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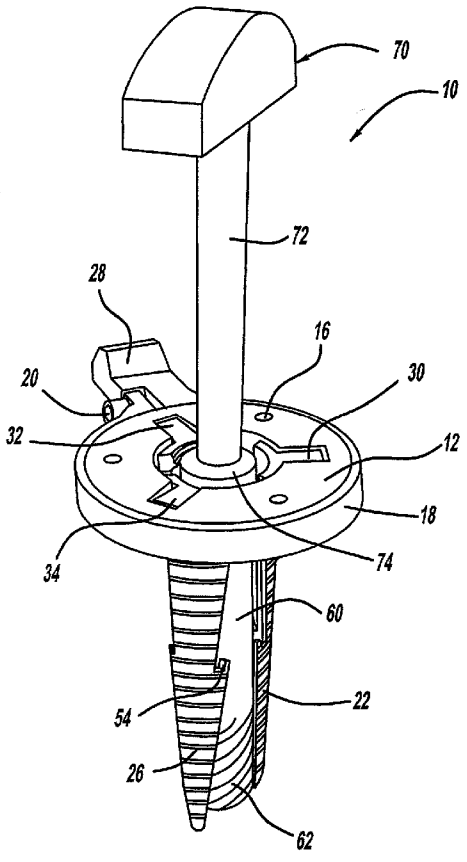
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Declaration under Rule 4.17:
— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))*

[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGICAL ACCESS DEVICE



(57) **Abstract:** A minimally invasive surgical access device that allows access to a pathology being treated while significantly reducing the risk of damaging anatomical structures proximate the pathology. The access device includes a base portion having a central bore extending therethrough, and retractor blades pivotably mounted to the base portion. An insertion handle is coupled to the base portion to thread the retractor blades into the patient. The insertion handle is removed from the base portion, and a core hollow screw is threaded into the base portion to separate the retractor blades to gain access to the pathology through the hollow screw.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(8) - A61B 1/32 (2007.10)
USPC - 600/219
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(8) - A61B 1/32 (2007.10)
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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)
PatBase

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2005/0240209 A1 (HAMADA) 27 October 2005 (27.10.2005) entire document	1, 3-6, 11
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Y		2, 7-10, 12-24
Y	CA 2542362 A1 (SMITH) 28 April 2005 (28.04.2005) entire document	7-8, 10, 12-24
Y	US 2003/0191371 A1 (SMITH et al) 09 October 2003 (09.10.2003) entire document	9, 10, 20-24
Y	US 2005/0005658 A1 (DIVITO) 13 January 2005 (13.01.2005) entire document	2, 10, 18-24

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Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
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