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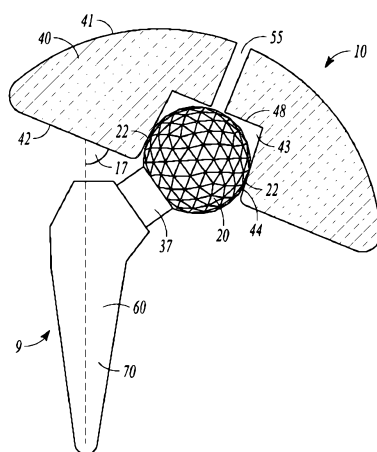


FIG. 1A

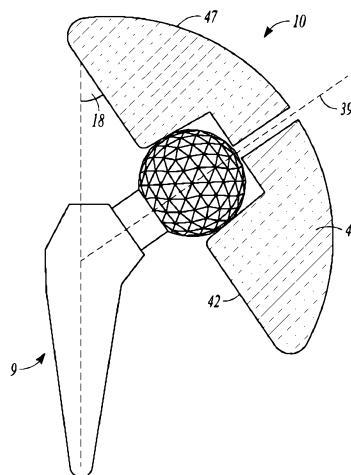


FIG. 1B

(57) Abstract: The disclosure includes methods and systems for making orthopedic connections where there is unique adjustability to the connection. Illustratively, one embodiment provides a connecting assembly for connecting a plurality of orthopedic components. Such connecting assemblies can include a first orthopedic component that provides a female bore. Additionally the assembly can include a second orthopedic component that can be or include a male-type connecting member that is positionable in the bore of the first orthopedic component. In one preferred form, the male-type connecting member will be a quasi-spherical member. The quasi-spherical member can include a textured outer surface, e.g., for contacting one or more walls or surfaces in the bore in a fashion that removeably locks or helps to removeably lock or fix the quasi-spherical member in the bore.

ADJUSTABLE ORTHOPEDIC CONNECTIONS

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

5 This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 61/910,700, filed on December 2, 2013, the benefit of priority of which is claimed hereby, and which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

10 TECHNICAL FIELD

 The present disclosure relates generally to medical technology and in certain aspects to methods and systems for adjustably connecting orthopedic components, e.g., an articulating member to a stem or base.

15 BACKGROUND

 The following discussion of the background to the invention is intended to facilitate an understanding of the invention. However, it should be appreciated that the discussion is not an acknowledgement or admission that any aspect of the discussion was part of the common general knowledge as at the priority date
20 of the application.

 Where any or all of the terms "comprise", "comprises", "comprised" or "comprising" are used in this specification (including the claims) they are to be interpreted as specifying the presence of the stated features, integers, steps or components, but not precluding the presence of one or more other features,
25 integers, steps or components.

 As further background, the head or other portions of a proximal humerus can be replaced with prosthetic devices, e.g., to treat advanced degeneration of the proximal humerus. Due to the variability of the anatomy, e.g., head height, diameter, inclination and offset to the humeral canal, effective anatomical
30 reconstruction can often necessitate a modular system offering a variety of implant configurations.

OVERVIEW

The present disclosure provides, in certain aspects, unique methods and systems for integrating or connecting orthopedic components.

According to the present invention, there is provided a connecting assembly for connecting a plurality of orthopedic components, the connecting
5 assembly comprising: an orthopedic component that includes a bore including a tapered segment, the tapered segment of the bore defining a smooth inner wall; a quasi-spherical member positionable in the bore for removeably locking the
10 quasi-spherical member to the orthopedic component, wherein the quasi-spherical member includes a textured outer surface for contacting the smooth inner wall of the bore and wherein the textured outer surface includes a plurality of generally planar surface elements that are contiguous with one another and cover more than 50% of the quasi spherical member.

According to the present invention, there is also provided a ball-side prosthesis for articulating with a socket in a ball and socket joint in a patient,
15 comprising: an articulating ball member that includes a top side and a bottom side, the top side providing a convex articulating surface for articulating with surfaces in the socket, the bottom side including an opening into a tapered bore that extends into the articulating ball member from said bottom side toward said top side, said tapered bore including a smooth inner wall; a fixation member
20 anchorable to a bone of the patient remaining on the ball side of the ball and socket joint; and a quasi-spherical member disposed at a proximal end of the fixation member, the quasi-spherical member positionable in the bore of the articulating ball member for removeably locking the quasi-spherical member to the articulating ball member, wherein the quasi-spherical member includes a
25 textured outer surface for contacting the smooth inner wall of the tapered bore.

Illustratively, one aspect of the present disclosure provides a connecting assembly for connecting a plurality of orthopedic components. This particular connecting assembly includes a first orthopedic component that provides a bore. The assembly also includes a second orthopedic component that can be or
30 include a quasi-spherical member that is positionable in the bore of the first orthopedic component for removeably locking the quasi-spherical member to the first orthopedic component. The quasi-spherical member includes a textured outer surface such as any of those disclosed herein. The textured outer surface can contact walls of the bore in a manner that removeably

locks or helps to removeably lock the quasi-spherical member to the first orthopedic component. While not necessary, any suitable combination of the following features can be incorporated into or associated with the connecting assembly. The quasi-spherical member can be part of a bone screw or fastener. Such a bone screw
5 can include a shaft (e.g., a fully or partially threaded shaft with or without one or more tapered and/or one or more non-tapered longitudinal sections) that extends away from the quasi-spherical member, for example, where the quasi-spherical member forms all or part of a head of the screw. The orthopedic component can be an implant. The orthopedic component can be a bone plate. With a bone plate, the
10 bore can extend partially or entirely through a wall of the plate. In some forms, a bore will extend entirely through a wall of the plate and a leading tip of the screw will be passed through the bore in advance of the quasi-spherical member. The first orthopedic component can be an articulating ball or head member such as a humeral head. The quasi-spherical member can be a modular component that is connectable
15 to a separate humeral stem component. The textured outer surface can cover a significant portion of the quasi-spherical member such as more than 25% or more than 50%. The textured outer surface can include a plurality of planar surface elements, e.g., with polygonal perimeters.

