

(12) STANDARD PATENT
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE

(11) Application No. **AU 2008243035 B2**

(54) Title
Graft fixation

(51) International Patent Classification(s)
A61L 31/14 (2006.01)

(21) Application No: **2008243035**

(22) Date of Filing: **2008.04.16**

(87) WIPO No: **WO08/130954**

(30) Priority Data

(31) Number
60/912,828

(32) Date
2007.04.19

(33) Country
US

(43) Publication Date: **2008.10.30**

(44) Accepted Journal Date: **2013.09.12**

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(56) Related Art
WO 2000/056376

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
30 October 2008 (30.10.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2008/130954 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification: **Not classified**
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US2008/060401
- (22) International Filing Date: 16 April 2008 (16.04.2008)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 60/912,828 19 April 2007 (19.04.2007) US
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report



WO 2008/130954 A2

(54) Title: GRAFT FIXATION

(57) Abstract: The present disclosure relates to an anchor for fixating a tissue graft to bone. The anchor includes a through hole extending an entire length of the anchor and a polymer composition having shape memory qualities. Other anchors and methods for fixating a tissue graft to bone are also disclosed.

GRAFT FIXATION

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

[0001] This application is a PCT International Application of United States Patent
5 Application No. 60/912,828 filed on April 19, 2007, the disclosure of which is incorporated
by reference in its entirety.

Background

1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present disclosure relates generally to tissue graft fixation and, more
10 particularly, to tissue graft fixation via the use of shape memory polymer material.

2. Related Art

[0003] A ligament, such as an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), that has ruptured
and is non-repairable, is generally replaced arthroscopically by a tissue graft. The tissue
graft may be harvested from a portion of a patellar tendon having so called "bone blocks" at
15 each end, and from the semitendons and gracilis. Alternatively, the tissue graft can be
formed from synthetic materials or from a combination of synthetic and natural materials.

[0004] The replacement tissue graft is implanted by securing one end of the tissue
graft in a socket formed in a passage within the femur, and passing the other end of the graft
through a passage formed in the tibia. Generally, sutures are used to affix each end of the
20 tissue graft to a fastener (e.g., an interference screw or a post), which is then secured to the
bone. The use of a fastener, such as an interference screw, may create complications for
several reasons: the possibility of the screw threads damaging the grafts during screw
installation if the screw is too big in relation to the graft and/or if the space between the
passage and the grafts is too small, the graft rotating with the screw during screw installation
25 so that the optimal position of the grafts is lost and/or the grafts are damaged, divergence of

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the grafts and/or screw occurring, the requirement of a range of fastener sizes for different patients, and, if the screw is non-metal, the possibility of the screw breaking during insertion.

Summary

5 [0005] In one aspect, the present disclosure relates to an anchor for fixating a tissue graft to bone. The anchor includes a through hole extending an entire length of the anchor. The anchor includes a polymer composition including shape memory qualities. In an embodiment, the through hole is circular, star-shaped, or rectangular. In another embodiment, the anchor further includes a component disposed within the through hole of
10 the anchor, wherein the component includes a polymer composition having shape memory qualities. In yet another embodiment, the through hole is divided into two sections. In a further embodiment, the through hole is divided into four sections.

[0006] In another aspect, the present disclosure relates to an anchor for fixating a tissue graft to bone. The anchor includes a first groove extending an entire length of the
15 anchor and a second groove extending an entire length of the anchor. The anchor includes a polymer composition having shape memory qualities. In an embodiment, the first groove and the second groove both include barbs.

[0007] In yet another aspect, the present disclosure relates to an anchor for fixating a tissue graft to bone. The anchor includes a cross-section in a shape of a cross and a
20 polymer composition including shape memory qualities.

[0008] In a further aspect, the present disclosure relates to an anchor for fixating a tissue graft to bone. The anchor includes a body having a curved top portion, a curved bottom portion, and two sides located between the top portion and the bottom portion. Each of the two sides is adapted to receive a tissue graft between said side and a bone
25 tunnel. The anchor is provided with shape memory properties. In an embodiment, the sides are curved inward toward the body of the anchor.

[0009] In yet a further aspect, the present disclosure relates to a method of fixating a tissue graft to bone. The method includes providing an anchor including a polymer composition having shape memory qualities and having a through hole extending an entire
30 length of the anchor; inserting an end of a tissue graft into the through hole; inserting the

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anchor into a bone tunnel; providing the anchor with energy to deform the anchor and fixate the graft within the bone tunnel.

[0010] In an embodiment, the method further includes a component disposed within the through hole, the component including a polymer composition having shape memory qualities. In another embodiment, the through hole is divided into two sections, wherein the method further includes inserting ends of a tissue graft into the sections. In yet another embodiment, the through hole is divided into the four sections, wherein the method further includes inserting ends of multiple tissue grafts into the sections.

[0011] In a still further aspect, the present disclosure relates to a method of fixating tissue grafts to bone. The method includes providing at least two tissue grafts; coupling the at least two tissue grafts; inserting the at least two tissue grafts into a bone tunnel; inserting an anchor provided with shape memory properties into the bone tunnel such that the anchor is located between the at least two tissue grafts; and providing energy to the anchor to deform the anchor and fixate the at least two tissue grafts between the anchor and the bone tunnel.

[0012] Further features, aspects, and advantages of the present disclosure, as well as the structure and operation of various embodiments of the present disclosure, are described in detail below with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0013] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and form a part of the specification, illustrate embodiments of the present disclosure, selected by way of example only, and together with the description serve to explain the principles of the disclosure. In the drawings:

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[0014] Figs. 1A and 1B show a cross-sectional view of an end of a tissue graft disposed within an anchor of a first embodiment of the present disclosure both before and after deformation of the anchor.

