances consisting of SDF-1 (CXCL12) or an analog, fusion protein, variant, functional derivative or fragment thereof having the activity of SDF-1 and/or an agent capable of inducing expression of said chemokine SDF-1, PDGF, Somatostatin, c-kit, Hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), anti MMP-9 (anti matrix metalloproteinase-9) antibody, neutrophil elastase (NE) inhibitor, Migrastatin or its analogues including but not limited to core macroketone and core macrolactam, TGF- β , IL-8 inhibitors, anti Gro β antibody, anti Gr1 antibody, anti LFA-1 antibody, anti Mac-1 (CD11b) antibody, cathapsin G inhibitors, anti SDF-1 blocking antibody, soluble CXCR4, soluble CCR2, MCP-1 (CCL2) and MCP-3 (CCL7) inhibitors, G-CSF inhibitors, GM-CSF inhibitors, soluble VLA-4, anti MMP-2 antibody CB2 agonists including but not limited to AM1241.

[0040] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the method further includes administering a substance to the subject to attract hematopoietic stem cells or progenitors into the protected active bone marrow.

[0041] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the substance is selected from the group of substances consisting of SDF-1 (CXCL12) or an analog, fusion protein, variant, functional derivative or fragment thereof having the activity of SDF-1 and/or an agent capable of inducing expression of said chemokine SDF-1. agonists or partial agonists of CXCR4 and/or CXCR7, CCR2 ligands including but not limited to MCP-1 (CCL2) and MCP-3 (CCL7), CB2 agonists including but not limited to AM1241, PDGF, Somatostatin, c-kit, Hepatocyte growth factor (HGF).

[0042] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the method further includes administering a substance to the subject before the exposure to ionizing radiation.

[0043] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the method further includes administering a substance to the subject during the exposure to ionizing radiation.

[0044] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the method further includes administering a substance to the subject after the exposure to ionizing radiation.

[0045] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the substance is administered in an administration method selected from the group of administration methods consisting of intravenous administration, intramuscular administration, intraperitoneal administration, subcutaneous administration and intraosseous administration.

[0046] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the method further includes extracting bone marrow from the protected active bone marrow, expanding surviving hematopoietic stem cells and progenitors in the extracted bone marrow and reintroducing the expanded hematopoietic stem cells and progenitors into the subject.

[0047] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the method further includes using a blower to blow radioactive particles away from the body part that includes active bone marrow.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0048] Examples are described in the following detailed description and illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which:

[0049] Fig. 1 illustrates a perspective view of a radiation protection device embodied as a helmet in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0050] Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the base 102, shown in Fig. 1, upon which the helmet 101 (also shown in Fig. 1) may be mounted;

[0051] Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a radiation protection device 109 embodied as a bifurcated garment, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

[0052] Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a radiation protection device in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention embodied as a belt;

[0053] Fig. 5 illustrates the use of two radiation protection devices - embodied in the forms a helmet and a belt - by a person facing ionizing radiation, in accordance with embodiments of the present invention;

[0054] Fig. 6 illustrates impact zones of a nuclear explosion or a radiation leak;

[0055] Fig. 7A illustrates the layer assembly of a radiation attenuating component for a radiation protection device in accordance with embodiments of the present invention;

[0056] Fig. 7B illustrates the layer assembly of the radiation attenuating component shown in Fig. 7A with a protective sheath, according to embodiments of the present invention;

[0057] Fig. 7C illustrates a plate assembly for a radiation attenuating component for a radiation protection device in accordance with other embodiments of the present invention; and

[0058] Fig. 8 illustrates a radiation protection device with a blower for dispersal of radioactive particles in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0059] Although examples are not limited in this regard, the terms “plurality” and “a plurality” as used herein may include, for example, “multiple” or “two or more”. The terms “plurality” or “a plurality” may be used throughout the specification to describe two or more components, devices, elements, units, parameters, or the like. Unless explicitly stated, the method examples described herein are not constrained to a particular order or sequence. Additionally, some of the described method examples or elements thereof can occur or be performed at the same point in time.

[0060] According to embodiments of the present invention, a radiation protection device may be designed to partially protect a body by providing radiation protection to one or a plurality of portions of a body. The radiation protection device may typically include radiation attenuating component that includes radiation attenuating material.

[0061] “Attenuation”, in the context of the present invention, is meant to refer to reducing radiation passing through and also to fully blocking radiation from passing through.

[0062] Radiation attenuating materials are typically of high densities and therefore potentially impose heavy weight on their bearer. It is impractical to provide whole body protection from high energy gamma radiation (e.g. greater than 100KEV) while affording mobility. The tissue that is first to sustain irreversible damage upon exposure to radiation is the bone marrow tissue rich Hematopoietic Stem Cells (HSCs). Thus, in accordance with embodiments of the current invention selective radiation protection to strategic concentrations of HSCs is provided.

[0063] A radiation protection device, which is intended to specifically protect bone marrow concentrations rather than the entire body or large portions of the body, allows using thick layers of radiation-attenuating materials that offer substantial radiation shielding for body parts in which bone marrow is concentrated, while leaving other body parts generally unshielded or lightly shielded. Thus in accordance with embodiments of the current invention, the radiation protection device as described herein is able to substantially attenuate gamma radiation penetration into a protected marrow while allowing mobility to the wearer.

[0064] HSC concentrations are present in several bone marrow locations in the human body, the foremost of which are the hip, sternum, ribs, vertebrae and skull. The iliac bones of the hip have high active bone marrow content, serve as the source for bone marrow in bone marrow transplantation and they lie in the pelvic girdle, the human body's center of gravity. Thus in embodiments of the current invention the iliac bones of the hip are an attractive target for protection in adults.

[0065] In another embodiment of the current invention, in children up to the age of ten the bone marrow residing in the skull serves as the target for protection, being the foremost concentration of active bone marrow in early life.

[0066] In embodiments of the present invention, the radiation protection device may include one or a plurality of layers of a shielding material. The radiation protection device may be designed to be placed on a body organ of a subject, which includes a concentration of active bone marrow.

[0067] According to embodiments of the present invention a radiation protection device for providing a selective protection of a specific body part that includes an active (i.e. red) bone marrow from radiation is provided. The device may include a radiation attenuating material designed to be placed adjacent to and externally cover only a portion of the body that includes the body part.

[0068] In other embodiments, the radiation protection device incorporates into its design the natural radiation-blocking ability of the underlying tissue. In the hip, for example, the bone marrow is present mostly in the posterior area. Thus, the anterior abdominal area serves to naturally attenuate radiation entry from frontal sources. In addition, different tissues (bone, muscle, adipose) have different radiodensity. A radiation protection device according to embodiments of the invention brings into account the natural shielding properties of human tissue by being nonuniform in the distribution of radiation attenuating material. This may be embodied in a radiation protection device employing a radiation attenuating material in varying thicknesses or conversely by employing materials of different attenuation ability while maintaining the same thickness throughout. The radiation attenuation level of a specific section of the device herein would be inversely related to the thickness and radiodensity of the underlying tissue around the target for protection. This characteristic effectively minimizes the overall weight of the device to make it bearable to carry.

[0069] In another embodiment, an individual using a radiation protection device according to embodiments of the invention may withstand radiation levels up to the point where tissues other than bone marrow are likely to sustain major damage. Since the second most radiosensitive tissue is the gut, and the gut sustains irreversible damage at about 1100 rad (11Gy), embodiments of the radiation protection device may be designed to confer protection to bone marrow at least up to a dose of 1100 rads (11Gy).

[0070] According to current practice between 23 and 58 grams of red bone marrow is harvested on average for bone marrow transplants (mass reflecting net bone marrow not including blood and other infiltrates). It is thus an aim according to embodiments of the invention to provide such a level of protection that at least 23-58 grams of red bone marrow, depending on body size, will remain viable following irradiation. In other embodiments of the current invention, the amount and distribution of radiation attenuating material needed is determined using the following formula:

$$A_R(x, y, z) = \frac{A_D}{A_T} \quad (1),$$

where A_R is the required radiation attenuation at point x,y,z, A_D is the total desired radiation attenuation and A_T is the tissue radiation attenuation between point x,y,z and the bone marrow concentration.

[0071] According to embodiments of the invention the radiation attenuating material comprises sections of different radiation attenuation levels.

[0072] According to embodiments of the present invention, the radiation protection device is of varying thickness in a manner accommodating the natural attenuation properties of the underlying various body organs and tissues.

[0073] It is known that in humans bone marrow is concentrated mainly in the pelvis, in the skull and in the vertebrae. Thus, in accordance with

[0074] Fig. 1 illustrates a perspective view of a radiation protection device embodied as a helmet assembly 100 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. Radiation protection helmet assembly 100 is designed for protecting the head of a user against radiation. Helmet assembly 100 may include a base 102 surrounding the neck of the user. Helmet assembly 100 may include radiation shielding material. Helmet assembly 100 may include helmet 101 which includes a transparent visor 103, an air filtration device 108 with an

air filter that includes intake 104 and outtake apertures 105, a sealable opening 106 allowing for the intraosseous injection of chemical or biological agents into the underlying skull marrow and a closure mechanism 107 for the fastening of the helmet 101 to the base 102.

[0075] Fig. 2 is a perspective view of the base 102, shown in Fig. 1, upon which the helmet 101 (also shown in Fig. 1) may be mounted. Base 102 may comprise radiation attenuating material that is of flexible nature such that it accommodates a mounted helmet. It may be placed on the neck of the user 128 so that the cervical vertebrae of the user are protected from radiation. Base 102 may include a fastening mechanism 107 for fastening it to the helmet 101. The base 102 is helpful in supporting the weight of the helmet 101 (see Fig. 1).

[0076] Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a radiation protection device 109 formed as a bifurcated garment, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. Device 109 is designed to protect the pelvic area by engulfing the waist 110, and extending down to the knee 111 of the user to protect the whole femur bone 112. It consists of several intercalating pieces (resembling a roof-tile or fish scale arrangement) of radiation shielding material 113 allowing for easy accommodation to individuals of different sizes and designed to be flexible enough so that it practically does not affect locomotion. The upper portion of the radiation protection device may include elastic fabric 114 that may be tightened around the waist to fix the device to the hips of the user. Device 109 may include sealable openings 115 allowing for the intraosseous injection of chemical or biological agents into the underlying femur bones.

[0077] In accordance with embodiments of the present invention, a radiation protection device may have a varying radiation attenuation capability throughout its surface area. In one such an example, the radiation protection device may be made of radiation-attenuating material of a single density, but distributed in different thicknesses throughout the area of the device. In another example, the radiation protection device may be comprised of multiple radiation-attenuating materials having different densities but distributed in a similar thickness throughout the area of the device.

[0078] In another embodiment of the present invention a radiation protection device may include radiation-attenuating material in particulate form which is distributed in a varying manner so as to provide varying protection levels throughout the area of the device.

[0079] Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a radiation protection device 120 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention in the form of a belt 116 for placing around the waist of an individual for protecting the hip bones (including sections of the ilium, ischium, and pubis),

the sacrum and the coccyx. Radiation protection device 116 may include elastic fabric (e.g. neoprene) knitted around large numbers of small spherical particles (e.g. particles having a diameter of 1-6mm) made from a radiation shielding material (e.g. lead shot). The number of spherical particles contained within the fabric may vary. For example, the number of the spherical particles may be increased in sections covering areas that are rich in bone marrow such as the iliac crest 117. The belt may be provided with a fastening mechanism (e.g. Velcro fasteners 118). The radiation protection device 120 may include sealable openings 119 allowing for the intraosseous injection of chemical or biological agents into the underlying hip bones.

[0080] Fig. 5 illustrates the use of two radiation protection devices - embodied in the forms a helmet 100 and a belt 700 - by a person 500 facing ionizing radiation, in accordance with embodiments of the present invention. It may be prudent to aim at increasing the protection coverage of body parts which include high concentrations of active bone marrow, by providing a plurality of radiation protection devices, according to embodiments of the invention, for protecting different such body parts.

[0081] In some embodiments of the invention using a plurality of radiation protection devices, according to embodiments of the invention, to protect different such body parts could lend itself to reducing radiation attenuation level of each such device. This is because if more active bone marrow is provided with protection it may be possible to reduce the level of protection given to each body part. This could mean providing radiation attenuating material which is thinner and therefore lighter, thus reducing the weight of each radiation protection device, and facilitating greater maneuverability to the user.

[0082] Fig. 6 illustrates the impact zones of a nuclear explosion or radiation leak. An individual utilizing a radiation protection device in accordance with embodiments of the present invention may enjoy increased chances of survival in any event of exposure to ionizing radiation. Under the influence of a wind blowing in a certain direction 624, an immediate danger zone 625 is formed around the location of the nuclear explosion or radiation leak site (also referred to as "ground zero"). The wind direction 624 dictates shaping the immediate danger zone 625 in oval form. All inhabitants within the immediate danger zone 625 (e.g., flora and fauna, and any other objects) are most likely to be subjected to lethal radiation exposure, an electromagnetic pulse, a shock wave, firestorms, and super-strong winds. The chances of survival in the immediate danger zone 625 are practically none. A secondary danger zone 626, which surrounds the immediate danger zone 625 would

still contain very high radiation levels which is a result of nuclear fallout being spread downwind. Living creatures (humans, animals) found in the secondary danger zone 626 would normally be subjected to lethal radiation and consequently die, but those protected by a radiation protection device in accordance with embodiments of the present invention would stand a chance of surviving due to the shielding effect of the device. A further safety zone 627 indicates the zone in which the radiation levels are below a danger level. Thus, individuals equipped with a radiation protection device in accordance with embodiments of the present invention can safely exit the danger zone or be safely evacuated.

[0083] The hematopoietic system (of humans and animals) is highly sensitive to ionizing radiation. Doses of 70 rad (0.7 Gy) and above are likely to cause decreased hematocrit, neutropenia and lymphopenia leading to anemia and immune suppression. A radiation protection device in accordance with embodiments of the present invention may provide protection to erythroid, myeloid and lymphoid progenitors residing in the protected marrow preventing anemia and immune suppression resulting from decreased hematopoiesis under doses of 0.7 Gy and above. A radiation protection device according to embodiments of the present invention may be designed to provide protection to pelvic parts of the body where both bone marrow concentrations and adjacent lymph nodes (e.g. inguinal, mesenteric) are found.

[0084] For children a radiation protection device according to embodiments of the present invention may be designed to provide protection to the skull marrow and to the adjacent mandibular lymph nodes so as to both preserve a sufficient number of HSCs for effective hematopoiesis and enough lymphocytes to maintain immunity to pathogens.

[0085] In some embodiments, a radiation protection device may be designed to protect a bone marrow to prevent decreased lymphocyte counts and immune suppression under doses of 150 rad (1.5 Gy) and above.