In one aspect, the present disclosure provides a ball-side prosthesis for
20 articulating with a socket in a ball and socket joint in a patient. This particular prosthesis comprises an articulating ball member that includes a top side and a bottom side. The top side provides a convex articulating surface for articulating with surfaces in the socket. The bottom side includes an opening into a bore that extends into the articulating ball member from the bottom side toward the top side.
25 The prosthesis further comprises a fixation member that is anchorable to a bone of the patient remaining on the ball side of the ball and socket joint. The prosthesis further comprises a quasi-spherical member that is disposed at a proximal end of the fixation member. The quasi-spherical member is positionable in the bore of the articulating ball member for removeably locking the quasi-spherical member to the
30 articulating ball member. The quasi-spherical member includes a textured outer surface such as any of those disclosed herein for contacting walls of the bore. While

not necessary, any suitable combination of the following features can be incorporated into or associated with the prosthesis. The fixation member can include an elongate stem that is receivable in an intramedullary canal on the ball side of the ball and socket joint. The articulating ball member can be a humeral head. The bore can include a tapered segment. The fixation member and the quasi-spherical member can be modular components that are connectable to one another, e.g., using a Morse-type taper connection. The textured outer surface can cover any suitable percentage of the quasi-spherical member, e.g., between about 10% and 100%, or between about 40% and about 99%, or between about 50% and about 90%. The textured outer surface can include a plurality of generally planar faces, e.g., including generally planar faces spaced from one another on the quasi-spherical member and/or including generally planar faces contiguous with one another on the quasi-spherical member. The textured outer surface can include a plurality of surface elements with polygonal perimeters, e.g., including surface elements with planar surfaces within the polygonal perimeters and/or including surface elements with convex and/or concave surfaces within the polygonal perimeters. The textured outer surface can include a three-dimensional tessellation incorporating polygonal surfaces. The quasi-spherical member can approximate a honeycomb of polyhedral cells.

In one aspect, the present disclosure provides a quasi-spherical member that is positionable in the bore of an orthopedic component for removeably locking the quasi-spherical member to the orthopedic component. The quasi-spherical member comprises a textured outer surface that includes a plurality of outermost extensions that are spaced from one another on the textured outer surface and which define a first radius of the quasi-spherical member and a plurality of innermost depressions that are spaced from one another on the textured outer surface and which define a second radius of the quasi-spherical member. The textured outer surface can contact walls of the bore in a manner that removeably locks or helps to removeably lock the quasi-spherical member to the orthopedic component. While not necessary, any suitable combination of the following features can be incorporated into or associated with the quasi-spherical member or orthopedic component. The bore can

include a tapered segment with a first diameter that is twice the first radius and a second diameter that is twice the second radius. The plurality of innermost depressions can occur on planar and/or non-planar (e.g., concave) surfaces on the quasi-spherical member. The plurality of outermost extensions can be symmetrical
5 peaks on the quasi-spherical member.

In one aspect, the present disclosure provides a humeral prosthesis for articulating with a glenoid cavity in a patient. This particular humeral prosthesis comprises a humeral head member that includes a top side and a bottom side. The top side provides a convex articulating surface for articulating with surfaces in the glenoid cavity, e.g., a native glenoid cavity. The bottom side includes an opening
10 into a bore that extends into the humeral head member from the bottom side toward the top side. The prosthesis further includes a fixation member that is anchorable to a humerus of the patient. The prosthesis further includes a quasi-spherical member that is disposed at a proximal end of the fixation member, e.g., where the quasi-
15 spherical member is an integral part of the fixation member. The quasi-spherical member is positionable in the bore of the humeral head member for removeably locking the quasi-spherical member to the humeral head member. The quasi-spherical member includes a textured outer surface such as any of those disclosed herein for contacting walls of the bore. In one embodiment, the textured outer
20 surface includes a plurality of outermost extensions that are spaced from one another on the textured outer surface and which define a first radius of the quasi-spherical member and a plurality of innermost depressions that are spaced from one another on the textured outer surface and which define a second radius of the quasi-spherical member. While not necessary, the fixation member can include an
25 elongate stem that is receivable in an intramedullary canal on the ball side of the ball and socket joint and/or the textured outer surface can include a three-dimensional tessellation of triangular surfaces whose vertices provide the plurality of outermost extensions.

In some aspects, the present disclosure provides systems and methods that
30 can be used in a humeral reconstruction surgery in which the head or proximal end of the humerus bone is replaced or repaired, e.g., providing surgeons with modular

humeral head systems offering rapid and accurate adjustability. In some forms, modular humeral heads will have eccentric centers and/or be used with stemmed or stemless humeral fixation members.

Some aspects of the present disclosure involve connections between
5 a female-type bore in a first orthopedic member such as an orthopedic plate (e.g., a bone plate) and a quasi-spherical member or other male-type connector of a second orthopedic member. This second member can be any orthopedic element or device to be connected to the plate. In certain embodiments, this second member will be something to be driven into or otherwise received in bone, for example, to attach the
10 plate to a bone. This second member can be a screw, fastener, pin, spike, or nail. For example, the second member can be a screw with a tapered shaft, or having a significant longitudinal section of the shaft being tapered with or with threading. In some embodiments, the first orthopedic member will be a non-plate orthopedic device. In some embodiments, the first orthopedic member will be an orthopedic
15 implant (e.g., a knee, hip, shoulder, ankle, or other joint implant). Each of these non-limiting examples can stand on its own, or can be combined in various permutations or combinations with one or more of the other examples.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

20 Corresponding reference characters indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views. The exemplifications set out herein illustrate exemplary embodiments of the invention, and such exemplifications are not to be construed as limiting the scope of the invention in any manner. In the drawings, which are not necessarily drawn to scale, like numerals may describe similar components in
25 different views. Like numerals having different letter suffixes may represent different instances of similar components. The drawings illustrate generally, by way of example, but not by way of limitation, various embodiments discussed in the present document.

FIG. 1A shows a humeral prosthesis according to one embodiment of the
30 present disclosure.

FIG. 1B shows an alternative orientation of the humeral prosthesis of **FIG. 1A**.

FIG. 1C shows a radiographic image of an illustrative humeral prosthesis.

FIG. 2 shows a humeral head member according to one embodiment of the
5 present disclosure.

FIG. 3A shows a side, cross-sectional view of a humeral head member according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 3B illustrates a radius of a perfect sphere.

FIG. 3C shows a quasi-spherical member with a textured outer surface
10 according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIGS. 4A-4D show quasi-spherical members with textured outer surfaces of different densities according to additional embodiments of the present disclosure.

FIG. 5A shows a quasi-spherical member with a textured outer surface according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 5B shows a quasi-ellipsoid member with a textured outer surface
15 according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 6A shows a quasi-spherical member with a textured outer surface according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 6B shows a quasi-spherical member with a textured outer surface
20 according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 7A shows a humeral member according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 7B shows a humeral member according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 8 shows a humeral member according to one embodiment of the
25 present disclosure.

FIG. 9 shows a humeral member according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 10 shows a front view of a bone screw according to one embodiment
30 of the present disclosure.