[0015] Figs. 2A and 2B show cross-sectional views of an anchor of a second
5 embodiment of the present disclosure before and after deformation of the anchor.

[0016] Figs. 2C and 2D show cross-sectional views of an anchor of a third embodiment of the present disclosure before and after deformation of the anchor.

[0017] Figs. 2E and 2F show cross-sectional views of an anchor of a fourth embodiment of the present disclosure before and after deformation of the anchor.

10 [0018] Figs. 3A and 3B show cross-sectional views of an end of a tissue graft disposed within an anchor of a fifth embodiment of the present disclosure before and after deformation of the anchor.

[0019] Figs. 4A and 4B show cross-sectional views of an anchor of a sixth embodiment of the present disclosure before and after deformation of the anchor.

15 [0020] Figs. 5A and 5B show cross-sectional views of an anchor of a seventh embodiment of the present disclosure before and after deformation of the anchor.

[0021] Figs. 6A and 6B show cross-sectional views of an anchor of an eighth embodiment of the present disclosure before and after deformation of the anchor.

20 [0022] Figs. 7A and 7B show cross-sectional views of a bone tunnel having surface features on walls of the tunnel.

[0023] Fig. 8A shows a side view of an anchor of a ninth embodiment of the present disclosure

[0024] Fig. 8B shows a cross-sectional view of the anchor of Fig. 8A.

[0025] Fig. 8C shows a front view of the anchor of Fig. 8A.

[0026] Fig. 9 shows a cross-sectional view of the anchor of Fig. 8A in a bone tunnel and after deformation of the anchor.

[0027] Fig. 10 shows mechanical testing data for the anchor of the present disclosure.

[0028] Figs. 11A and 11B show a method of fixating tissue grafts within a bone tunnel
5 using an anchor of the present disclosure.

Detailed Description of the Embodiments

[0029] Figs. 1A and 1B show cross-sectional views of a cylindrical anchor **10** with a central through hole **11** into which an end **12a** of a tissue graft **12** is placed. The anchor **10** is then loosely press fit into a pre-formed passage **13a** in bone **13**, such as a femoral passage in
10 a femur, as described above. Upon providing the anchor **10** with energy, the anchor **10** expands radially and shrinks axially, as shown by arrows in Fig. 1B, thereby fixating the tissue graft **12** and anchor **10** to the bone **13**.

[0030] Alternative embodiments of the anchor **10** include those shown in Figs. 2A, 2C, and 2E, which are similar to the anchor described above except that the through holes
15 **11** include those shaped as a star (Fig. 2A), a slot (Fig. 2C), and a toothed slot (Fig. 2E). Figs. 2B, 2D, and 2F show the anchors **10** of Figs. 2A, 2C, and 2E, respectively, after the anchors **10** are provided with energy. Other shapes for the through holes **11** are also within the scope of this disclosure. It is believed that having a through hole with the shapes shown in Figs. 2A, 2C, and 2E would increase the fixation of the graft to the anchor due to an
20 increase in the amount of surface area and points of contact engaging the graft. The number of holes **11** in the anchor **10** may vary.

[0031] The anchor comprises polymeric shape memory material. Shape memory polymers, which can be resorbable or non-resorbable, are known in the art and any biocompatible polymeric shape memory material can be used in the context of the present
25 disclosure. Specific polymers that may be used include polyetheretherketone (PEEK),

polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA), polyethyl methacrylate (PEMA), polyacrylate, poly-alpha-hydroxy acids, polycaprolactones, polydioxanones, polyesters, polyglycolic acid, polyglycols, polylactides, polyorthoesters, polyphosphates, polyoxaesters, polyphosphoesters, polyphosphonates, polysaccharides, polytyrosine carbonates, polyurethanes, and copolymers or polymer blends thereof.

[0032] The anchor 10 may be formed by a process that would provide the anchor 10 with shape memory properties, such as, without limitation, zone drawing, hydrostatic extrusion, die drawing, compression flow molding, thermoforming, rolling, and roll drawing. The through hole 11 may be formed in the anchor 10 while it is being manufactured. Alternatively, the through hole 11 may be formed in the anchor 10 post processing by drilling or by any other method of forming the through hole 11.

[0033] Generally, polymers that display shape memory qualities show a large change in modulus of elasticity at the glass transition temperature (T_g). The shape-memory function can be achieved by taking advantage of this characteristic. Namely, a molded article (primary molded article) to which a definite shape (the original shape) has been imparted by a common method for molding plastics, is softened by providing the article with energy and heating to a temperature (T_f) higher than the T_g of the polymer, but lower than the melting temperature (T_m) thereof so as to deform it into a different shape. Next, the molded article is cooled to a temperature lower than the T_g , while maintaining the thus deformed shape (secondary molded article). When it is heated again to a temperature higher than the secondary molding temperature T_f , but lower than the T_m , the shape of the secondary molded article disappears and thus the article is recovered to the original shape of the primary molded article.

[0034] For the purposes of this disclosure, a molded article (i.e. the above-mentioned anchor), having a definite shape (original shape) is formed from polymer

material and is provided with energy to heat the article to a temperature above the glass transition temperature of the polymer, but lower than the melting temperature (T_m) thereof so as to deform it into a different shape and effectively wedge the article between the tissue graft and the bone. In this manner, the tissue graft becomes fixed to the bone. However, for the purposes of this disclosure, rather than cooling the anchor and heating it again until it recovers its original shape, the anchor is kept in this deformed shape so as to maintain fixation of the tissue graft to the bone. The glass transition temperature of the polymer material will vary based on a variety of factors, such as molecular weight, composition, structure of the polymer, and other factors known to one of ordinary skill in the art.

