

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
6 December 2007 (06.12.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 2007/138582 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification:  
A61F 2/02 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:  
PCT/IL2007/000642
- (22) International Filing Date: 29 May 2007 (29.05.2007)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
60/809,415 31 May 2006 (31.05.2006) US
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, 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, 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, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: SOFT TISSUE ELONGATION AND STRETCHING DEVICE AND METHOD OF USE THEREOF

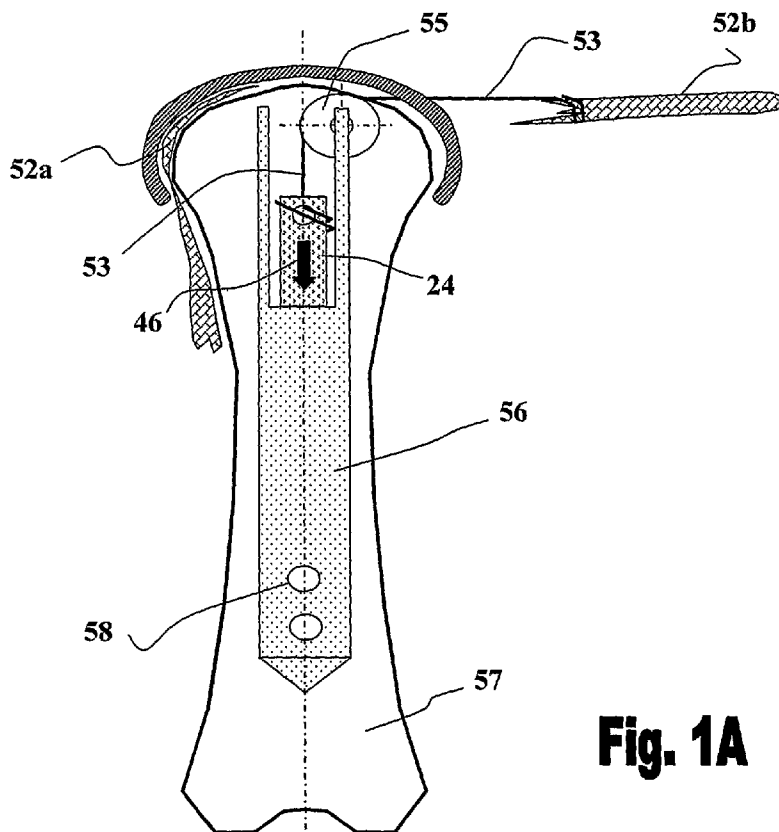


Fig. 1A

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to devices and methods for stretching and elongating soft tissue(s) by means of an implantable actuator having rotating, or telescopically axially moving, element(s), to which one end of one or more pulling wires are attached, said pulling wires are attached to said tissue(s) with another end thereof, said implanted actuator is actuated by means of an externally applied magnetic field adapted to induce rotary/axial movements of a rotating/reciprocating member movably disposed in said actuator, said movements are transferred to said rotating, or axially moving, element(s) by means of unidirectional clutch(s), ratchet mechanism and gear means thereby causing said pulling wires to retract in response to axial movement of said telescopically axially moving element inwardly into said implantable actuator, or to wound about said rotating element(s), and thus to stretch the tissue said pulling wires are attached to.

WO 2007/138582 A3



**Published:**

— *with international search report*

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**  
23 April 2009

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

PCT/IL07/00642

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC: **A61F 2/02(2006.01)**  
  
 USPC: **623/11.11**  
 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. : 623/11.11

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

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

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,626,579 A (MUSCHLER et al) 06 May 1997 (06.05.1997), see whole document.	1-17

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

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"&"	document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
 19 August 2008 (19.08.2008)

Date of mailing of the international search report  
 25 AUG 2008

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