[0086] In some embodiments, a radiation protection device may be designed to protect a bone marrow so as to prevent bone marrow aplasia under doses of 70 rad (0.7 Gy) and above.

[0087] In another embodiment, a radiation protection device may be designed to protect a bone marrow so as to prevent bone marrow aplasia under doses of 150 rad (1.5 Gy) and above.

[0088] In another embodiment, a radiation protection device may be designed to protect a bone marrow so as to prevent major bone marrow cell loss under doses of 70 rad (0.7 Gy) and above.

[0089] In another embodiment, a radiation protection device may be designed to protect a bone marrow so as to prevent major bone marrow cell loss under doses of 150 rad (1.5 Gy) and above.

[0090] A radiation protection device according to embodiments of the present invention is designed to block or greatly attenuate the amount of radiation that can pass through it. In some embodiments, a radiation protection device is radiopaque. In some embodiments, a radiation protection device comprises a radiation-attenuating compound. In some embodiments, a radiation protection device comprises a radiation-attenuating material. In some embodiments, a radiation protection device comprises layers of a radiation attenuating compound or material.

[0091] Fig. 7A illustrates a radiation attenuating component of a radiation protection device in the form of a layered sheet assembly 700, which is designed to be worn by a human over the low back and about the waist. Radiation attenuating material is provided in the form of multiple uniquely shaped sheets of radiation attenuating material which when layered upon each other form a radiation protection device of a topography inversely related to the thickness and density of the tissue present between the device and the protected bone marrow. Layered sheet assembly 700 has a varying radiation attenuation capability throughout its surface area being made of radiation-attenuating material of a single density, but distributed in different thicknesses throughout the area of the device. The layered sheet assembly generally seeks to provide the highest level of radiation protection to the posterior pelvis (including the iliac crest) where high concentrations of bone marrow exist.

[0092] The layered sheet assembly 700 is substantially symmetrical with respect to its middle portion which is designed to be placed adjacent to the posterior pelvis, having two similar arms extending along opposite sides of the hips. Portion 720 of the layered sheet assembly, which is to be placed directly over the posterior pelvis and is in closest proximity to the bone marrow targeted for protection, is comprised of the largest number of layers. Other portions of the plate assembly 700 are comprised of decreasing numbers of layers as the distance from the bone marrow targeted for protection increases – generally the more distant the plate portion is from the posterior pelvis the thinner it is. Albeit, some local spots about the layered

sheet assembly are given a higher number of layers in order to conform with the radiation attenuation properties of tissues of different internal organs and parts within the protected body area. Thus, for example, the thickness at point 702 of the assembly may be 2 mm, at point 704 the thickness may be 3 mm, at point 706 the thickness may be 4 mm. The thickness at point 708 may be 5 mm, at point 712 it may be 6 mm, at point 710 it may be 7 mm and at point 720 it may be 11 mm and so on and so forth (all these measurements are given as an example, and in no way limit the scope of the invention to cover other embodiments having other measurements).

[0093] Layered sheet assembly 700 may be adopted for any body part containing a quantity of active bone marrow sufficient to allow for hematopoietic reconstitution following radiation exposure.

[0094] Fig. 7B illustrates the layer assembly of the radiation attenuating component 700 shown in Fig. 7A with a protective cover 730, according to embodiments of the present invention. Protective cover 730 may be needed to prevent damages from being incurred to the radiation attenuating material. Lead, for example, is a good radiation attenuating material but may easily deform as a result of an inadvertent blow or an external force being exerted upon it. A protective cover 730 may be made of a hard and durable yet relatively light material, such as for example, plastic. A protective cover 730 may further be made of a radiation attenuating fabric.

[0095] Fig. 7C illustrates a plate assembly 750 for radiation attenuating material of a radiation protection device in accordance with other embodiments of the present invention. Plate assembly 750 comprises a plurality of hinged sections 756, connected one to the other by hinges 758. Each section comprises radiation attenuating material distributed in varying thickness inversely related to the thickness and density of the tissue present between a particular point in the section and the protected bone marrow. Sections interface with one another in a manner that there is no interval in radiation attenuating material continuity. The radiation attenuating material may be provided in the form of plates 754. The radiation attenuating material may be placed in an external sheath 752. Some or all sections may include frames 760 which hold the radiation attenuating material (e.g. hold thicker radiation attenuating plates). Housing 762 may be provided for some or all sections for additional structural strength.

[0096] Embodiments of the radiation protection device may include radiation attenuating material in many forms, such as, for example plates, blocks, sheets, particles, solution, fibers. In some embodiments, a radiation protection device may be formed as a garment. In some embodiments, fibers comprising a radiation attenuating material are woven into a garment or interwoven with conventional garment material, such as cloth, to provide both the flexibility of a cloth garment and the radiation protection of metallic lead garment.

[0097] In some embodiments, the radiation attenuating material is in the form of small particles. The particles may be of any size, such as, for example, millimeter sizes, micron sizes or/and submicron sizes.

[0098] In some embodiments, the radiation protection device comprises lining. The lining may include an elastic material and may be made of cloth comprising an elastic material. In some embodiments, the lining may include neoprene. In some embodiments, the lining may be made of fibers comprising radiation attenuating compound or material that are woven into the lining or interwoven with conventional lining material.

[0099] In some embodiments the radiation protection device may include an outer lining and/or an inner lining.

[00100] In some embodiments outer and inner linings are provided, joined together. In some embodiments, the outer and inner linings are stitched together. In some embodiments, one or a plurality of layers of radiation attenuating material is sandwiched between the inner and outer linings. The lining may be pliable, woven. It may be made of polymeric fabric, such as polychloroprene (e.g. Neoprene), polypropylene, polyethylene, aramid fabric, rayon, nylon or any mixture of these. In some embodiments, a lining is a woven fabric, such as cloth, or can be another flat, pliable material, such as paper or film.

[00101] A radiation protection device according to embodiments of the present invention may be worn over clothes or directly on the body of the wearer.

[00102] In some embodiments, radiation attenuating material in the form of particles such as lead shot that is sandwiched between sheets of a polymeric fabric, such as polychloroprene (Neoprene), polypropylene, polyethylene, aramid fabric, rayon, nylon or any mixture of these to afford protection while allowing flexibility.

[00103] In some embodiments, radiation attenuating materials are embedded in a polymeric mixture. In some embodiments, such a polymeric mixture may include a polymer, one or more radiation attenuating materials and one or more additives. In some

embodiments, the polymer may be selected from a broad range of plastics including, but not limited to, polyurethane, polyamide, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl alcohol, natural latex, polyethylene, polypropylene, ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA), polyester, or any combination thereof. In some embodiments, an additive (typically a chemical) may be added to improve the flexibility, strength, durability or other properties of the radiation protection device or to ensure that the polymeric mixture has an appropriate uniformity and consistency. In some embodiments, an additive may comprise a plasticizer (e.g., epoxy soybean oil, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, etc.), an emulsifier, a surfactant, a suspension agent, a leveling agent, a drying promoter, a flow enhancer etc. Those skilled in the plastic processing arts are familiar with the selection and use of such additives.

[00104] In some embodiments, a radiation attenuating material may comprise barium compounds, barium sulfate, barium chloride, tungsten compounds, tungsten carbide, tungsten oxide, tungsten, bismuth compounds, bismuth, lead, tantalum compounds, titanium, titanium compounds, diatrizoate meglumine, acetrizoate sodium, boron, boric acid, boron oxide, boron salts, other boron compounds, beryllium, beryllium compounds, bunamiodyl sodium, diatrizoate sodium, ethiodized oil, Iobenzamic acid, Iocarmic acid, Iocetamic acid, Iodipamide, Iodixanol, Iodized oil, Iodoalphonic acid, o-Iodohippurate sodium, demron, Iodophthalein sodium, Iodopyracet, Ioglycamic acid, Iohexol, Iomeglamic acid, Iopamidol, Iopanoic acid, Iopentol, Iophendylate, Iophenoxic acid, water, Iopromide, Iopronic acid, Iopydol, Iopydone, Iothalamic acid, Iotrolan, Ioversol, Ioxaglic acid, Ioxilan, Ipodate, meglumine acetrizoate, meglumine ditrizoate methiodal sodium, metrizamide, metrizoic acid, phenobutiodil, phentetiothalein sodium, propyliodone, sodium Iodomethamate, sozoiodolic acid, thorium oxide, trypanoate sodium, or any combination thereof, uranium and depleted uranium.

[00105] In some embodiments, the radiation protection device, according to embodiments of the invention, is comprised of materials soaked or dipped in a premade solution containing radiation attenuating material. The radiation attenuating material of the present invention can also be impregnated into a fabric using alternative techniques. In some embodiments, the fabric may include pores that are smaller in size than the particles of radiopaque material, but larger in size than the solvent (e.g., water or alcohol) used for the radiopaque solution. In some embodiments, the radiopaque solution is passed through the fabric in a manner where the fabric acts as a filter to filter out the radiopaque particles while allowing the solvent to pass through.

[00106] A transmission attenuation factor of the radiation protection device may vary. In some embodiments, the radiation protection device has a transmission attenuation factor of at least 20% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam. In some embodiments, the radiation protection device has a transmission attenuation factor of at least 30% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam. In some embodiments, the radiation protection device has a transmission attenuation factor of at least 40% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam. In some embodiments, the radiation protection device has a transmission attenuation factor of at least 50% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam. In some embodiments, the radiation protection device has a transmission attenuation factor of at least 60% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam. In some embodiments, the radiation protection device has a transmission attenuation factor of at least 70% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam. In some embodiments, the radiation protection device has a transmission attenuation factor of at least 75% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam

[00107] Total attenuation of radiation transmission into a bone marrow is comprised of the attenuation factor of the radiation protection device at a given point multiplied with the attenuation factor of the underlying tissue. Total attenuation of radiation transmission may vary. In some embodiments, the Total attenuation of radiation transmission is at least 40% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam. In some embodiments, the total attenuation of radiation transmission is at least 50% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam. In some embodiments, total attenuation of radiation transmission is at least 60% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam. In some embodiments, total attenuation of radiation transmission is at least 70% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam. In some embodiments, total attenuation of radiation transmission is at least 80% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam. In some embodiments, total attenuation of radiation transmission is at least 90% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam. In some embodiments, total attenuation of radiation transmission is at least 95% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam. In some embodiments, total attenuation of radiation transmission at least 97% of a primary 100 kVp x-ray beam.

[00108] In some embodiments, the total attenuation of transmission into a protected bone marrow of gamma radiation of an energy of 0.66 MeV is at least 20%. In some embodiments, the total attenuation of transmission of gamma radiation of an energy of 0.66 MeV is at least 30%. In some embodiments, the total attenuation of transmission of gamma radiation of an energy of 0.66 MeV is at least 40%. In some embodiments, the total attenuation of transmission of gamma radiation of an energy of 0.66 MeV is at least 50%. In some embodiments, the total attenuation of transmission of gamma radiation of an energy of

0.66 MeV is at least 70%. In some embodiments, the total attenuation of transmission of gamma radiation of an energy of 0.66 MeV is at least 80%. In some embodiments, the total attenuation of transmission of gamma radiation of an energy of 0.66 MeV is at least 85%.

[00109] In some embodiments, the radiation protection device attenuates transmission of gamma radiation of energy of 0.66 MeV to varying degrees throughout its surface area. In some embodiments the device attenuates transmission of gamma radiation of an energy of 0.66 MeV by as little as 2% at the least protective point in the device and as much as 90% at the most protective point in the device.

[00110] Total attenuation of radiation transmission into a bone marrow is an outcome of the attenuation factor of the radiation protection device in combination with that of the underlying tissue. Total attenuation of radiation transmission may vary. In some embodiments, the total attenuation is at least 10% of radiation. In some embodiments, the total attenuation is at least 20% of radiation. In some embodiments, the total attenuation is at least 50% of radiation. In some embodiments, the total attenuation is at least 60% of radiation. In some embodiments, the total attenuation is at least 70% of radiation. In some embodiments, the total attenuation is at least 80% of radiation. In some embodiments, the total attenuation is at least 90% of radiation. In some embodiments, the total attenuation is at least 95% of radiation. In some embodiments, the total attenuation is at least 97% of radiation.

[00111] In another embodiment, the device maintains the viability of at least 60% of the cells in 100 cm³ of active marrow. In another embodiment, the device maintains the viability of at least 50% of the cells in 120 cm³ of active marrow. In another embodiment, the device maintains the viability of at least 25% of the cells in 240 cm³ of active marrow. In another the device maintains the viability of at least 20% of the cells in 300 cm³ of active marrow.

[00112] In another embodiment, the device maintains the viability of at least 60% of the hematopoietic stem cells and progenitors in 100 cm³ of active marrow. In another embodiment, the device maintains the viability of at least 50% of the hematopoietic stem cells and progenitors in 120 cm³ of active marrow. In another embodiment, the device maintains the viability of at least 25% of the hematopoietic stem cells and progenitors in 240 cm³ of active marrow. In another the device maintains the viability of at least 20% of the hematopoietic stem cells and progenitors in 300 cm³ of active marrow.

[00113] In another embodiment, the device as described herein is placed on a body organ to protect it. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects a body organ comprising an active bone marrow. In another embodiment, an active bone marrow comprises red marrow. In another embodiment, an active bone marrow is found in flat bones. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects a body organ comprising a flat bone. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects a hip bone (Os coxae) comprised of the ilium and its crest, ischium and pubis. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects the pelvis comprised of the two hip bones, the sacrum and the coccyx. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects a breast bone. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects the skull. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects a skull bone. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects a rib or ribs. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects a shoulder.

[00114] In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects a femur. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects the proximal end of the femur. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects the head of the femur and the acetabulum area. In another embodiment, a device protecting a femur is placed around the thigh in a location which minimizes penetration of radiation to an active bone marrow within the femur. In another embodiment, a device is placed around the thigh protecting at least the proximal end of the femur. In another embodiment, a device is placed around the upper arm protecting at least the proximal end of the humerus. In another embodiment, a device protecting a hip bone is placed around the thigh in a location which minimizes penetration of radiation to an active bone marrow within the hip bone. In another embodiment, a device protecting a femur and a hip bone is placed around the thigh and hip area in a location which minimizes penetration of radiation to an active bone marrow within the femur and the hip bone. In another embodiment, a device protecting a pelvis is placed around the hip area in a location which minimizes penetration of radiation to an active bone marrow within the pelvis.

[0040] In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects the hip bones. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects the pelvic bones. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects the ilium. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects the iliac crest. In another embodiment, a device

protecting the hip bones is placed around the waist in a location which minimizes penetration of radiation to an active bone marrow within the hip bones.