10 [0035] Examples of adding energy to the polymer material include electrical and thermal energy sources, the use of force, or mechanical energy, and/or a solvent. Examples of thermal energy sources include a heated liquid, such as water or saline. It is also within the scope of this disclosure that once the anchor 10 is placed in the bone, body heat would be transferred from blood and tissue, via thermal conduction, to provide the energy necessary to deform the shape memory polymer material. In this instance, body temperature would be used as the thermal energy source. Examples of electrical energy sources include heat generating devices such as a cauterizing device or insulated conductor, as more fully described in PCT Application No. PCT/US2008/056828, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, or a heating probe, as more fully described in PCT Application No. PCT/US2008/056836, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. For instance, the anchor 10 may include a hole in the body of the anchor 10 that a heating device, such as the heating probe described above, may be inserted into.

[0036] Any suitable force that can be applied either preoperatively or intra-
25 operatively can be used as a form of energy. One example includes the use of ultra sonic

devices, which can relax the polymer material with minimal heat generation. Solvents that could be used as the form of energy include organic-based solvents and aqueous-based solvents, including body fluids. Care should be taken that the selected solvent is not contra indicated for the patient, particularly when the solvent is used intra-operatively. The choice
5 of solvents will also be selected based upon the material to be relaxed. Examples of solvents that can be used to relax the polymer material include alcohols, glycols, glycol ethers, oils, fatty acids, acetates, acetylenes, ketones, aromatic hydrocarbon solvents, and chlorinated solvents.

[0037] A further embodiment of the anchor is shown in Figs. 3A and 3B. The
10 anchor 20 includes a through hole 21 and a component 22 disposed within the through hole 21. Multiple grafts 23 can be placed into the through hole 21 along with the component 22, which, as shown in Fig. 3B, decreases in length and increases in diameter, similar to anchor 20, thereby providing further fixation of the grafts 23 to anchor 20 and therefore the bone 24. The anchor 20 and component 22 may be formed by a process that would provide the
15 anchor 20 and component 22 with shape memory properties, such as, without limitation, zone drawing, hydrostatic extrusion, die drawing, compression flow molding, thermoforming, rolling, and roll drawing. The through hole 21 may be formed in the anchor 20 while it is being manufactured. Alternatively, the through hole 21 may be formed in the anchor 20 post processing by drilling or by any other method of forming the through hole
20 21.

[0038] Another embodiment is shown in Figs. 4A-4B, 5A-5B, and 6A-6B. The anchor 30 of Fig. 4A includes a through hole 31 that is divided into four separate openings 31a-31d allowing the possibility of up to four tissue graft ends being fixated to the anchor 30 when the anchor 30 is provided with energy, as shown in Fig. 4B. Figs. 5A-5B show an
25 anchor 40 having two grooves 41, both of which may extend the entire length of the anchor

40 or a partial length. Surfaces 41a of the grooves 41 include features, such as barbs 41a', which may allow further fixation of the anchor 40 to the graft upon providing the anchor 40 with energy, as shown in Fig. 5B. Figs. 6A-6B show an anchor 50 in the shape of a cross. Similar to the anchor 30 of Figs. 4A-4B, anchor 50 allows for the possibility of four tissue graft ends being fixated to the anchor 50 when the anchor 50 is provided with energy, as shown in Fig. 6B.

[0039] The anchors 40,50 of Figs. 5A and 6A expand to cause an interference fit against walls 42a,52a of the bone tunnels 42,52, thereby not only fixating the anchors 40,50 to the walls 42a,52a, but also fixating tissue graft ends to the bone 43,53, which allow direct osseointegration of the graft to the walls 42a,52a. The anchors 30, 40, 50 may be formed by a process that would provide the anchors 30, 40, 50 with shape memory properties, such as, without limitation, zone drawing, hydrostatic extrusion, die drawing, compression flow molding, thermoforming, rolling, and roll drawing. The through hole 31, openings 31a-31d, grooves 41, and barbs 41a' may be formed in the anchors 30, 40 while it is being manufactured. Alternatively, these features may be formed in the anchors 30,40 post processing by drilling or by any other method.

[0040] As shown in Figs. 7A and 7B, the walls 61a may include surface features 62, such as barbs and/or spikes, which would allow more integration of the anchor 60 into the bone 63 upon providing the anchor 60 with energy, thereby increasing fixation of the anchor 60, and therefore a graft, to the bone 63. The surface features 62 may be made via the use of a mechanical tool or other devices known to one of skill in the art for making the features 62.

[0041] In an embodiment shown in Figs. 8A-8C, an anchor 70 has been shaped to aid insertion into a bone tunnel containing ligaments or bone block, as will be further described below. The anchor 70 includes substantially rounded top and bottom portions

71,72 and two sides 73,74, located between the top and bottom portions 71,72, both of which are configured to house graft ends when the plug is disposed within a bone tunnel, as will be further described below. The anchor 70 also includes a tapered front portion 75, an angled back portion 76, and an opening 77 that partially extends a length of the anchor 70.

5 The opening 77 is configured for engagement with a delivery device for delivery of the anchor 70 into a bone tunnel, as will be further described below.

[0042] In use, as shown in Fig. 9, the anchor 70 is inserted into a bone tunnel 78, via the use of a delivery device, as mentioned above, such that the graft ends 79 extend along the sides 73,74 of the anchor 70. The anchor 70 is then provided with energy, via the use of one of the heating devices described above, by inserting the heating device into the opening 77 and activating it, thereby resulting in the anchor 70 expanding to compress the graft ends 79 against the bone tunnel wall 78a and fixate the plug 70 and the graft ends 79 within the bone tunnel 78. Other energy sources may also be used. The anchor 70 may be of various sizes to accommodate the size of the bone tunnel 78 and substantially increase the possibility of engagement of the anchor 70 and the graft ends 79 with the wall 78a upon deformation of the anchor 70.