FIG. 11 shows a front view of an orthopedic assembly according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 12 shows a front view of an orthopedic assembly according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.

5 **FIG. 13A** shows a top view of an orthopedic plate according to one embodiment of the present disclosure.

FIG. 13B is a cross-sectional view taken along view line 13B-13B from FIG. 13A.

10 **FIG. 13C** shows part of an orthopedic plate according to another embodiment of the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

As disclosed above, the present disclosure provides, in certain aspects, unique methods and systems for making orthopedic connections. Illustratively,
15 some embodiments of the present disclosure provide a connecting assembly for connecting a plurality of orthopedic components, e.g., where the connecting assembly itself provides a unique way to spatially adjust a first component relative to a second component. Such connecting assemblies can include a first orthopedic component that provides a female bore. Additionally the assembly can include a
20 second orthopedic component that can be or include a male-type connecting member that is positionable in the bore of the first orthopedic component. In one preferred form, the male-type connecting member will include a quasi-spherical member. The quasi-spherical member includes a textured outer surface, e.g., for contacting one or more walls or surfaces in the bore in a fashion that removeably
25 locks or helps to removeably lock or fix the quasi-spherical member in the bore. Other suitable male-type connecting members incorporating textured outer surfaces in accordance with the present disclosure can approximate other shapes (e.g., non-spherical shapes such as a quasi-ellipsoid shape) as discussed elsewhere herein. In some preferred embodiments, the geometry of the textured outer surface will allow
30 the quasi-spherical member to be positioned and locked in the bore in a rather large number of orientations or angular positions, for example, to account for variability

in the patient's anatomy. In some instances, such a connecting assembly will be part of a ball-side prosthesis for articulating with a socket in a ball and socket joint in a patient. For example, the first orthopedic component can be an articulating ball member such as a humeral head member that includes a top side and a bottom side.

5 The top side can provide a convex articulating surface for articulating with surfaces in the socket. The bottom side can include an opening into the bore, e.g., extending into the articulating ball member from the bottom side toward the top side. The quasi-spherical member can be disposed at the proximal end of a fixation member that is anchorable to a bone of the patient remaining on the ball side of the ball and

10 socket joint. In the context of a humeral prosthesis, for example, the orientation or angular position of the quasi-spherical member in the bore can be adjusted to account for variability in things like head height, diameter, inclination and offset to the humeral canal. In some embodiments, the first orthopedic component is a bone plate, and the second orthopedic component is a bone screw such as where a leading

15 tip of a shaft of the screw is passed through the plate through the female bore and into bone in advance of a quasi-spherical member that forms part of the screw, e.g., forming all or part of a head of the screw. Thereafter, the quasi-spherical member can be received and locked in the bore in a rather large number of orientations or angular positions for attaching the plate to bone, for example, by advancing the

20 screw to a desired final location in the bone. Such connections can be effective to resist back-out of the screw. In some instances, a shaft or a leading tip of a shaft never passes through a female bore in a plate. In some embodiments, a leading tip of the shaft enters bone before the screw contacts or is associated with the plate. In some forms, a screw is advanced to a desired final location in the bone before the

25 quasi-spherical member is locked in the female bore, for example, where a plate is impacted down onto a pre-positioned screw so that the quasi-spherical member is forcefully received and locked in the female bore.

FIGS. 1A-1B show an illustrative humeral prosthesis **10**. This particular humeral prosthesis **10** includes a humeral head member **40**, a quasi-spherical

30 member **20**, and a humeral fixation member **60**. The humeral head member **40** includes a top side **41** and a bottom side **42**. The humeral head member **40** can be

hemispherical or partially-spherical in shape and in this particular instance the top side **41** provides a convex articulating surface **47** for articulating with glenoid surfaces, e.g., natural or synthetic mating glenoid surfaces of a human or animal shoulder. The humeral head member **40** can be formed with any suitable material including metals, ceramics, polymers or combinations of these materials. The humeral fixation member **60** is anchorable to a humerus. The humeral fixation member **60** includes a stem **70** which is sized and shaped to be inserted into a canal **73** of the humerus **74** (See **FIG. 1C**). The stem **70** can be anchored in any suitable manner such as being cemented, non-cemented, pinned, or screwed to the surrounding bone material and can be configured to promote bone ingrowth. The stem **70** can be formed with any suitable material including metals, ceramics, polymers or combinations of these materials. **FIG. 1C** is a radiographic image of a humeral prosthesis implanted after an illustrative shoulder replacement surgery. The stem **70** of the fixation member **60** can be installed in the canal **73** of a humerus bone **74**. The humeral head member (head) **40** can be located at the proximal end **59** of the humerus **74** and can articulate with natural or synthetic mating glenoid surfaces **58** of the shoulder **75**.

Referring to **FIGS. 1A-1B**, during a shoulder replacement in which a humeral prosthesis **10** is required and perhaps owing to variations in anatomy, a surgeon may elect to adjust the orientation or angular position of a humeral head **40** (shown in cross section) relative to a remaining anatomical structure or another implant component such as humeral fixation member **60**. The humeral head member **40** includes a bottom side **42** that provides a bore **43** with one or more walls **44**. The bore extends into the humeral head member from the bottom side toward the top side. The bore **43** can be tapered with the opening wider at the bottom side **42** and narrowing towards a base **48** forming a bottom of the bore **43**. A suitable female bore can be tapered or non-tapered. A suitable female-type bore can be or incorporate any suitable three-dimensional shape, e.g., incorporating rectilinear and/or curvilinear features. A suitable female-type bore can have a frustoconical shape. Suitable shapes of a female-type bore can be or include full and partial forms of wedges, tapered bodies, toroids, conoids, catenoids, cubes, parallelepipeds,

prisms, and combinations of the same. Suitable shapes include but are not limited to full or partial cylinders, cuboids, cones, pyramids, and tetrahedrons, and combinations of the same, and in this regard, it will be understood that male-type connectors incorporating textured outer surfaces in accordance with certain aspects of the present disclosure can approximate any suitable shape as well. Thus, in addition to spheres, such male-type connecting members can approximate non-spherical shapes, e.g., incorporating any suitable three-dimensional rectilinear and/or curvilinear shape. Illustratively, in some preferred forms, a male-type connector incorporating a textured outer surface in accordance with the present disclosure will approximate all or part of a shape like a sphere (e.g., a partial sphere such as a hemisphere), ellipsoid, oblate spheroid, prolate spheroid, catenoid, conoid, or paraboloid of revolution.

