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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): COHESION TECHNOLOGIES, INC. [US/US]; 2500 Faber Place, Palo Alto, CA 94303 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): CHU, George, H. [US/US]; 21020 Rainbow Drive, Cupertino, CA 95014 (US). YEUNG, Jeffrey, E. [US/US]; 834 N. White Road, San Jose, CA 95127 (US). CASSIDY, James, J. [US/US]; 11739 Spruce Run Drive, San Diego, CA 92131 (US). SCHROEDER, Jacqueline, A. [US/US]; 1133 Woodrow Street, Redwood City, CA 94061 (US). BROWN, Melissa, K., C. [US/US]; 244 Lyell Street, Los Altos, CA 94022 (US). SHENOY, Vivek, N. [IN/US]; 1291 Vicente Drive #235, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 (US). RICE, John [US/US]; 31 Red Rail Farm Lane, Lincoln, MA 01773 (US).

(74) Agents: AXFORD, Laurie, A. et al.; Morrison & Foerster LLP, 755 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, CA 94304-1018 (US).

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(54) Title: DEVICES FOR TISSUE REPAIR AND METHODS FOR PREPARATION AND USE THEREOF

(57) Abstract

Disclosed herein are uniformly shaped swellable devices comprising polymeric materials, as well as apparatuses and processes for their manufacture. In one embodiment, the present invention relates to load bearing implant devices for use in tissue repair. The implants consist of a resorbable, swellable implant body which is formed from a dehydrated cross-linked biocompatible polymer. As such, the implants are capable of swelling after insertion to become anchored in place. The implants function to enhance the structural integrity of the hard tissue into which they are placed, and thereby improve the load bearing capacity of such tissues. The implants are particularly well suited for use in attaching a second (hard or soft) tissue to the first (hard) tissue into which the implant is inserted. They may also be used as a site for attachment of a surgical device such as a screw, rod or pin.

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Inter onal Application No PCT/US 98/00414

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A61L A61B

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 practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
Χ	EP 0 700 671 A (HOWMEDICA) 13 March 1996	1-3,7, 26-33		
Υ	see column 8, line 5 - line 11	8-20, 23-25		
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	see column 10, Time 0 - Time 11 see column 11, line 4 - line 10			
	see column 11, line 23 - line 44			
	see column 12, line 14 - line 16			
	see claims; example			
Ρ,Υ	WO 97 22372 A (COLLAGEN CORP) 26 June 1997	8-15, 17-20, 23-25		
	see page 8, line 6 - line 10; claims	25 25		
	see page 8, line 21 - line 26			
	see page 9, line 3 - line 27			
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X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	X Patent family members are listed in annex.		
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Date of the actual completion of theinternational search 30 September 1998	Date of mailing of the international search report $13/10/1998$		
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Cousins-Van Steen, G		

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Ii , national application No.

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 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. X Claims Nos.: 34-36 because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: Remark: Although claims 34-36 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking(Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
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.:
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.:
The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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