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[0043] The anchor 70 may be formed by a process that would provide the anchor 70 with shape memory properties, such as, without limitation, zone drawing, hydrostatic extrusion, die drawing, compression flow molding, thermoforming, rolling, and roll drawing. Alternatively, the anchor 70 is processed via one of the methods described above and subsequently machined to include the shape of the sides 73,74 and the top and bottom portions 71,72. The opening 77 may be formed in the anchor 70 while it is being manufactured. Alternatively, the opening 71 may be formed in the anchor 70 post processing by drilling or by any other method of forming the opening 71.

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EXAMPLE

[0044] An 8.5mm hole was drilled through the centre of a block of 20 pcf sawbone having the following dimensions: 42 mm long, 31mm wide, and 31 mm thick.

[0045] Two pieces of 7 inch long 125 lb braided nylon rope were doubled over and
5 inserted into the hole so that the four ends of rope passed all the way through the hole in the sawbone. An anchor including Poly (D,L lactide-co-glycolide) and calcium carbonate was inserted into the hole ensuring that the strands of nylon rope passing through the hole did not cross over one another and each of the four ends of nylon had its own quadrant of the hole. The anchor was processed via a die drawing process to include shape memory
10 qualities. The ratio of lactide:glycolide was 85:15 and the calcium carbonate was present at between about 35.5% by weight of the polymer composition. Once in place, the plug was relaxed by immersion of the block, plug, and rope into hot water (approximately 80°C for 5 min). When the block containing the plug and rope had cooled to room temperature, it was inserted into an aluminum sleeve having similar dimensions to the sawbone block.

[0046] Mechanical testing was carried out using an Instron 5566 with a 10kN load
15 cell. The aluminum sleeve housing the sawbone block was clamped in a first grip of the Instron and the nylon loops were clamped in a second grip, specifically, the loops were clamped to the crosshead of the Instron. The crosshead was extended until the loops were taut, which, as shown in Fig. 10, occurred when the crosshead was extended 21 mm, and
20 then testing began. Testing was carried out with a crosshead speed of 25 mm/min and a pre-load of 22.3N. As shown in Fig. 10, the plug was found to have a maximum fixation strength of 532 N.

[0047] A further embodiment is shown in Figs. 11A and 11B. In order to substantially reduce the graft ends **80a** from slipping between an anchor **90** and the bone
25 tunnel wall **100a**, the ends **80a** may be coupled at one point via a biocompatible connector

200 including, without limitation, a suture, a clip, or staple. The grafts 80 are placed into a previously drilled bone tunnel 100 and an anchor 90 is then inserted between the grafts 80 and deformed by providing the anchor 90 with energy, as shown in Fig. 11B, to fixate the grafts 80 within the tunnel 100.

5 [0048] The anchor 90 may be formed by a process that would provide the anchor 90 with shape memory properties, such as, without limitation, zone drawing, hydrostatic extrusion, die drawing, compression flow molding, thermoforming, rolling, and roll drawing.

[0049] The anchors described above may include a reinforced polymeric material. Preferably, the reinforced polymeric material comprises a composite or matrix including reinforcing material or phases such as fibers, rods, platelets, and fillers. More preferably, the polymeric material can include glass fibers, carbon fibers, polymeric fibers, ceramic fibers, or ceramic particulates. Other reinforcing material or phases known to one of ordinary skill in the art could also be used. One or more material from which the anchor is formed may be porous. Porosity can allow infiltration by cells from surrounding tissues, enhancing integration of the device by processes such as osseointegration.

[0050] In addition, one or more actives/agents may be incorporated into the material of the anchor. Suitable actives/agents include bone morphogenic proteins, antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, angiogenic factors, osteogenic factors, monobutyrin, thrombin, modified proteins, platelet rich plasma/solution, platelet poor plasma/solution, bone marrow aspirate, and any cells sourced from flora or fauna, such as living cells, preserved cells, dormant cells, and dead cells. It will be appreciated that other bioactive agents known to one of ordinary skill in the art may also be used. Preferably, the active agent is incorporated into the polymeric shape memory material, to be released during the relaxation or degradation of

the polymer material. Advantageously, the incorporation of an active agent can act to combat infection at the site of implantation and/or to promote new tissue growth.

[0051] The anchor described above may also include at least one feature, such as protrusions, that are coupled to a surface of the anchor via a variety of methods, such as an interference fit between the polymer and the protrusions, adhesion of the protrusion to the polymer, or any other method known to one of ordinary skill in the art. In addition, the number of protrusions present on the surface of the anchor may vary. The protrusions may provide multiple contact points to increase the friction between the anchor and the bone, thereby providing increased fixation between the tissue graft and the bone. The protrusions may be selected from a group that includes a metal material, a non-metal material, a polymer material, and combinations thereof and may be of any shape or size. If a polymer material is used for the protrusions, the polymer material may include a resorbable or non-resorbable polymer material.

[0052] Use of the protrusions may be eliminated by including a particulate material within or on an outer surface of the anchor. The particulate material may include a ceramic material, a crystalline polymer, or any other type of material that would provide the polymer material with multiple contact points to increase the friction between the polymer material and the bone.

[0053] The anchors described above, and especially anchors 10,20, may be biaxially oriented to have an internal diameter that decreases and an external diameter that increases when the anchor is provided with energy. This allows for the internal diameter to further grip the anchor to the tissue graft(s) and the outer diameter to engage the surrounding bone, thereby locking the tissue graft(s) in place. In order to make an anchor of biaxially oriented shape memory polymer material, a rod of shape memory polymer material may be die drawn over a mandrel. Further discussion of this process can be found

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in United States Patent Application Serial Number 60/912,740, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

5 [0054] The shape memory anchors of the present disclosure may substantially reduce the need to thread/pre-tap the bone tunnel before insertion of the anchor into the bone tunnel, especially when a patellar tendon is used as the tissue graft. In addition, it is believed that the anchor would offer improved fixation over existing systems. Furthermore, the anchors may substantially reduce the possibility of making a range of fasteners to fit the patient, thereby possibly offering a 'one size fits all' approach.