Continuing with **FIGS. 1A-B**, contact between the quasi-spherical member **20** and walls **44** of the bore at one or more interfaces **22** can allow a surgeon to orient the humeral head **40** in a wide range of positions, two of which can be seen in the different angles of the humeral head **40** illustrated in **FIGS. 1A** and **1B**. **FIG. 1A** shows the relationship between the fixation member **60** and the humeral head **40** at a first angle **17** and **FIG. 1B** shows the relationship between the fixation member **60** and the humeral head **40** at a second angle **18**. The geometry of the quasi-spherical member **20** can allow these angular adjustments to be made in three dimensions. During an evaluation of the orientation or angular position of the humeral head **40**, the quasi-spherical member **20** may be only partially inserted into the bore **43**. Even then, there may be sufficient grip to hold the components together to allow the surgeon to judge the suitability of the positioning. Once the humeral head **40** is deemed by a surgeon to be suitably oriented, the quasi-spherical member **20** can then be more fully inserted into the bore **43**, e.g., by impaction loading accomplished by pressure, impact force or otherwise. In some instances, forcible contact between a male-type member such as quasi-spherical member **20** and walls of the bore will be sufficient to crush or to otherwise deform surface features of the male-type member and/or surfaces or walls within the female bore. The shape of the bore **43** including its walls **44** and the shape and surface features of the quasi-

spherical member **20** can be such that the quasi-spherical member can be positionable in the bore of the humeral head member for removeably locking the quasi-spherical member to the humeral head member, e.g., providing a fixed immovable connection between the quasi-spherical member **20** and the humeral head **40**.

The quasi-spherical member **20** is disposed at a proximal end of the fixation member **60**. In this particular embodiment, the humeral prosthesis **10** can include a narrowing and connecting member **37** which can form a transition between the quasi-spherical member **20** and the fixation member **60**. This connecting member **37** can be sized and shaped to provide clearance for adjustment of the humeral head **40** on the quasi-spherical member **20**. The humeral head **40** can include a cannulation **55** providing an opening extending from the base **48** of the bore **43** to the articulating surface **47**. The cannulation **55** can be used for insertion of a pin-like tool (not pictured) to separate the humeral head **40** from the quasi-spherical member **20** after the two members have been fixedly attached by impact loading. In another example, the cannulation **55** can be threaded to use in conjunction with a bolt (not pictured) to separate the humeral head member **40** from the quasi-spherical member **20**. Although the bore **43** is illustrated as positioned on a center axis **39** of the humeral head **40**, the placement of the bore **43** can be offset from the center axis **39** to provide a surgeon with additional configurations for the humeral prosthesis **10**.

FIG. 2 shows a perspective view of another example of a humeral head member **40**. The bottom side **42** can include a recessed area **49** which can provide a humeral head member **40** with a lighter weight and/or greater orientation adjustment.

FIG. 3A shows a cross section of a humeral head **40**. The bore **43** can be tapered so as to include a first radius **45** positioned near the bottom side **42** and a second radius **46** positioned near the base **48**. While not necessary, the first radius **45** and the second radius **46** can be related to measurements on the quasi-spherical member **20** (See **FIG. 3C**). **FIG. 3B** illustrates a perfect sphere **21** having a radius **23**. **FIG. 3C** illustrates a quasi-spherical member **20** that includes an illustrative textured outer surface **11** covering essentially the entirety of the quasi-spherical

member **20**. In accordance with certain aspects of the present disclosure, quasi-spherical members or other male-type connectors in accordance with the present disclosure will incorporate a textured outer surface covering more than 50%, or more than 65%, or more than 75%, or more than 85% of the quasi-spherical member
5 or other connector. In some instances, the textured outer surface will cover between about 25% and about 50% of the quasi-spherical member or other connector, or between about 35% and about 75%, or between about 50% and about 90%, or between about 60% and about 100%.

Continuing with **FIG. 3C**, this particular textured outer surface **11**
10 incorporates a three-dimensional tessellation **80**. A suitable tessellation can incorporate a plurality of polygonal elements such as polygonal elements **78**. In this particular instance, the polygonal elements are triangular elements or faces **81**. Textured outer surfaces according to additional aspects of the present disclosure can incorporate other suitable three-dimensional tessellations. In certain embodiments,
15 quasi-spherical members or other male-type connectors in accordance with the present disclosure will mimic or approximate a plurality of stacked polyhedra such as but not limited to stacked cubes, rhombic dodecahedrons, truncated octahedrons, hexagonal prisms, or triangular prisms. In some forms, quasi-spherical members or other male-type connectors in accordance with the present disclosure will mimic or
20 approximate a honeycomb of polyhedral cells including uniform and non-uniform honeycombs.

Continuing with **FIG. 3C**, the textured outer surface **11** includes a plurality of outermost extensions **12** which in this illustrative embodiment occur at vertices of the triangular faces as discussed herein below. A distance from the center of the
25 quasi-spherical member **20** to an outermost extension **12** can be equal to the first radius **45**. While not necessary, an arc connecting at least two of the outermost extension **12** can have generally the same curvature as the arc of the perfect sphere **21**. The textured outer surface **11** includes a plurality of innermost depressions **13** which in this illustrative embodiment occur at the centers of the triangular faces as
30 discussed herein below. A distance from the center of the quasi-spherical member **20** to an innermost depression **13** can be equal to the second radius **46**. While not

necessary, an arc connecting at least two of the innermost depressions can have generally the same curvature as the arc of the perfect sphere **21**. A secure grip between the textured outer surface **11** and inner walls **43** of the bore can occur at one or more interfaces **22**. While not necessary, the relationship between the first radius **45** and the second radius **46** can be as follows: where R = a radius **23** of a perfect sphere **21**, the first radius $\mathbf{45} = R + t$ and the second radius $\mathbf{46} = R - t$ where “ t ” is a variable that can be changed to create variable textured surfaces **11**.

FIGS. 4A-D illustrate a spectrum of densities of tessellation patterns **80**. **FIG. 4A** provides a quasi-spherical member **20** with a low density **28** of polygonal elements **78**. **FIG. 4D** provides a quasi-spherical member **20** with a high density **27** of polygonal elements **78**. **FIGS. 4B-4C** illustrate quasi-spherical members **20** with lower and higher intermediate densities **29** of polygonal elements **78**. A quasi-spherical member **20** with a higher density will allow a higher quality of spherical mapping. As the quasi-spherical member **20** is being adjusted in the taper **44** (see **FIGS. 1A-B**), higher quality mapping can allow a greater spectrum of possible orientations or angular positions of the humeral head member **40** in relation to the quasi-spherical member **20**.

