Abstract: Spinal motion preservation assemblies adapted for use in a spinal motion segment are disclosed including the process for delivering and assembling the spinal motion preservation assemblies in the spinal motion segment via an axial channel created with a trans-sacral approach. Many of the spinal motion preservation assemblies make use of a dual pivot. A number of different embodiments of spinal motion preservation assemblies are disclosed which include at least one component adapted for elastic deformation under compressive loads. The disclosed mobility preservation assemblies provide for dynamic stabilization of the spinal motion segment. Other variations and implementations of the teachings are disclosed, including the sheathed delivery of membranes in order to protect the membranes before and during deployment.
(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
21 June 2007

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: A61B 17/08 (2006.01)
A61F 2/44 (2006.01)

USPC: 606/99

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC.

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S.: 606/99

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched.

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used).

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 6,899,719 B2 (Reiley et al.) 31 May 2005 (31.05.2005), entire document.</td>
<td>1-3 and 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>US 6,258,090 B1 (Jackson) 10 July 2001 (10.07.2001), entire document.</td>
<td>6,7,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 6,190,413 B1 (Sutcliffe) 20 February 2001 (20.02.2001), entire document.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>US 6,730,088 B2 (Yeh) 04 May 2004 (04.05.2004), entire document.</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

Date of the actual completion of the international search:
07 January 2007 (07.01.2007)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 14, 0
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201

Date of mailing of the international search report: 06 Apr 2007

Authorized Officer
Eduardo Robert
Telephone No. 571-272-2975
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US06/41522

Box No. II  Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 25 because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
   Claim 25 is unsearchable because the claim is unclear as to what invention and to what structural limitations are to be set forth by the claim.

3. ☐ Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III  Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

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

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant’s protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant’s protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.