10 [0055] In view of the foregoing, it will be seen that the several advantages of the invention are achieved and attained.

[0056] The embodiments were chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the disclosure and its practical application to thereby enable others skilled in the art to best utilize the disclosure in various embodiments and with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.

15 [0057] As various modifications could be made in the constructions and methods herein described and illustrated without departing from the scope of the disclosure, it is intended that all matter contained in the foregoing description or shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative rather than limiting. Thus, the breadth and scope of the present disclosure should not be limited by any of the above-
20 described exemplary embodiments, but should be defined only in accordance with the following claims appended hereto and their equivalents.

[0058] The reference in this specification to any prior publication (or information derived from it), or to any matter which is known, is not, and should not be taken as an acknowledgment or admission or any form of suggestion that that prior publication (or
25 information derived from it) or known matter forms part of the common general knowledge in the field of endeavour to which this specification relates.

[0059] Throughout this specification and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", and variations such as "comprises" and "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step or group
30 of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

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CLAIMS

1. An anchor for fixating a tissue graft to bone, the anchor comprising:
a through hole extending an entire length of the anchor,
wherein the anchor includes a polymer composition having shape memory qualities.
2. The anchor of claim 1 wherein the through hole is circular, star-shaped, or rectangular.
3. The anchor of claim 1 or 2 further comprising a component disposed within the through hole of the anchor, the component including a polymer composition having shape memory qualities.
4. The anchor of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the through hole is divided into two sections.
5. The anchor of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the through hole is divided into four sections.
6. An anchor for fixating a tissue graft to bone, the anchor comprising:
a first groove extending an entire length of the anchor and a second groove extending an entire length of the anchor,
wherein the anchor includes a polymer composition having shape memory qualities.
7. The anchor of claim 6 wherein the first groove and the second groove both include barbs.
8. An anchor for fixating a tissue graft to bone, the anchor comprising a cross-section in a shape of a cross, the anchor including a polymer composition having shape memory qualities.

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9. An anchor for fixating a tissue graft to bone, the anchor comprising a body having a curved top portion, a curved bottom portion, and two sides located between the top portion and the bottom portion, each of the two sides being adapted to receive a tissue graft between said side and a bone tunnel, wherein the anchor is provided with shape memory properties.

10. The anchor of claim 9 wherein the sides are curved inward toward the body of the anchor.

11. A method of fixating a tissue graft to bone comprising:
providing an anchor including a through hole extending an entire length of the anchor, the anchor including a polymer composition including shape memory polymer qualities;
inserting an end of a tissue graft into the through hole;
inserting the anchor into a bone tunnel;
providing the anchor with energy to deform the anchor and fixate the graft within the bone tunnel.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the method further comprises a component disposed within the through hole of the anchor, the component including a polymer composition having shape memory qualities.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the through hole is divided into two sections, the method further comprising inserting ends of a tissue graft into the sections.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the through hole is divided into four sections, the method further comprising inserting ends of multiple tissue grafts into the sections.

15. A method of fixating tissue grafts to bone comprising:
providing at least two tissue grafts;
coupling the at least two tissue grafts;
inserting the at least two tissue grafts into a bone tunnel;
inserting an anchor provided with shape memory properties into the bone tunnel such

that the anchor is located between the at least two tissue grafts; and

providing energy to the anchor to deform the anchor and fixate the at least two tissue grafts between the anchor and the bone tunnel.

16. An anchor for fixating a tissue graft to bone, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

17. A method of fixating a tissue graft to bone, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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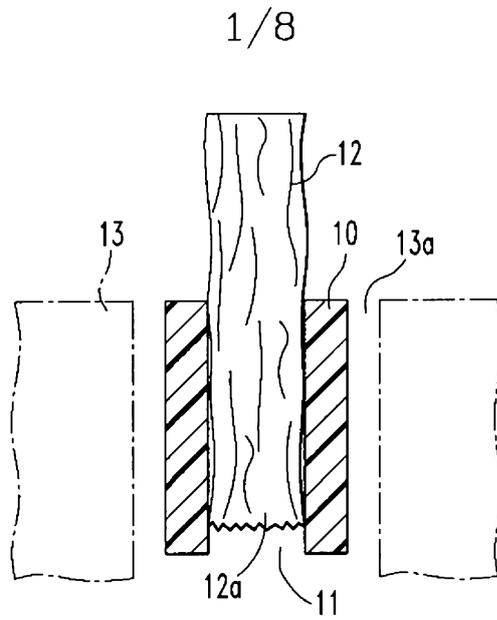


FIG. 1A

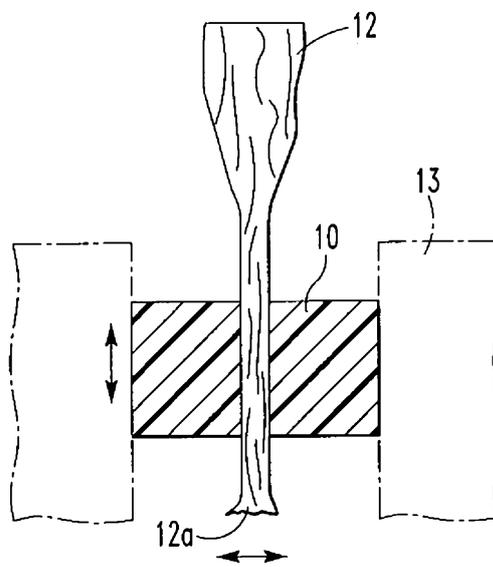


FIG. 1B

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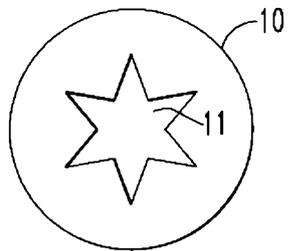