[00115] In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects the skull. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects the cervical vertebrae. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects the skull and the cervical vertebrae. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects the skull and contains a respirator to allow breathing. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects the skull and contains a respirator to allow breathing of clean air. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects the skull and contains a respirator capable of filtering out fine particulate matter such that is present in fallout. In another embodiment, a device protecting the skull contains transparent radiation attenuating material such as leaded glass to allow vision in the form of a visor. In another embodiment, a device is placed around the skull protecting it from radiation while allowing intake of clean air and unhindered vision.

[00116] In another embodiment, the device comprises a sleeve structure. In another embodiment, the device comprises a sleeve structure adapted for placement around a circumference of a thigh of a subject. In another embodiment, the device comprises a sleeve structure adapted for placement around a circumference of an upper arm of a subject. In another embodiment, the device comprises a cuff structure. In another embodiment, the device comprises a cuff structure with adjustable shapes for superior fit and performance on contoured adult limbs. In another embodiment, the device provides an excellent fit on a wide range of tapered limb shapes. In another embodiment, the device is a system that protects both thighs, around the groin. In another embodiment, the device is a system that protects both thighs, around the groin and the lower abdomen. In another embodiment, the device is a system that protects the hip-bone as well as the both upper thighs. In another embodiment, the device is a system that protects the hip-bone as well as the both upper thighs and part of the buttocks. In another embodiment, the device is a lower body protector rather than a simple thigh guard. In another embodiment, the device comprises an underwear structure.

[00117] In another embodiment, the device comprises a fastening means for securing the device onto an organ. In another embodiment, the device comprises swivel straps. In another embodiment, the device comprises adjustable swivel straps. In another embodiment,

the device comprises snap-on fastening connectors. In another embodiment, the device comprises Velcro fastening connectors. In another embodiment, the device comprises security anchors. In another embodiment, fastening means are in the form of an elasticised section that fits around a limb or a portion of a limb. In another embodiment, fastening means include a loop with a hook. In another embodiment, the circumferential stretchability of the device allows for elasticity but still does not restrict blood flow. In another embodiment, a fabric provides for added strength thus preventing tearing of the device.

[00118] In another embodiment, the device minimizes damages caused by radiation. In another embodiment, the device minimizes damages affecting hematopoiesis caused by radiation. In another embodiment, the device lowers the exposure of cells contained within the bone marrow, to radiation. In another embodiment, the device lowers the subjection of cells contained within the bone marrow to damages affecting hematopoiesis that are caused by radiation. In another embodiment, the device lowers the subjection of cells contained within the bone marrow to no more than 100 rad. In another embodiment, the device lowers the subjection of cells contained within the bone marrow to no more than 200 rad. In another embodiment, the device lowers the subjection of cells contained within the bone marrow to no more than 300 rad

[00119] In another embodiment, the device secures the viability of cells contained within the bone marrow under radiation conditions of above 300 rad/hour lasting for at least 10 minutes. In another embodiment, the device secures the viability of cells contained within the bone marrow under radiation conditions of above 500 rad/hour lasting for at least 10 minutes. In another embodiment, the device secures the viability of cells contained within the bone marrow under radiation conditions of above 700 rad/hour lasting for at least 10 minutes. In another embodiment, the device secures the viability of cells contained within the bone marrow under radiation conditions of above 1000 rad/hour lasting for at least 10 minutes. In another embodiment, the device secures the viability of cells contained within the bone marrow under radiation conditions of above 1500 rad/hour lasting for at least 10 minutes. In another embodiment, the device secures the viability of cells contained within the bone marrow under radiation conditions of above 2000 rad/hour lasting for at least 10 minutes. In another embodiment, the device secures the viability of cells contained within the bone marrow under radiation conditions of above 2000 rad/hour lasting for at least 20 minutes. In another embodiment, the device secures the viability of cells contained within the bone marrow under radiation conditions of above 2000 rad/hour lasting for at least 25 minutes.

[00120] In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects cells against radiation damages, reduces radiation damages to cells, promotes cells viability under radiation doses of above 5Gy, promotes the integrity of an active bone marrow under radiation doses of above 5Gy, or any combination thereof. In another embodiment, the device as described herein protects bone marrow cells against radiation damages, reduces radiation damages to bone marrow cells, promotes bone marrow cell viability under radiation doses of above 5Gy, promotes the integrity of an active bone marrow under radiation doses of above 5Gy, or any combination thereof.

[00121] In another embodiment, bone marrow cells are fibroblasts, macrophages, adipocytes, osteoblasts, endothelial cells, or mesenchymal stem cells (also called marrow stromal cells). In another embodiment, bone marrow cells are hematopoietic stem cells, hematopoietic progenitor cells, erythrocytes, macrophages, granulocytes, leukocytes, erythrocytes, thrombocytes, or mesenchymal stem cells.

[00122] In another embodiment, a device as described herein provides protection against a radioactive environment. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises an environment contaminated with radioisotopes. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises an environment contaminated with radioactive materials. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is an environment exposing a subject to radiation. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is an environment exposed to radiation during clinical therapy. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is an environment exposed to radiation accidents. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is an environment exposed to radiation attacks.

[00123] In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is a nuclear power plant. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is a nuclear power plant and its vicinity following a reactor meltdown or accident leading to breach of the reactor containment building. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is an environment comprising radioactive chemical elements. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is an environment comprising nuclear fuel. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is an environment comprising nuclear weapon reprocessing. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is an environment comprising a nuclear weapon. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is an environment comprising the aftermath of a

detonated nuclear weapon. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is a nuclear reactor and its vicinity following a reactor meltdown or accident leading to breach of the reactor containment building. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is an environment comprising the aftermath of a detonated "dirty bomb". In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is an environment comprising radioisotopes for medical and/or research purposes. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment is an environment comprising naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM) that can be concentrated as a result of the processing or consumption of coal, oil and gas, and some minerals.

[00124] In another embodiment, a radioactive environment contains fission products that emit beta and gamma radiation, and actinides that emit alpha particles, such as uranium-234, neptunium-237, plutonium-238 and americium-241, and even sometimes some neutron emitters such as californium (Cf). In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises uranium. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises U-235. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises U-238. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises alpha-emitting Np-236. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises Am-241. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises alpha, beta, neutron and/or gamma emitters. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises technetium-99m. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises Y-90. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises I-131. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises Sr-89. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises Ir-192. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises Co-60. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises Cs-137. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises Au-198. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises Cf-252. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises Cm-244. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises Gd-153. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises Ge-68. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises H-3. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises I-125. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises Kr-85. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises Strontium-90.

[00125] In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises a Radioisotopic thermoelectric generator (RTG). In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises a ruptured Radioisotopic thermoelectric generator (RTG). In another embodiment,

a radioactive environment comprises an irradiator. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises a ruptured irradiator. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises a multi-beam teletherapy (gamma knife). In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises a nuclear reactor. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises a centrifuge comprising a radioactive material. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises a centrifuge comprising an isotopic generator. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises a nuclear energy production facility. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises a breached nuclear energy production facility. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises a medical facility comprising a diagnostic radiology facility, nuclear medicine, and/or radiotherapy. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment comprises facilities using a nuclear food irradiation technique. In another embodiment, a radioactive environment has a surface dose rate greater than 200 mrem per hour (2 mSv/h).

[00126] In another embodiment, the device as described herein prevents diseases induced by radiation. In another embodiment, the device as described herein reduces the risk of acquiring a disease induced by radiation. In another embodiment, the device as described herein reduces the risk of acquiring a bone marrow disease induced by radiation. In another embodiment, the device as described herein reduces the risk of acquiring a bone marrow disease as described hereinbelow. In another embodiment, the device as described herein prevents bone marrow diseases that are induced by radiation. In another embodiment, the device as described herein prevents acute radiation syndrome. In another embodiment, the device as described herein attenuates acute radiation syndrome. In another embodiment, the device as described herein prevents displaced bone marrow architecture. In another embodiment, the device as described herein reduces the likelihood of malignancies. In another embodiment, the device as described herein reduces the likelihood cancers of the hematologic progenitor cells. In another embodiment, the device as described herein reduces the likelihood leukemias. In another embodiment, the device as described herein reduces the likelihood depressed immune system. In another embodiment, the device as described herein prevents radiation sickness.

[00127] In another embodiment, the device comprises a sealable opening or openings allowing for the intraosseous injection of substances into the underlying bones shielded by the device described herein. In another embodiment, the device comprises a sealable opening or openings allowing for the introsseous injection of chemical agents into the

underlying bones shielded by the device described herein. In another embodiment, the device comprises a sealable opening or openings allowing for the introsseous injection of drugs into the underlying bones shielded by the device described herein. In another embodiment, the device comprises a sealable opening allowing for the introsseous injection of bioactive agents into the underlying bones shielded by the device described herein. In another embodiment, the sealable opening or openings described herein comprise a seal made of radiation attenuating material that when opened allows access to an underlying aperture.

[00128] In another embodiment, the device comprises a component for real-time measurement of radiation attached to an external surface of the device. In another embodiment, the device comprises a component for real-time measurement of radiation attached to an internal surface of the device. In another embodiment, the device comprises a component for real-time measurement of radiation attached to an external surface of the device and to an internal surface of the device. In another embodiment, the device comprises a dosimeter attached to an external surface of the device. In another embodiment, the device comprises a dosimeter attached to an internal surface of the device. In another embodiment, the device comprises a dosimeter attached to an external surface of the device and to an internal surface of the device.

[00129] In another embodiment, the device comprises a dosimeter placed on an internal surface of the device (i.e facing the protected body part) for the estimation of the actual cumulative radiation dose received in a protected marrow.

[00130] In another embodiment, the dosimeter is an electronic dosimeter. In another embodiment, the dosimeter is a film dosimeter. In another embodiment, the dosimeter is a Thermoluminescent Dosimeter (TLD). In another embodiment, a component for real-time measurement of radiation is a Geiger counter. In another embodiment, a component for real-time measurement of radiation is a scintillation counter.

[00131] .In some embodiments, the radiation protection device may include a layer which is resistant to projectile penetration (e.g. bullet proof), in another embodiment, the device is fire resistant and protects a user against radiation. In another embodiment, fire resistant materials that can be used with the present device are known to one of average skill in the art. In another embodiment, the device protects a user against both radiation and fire hazards.

[00132] In another embodiment, the device is waterproof and protects a user against radiation. In another embodiment, waterproof materials that can be used with the present device are known to one of average skill in the art. In another embodiment, the device is organic solvent proof and protects a user against radiation. In another embodiment, organic solvent proof materials that can be used with the present device are known to one of average skill in the art.

[00133] In another embodiment, the radiation protection device may be used to increase survival chances of a subject facing exposure to gamma radiation emanating from radioisotopes present in the aftermath of a nuclear reactor meltdown. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to increase survival chances of a subject facing exposure to gamma radiation emanating from radioisotopes present in the aftermath of a nuclear bomb explosion. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to increase survival chances of a subject facing exposure to gamma radiation emanating from radioisotopes present in the aftermath of a radiological weapon explosion.

[00134] In another embodiment, the radiation protection device may be used to increase the time a subject may be present in the aftermath of a nuclear reactor meltdown without receiving a lethal radiation dose. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to increase the time a subject may be present in the aftermath of a nuclear bomb explosion without receiving a lethal radiation dose. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to increase the time a subject may be present in the aftermath of a radiological weapon explosion without receiving a lethal radiation dose.

[00135] In another embodiment, the radiation protection device may be used to reduce the radiation dose received in an active marrow from gamma radiation emanating from radioisotopes present in the aftermath of a nuclear reactor meltdown, a radiological weapon explosion or a nuclear bomb explosion by at least 10%. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to reduce the radiation dose received in an active marrow from gamma radiation emanating from radioisotopes present in the aftermath of a nuclear reactor meltdown, radiological weapon explosion or a nuclear bomb explosion by at least 20%. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to reduce the radiation dose received in an active marrow from gamma radiation emanating from radioisotopes present in the aftermath of a nuclear reactor meltdown, a radiological weapon explosion or a nuclear bomb explosion by at least 30%. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to reduce the radiation dose received in an active marrow from gamma radiation

emanating from radioisotopes present in the aftermath of a nuclear reactor meltdown, a radiological weapon explosion or a nuclear explosion by at least 40%. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to reduce the radiation dose received in an active marrow from gamma radiation emanating from radioisotopes present in the aftermath of a nuclear reactor meltdown, a radiological weapon explosion or a nuclear bomb explosion by at least 50%. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to reduce the radiation dose received in an active marrow from gamma radiation emanating from radioisotopes present in the aftermath of a nuclear reactor meltdown, radiological weapon explosion or a nuclear bomb explosion by at least 60%. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to reduce the radiation dose received in an active marrow from gamma radiation emanating from radioisotopes present in the aftermath of a nuclear reactor meltdown, radiological weapon explosion or a nuclear bomb explosion by at least 70%.

[00136] In another embodiment, the radiation protection device may weigh no more than 5Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 6Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 7Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 8Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 9Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 10Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 11Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 12Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 13Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 14Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 15Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 16Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 17Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 18Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 19Kg. In another embodiment, the device as described herein weighs no more than 20Kg.

[00137] In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no more than 5 mm solid lead equivalent at its least protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no more

than 4 mm solid lead equivalent at its least protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no more than 3 mm solid lead equivalent at its least protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no more than 2 mm solid lead equivalent at its least protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no more than 1 mm solid lead equivalent at its least protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no more than 0.1 mm solid lead equivalent at its least protective point.

[00138] In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 9 mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 10 mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 11 mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 12 mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 13mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 14mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 15mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 16mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 17mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 18mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the

device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 19mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 20 mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 21mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 22 mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 23 mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point. In another embodiment, the device as described herein has a distribution of radiation attenuating material so as to be comprised of no less than 24 mm solid lead equivalent at its most protective point.

[00139] In Another embodiment, the device as described herein does not limit the movement of the wearer's limbs.

[00140] Fig. 8 illustrates a radiation protection device 800 with fallout dispersal ability in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. Radiation protection device 800 may include a vest 806 for supporting a radiation attenuating component, for example in the form of a belt 802 around the waist. The belt 802 may include a blower 820. Blower 820 may include a manifold (not shown in this figure) connected to balloons of compressed gas 808 (e.g. air) supported on vest 806 so that the compressed air may be released from the balloons through pipes 810 and through the manifold and exit through nozzles 804. Nozzles 804 may be located on the belt. When operating the device, the compressed gas is forced through the nozzles and radioactive particles, such as, for example, nuclear fallout 812 may be blown away from the waist of the user 801 who wears and uses the radiation protection device, thus greatly reducing the dose rate absorbed in the active bone marrow located in the pelvis of the user.