FIG. 4A shows features of the polygonal surface elements **78**. An individual polygon **86** can have an exterior face **87** that forms an outer surface on the quasi-spherical member **20**. The exterior face **87** can include a chord **89** as an edge of the exterior face **87**. Each cord **89** can be contiguous with a chord **89** of a neighboring polygon **79**. The chord **89** can terminate at each end in a vertex **88**. Each vertex **88** of a polygon **86** can be contiguous with a vertex **88** of a neighboring polygon **79**. Any number of these exterior surface features (e.g., edges, chords, planar or non-planar faces, vertices, etc.) and/or any of the other exterior surface features disclosed herein that can be incorporated into a textured outer surface of a male-type connecting members can forcibly contact walls or surfaces in a female-type bore to some degree, and in some instances, can be formed with materials that cause such surface features to be crushed or to otherwise deform upon such forcible contact, to removeably lock or help to removeably lock the male-type connecting member in the bore. Just to give one illustrative example, a plurality of planar or

nearly planar faces on a textured outer surface of a male-type connecting member (e.g., a quasi-spherical member) can each partially contact a curved wall of a female bore (e.g., cylindrical or conical).

In accordance with certain aspects of the present disclosure, quasi-spherical members or other male-type connectors in accordance with the present disclosure will incorporate a textured outer surface that includes a plurality of generally planar surfaces, for example, where the combined area of the generally planar surfaces cover more than 50%, or more than 65%, or more than 75%, or more than 85% of the quasi-spherical member or other male-type connecting member. In some instances, the combined area of the generally planar surfaces will cover between about 25% and about 50% of the quasi-spherical member or other male-type connecting member, or between about 35% and about 75%, or between about 50% and about 90%, or between about 60% and about 100%.

Referring now to **FIG. 5A**, shown is a quasi-spherical member **20** according to another embodiment of the present disclosure that could be incorporated into any suitable orthopedic system or implant. On what would otherwise be a perfect sphere, a textured outer surface **11** in this instance includes a plurality of planar, circular faces **82** which are spaced from one another on the quasi-spherical member. These types of planar faces can have any suitable perimeter shape, e.g., incorporating rectilinear and/or curvilinear features. Illustratively, in additional embodiments, a textured outer surface will include a plurality of planar surfaces that are non-circular, e.g., polygonal. One example of this is the tessellated surface pattern shown in **FIG. 3C**. Additionally, it will be understood that when a textured outer surface in accordance with the present disclosure incorporates circular and/or non-circular exterior faces, such faces need not be planar. Illustratively, in additional embodiments, a textured outer surface will include a plurality of non-planar surface elements that are spaced from one another on the quasi-spherical member or other male-type connecting member. Such surface elements can be convex or concave or can incorporate other three-dimensionally curved surfaces. For example, one or more of the planar, circular faces **82** shown in **FIG. 5A** could instead be slightly convex or slightly concave. Additionally, it will be understood

that any two such circular or non-circular surface elements need not be spaced from one another on a textured outer surface of a male-type connecting member. Select surface elements can be contiguous with one another or otherwise contact one another on the textured outer surface. **FIG. 5B** shows a quasi-ellipsoid member **85** according to one embodiment of the present disclosure that could be incorporated into any suitable orthopedic system or implant. A textured outer surface **11** in this instance includes a plurality of surface elements "X" which can be any of those disclosed herein, e.g., planar and/or non-planar surface elements. For example, any one surface element "X" can be a bump, bulge, lump, knob, protuberance, dimple, depression, dent, or other type of projection or indentation. Such features can be arranged in regular or irregular patterns. These and other surface textures disclosed herein can be formed in any suitable manner including by cutting away, grinding away or otherwise removing material from an initial work piece to provide one or more surface features or elements, or by welding, adhering or otherwise adding material to an existing piece to provide one or more surface features or elements, or by casting or otherwise initially forming a component (e.g., using an additive manufacturing process) to have one or more surface features or elements.

FIGS. 6A-B illustrate variations between the flatness of the surface of each exterior face **87** of each polygonal element **78**. **FIG. 6A** shows a quasi-spherical member **20** having polygons **86** that have planar faces **93**. **FIG. 6B** shows a quasi-spherical member **20** having polygons **86** that have arcuate faces **92**. The arcuate face **92** can be formed with curves having a very slight radius or formed with curves having a more pronounced radius as discussed elsewhere herein.

FIGS. 7A-B represent two configurations of an assembly **9** that includes a fixation member **60** and a quasi-spherical member **20**. In **FIG. 7A** the assembly **9** includes at least two separate pieces. The quasi-spherical member **20** can include a connecting member **37** that is unitarily formed with the quasi-spherical member, or alternatively the connecting member can be a separately-formed piece that is subsequently connected to the quasi-spherical member using any suitable type of connection such as a taper fit or threaded connection. For example, the quasi-spherical member can include a female-type bore into which a male-type element of

the connecting member is received to make a connection. Also, the fixation member **60** can include a stem cavity **76** which can receive a distal end **61** of the connecting member **37** for making a connection between the two in any suitable fashion. For example, the connection between the connecting member **37** and the fixation member **60** can be in any of the forms disclosed herein including in the form of a locking taper connection, a screw connection, a bolt connection, or a connection employing additional fasteners to facilitate making the connection. For example, the connecting member can have threads to mate with threads in the stem cavity **76**. A configuration such as illustrated in **FIG. 7A** can allow the mixing and matching of various forms of quasi-spherical member/connecting member assemblies with various forms of connecting members and/or fixation members **60** so that a particular patient's morphology can be matched completely.

FIG. 7B illustrates an example of a monoblock assembly **69** in which the connecting member **37** is not removable from the fixation member. These examples should not be construed as limiting. For example, the connecting member **37** of **FIG. 7A** could be integral with the fixation member **60** instead of integral with the quasi-spherical member **20**. In such a case, the quasi-spherical member **20** would have a cavity to receive a proximal end of the connecting member **37**. It is also possible that the fixation member **60** and the quasi-spherical member **20** and any potential intermediate member be formed as a monoblock or otherwise formed together as a single unit.

FIG. 8 illustrates an example of a humeral member **9** that includes a stemless member **62**. The stemless member **62** could include what is considered a short stem but in any event is not inserted deep into the canal **73** of the humerus **74** and instead is anchored to more proximal portions of a humerus **74** (see **FIG. 1C**). While not necessary, the stemless member **62** can be connected to a distal end of a connecting member **37**, which in turn can be connected at its opposite end to a quasi-spherical member **20**.