FIG. 2A

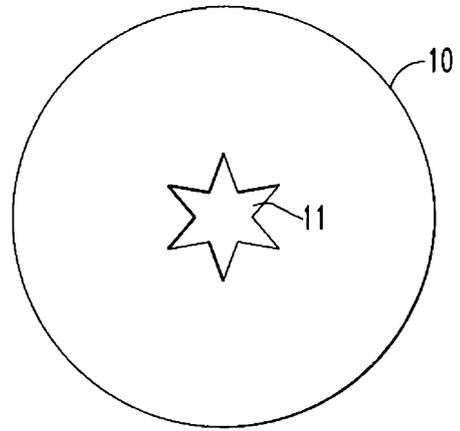


FIG. 2B

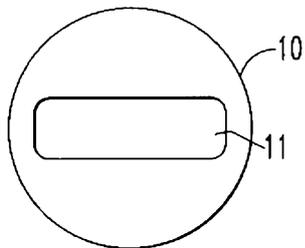


FIG. 2C

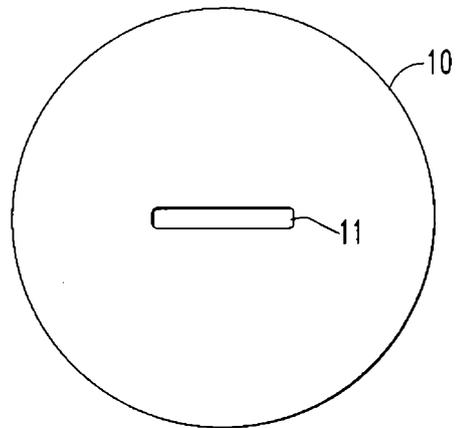


FIG. 2D

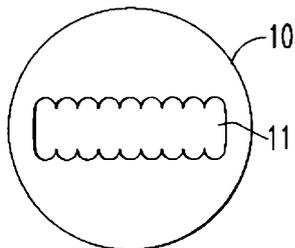


FIG. 2E

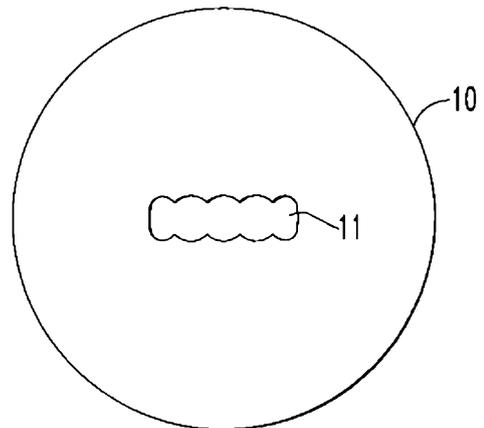


FIG. 2F

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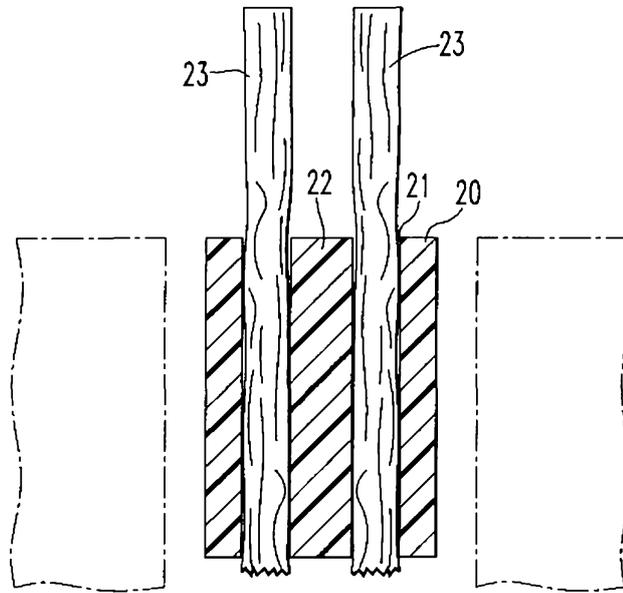


FIG. 3A

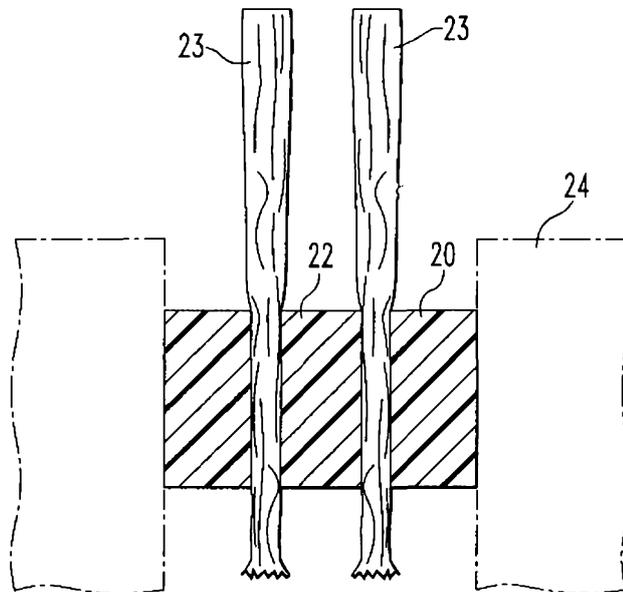


FIG. 3B

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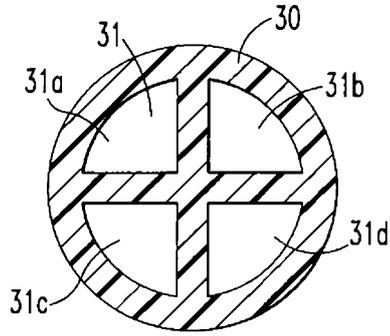