[00141] In some embodiments, the radiation protection device 800 would not include both a radiation attenuating component and the blower 820.

[00142] In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected

active marrow to a distance of no less than 10 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 20 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 30 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 40 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 50 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 60cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 70 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 80 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 90 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 100 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 110 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 120 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 130 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 140 cm.

In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 150 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a

blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 160 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 170 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 180 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 190 cm. In another embodiment, the radiation protection device comprising a blower as described herein would blow away at least 50% of radioactive particles from a protected active marrow by no less than 200 cm.

[00143] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the blower blows radioactive particles to a varying distance across the radiation protection device, the distance being inversely related to radiation attenuation levels of tissue present between a given point of the radiation protection device and the active bone marrow.

[00144] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the varying distances to which the blower blows away radioactive particles are determined by the formula

$D_R(x, y, z) = \sqrt{\frac{A_D}{A_T}}$, where D_R is a required increase in radioactive particle distance from point

x, y, z on the radiation protection device, A_D is a radiation attenuation level needed to reduce the radiation dose absorbed in the active bone marrow contained within the body part to a desired level, and A_T is the tissue radiation attenuation level between the point x, y, z and the active bone marrow contained in the body part.

[00145] Furthermore, in accordance with some embodiments, the radiation protection device comprising a blower is configured to provide a substantially uniform radiation protection to the active marrow.

[00146] In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to reduce the radiation dose received in an active (i.e red) bone marrow. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to reduce the dose received in an active bone marrow by at least 30%. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to reduce the dose received in an active bone marrow by at least 40%. In another embodiment, the device

as described herein is used to reduce dose received in an active bone marrow by at least 50%. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to reduce the dose received in an active bone marrow by at least 60%. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to reduce the dose received in an active bone marrow by at least 70%. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to reduce the dose received in an active bone marrow by at least 80%. In another embodiment, the device as described herein is used to reduce the dose received in an active bone marrow by at least 90%.

[00147] In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a stem cell. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a multipotential hematopoietic stem cell (hemocytoblast). In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a common myeloid progenitor (CMP) cell. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a common lymphoid progenitor (CLP) cell. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a committed progenitor cell. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a thrombocyte. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a megakaryoblast. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a promegakaryocyte. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a megakaryocyte. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is erythrocytes. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a proerythroblast. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a basophilic erythroblast. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a polychromatic erythroblast. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is an orthochromatic erythroblast. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a polychromatic erythrocyte.

[00148] In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a mast cell. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a basophil. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a myeloblast. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a basophilic promyelocyte. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a basophilic myelocyte. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a basophilic metamyelocyte. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a neutrophil. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is an eosinophil. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is an eosinophilic promyelocyte. In another embodiment, a cell

contained within a bone marrow is an eosinophilic myelocyte. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is an eosinophilic metamyelocyte. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a monocyte. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a promonocyte. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a prolymphocyte. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a lymphoblast. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a B cell. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a T cell. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is a Natural Killer cell.

[00149] In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is derived from one of the following lineages: Thrombopoiesis, Erythropoiesis, Granulopoiesis, Monocytopoiesis, or Lymphopoiesis. In another embodiment, a cell contained within a bone marrow is radiosensitive.

[00150] In another embodiment, a cell protected by the device has an enhanced survival rate under radioactive conditions. In another embodiment, a cell protected by the device and having an enhanced survival rate under radioactive condition is a progenitor cell. In another embodiment, a cell protected by the device and having an enhanced survival rate under radioactive conditions is a stem cell. In another embodiment, protecting a cell under radioactive conditions comprises minimizing mutations caused by radiation.

[00151] In another embodiment, provided herein is a method of protecting a cell contained within a bone marrow of a subject against radiation, comprising the step of placing a radiation protection device on a body organ of a subject, wherein the body organ comprises an active or red bone marrow, wherein the device comprises at least a single layer of a radiation shielding material, thereby protecting a cell contained within a bone marrow of a subject against radiation.

[00152] In another embodiment, provided herein is a method of protecting a cell contained within a bone marrow of a subject against radiation, comprising the step of placing a radiation protection device on a body organ of a subject, wherein the body organ comprises an active or red bone marrow, wherein the device comprises at least a single layer of a radiation shielding material and a fallout dispersal mechanism, thereby protecting a cell contained within a bone marrow of a subject against radiation.

[00153] In another embodiment, provided herein is a method of protecting a cell contained within a bone marrow of a subject against radiation, comprising the step of placing

a radiation protection device on a body organ of a subject, wherein the body organ comprises an active or red bone marrow, wherein the device comprises a fallout dispersal mechanism, thereby protecting a cell contained within a bone marrow of a subject against radiation.

[00154] In another embodiment, provided herein is a method of enhancing the survival rate of a subject exposed to radiation, comprising the step of placing a radiation protection device on a body organ in a subject, wherein the body organ comprises an active or red bone marrow, wherein the device comprises at least a single layer of a shielding material, thereby enhancing the survival rate of a subject exposed to radiation.

[00155] In another embodiment, provided herein is a method of enhancing the survival rate of a subject exposed to radiation, comprising the step of placing a radiation protection device on a body organ in a subject, wherein the body organ comprises an active or red bone marrow, wherein the device comprises at least a single layer of a shielding material and a fallout dispersal mechanism, thereby enhancing the survival rate of a subject exposed to radiation.

[00156] In another embodiment, provided herein is a method of enhancing the survival rate of a subject exposed to radiation, comprising the step of placing a radiation protection device on a body organ in a subject, wherein the body organ comprises an active or red bone marrow, wherein the device comprises a fallout dispersal mechanism for clearing radioactive particles from the vicinity of said body organ, thereby enhancing the survival rate of a subject exposed to radiation.

[00157] In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that induces the proliferation of a cell contained within a bone marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that maintains the stemness of hematopoietic stem cells contained within a bone marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that induces the maturation of a hematopoietic stem to a specific progenitor cell. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that maintains a certain lineage within the bone marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a stem cell factor, Flt3-ligand, thrombopoietin/megakaryocyte growth and development factor (MGDF), interleukin 3, SDF1, G-CSF, GM-CSF, Interleukin 1, Interleukin

11, glycosylated erythropoietin, keratinocyte growth factor (KGF), Interleukin 2, Interleukin 4, Interleukin 6, Interleukin-7, Interleukin-8, Interleukin-9, Interleukin-15, TGF β , MPL receptor agonists, Promegapoeitin-1 α (PMP-1 α), hyaluronic acid, PTH and active PTH fragments, PTH analogues, or a PTH/PTHrP receptor agonists or any combination thereof.

[00158] In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration of substances into bones shielded by the device described herein. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration of a compound into bones shielded by the device described herein that induces the proliferation of a cell contained within a shielded bone marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of a compound that maintains the stemness of hematopoietic stem cells contained within a shielded bone marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of a compound that induces the maturation of a hematopoietic stem cell to a specific progenitor cell within a shielded marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of a compound that maintains a certain lineage within the shielded bone marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of a stem cell factor, Flt3-ligand, thrombopoietin/megakaryocyte growth and development factor (MGDF), interleukin 3, SDF1, G-CSF, GM-CSF, Interleukin 1, Interleukin 11, glycosylated erythropoietin, keratinocyte growth factor (KGF), Interleukin 2, Interleukin 4, Interleukin 6, Interleukin-7, Interleukin-8, Interleukin-9, Interleukin-15, TGF β , MPL receptor agonists, Promegapoeitin-1 α (PMP-1 α), hyaluronic acid, PTH and active PTH fragments, PTH analogues, or PTH/PTHrP receptor agonists or any combination thereof.

[00159] In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject that had been exposed to radiation a compound that induces the entry of shielded HSCs and progenitor cells into the blood stream for replenishment of unshielded marrows. Such substances include but are not limited to G-CSF, SDF-1 and AMD3100.

[00160] In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that protects and/or restores bone marrow function.

In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that reduces the harmful effects of radiation. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that protects against the harmful effects of radiation. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that protects bone marrow cells from radiation. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that reduces the harmful effects of radiation on bone marrow cells. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a drug that protects healthy cells from the damage caused by radiation. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a drug that protects healthy bone marrow cells from the damage caused by radiation. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a drug that protects healthy bone marrow cells from the damage caused by radiation even while killing off cancerous cells. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that inhibits apoptosis. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that inhibits apoptosis of bone marrow cells. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that induces differentiation. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that induces nuclear factor-Kappa B. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject flagellin. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject vitamin C. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a "radioprotector", such as WR-2721 and WR-1065 (Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington, D.C.) or CBLB502 (Cleveland BioLabs).

[00161] In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound or a drug before exposure to radiation. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound or a drug after exposure to radiation. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound or a drug during exposure to radiation.

[00162] In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of a compound that inhibits cells contained within a shielded bone marrow from moving out of the shielded marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of a compound that induces the entrapment of cells contained within a shielded bone marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of a compound that inhibits cells contained within a shielded bone marrow from entering the blood stream. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration of a compound into bones shielded by the device described herein that inhibits chemotaxis of cells out of the shielded marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration of a compound into bones shielded by the device described herein that inhibits chemotaxis of cells out of the shielded marrow and into the blood stream. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration of a compound into bones shielded by the device described herein that inhibits chemotaxis of cells out of the shielded marrow and into the blood stream where said cells are hematopoietic stem cells. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration of a compound into bones shielded by the device described herein that inhibits chemotaxis of cells out of the shielded marrow and into the blood stream where said cells are hematopoietic progenitor cells. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of a compound that induces the immobilization of hematopoietic stem cells or/and hematopoietic progenitor cells within a shielded marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of SDF-1 (CXCL12) or an analog, fusion protein, variant, functional derivative or fragment thereof having the activity of SDF-1 and/or an agent capable of inducing expression of said chemokine SDF-1. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of SDF-1 (CXCL12) or an analog, fusion protein, variant, functional derivative or fragment thereof having the activity of SDF-1 in soluble form, encapsulated form or matrix-bound form. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into

bones shielded by the device described herein of anti MMP-9 (anti matrix metalloproteinase-9) antibody, neutrophil elastase (NE) inhibitor, Migrastatin or its analogues including but not limited to core macroketone and core macrolactam, TGF- β , IL-8 inhibitors, anti Gro β antibody, anti Gr1 antibody, anti LFA-1 antibody, anti Mac-1 (CD11b) antibody, cathapsin G inhibitors, anti SDF-1 blocking antibody, soluble CXCR4, soluble CCR2, MCP-1 (CCL2) and MCP-3 (CCL7) inhibitors, G-CSF inhibitors, GM-CSF inhibitors, soluble VLA-4, anti MMP-2 antibody CB2 agonists including but not limited to AM1241 or any combination thereof.

[00163] In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that inhibits recruitment of hematopoietic stem cells and/or hematopoietic progenitor cells from the bone marrow into the blood. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that inhibits or reduces mobilization of hematopoietic stem cells and/or hematopoietic progenitor cells. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intravenous, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, subcutaneous or intraosseous administration of anti SDF-1 blocking antibody, soluble CXCR4, TGF- β , anti MMP-9 (anti matrix metalloproteinase-9) antibody, neutrophil elastase (NE) inhibitor, Migrastatin or analogues including but not limited to core macroketone and core macrolactam, IL-8 inhibitors, anti Gro β antibody, anti Gr1 antibody, anti LFA-1 antibody, anti Mac-1 (CD11b) antibody, cathapsin G inhibitors, G-CSF inhibitors, GM-CSF inhibitors, soluble VLA-4, anti MMP-2 antibody or any combination thereof.

[00164] In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of a compound that draws hematopoietic stem cells and/or hematopoietic progenitor cells contained within an unshielded bone marrow into the shielded marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of a chemo-attractant that induces the chemotaxis of hematopoietic stem cells and/or hematopoietic progenitor cells contained within an unshielded bone marrow towards the shielded marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration of a compound into bones shielded by the device described herein that induces migration of hematopoietic stem cells and/or hematopoietic progenitor cells out of the blood stream and into the shielded marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration of a compound into

bones shielded by the device described herein that induces homing of blood-borne hematopoietic stem cells and/or hematopoietic progenitor cells into the shielded marrow. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of SDF-1 (CXCL12) or an analog, fusion protein, variant, functional derivative or fragment thereof having the activity of SDF-1 and/or an agent capable of inducing expression of said chemokine SDF-1. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of SDF-1 (CXCL12) or an analog, fusion protein, variant, functional derivative or fragment thereof having the activity of SDF-1 in soluble form, encapsulated form or matrix-bound form. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of intraosseous administration into bones shielded by the device described herein of agonists or partial agonists of CXCR4 and/or CXCR7, CCR2 ligands including but not limited to MCP-1 (CCL2) and MCP-3 (CCL7), CB2 agonists including but not limited to AM1241 or any combination thereof. Any substance that positively affects the migration of hematopoietic stem cells and/or hematopoietic progenitor cells into the shielded marrow is contemplated according to this invention.

[00165] In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the steps of bone marrow extraction from the shielded marrow of a subject that had been exposed to radiation, expansion of surviving HSCs and progenitors in-vitro by use of cytokines and reintroduction of expanded cells into the subject.

[00166] In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a compound that stimulates the immune system. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject an immune-stimulating cytokine such as but not limited to Neupogen. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject Filgrastim. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF). In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject an interleukin 2, interleukin 4, interleukin 11.

[00167] In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a detoxifying agent. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the step of administering to a subject a radioactive detoxifying agent. In another embodiment, a method as described herein further provides the

step of administering to a subject potassium iodide, pentetate calcium trisodium, pentetate zinc sodium, or any combination thereof.