As discussed elsewhere herein, in some preferred forms, a textured outer surface of a male-type connector will exhibit or occupy only a portion of a particular shape such as a part of a sphere, part of an ellipsoid, etc. **FIG. 9** shows a humeral

member **9** according to one embodiment of the present disclosure. Member **9** includes a fixation member **60** and a male-type connector **100**. A portion of the connector is shown in phantom as indicated by dashed line **101**, and in this regard, it will be understood that connector **100** can have spherical or partial-spherical qualities. For example, in some forms, connector **100** will be a truncated sphere where an illustrative segment **102** of the sphere is removed or never exists as part of the connector. While the degree or amount of truncation shown in **FIG. 9** may be useful in certain embodiments, it is merely illustrative of those contemplated. In this truncated version of the connector, segment **102** is defined along a single plane so as to create a proximal planar surface **103**. When present, such a proximal surface can be planar or non-planar. Also, any suitable portion or percentage of such a truncated or other partial shape can be covered by a textured outer surface.

As also discussed elsewhere herein, quasi-spherical members or other male-type connectors in accordance with certain aspects of the present disclosure can incorporate a textured outer surface covering only a certain portion or percentage (e.g., between about 50% and about 90%) of the quasi-spherical member or other connector. Continuing with **FIG. 9**, in some other forms, one or more connector segments or other connector portions such as segment **102** will be part of the connector but will be void of a textured outer surface such as surface **99** or will have a lesser-textured, differently-textured, etc. outer surface. For example, the illustrative segment **102**, when present, can have a generally smooth outer surface. In this regard, while the amount or percentage of coverage by the textured outer surface **99** shown in **FIG. 9** may be useful in certain embodiments, it is merely illustrative of those contemplated. Any suitable degree or percentage of coverage by a particular textured outer surface is contemplated, e.g., more than 50%, or more than 65%, or more than 75%, or more than 85%, or between about 25% and about 50%, or between about 35% and about 75%, or between about 50% and about 90%, or between about 60% and about 100% of the quasi-spherical member or other connector.

In some embodiments, a quasi-spherical member or other male-type connector in accordance with the present disclosure is incorporated into an

orthopedic product that is to be driven into or otherwise received in bone, for example, as a product for attaching or securing another orthopedic device such as a bone plate or implant to bone. In some of these embodiments, the orthopedic product is a bone screw, for example, where a quasi-spherical member or other male-type connector is disposed at a location along the length of the screw such as at a location between the ends of the screw or at or near the end of a screw to form all or part of a screw head. Such products can be formed with any suitable material(s), and in some instances, will include exterior surface that encourage bone ongrowth or ingrowth, for example, including a blasted surface to encourage bone ongrowth.

With reference now to Figure 10, shown is a bone screw 120 that includes a quasi-spherical member 121 disposed at a proximal end 122 of the screw to provide a screw head 123. In this particular embodiment, a female bore 125 with a hexagonal cross section extends into the head from a proximal surface 126 of the head. Bone screw 120 also includes a shaft 128. While this sort of a quasi-spherical bone screw head can be paired with a bone screw shaft of any suitable size, shape or configuration, in this particular instance, the shaft extends distally from head 122 to a leading, distal tip 130 of the screw. A central cannula 131 continues on from female bore 125 and traverses the entire length of the screw which can be useful, for example, for placing the screw over a positioned K-wire. Bone screws and fasteners in accordance with the present disclosure can be fully or partially cannulated or non-cannulated. Cannulated regions can have any suitable wall thickness.

Continuing with Figure 10, shaft 128 includes a proximal section 133 having a first diameter and a distal section 134 having a second diameter that is smaller than the first diameter. Bone screw and fastener shafts in accordance with the present disclosure can have constant diameters or cross sections along their lengths, or a shaft diameter or cross section can vary along its length. For example, any section of a shaft can be tapered or non-tapered. Thus, proximal section 133 and/or distal section 134 can be fully or partially tapered along its length. While not necessary to broader aspects of the disclosure, a dual- or other multi-diameter or cross section shaft can be useful in a variety of instances, for example, where shaft

sections with different diameters or cross sections are intended to reside in different types or areas of bone. For example, when bone screw 120 is placed in a glenoid, this sort of dual-diameter arrangement can account for the smaller volume of bone or a minimum cross section of the bone anatomy (e.g. blade of scapula) located
5 away from the point of entry of the screw as well as the comparatively larger volume of available bone located closer to the entry point (e.g. glenoid vault). In this regard, proximal section 133 can be considered a glenoid vault zone, and distal section 134 can be considered a glenoid blade zone of screw 120 if the screw happens to be placed in this particular anatomy.

10 Continuing with Figure 10, threading 135 (not shown for clarity reasons) which can have a consistent screw pitch extends along both the proximal and distal sections of the shaft. Bone screws and fastener shafts in accordance with the present disclosure can be fully or partially threaded or non-threaded. Any suitable threading can be employed, and a screw or fastener can have different types of
15 threading at different locations along a shaft. Above are just a few non-limiting examples of how a quasi-spherical member or other male-type connector in accordance with the present disclosure can be paired with a shaft of any suitable size, shape or configuration including self-drilling or self-tapping shafts.

A quasi-spherical member or other male-type connecting member of a bone
20 screw or other fastening-type device in accordance with the present disclosure can be used with (e.g, received and locked in a bore present in) any number of implants or other orthopedic devices disclosed elsewhere herein. These include plates (e.g., bone plates) and other non-plate orthopedic devices. One or more bone screws or other fastening-type devices in accordance with the present disclosure can be
25 utilized in any one device. Figure 11 is illustrative of one such device and shows, for example, how different angular positions X and Y can be achieved and maintained using connections according to aspects of the present disclosure. In particular, Figure 11 depicts an orthopedic assembly 140 that includes an orthopedic device 141 (e.g., a bone plate or implant) that provides a first tapered female bore
30 142 and a second, identical tapered female bore 143 with walls 144. These particular bores have a shape of a frustum of a right circular cone. Although not

necessary to broader aspects of the disclosure, the bores each extend entirely through a wall or section 145 of the device. Either bore could have any suitable size and shape. As disclosed elsewhere herein, a suitable female bore can be tapered or non-tapered and can otherwise be or incorporate any suitable three-dimensional shape, e.g., incorporating rectilinear and/or curvilinear features. Continuing with Figure 11, assembly 140 also includes a first bone screw 146 and an identical second bone screw 147. Each screw includes a quasi-spherical head 148 and a shaft 149 extending from the head. These heads and shafts could be any combination of heads and shafts disclosed herein. In use, the leading ends of the shafts can be passed into and through the bores. In the Figure 11 illustration, this passing occurs in a downward direction, i.e., the leading ends enter the frustoconical bores through the larger top ends of the bores and exit the smaller bottom ends. Thereafter, the screws can be advanced (e.g., into bone) until the quasi-spherical heads are received down into the respective female bores and locked therein so as to generate the different angular positions X and Y. Based on the Figure 11 orientation, seating can also be fully or partially accomplished by moving the bores in an upward direction relative to the heads. Although not necessary to broader aspects of the disclosure, the walls of the bores extend fully around the seated heads, e.g., with no breaks or openings in the walls that form the frustoconical bore shapes.