FIG. 4A

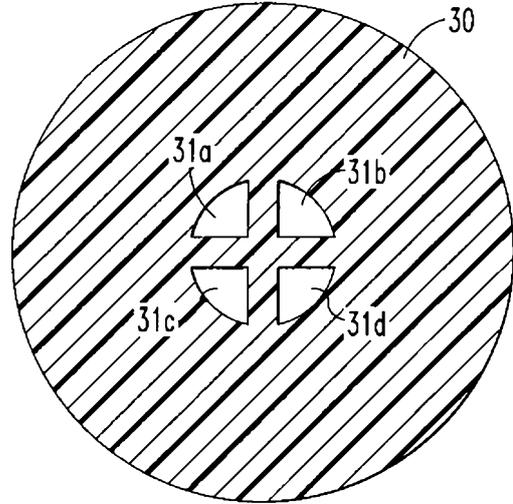


FIG. 4B

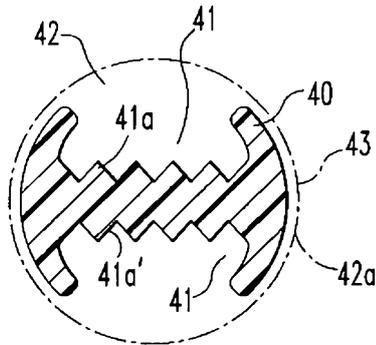


FIG. 5A

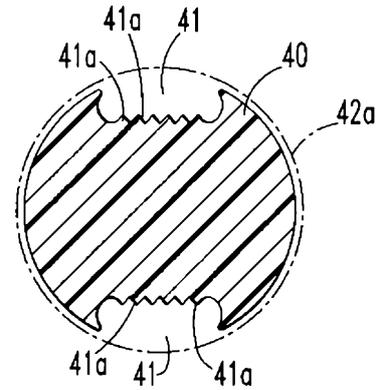


FIG. 5B

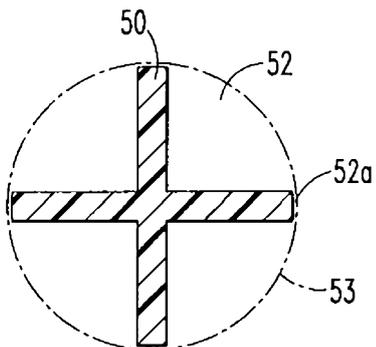


FIG. 6A

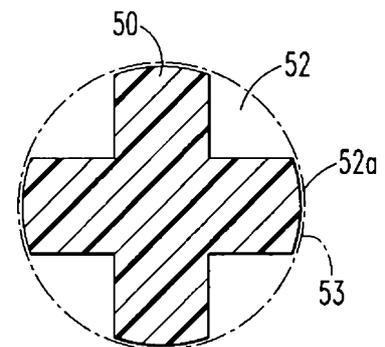


FIG. 6B

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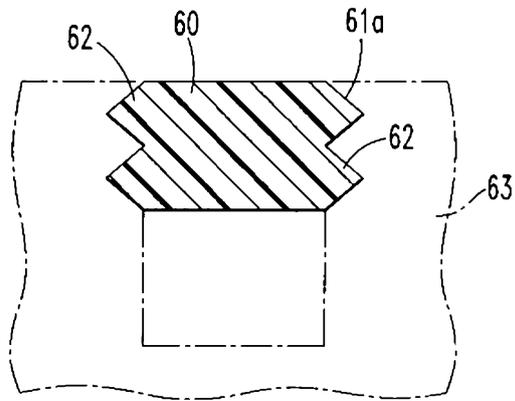


FIG. 7A

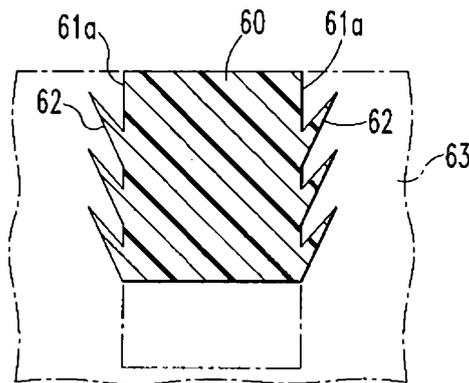


FIG. 7B

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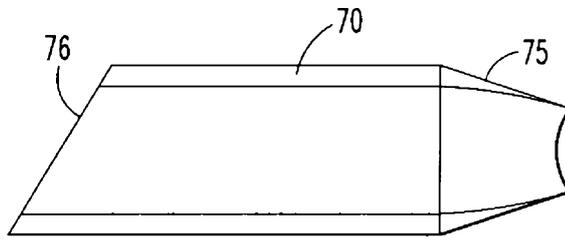