[00168] **EXAMPLES**

[00169] **Example 1**

[00170] **Method for determining Desired Total Attenuation (A_D):**

[00171] The desired total attenuation may vary according to the use for which the device is intended. If it is intended for continued use involving lengthy exposure to radiation, the desired total attenuation should be relatively high. Such a configuration may be applicable to first responders who remain in disaster zones. If it is intended for short term use, the desired total attenuation should be relatively low. Such a configuration may be applicable to individuals evacuating from disaster zones. Whatever the intended use, desired total attenuation should be such that the surviving volume of active bone marrow is sufficient to allow for hematopoietic reconstitution after exposure. Based on numerous bone marrow transplantations this volume is between 23 and 58 cm³ of active marrow, depending on the size of the individual. From knowledge of the radiosensitivity of human hematopoietic stem cells and progenitors (for example, see J. S. Senn and E. A. McCulloch, Blood January 1, 1970 vol. 35 no. 1 56-60) and the volume of active marrow that is protected by the radiation protection device, one can deduce what the desired total attenuation should be. The following formula may be used for this purpose:

[00172]
$$A_D \geq \frac{D_U}{D_V}$$

A_D = Desired Total Attenuation

D_U = Unprotected Radiation Dose

D_V = Dose at which the percent viability of BM cells (as in chart below) is equal to percent viability of active bone marrow necessary for hematopoietic reconstitution (P_R).

$$P_R = \frac{V_N}{V_P} \times 100$$

P_R = Percent Viability of Active Bone Marrow Necessary for Reconstitution

V_N = Volume Necessary for Reconstitution (23 to 58 cm³, size dependent)

V_P = Volume of Protected Active Bone Marrow

[00173] For example, if the intended use is for one to remain in conditions of 1000 rad/hour for one hour and the radiation protection device protects in a substantially uniform manner 150 cm³ of active bone marrow, the percent viability of active bone marrow necessary for hematopoietic reconstitution (P_R) is 23 to 58 cm³ divided by 150 cm³.

Assuming an average individual, P_R equals 41/150 * 100 = 27.3%. From studying a human hematopoietic stem cell and progenitor radiosensitivity chart as appears in the literature (for example, see J. S. Senn and E. A. McCulloch, Blood January 1, 1970 vol. 35 no. 1 56-60), the approximate radiation dose in which 27.3% of HSCs and progenitors remain viable is 200 rad (D_V). Thus, the desired total attenuation (A_D) in this case is 5 [1000 rad (D_U) divided by 200 rad (D_V)]

[00174] **Example 2**

[00175] **Method for determining Tissue Attenuation (A_T) and Required Radiation Attenuation (A_R)**

[00176] We employed the Visible Human Data set for this purpose. The Visible Human Project is the creation of complete, anatomically detailed, three-dimensional representations of the normal male and female human bodies. The data set includes transverse CT, MR and cryosection images of representative male and female cadavers. The male was sectioned at one millimeter intervals, the female at one-third of a millimeter intervals. This powerful tool

allowed us to study the tissues surrounding select bone marrow concentrations, measure their thickness and determine their overall radio density.

[00177] In an example our goal was to create a belt like shield such as appears in figure 7A that will protect the iliac bones. By studying hundreds of slices of the pelvic area and complementing these studies by CT scans, we have mapped the tissue type and thickness present between the selected bone marrow centers and radiation entry points for hundreds of points around the waist area. Combining this knowledge with advanced radiation shielding formulas which include variables such as build up factors, we have arrived at the true tissue attenuation surrounding the bone marrow center selected for shielding. Knowledge of tissue attenuation allowed us to calculate the shield attenuation required to arrive at the desired total attenuation (tissue+shield) by the following formula:

$$[00178] \quad A_R(x, y, z) = \frac{A_D}{A_T}$$

A_R = Required Radiation Attenuation at Point x,y,z, ; A_D = Total Desired Radiation Attenuation; A_T = Tissue Radiation Attenuation (between point x,y,z and the bone marrow concentration).

For example, if the A_D is calculated to be 5 as in Example 1, and the A_T is determined to be 2, then A_R must be 2.5 to meet performance expectations.

[00179] This allowed us to create the figure 7A belt-like radiation protection device which is of variable thickness, incorporating only the minimal amount of radiation attenuating material needed. This shield in combination with the individual's tissue is configured to provide a substantially uniform 4-fold total radiation attenuation (A_D) to 140 cm³ of active marrow in the posterior pelvis. Knowing tissue attenuation for each point x,y,z (A_T), the additional required attenuation at point x,y,z (A_R) was determined. Using lead as the radiation attenuation materiel and depositing enough lead at each point x,y,z to achieve A_R from a 0.6 MEV radiation source, a belt-like radiation protection device was created. Its weight is between 9 and 14 kg, varying according to the size of the individual and may be comfortably worn by an individual without limiting mobility. Comfort may be further increased by use of suspenders or a suspending vest.

[00180]

Example 3

[00181] **Direct measurement of the radiation attenuation of a radiation protection device and its ability to protect its carrier from gamma radiation emitted by radioisotopes**

[00182] Measurements are carried out using TLD 3x3 x1mm Harshaw TLD LiF dosimeters (and Harshaw 3500 TLD reader. A sealed 0.5 milliCurie Cs -137 point source is used as the radiation source. The source emits 0.662 Mev Ba 137m gamma radiation (89%). A life size human phantom with a radiodensity similar to that of human tissue is employed. The dosimeters are placed at different points inside of the human phantom model at points corresponding with a bone marrow selected for protection. The radiation source is placed at an orthogonal distance of 40 cm from the phantom's surface at 3 different heights from a plane parallel to the phantom's center (to learn about the influence of the angle of incidence of the photon beam on the device). The phantom is irradiated once with the dosimeters behind a radiation protection device as embodied in figure 7A, and once again in the same conditions only in the absence of the device as control. The ratio between the two results indicates the percentage attenuation caused by the shield.

[00183]

Example 4

[00184] **Verification of the ability of the radiation protection device to rescue bone marrow from radiation**

[00185] A life size human model is employed. Human bone marrow specimens are obtained from hospitals and placed in vials. Several vials are placed inside pelvic area of human model in a manner reflecting the distribution of bone marrow in a live human. The bone marrow containing model is then subjected to radiation from several angles with or without the protection of a radiation protection device as described herein (e.g the device as described in figure 7A). The radiation dose is the maximal dose that may be sustained without suffering from serious gastrointestinal complications (1000-1200 rad). After irradiation, vials are collected and their bone marrow content evaluated for viability of hematopoietic stem cells by fluorocytometry. Each vial is evaluated separately to allow pinpointing of any site in the radiation protection device that may not be providing adequate protection. We conclude as to the efficacy of our prototype in protecting bone marrow by comparing stem cell viability in three different groups: 1) irradiated without protection;

2) irradiated with protection; 3) not irradiated.

[00186] Employing an alternative approach, mouse bone marrow is harvested from the hip area of 6-8 week old mice and placed in vials. In a manner similar to the described above, vials are embedded at different points in a life size human model and irradiated with or without protection. After irradiation, bone marrow is collected and placed in aliquots equivalent in quantity to what would be the protected marrow in a single mouse. Aliquots are then transplanted into lethally irradiated mice. Here too, each vial is evaluated separately to be able to pinpoint any problematic areas in the device. We conclude as to the efficacy of said device by comparing survival of mice in three different groups: 1) those receiving bone marrow that was irradiated without protection (mice are expected to die as if no transplantation occurred); 2) those receiving bone marrow that was irradiated with protection (mice are expected to survive as if they hadn't been irradiated); 3) those receiving bone marrow that was not irradiated (mice are expected to survive as if they hadn't been irradiated).

[00187] **Animals:** Adult 12-week-old female C57 mice are used in the tests. Mice are obtained from the Jackson Laboratory (Bar Harbor, Maine). All mice are kept in small cages (5 animals in each cage) and fed sterile food and acid water.

[00188] **Irradiation:** Mice are placed in and along the circumference of a single-chamber circular container with rotary covers and exposed to a single dose of total body irradiation from a ^{137}Cs γ -irradiation source with a focal skin distance of 30 cm at a 0.5 Gy/minute dose rate. Mice are exposed to a lethal dose (8Gy).

[00189] **Bone Marrow Transplantation:** Bone marrow cells irradiated either in the presence of the radiation protection device or in its absence, are enumerated and infused intravenously into the tail veins of recipients about 6 h after irradiation.

[00190] **Example 5**

[00191] **Radiation protection device adaptation and usage in a non human primate model.**

[00192] Device configuration: Eight non human primates are subjected to CT scans of their pelvic area and the A_T is determined as described in example 2. Based on A_T , the A_R is

determined for hundreds of coordinates of a radiation protection device intended to provide an A_D of 4. Using lead as the radiation attenuation material and Cs-137 as the source of radiation, the lead thickness at the different coordinates is determined. The radiation protection device is configured in a similar way to the device in figure 7A.

[00193] Experimental Set-up: Primates are divided into two groups of 4 animals each, one group equipped with the radiation protection device and one without protection. Primates are subjected to radiation with a Cs-137 γ -irradiation source with an average focal skin distance of 100 cm at a 0.5 Gy/minute dose rate for 16 minutes for a total of 8Gy (800 rad). Primates are allowed to move freely during irradiation to guarantee uniform exposure. Movement of primates is closely monitored to make sure that mobility is not hindered by device.

[00194] Following irradiation, animals are closely monitored. Monitoring includes alertness tests, weight measurements and complete blood counts. After 50 days survival is assessed.

[00195] Results: The group of primates protected by the radiation protection device exhibits significantly improved survival, blood counts and alertness. The radiation protection device does not hinder animal mobility as demonstrated in terms of distance walked per unit time.

CLAIMS

1. A radiation protection device for providing protection of a body part that includes active bone marrow from ionizing radiation, the device comprising a radiation protection component configured to be placed adjacent to and externally cover the body part so as to reduce a radiation dose absorbed in that body part, and wherein the radiation protection component comprises a radiation attenuating component providing varying radiation attenuation levels across the radiation attenuating component.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the body part that includes active bone marrow includes a bone selected from the group consisting of: skull, sternum, ribs, vertebrae, humerus, pelvis and femur.
3. The device of claim 1, wherein the varying radiation attenuation levels across the radiation attenuating component are inversely related to radiation attenuation levels of tissue present between a given point of the radiation attenuating component and the active bone marrow.
4. The device of claim 3, wherein the varying radiation attenuation levels are determined by the formula

$$A_R(x, y, z) = \frac{A_D}{A_T},$$

where A_R is a required radiation attenuation at point x, y, z on the radiation attenuating component, A_D is a radiation attenuation level needed to reduce the radiation dose absorbed in the active bone marrow contained within the body part to a desired level, and A_T is the tissue radiation attenuation level between the point x, y, z and the active bone marrow contained within the body part.

5. The device of claim 4, configured to provide uniform radiation protection to the active bone marrow.
6. The device of claim 1, wherein the radiation attenuating component comprises radiation attenuating material of varying thickness or density.
7. The device of claim 1, wherein the radiation attenuating component comprises layers of radiation attenuating material.
8. The device of claim 7, wherein the layers of radiation attenuating material have unique shapes and when compiled define a topography related to tissue radiation attenuation levels between points on the radiation attenuating component and the active bone marrow contained within the body part.
9. The device of claim 1, wherein the radiation attenuating component comprises one or more materials selected from the group consisting of barium compounds, tungsten compounds, bismuth compounds, tantalum compounds, titanium compounds, boron compounds and beryllium compounds.
10. The device of claim 1, wherein the radiation attenuating component comprises one or more materials selected from the group consisting of barium sulfate, barium chloride, tungsten carbide, tungsten oxide, tungsten, bismuth, lead, titanium, diatrizoate meglumine, acetrizoate sodium, boron, boric acid, boron oxide, boron salts, beryllium, bunamiodyl sodium, diatrizoate sodium, ethiodized oil, lobenzamic acid, locarmic acid, locetamic acid, lodipamide, lodixanol, lodized oil, lodoalphonic acid, o-lodohippurate sodium, lodophthalein sodium, lodopyracet, loglycamic acid, lohexol, lomeglamic acid, lopamidol, lopanoic acid, lopentol, lophendylate, lophenoxic acid, water, lopromide, lopronic acid, lopydol, lopydone, lothalamic acid, lotrolan, loversol, loxaglic acid, loxilan, lpodate, meglumine acetrizoate, meglumine ditrizoate methiodal sodium, metrizamide, metrizoic acid, phenobutiodil, phentetiothalein sodium, propyl iodone, sodium lodomethamate, sozoiodolic acid, thorium oxide, trypanoate sodium, uranium and depleted uranium.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein the radiation attenuating component is incorporated in a wearable item selected from the group consisting of a helmet, a bifurcated garment and a belt.
12. The device of claim 1, further comprising a blower.
13. The device of claim 1, wherein the radiation protection component further comprises a blower for blowing radioactive particles away from the body part that includes active bone marrow.
14. The device of claim 1, further comprising a sealable opening for intraosseous injection of a substance into an underlying bone within the body part.
15. A method for protecting bone marrow of a subject from ionizing radiation, the method comprising placing a radiation protection device that includes a radiation protection component adjacent to and externally covering a body part of the subject that includes active bone marrow, and wherein the radiation protection component comprises a radiation attenuating component providing varying radiation attenuation levels across the radiation attenuating component.
16. A method for enhancing survival chances of a subject facing exposure to ionizing radiation, the method comprising placing a radiation protection device that includes a radiation protection component adjacent to and externally covering a body part of the subject that includes active bone marrow to protect that active bone marrow, and wherein the radiation protection component comprises a radiation attenuating component providing varying radiation attenuation levels across the radiation attenuating component.
17. The method of claim 15 or 16, wherein the varying radiation attenuation levels across the radiation attenuating component are inversely related to radiation attenuation levels of tissue present between a given point of the radiation attenuating component and the active bone marrow.
18. The method of claim 17, wherein the varying radiation attenuation levels are determined by the formula

$$A_R(x, y, z) = \frac{A_D}{A_T},$$

where A_R is a required radiation attenuation at point x, y, z on the radiation attenuating component, A_D is a radiation attenuation level needed to reduce the radiation dose absorbed in the active bone marrow contained within the body part to a desired level, and A_T is the tissue radiation attenuation level between the point x, y, z and the active bone marrow contained within the body part.

19. The method of claim 18, providing a uniform radiation protection to the active marrow.

20. The method of claim 15 or 16, wherein the radiation attenuating component comprises radiation attenuating material of varying thickness or density.

21. The method of claim 15 or 16, wherein the radiation attenuating component comprises layers of radiation attenuating material.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the layers of radiation attenuating material have unique shapes and when compiled define a topography related to tissue radiation attenuation levels between points on the radiation attenuating component and the active bone marrow contained within the body part.

23. The method of claim 15 or 16, wherein the radiation attenuating component comprises one or more materials selected from the group consisting of barium compounds, tungsten compounds, bismuth compounds, tantalum compounds, titanium compounds, boron compounds and beryllium compounds.