Figure 12 shows a front view of an orthopedic assembly according to another embodiment of the present disclosure, and shows, for example, how different angular positions X and Y can be achieved and maintained using connections according to aspects of the present disclosure. In particular, Figure 12 depicts an orthopedic assembly 140 that includes an orthopedic device 141 (e.g., a bone plate or implant) that provides a first tapered female bore 142' and a second, identical tapered female bore 143' with walls 144'. These particular bores have a shape of a frustum of a right circular cone. Although not necessary to broader aspects of the disclosure, the bores each extend entirely through a wall or section 145 of the device. Either bore could have any suitable size and shape. As disclosed elsewhere herein, a suitable female bore can be tapered or non-tapered and can otherwise be or incorporate any suitable three-dimensional shape, e.g., incorporating

rectilinear and/or curvilinear features. Such bores could extend only partially through the wall or section, for example, as shown with the elongated bore or opening in Figure 13C. Continuing with Figure 12, assembly 140 also includes a first bone screw 146 and an identical second bone screw 147. Each screw includes a quasi-spherical head 148 and a shaft 149 extending from the head. These heads and shafts could be any combination of those disclosed herein. In use, the quasi-spherical heads can be received and locked in the respective female bores so as to generate the different angular positions X and Y. Based on the Figure 12 illustration, such connections can be achieved by moving wall or section 145 in a downward direction onto the screws (e.g., by impacting the device 141) so that the heads enter the frustoconical bores through the larger bottom ends of the bores and move a distance in the bores toward the smaller top ends until suitably locked in place. Based on the Figure 12 orientation, seating can also be fully or partially accomplished by moving quasi-spherical heads 148 in an upward direction relative to the bores. In this regard, depending on the sizes and shapes of the various components, it is possible to make the connections with no portions of the shafts ever entering the bores. Although not necessary to broader aspects of the disclosure, the walls of the bores extend fully around the seated heads, e.g., with no breaks or openings in the walls that form the frustoconical bore shapes. In some forms, a screw will be advanced to a desired final location in a bone before a quasi-spherical screw head is locked in a female bore of a device, for example, where a plate is impacted down onto a pre-positioned screw so that the quasi-spherical member is forcefully received and locked in the female bore.

Turning now to Figure 13A, shown is a top view of an orthopedic plate 200 according to one embodiment of the present disclosure. From this view, plate 200 is shown to include a generally rectangular bore or opening 201. Although not necessary to broader aspects of the disclosure, the rectangular opening extends entirely through the plate, i.e., in a direction into the page based on the Figure 13A illustration. Such an opening can be an elongated or slot-type opening of any suitable size and rectangular or non-rectangular shape. A plate or other device can incorporate any number of such openings. Illustratively, such an opening can have

one dimension (e.g., rectangular slot length when viewed from the top as in Figure 13A) that is significantly larger than another dimension (e.g., rectangular slot width) including but not limited to a first dimension that is 2 to 40, or 4 to 20, or 8 to 15 times larger than a second dimension. An elongated or slot-type opening can have curvature along its length, for example, even providing in some embodiments an annular or ring-shaped slot with no ends. Also, although the width of the opening 200 in Figure 13A is constant along its length, it need not be. Such a slot can be a series of discernable openings or bores like those shown in Figures 11 and 12 which are interconnected across a plate or other device, for example, interconnected by slots or passages of a smaller width or dimension that allow interbore movement of another assembly component such as horizontal movement of a screw or fastener shaft from one bore to another along a plate or other device before the screw or fastener is ultimately locked in place in a particular bore. Any such elongated or slot-type opening can be part of any plate or non-plate orthopedic device in accordance with the present disclosure.

Figure 13B shows a cross-sectional view taken along view line 13B-13B from FIG. 13A, and it can be seen that walls 202 of the opening are angled or tapered. Based on the Figure 13B orientation, the walls diverge moving from top to bottom so that the top end of the opening 201 is smaller than the bottom end of the opening. Based on the Figure 13B illustration, a connection with a quasi-spherical member or other male-type connector in accordance with the present disclosure can be achieved by moving plate 200 in a downward direction onto the quasi-spherical member (e.g., which forms all or part of a screw head) so that the quasi-spherical member enters the opening through the larger bottom end of the opening and moves a distance in the opening toward the smaller top end until suitably locked in place. Alternatively, the plate could be flipped over from what is shown in Figure 13B, and a leading tip of a screw could be passed into and through the opening, and the screw could be advanced until a quasi-spherical head of the screw is locked into the opening.

That such openings can have an elongated or slot-type shape allows a quasi-spherical member such as that of the screw shown in Figure 10, prior to being

locked in place, to be moved to different relative positions along the length of a slot or other opening. For example, when viewing the Figure 13A illustration, such a quasi-spherical member could be received and locked in place in the opening at or near one end of the opening, at or near the far opposite end of the opening, or
5 anywhere in between. Although not necessary to broader aspects of the disclosure, at opposite ends of the rectangular opening, the opening 201 is tapered on three sides. Alternatively, the illustration of Figure 13B can represent one end of plate 200 such that it is not a cross-sectional view of plate 200 but rather an end view. In this regard, a quasi-spherical member could be partially and loosely received in the
10 opening, and the plate could be slid over a quasi-spherical member (e.g., from the side) before a connection is made. Such a configuration could be particularly useful, for example, where space is limited anatomically such as where it is not easy or possible to introduce a plate or device other than from the side. Such side openings could be located anywhere on a plate or other device.

15 Figure 13C shows part of an orthopedic plate 210 according to another embodiment of the present disclosure. Plate 210 includes a top surface 211 and bottom surface 212. This plate is similar to that shown in Figure 13B except that it includes an opening 213 which extends only partially through the plate, and in this regard Figure 13C represents a cross-sectional view of the plate taken from a similar
20 vantage point as the cross-sectional view in Figure 13B. In particular, opening 213 extends into the plate from bottom surface 212, and walls 214 of the opening converge moving toward the top surface 211 of the plate. Alternatively, the illustration of Figure 13C can represent one or both ends of plate 210 such that it is not a cross-sectional view of plate 210 but rather an end view. In this regard, a
25 quasi-spherical member could be partially and loosely received in the opening, and the plate could be slid over a quasi-spherical member (e.g., from the side) before a connection is made. Such a configuration could be particularly useful, for example, where space is limited anatomically such as where it is not easy or possible to introduce a plate or device other than from the side. Such side openings could be
30 located anywhere on a plate or other device.