FIG. 8A

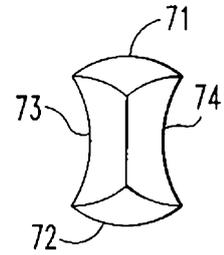


FIG. 8C

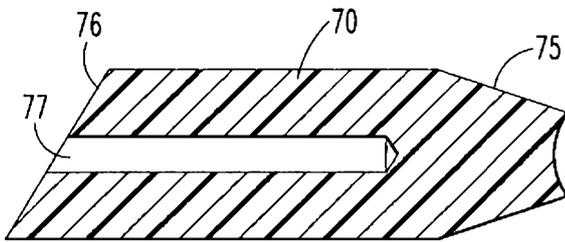


FIG. 8B

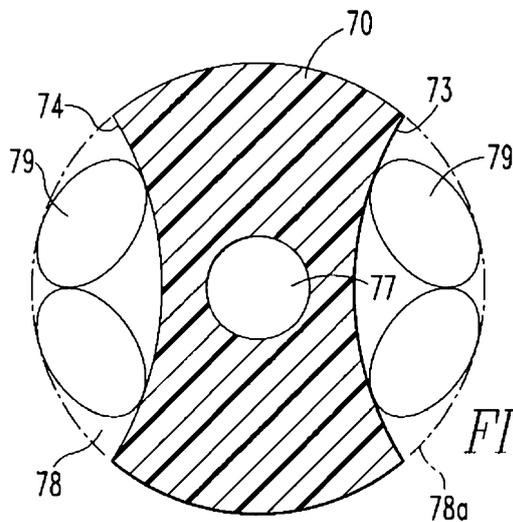


FIG. 9

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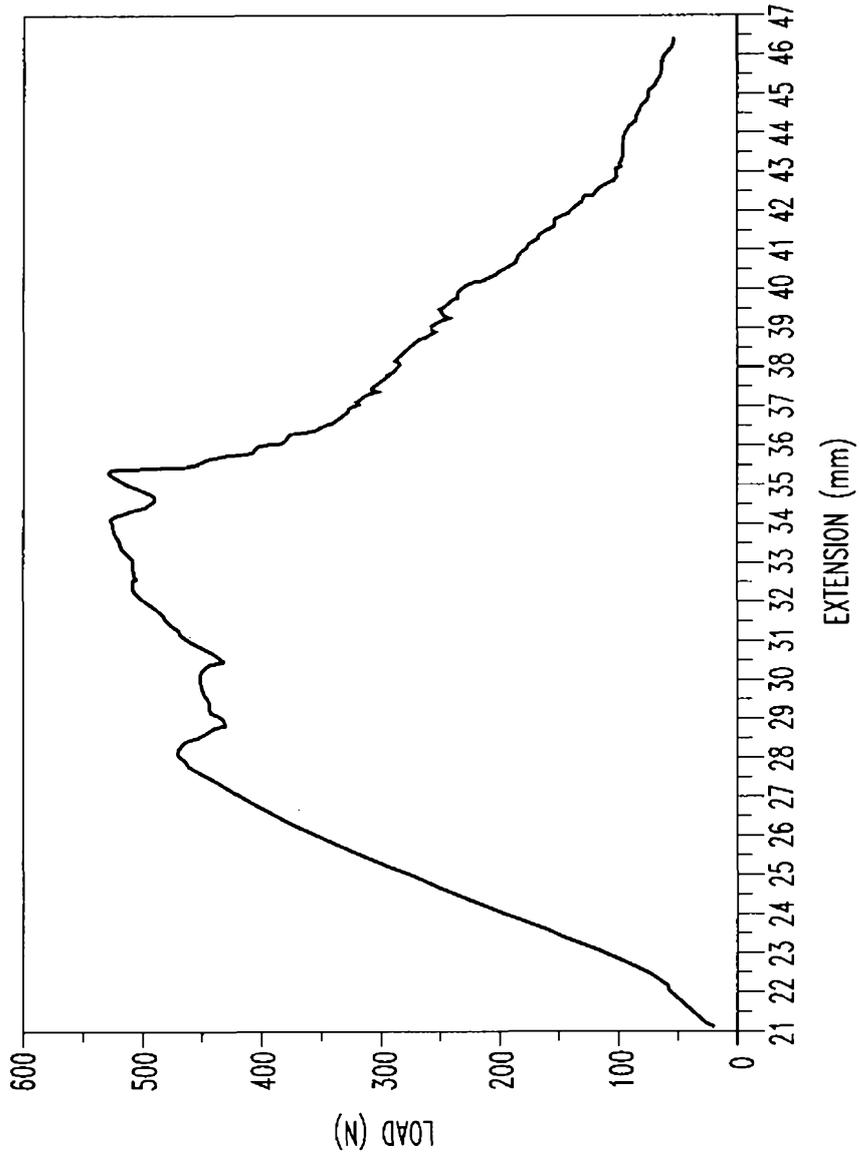


FIG.10

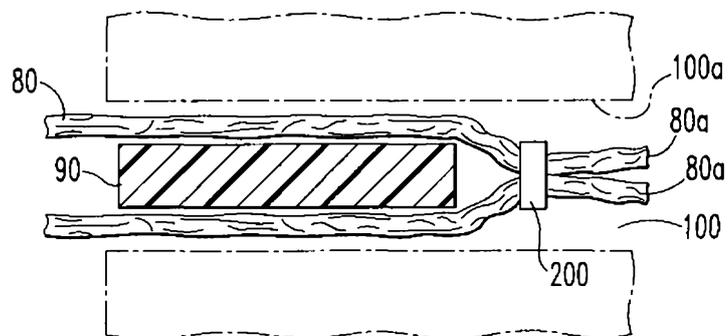


FIG. 11A

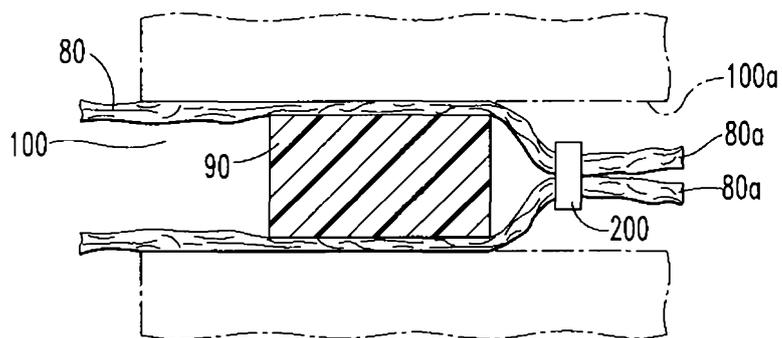


FIG. 11B