24. The method of claim 15 or 16, wherein the radiation attenuating component comprises one or more materials selected from the group consisting of barium sulfate, barium chloride,

tungsten carbide, tungsten oxide, tungsten, bismuth, lead, titanium, diatrizoate meglumine, acetrizoate sodium, boron, boric acid, boron oxide, boron salts, beryllium, bunamiodyl sodium, diatrizoate sodium, ethiodized oil, lobenzamic acid, locarmic acid, locetamic acid, lodipamide, lodixanol, lodized oil, lodoalphonic acid, o-lodohippurate sodium, lodophthalein sodium, lodopyracet, loglycamic acid, lohexol, lomeglamic acid, lopamidol, lopanoic acid, lopentol, lophendylate, lophenoxic acid, water, lopromide, lopronic acid, lopydol, lopydone, lothalamic acid, lotrolan, loversol, loxaglic acid, loxilan, lpodate, meglumine acetrizoate, meglumine ditrizoate methiodal sodium, metrizamide, metrizoic acid, phenobutiodil, phentetiothalein sodium, propyl iodone, sodium lodomethamate, sozoiodolic acid, thorium oxide, trypanoate sodium, uranium and depleted uranium.

25. The method of claim 15 or 16, wherein the radiation attenuating component is incorporated in a wearable item selected from the group consisting of a helmet, a bifurcated garment and a belt.

26. The method of claim 15 or 16, wherein the radiation protection component comprises a blower, and the method further comprises operating the blower to blow radioactive particles away from the body part that includes the active bone marrow.

27. The method of claim 15 or 16, for use with administration of a substance for enhancing hematopoietic reconstitution or inducing proliferation of hematopoietic stem cells or progenitors in a subject.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the substance is selected from the group consisting of G-CSF, PEGylated G-CSF, GM-CSF, M-CSF (CSF-1), AMD3100, Filgrastim (Neupogen), Pegfilgrastim, Stem cell factor (c-kit ligand or Steel Factor), Interleukin 11, Interleukin 3, Interleukin 7, Interleukin 6, Interleukin 12, Interleukin 1, Interleukin 2, Interleukin 4, Interleukin 8, Interleukin 9, Interleukin 15, Erythropoietin (EPO), Epoetin alfa (Epogen), Darbepoetin alfa (Aranesp), Omontys (peginesatide), SDF-1, friend of GATA-1 (FOG-1), PTH and active PTH fragments or PTH/PTHrP receptor agonists, leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF), Platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), Angiotensin-(1-7), Leridistimor, Flt3-ligand, thrombopoietin, Keratinocyte growth factor (KGF), TGF β , MPL receptor agonists, Promegapoeitin-1 α (PMP-1 α), hyaluronic acid and K-7/D-6.

29. The method of claim 15 or 16, for use with administration of a substance for inhibiting apoptosis of hematopoietic stem cells or progenitors in a subject.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the substance is selected from the group consisting of G-CSF, PEGylated G-CSF, GM-CSF, M-CSF (CSF-1), AMD3100, Filgrastim (Neupogen), Pegfilgrastim, Stem cell factor (c-kit ligand or Steel Factor), Interleukin 11, Interleukin 3, Interleukin 7, Interleukin 6, Interleukin 12, Interleukin 1, Interleukin 2, Interleukin 4, Interleukin 8, Interleukin 9, Interleukin 15, Erythropoietin (EPO), Epoetin alfa (Epogen), Darbepoetin alfa (Aranesp), Omontys (peginesatide), SDF-1, friend of GATA-1 (FOG-1), PTH and active PTH fragments or PTH/PTHrP receptor agonists, leukemia inhibitory factor (LIF), Platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), Angiotensin-(1-7), Leridistimor, Flt3-ligand, thrombopoietin, Keratinocyte growth factor (KGF), TGF β , MPL receptor agonists, Promegapoietin-1 α (PMP-1 α), hyaluronic acid and K-7/D-6, δ -Tocotrienol (DT3), Angiotensin-(1-7), Inducers of nuclear factor-Kappa B, Flagellin, vitamin C, WR-2721 and WR-1065, CBLB502.

31. The method of claim 15 or 16, for use with administration of a substance to prevent hematopoietic stem cells or progenitors within the active bone marrow from leaving the protected active bone marrow and circulating in a subject.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the substance is selected from the group consisting of SDF-1 (CXCL12) or an analog, fusion protein, variant, functional derivative or fragment thereof having the activity of SDF-1 or an agent capable of inducing expression of said chemokine SDF-1; PDGF, Somatostatin, c-kit, Hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), anti MMP-9 (anti matrix metalloproteinase-9) antibody, neutrophil elastase (NE) inhibitor, Migrastatin or its analogues TGF- β , IL-8 inhibitors, anti Gro β y antibody, anti Gr1 antibody, anti LFA-1 antibody, anti Mac-1 (CD11b) antibody, cathapsin G inhibitors, anti SDF-1 blocking antibody, soluble CXCR4, soluble CCR2, MCP-1 (CCL2) and MCP-3 (CCL7) inhibitors, G-CSF inhibitors, GM-CSF inhibitors, soluble VLA-4, anti MMP-2 antibody CB2 agonists, and AM1241.

33. The method of claim 15 or 16, for use with administration of a substance to attract hematopoietic stem cells or progenitors into the protected active bone marrow.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the substance is selected from the group consisting of SDF-1 (CXCL12) or an analog, fusion protein, variant, functional derivative or fragment thereof having the activity of SDF-1 or an agent capable of inducing expression of said chemokine SDF-1, agonists or partial agonists of CXCR4 or CXCR7, CCR2 ligands, MCP-1 (CCL2), MCP-3 (CCL7), CB2 agonists, AM1241, PDGF, Somatostatin, c-kit, and Hepatocyte growth factor (HGF).

35. The method of claim 15 or 16, for use with administration of a substance before exposure to ionizing radiation to the subject.

36. The method of claim 15 or 16, for use with administration of a substance to the subject during the exposure to ionizing radiation.

37. The method of claim 15 or 16, for use with administration of a substance to the subject after the exposure to ionizing radiation.

38. The method of any one of claims 27-37, wherein the substance is for administration via intravenous administration, intramuscular administration, intraperitoneal administration, subcutaneous administration or intraosseous administration.

39. The method of claim 15 or 16, for use with reintroduction of hematopoietic stem cells and progenitor cells extracted and expanded from protected bone marrow of the subject.

40. The method of claim 15 or 16, further comprising using a blower, to blow radioactive particles away from the body part that includes active bone marrow.

41. A method for protecting bone marrow of a subject from ionizing radiation, the method comprising placing a radiation protection device that includes a radiation protection component adjacent to and externally covering a body part of the subject that includes active bone marrow, wherein the radiation protection component comprises a radiation attenuating component, and wherein the radiation attenuating component comprises radiation attenuating material of varying thickness or density.

42. A method for protecting bone marrow of a subject from ionizing radiation, the method comprising placing a radiation protection device that includes a radiation protection component adjacent to and externally covering a body part of the subject that includes active bone marrow, wherein the radiation protection component comprises a radiation attenuating component, and wherein the radiation attenuating component comprises layers of radiation attenuating material.

43. A method for enhancing survival chances of a subject facing exposure to ionizing radiation, the method comprising placing a radiation protection device that includes a radiation protection component adjacent to and externally covering a body part of the subject that includes active bone marrow to protect that active bone marrow, wherein the radiation protection component comprises a radiation attenuating component, and wherein the radiation attenuating component comprises radiation attenuating material of varying thickness or density.

44. A method for enhancing survival chances of a subject facing exposure to ionizing radiation, the method comprising placing a radiation protection device that includes a radiation protection component adjacent to and externally covering a body part of the subject that includes active bone marrow to protect that active bone marrow, wherein the radiation protection component comprises a radiation attenuating component configured to provide varying radiation attenuation levels across the radiation attenuating component, and wherein the radiation attenuating component comprises layers of radiation attenuating material.

45. A radiation protection device in the form of a belt for providing protection of active bone marrow in the posterior iliac crest from external ionizing radiation, the device comprising a gamma radiation attenuating component configured to be placed adjacent to and externally cover the pelvis so as to reduce a radiation dose absorbed in the active bone marrow in the posterior iliac crest, the radiation attenuating component comprising radiation attenuating material of at least one of varying thickness and density to provide varying radiation levels across the radiation attenuating component such that the varying radiation attenuation level at each point on the radiation attenuating component is inversely related to radiation attenuation

levels of tissue present between the point of the radiation attenuating component and the active bone marrow in the posterior iliac crest.

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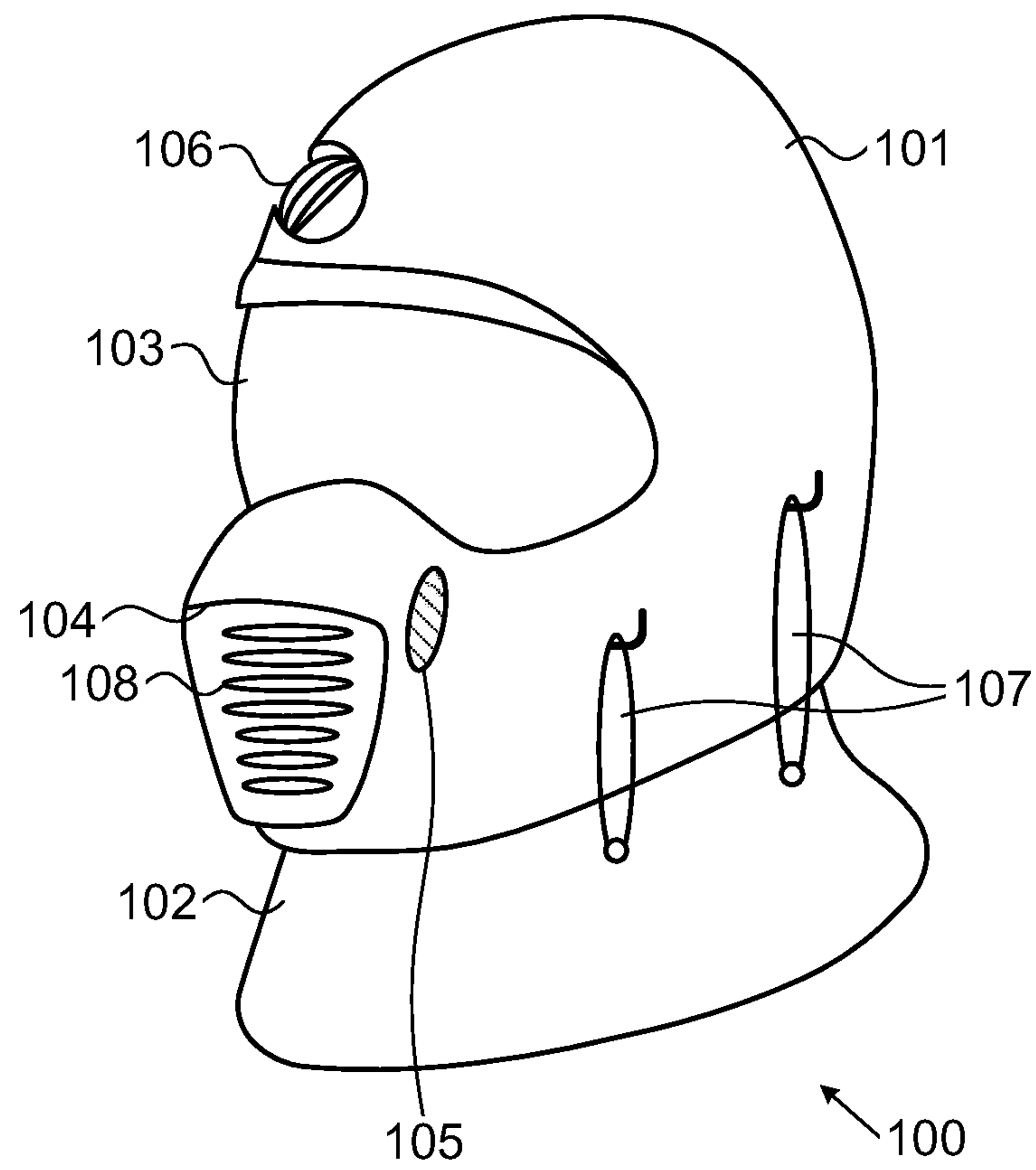


FIG. 1

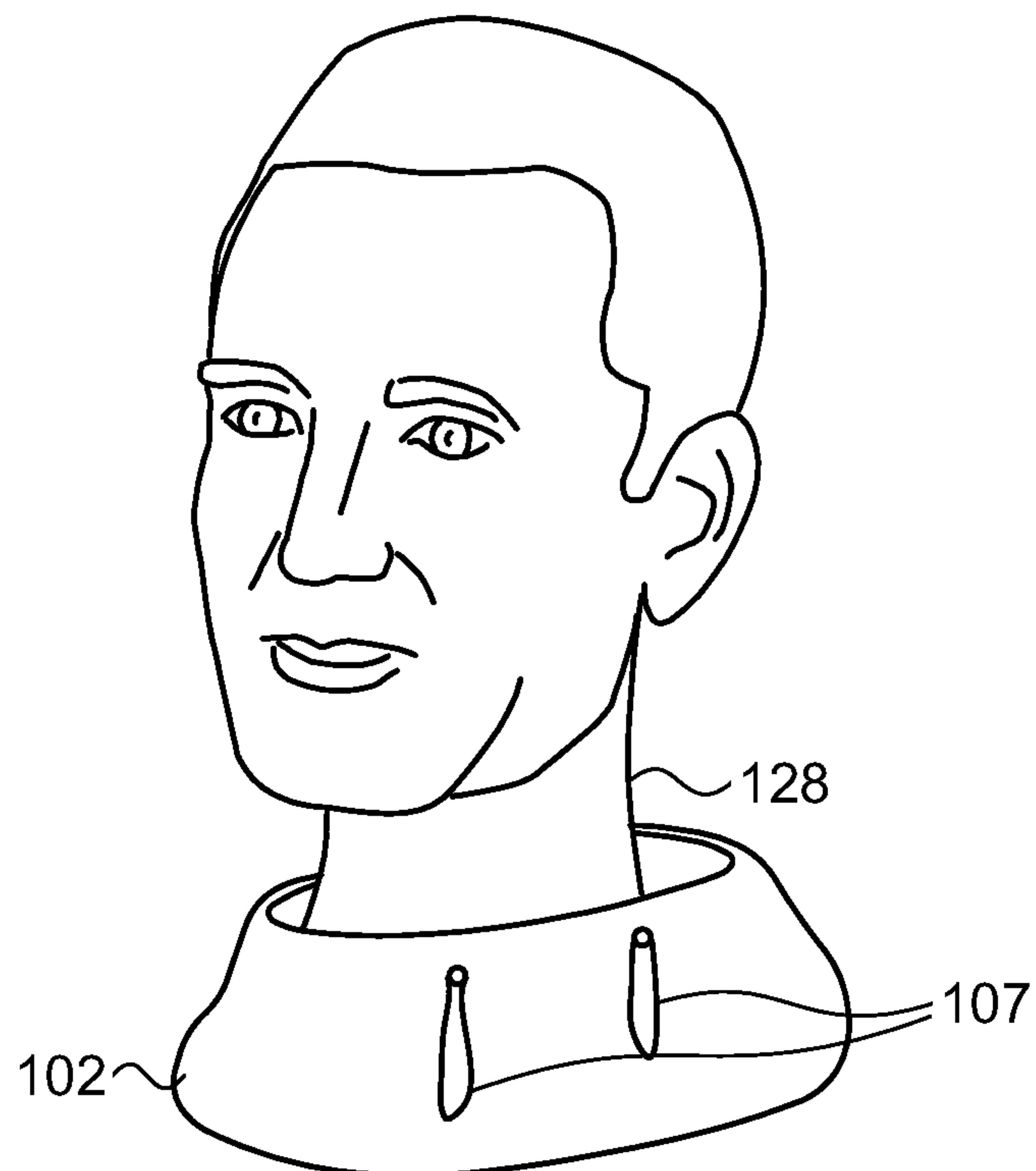


FIG. 2

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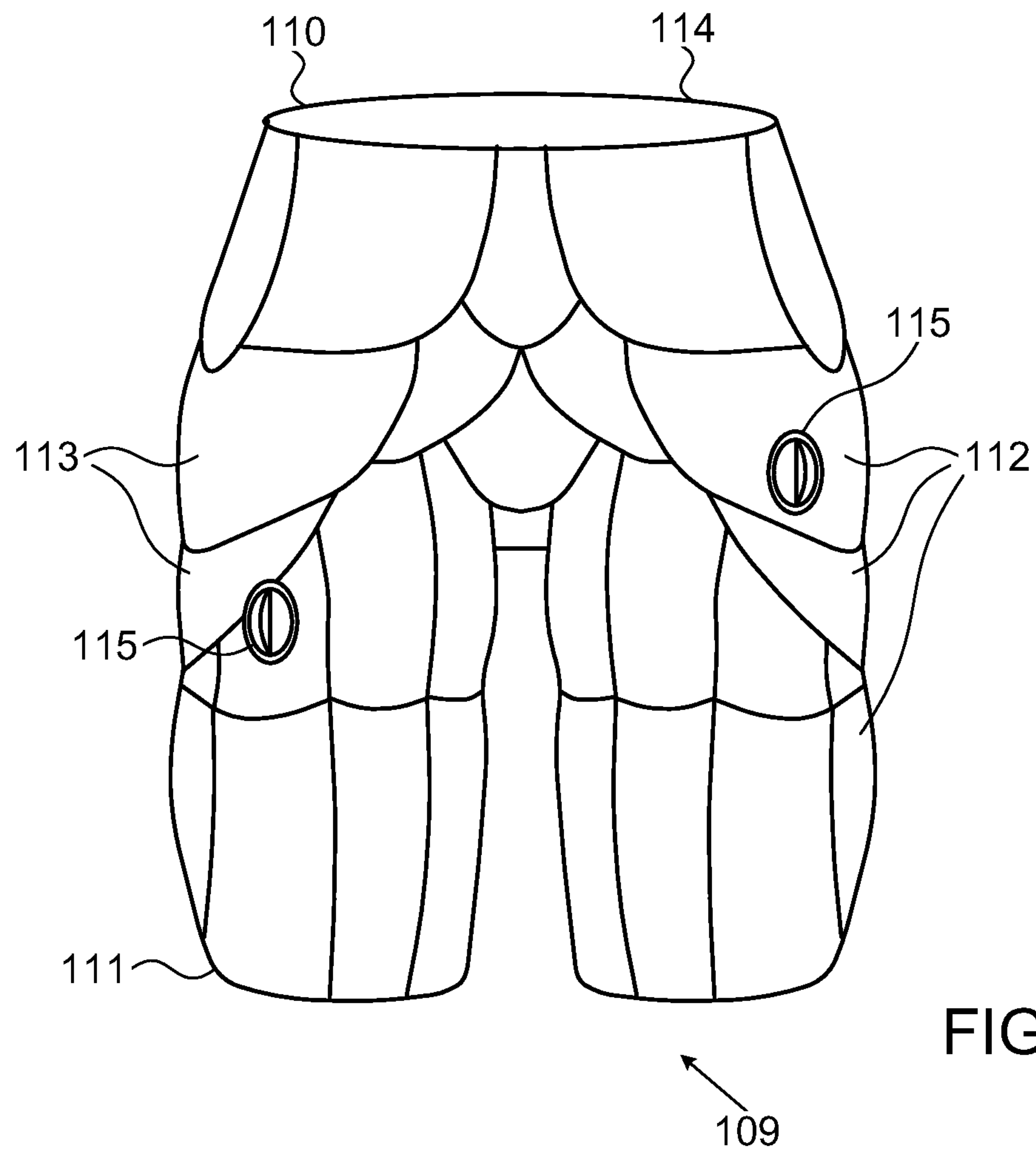


FIG. 3

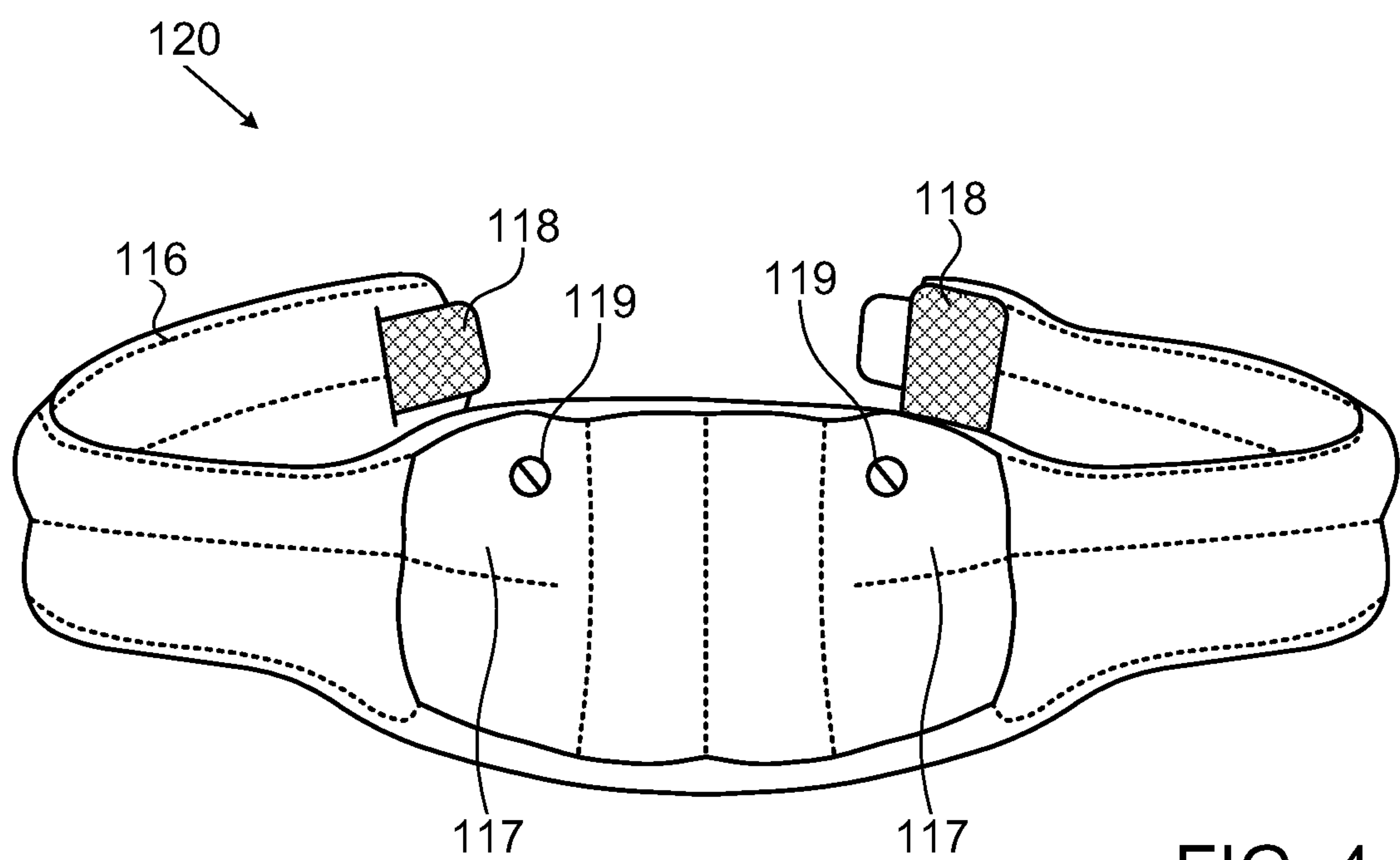


FIG. 4

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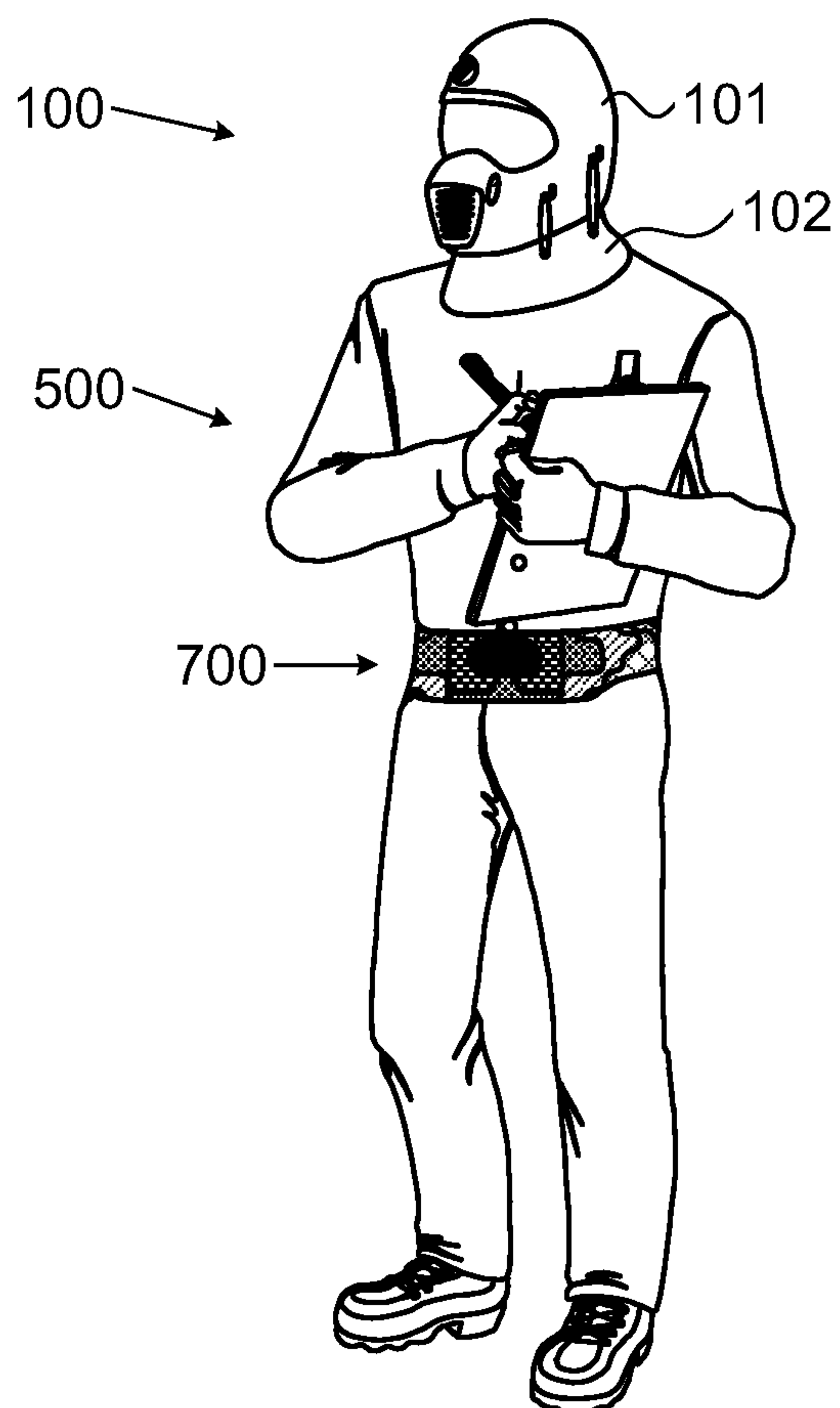


FIG. 5

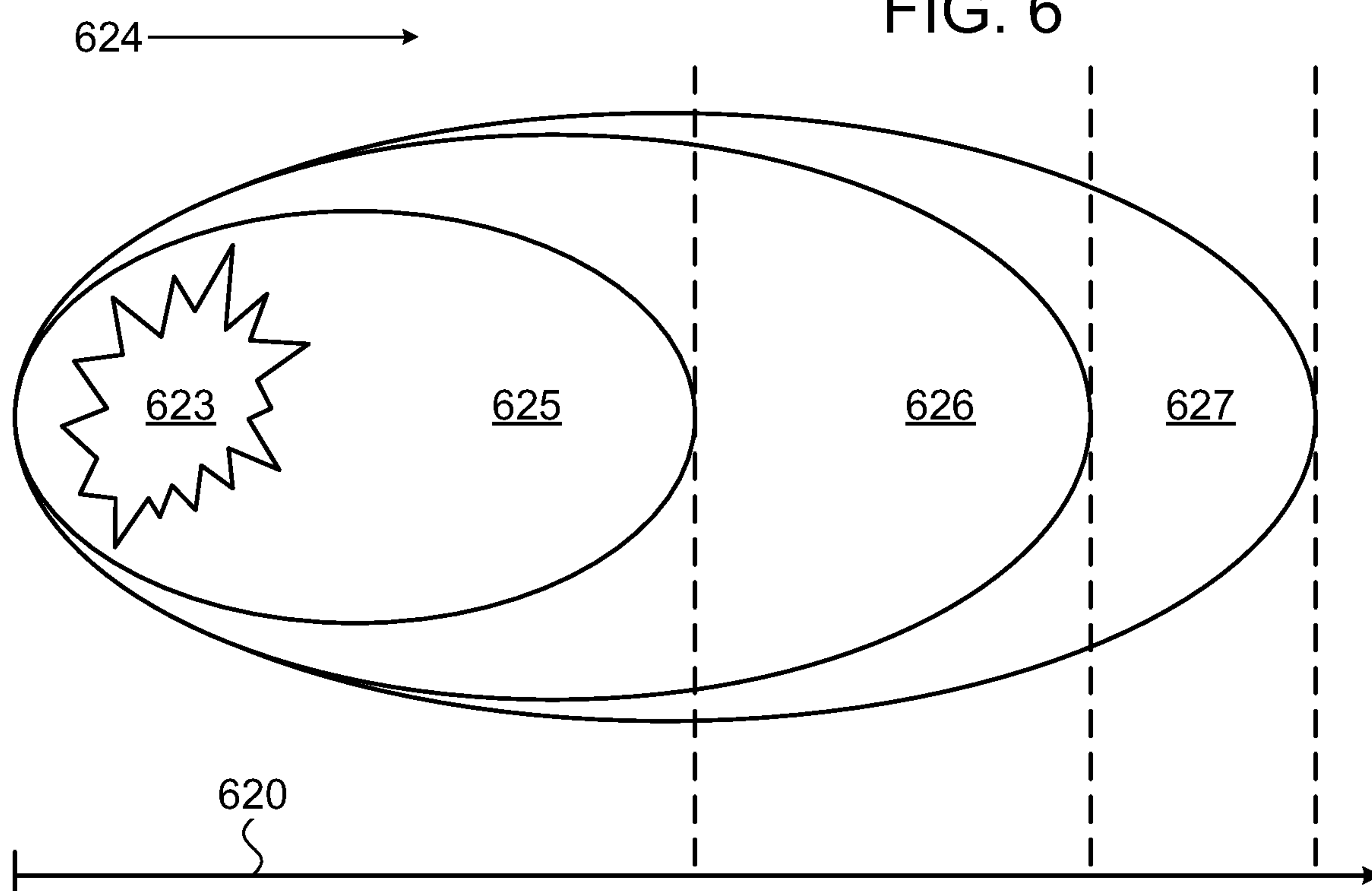


FIG. 6

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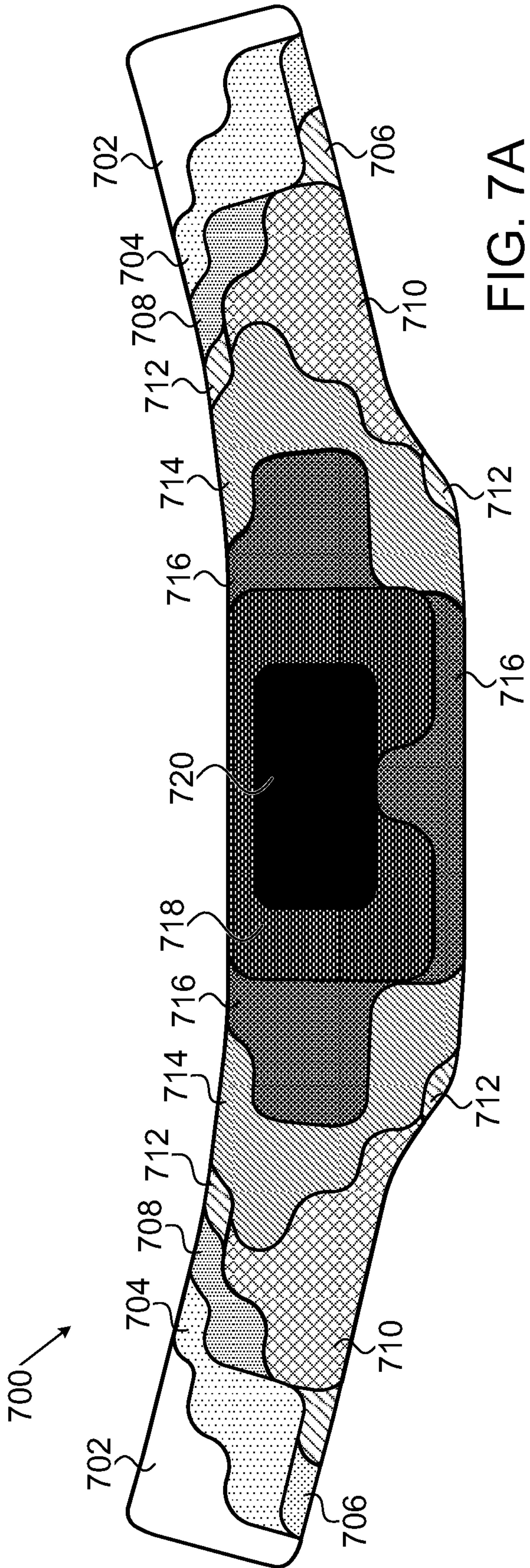


FIG. 7A

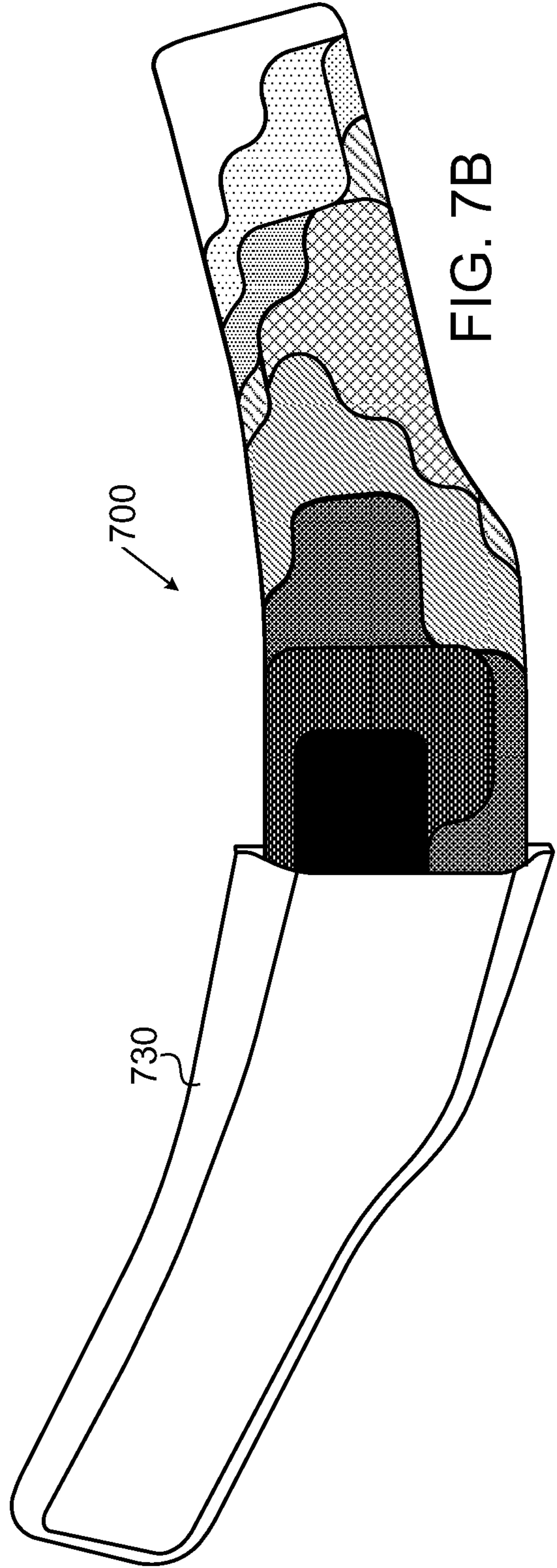
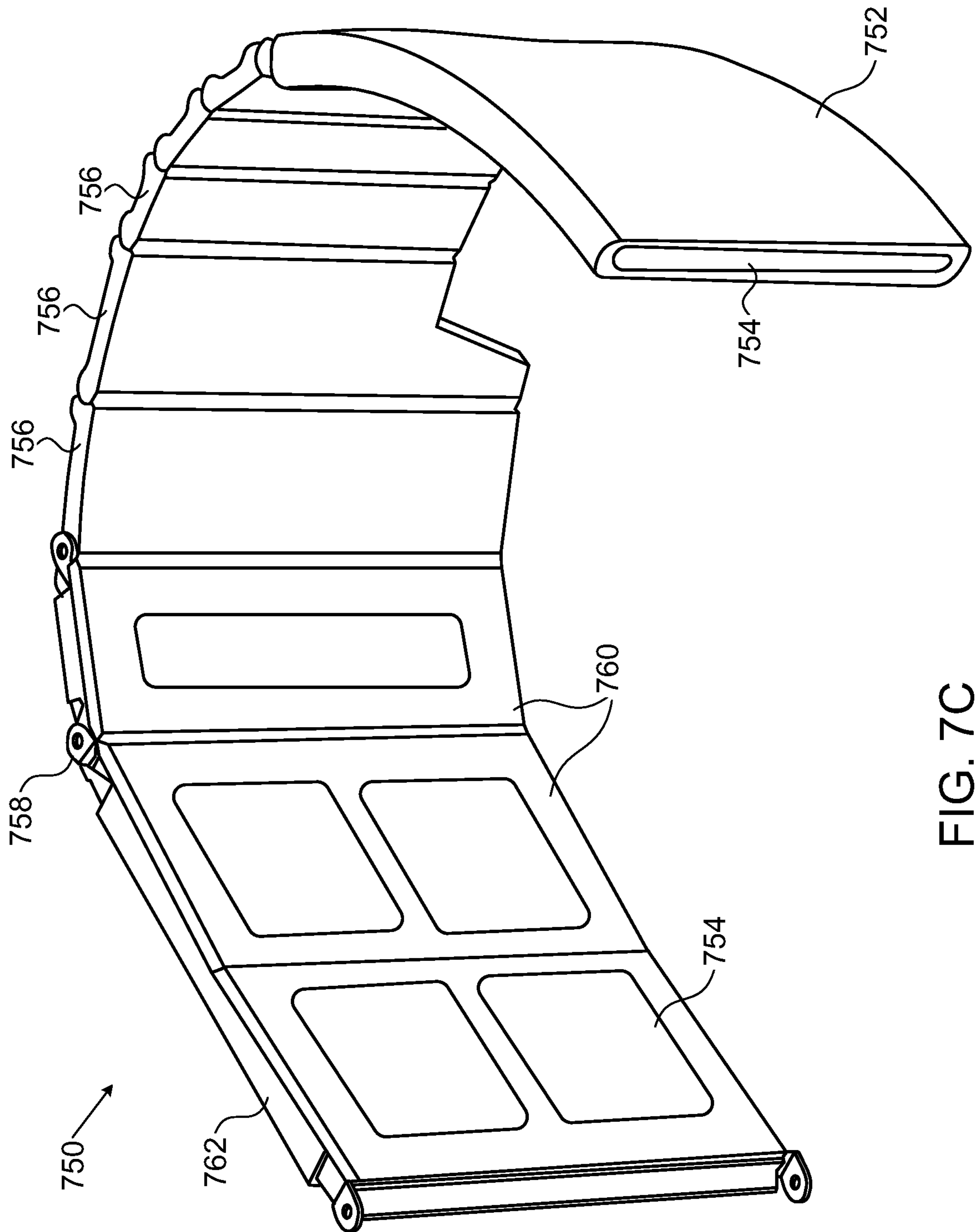


FIG. 7B

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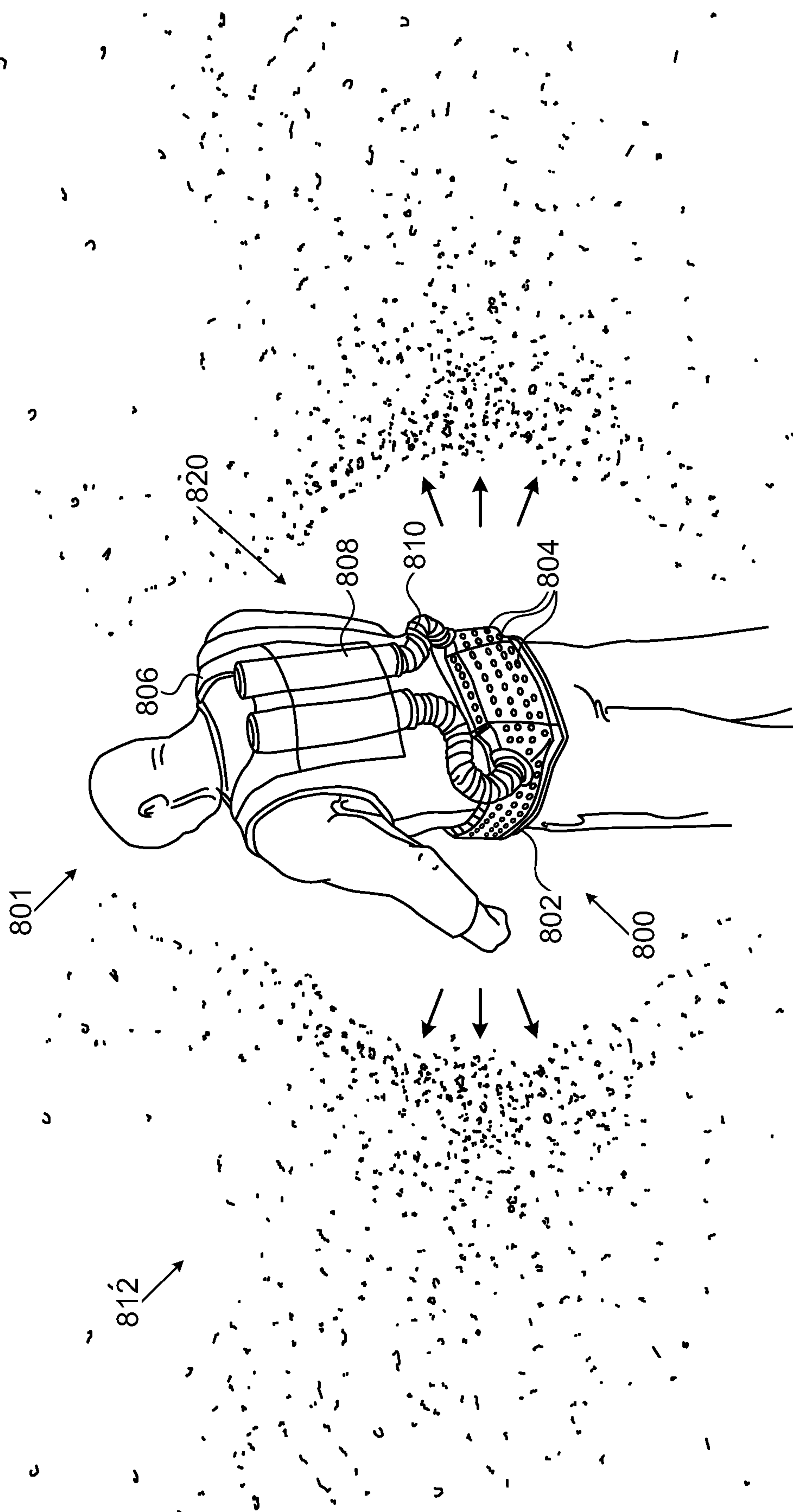


FIG. 8