The above detailed description includes references to the accompanying drawings, which form a part of the detailed description. The drawings show, by way of illustration, specific embodiments in which the invention can be practiced. These embodiments are also referred to herein as “examples.” Such examples can include elements in addition to those shown or described. However, the present inventors also contemplate examples in which only those elements shown or described are provided. Moreover, the present inventors also contemplate examples using any combination or permutation of those elements shown or described (or one or more aspects thereof), either with respect to a particular example (or one or more aspects thereof), or with respect to other examples (or one or more aspects thereof) shown or described herein.

In the event of inconsistent usages between this document and any documents so incorporated by reference, the usage in this document controls.

In this document, the terms “a” or “an” are used, as is common in patent documents, to include one or more than one, independent of any other instances or usages of “at least one” or “one or more.” In this document, the term “or” is used to refer to a nonexclusive or, such that “A or B” includes “A but not B,” “B but not A,” and “A and B,” unless otherwise indicated. In this document, the terms “including” and “in which” are used as the plain-English equivalents of the respective terms “comprising” and “wherein.” Also, in the following claims, the terms “including” and “comprising” are open-ended, that is, a system, device, article, composition, formulation, or process that includes elements in addition to those listed after such a term in a claim are still deemed to fall within the scope of that claim. Moreover, in the following claims, the terms “first,” “second,” and “third,” etc. are used merely as labels, and are not intended to impose numerical requirements on their objects.

The above description is intended to be illustrative, and not restrictive. For example, the above-described examples (or one or more aspects thereof) may be used in combination with each other. Other embodiments can be used, such as by one of ordinary skill in the art upon reviewing the above description. The Abstract is provided to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b), to allow the reader to quickly

ascertain the nature of the technical disclosure. It is submitted with the understanding that it will not be used to interpret or limit the scope or meaning of the claims. Also, in the above Detailed Description, various features may be grouped together to streamline the disclosure. This should not be interpreted as
5 intending that an unclaimed disclosed feature is essential to any claim. Rather, inventive subject matter may lie in less than all features of a particular disclosed embodiment. Thus, the following claims are hereby incorporated into the Detailed Description as examples or embodiments, with each claim standing on its own as a separate embodiment, and it is contemplated that such embodiments can be
10 combined with each other in various combinations or permutations. The scope of the invention should be determined with reference to the appended claims, along with the full scope of equivalents to which such claims are entitled.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A connecting assembly for connecting a plurality of orthopedic components, the connecting assembly comprising:
 - 5 an orthopedic component that includes a bore including a tapered segment, the tapered segment of the bore defining a smooth inner wall;
a quasi-spherical member positionable in the bore for removeably locking the quasi-spherical member to the orthopedic component, wherein the quasi-spherical member includes a textured outer surface for contacting the
10 smooth inner wall of the bore and wherein the textured outer surface includes a plurality of generally planar surface elements that are contiguous with one another and cover more than 50% of the quasi spherical member.
2. The connecting assembly of claim 1, wherein the orthopedic component
15 is a humeral head, with the quasi-spherical member being a modular component connectable to a separate humeral stem component.
3. The connecting assembly of claim 1, wherein the quasi-spherical member is part of a bone screw.
20
4. The connecting assembly of claim 3, wherein the bone screw includes a threaded shaft extending away from the quasi-spherical member, the quasi-spherical member forming a head of the bone screw.
- 25 5. The connecting assembly of claim 4, wherein the orthopedic component is a bone plate with said bore extending entirely through the bone plate, and wherein the threaded shaft is receivable in the bore in advance of the quasi-spherical member.
- 30 6. A ball-side prosthesis for articulating with a socket in a ball and socket joint in a patient, comprising:
an articulating ball member that includes a top side and a bottom side, the top side providing a convex articulating surface for articulating with surfaces in the socket, the bottom side including an opening into a tapered bore that extends

into the articulating ball member from said bottom side toward said top side, said tapered bore including a smooth inner wall;

a fixation member anchorable to a bone of the patient remaining on the ball side of the ball and socket joint; and

5 a quasi-spherical member disposed at a proximal end of the fixation member, the quasi-spherical member positionable in the bore of the articulating ball member for removeably locking the quasi-spherical member to the articulating ball member, wherein the quasi-spherical member includes a textured outer surface for contacting the smooth inner wall of the tapered bore.

10

7. The ball-side prosthesis of claim 6, wherein the textured outer surface covers more than 50% of the quasi-spherical member.

15 8. The ball-side prosthesis of any of claims 6 or 7, wherein the textured outer surface includes a plurality of generally planar faces.

9. The ball-side prosthesis of claim 8, wherein the plurality of generally planar faces are spaced from one another on the quasi-spherical member.

20 10. The ball-side prosthesis of claim 8, wherein the plurality of generally planar faces are contiguous with one another on the quasi-spherical member.

11. The ball-side prosthesis of claim 8, wherein the plurality of generally planar faces have curvilinear perimeters.

25

12. The ball-side prosthesis of claim 11, wherein the plurality of generally planar faces have circular perimeters.

30 13. The ball-side prosthesis of claim 8, wherein the plurality of generally planar faces have rectilinear perimeters.

14. The ball-side prosthesis of claim 13, wherein the plurality of generally planar faces have polygonal perimeters.

15. The ball-side prosthesis of claim 14, wherein the plurality of generally planar faces have triangular perimeters.
- 5 16. The ball-side prosthesis of any of claims 6 or 7, wherein the textured outer surface includes a plurality of surface elements with polygonal perimeters.
17. The ball-side prosthesis of claim 16, wherein the plurality of surface elements are planar within the polygonal perimeters.
- 10 18. The ball-side prosthesis of claim 16, wherein the plurality of surface elements are convex or concave within the polygonal perimeters.
- 15 19. The ball-side prosthesis of any of claims 6 or 7, wherein the textured outer surface includes a three-dimensional tessellation incorporating polygonal surfaces.
- 20 20. The ball-side prosthesis of any of claims 6 or 7, wherein the quasi-spherical member approximates a honeycomb of polyhedral cells.
- 25 21. The ball-side prosthesis of any of claims 6 or 7, wherein the textured outer surface includes a plurality of outermost extensions spaced from one another on the textured outer surface and defining a first radius of the quasi-spherical member and a plurality of innermost depressions spaced from one another on the textured outer surface and defining a second radius of the quasi-spherical member.

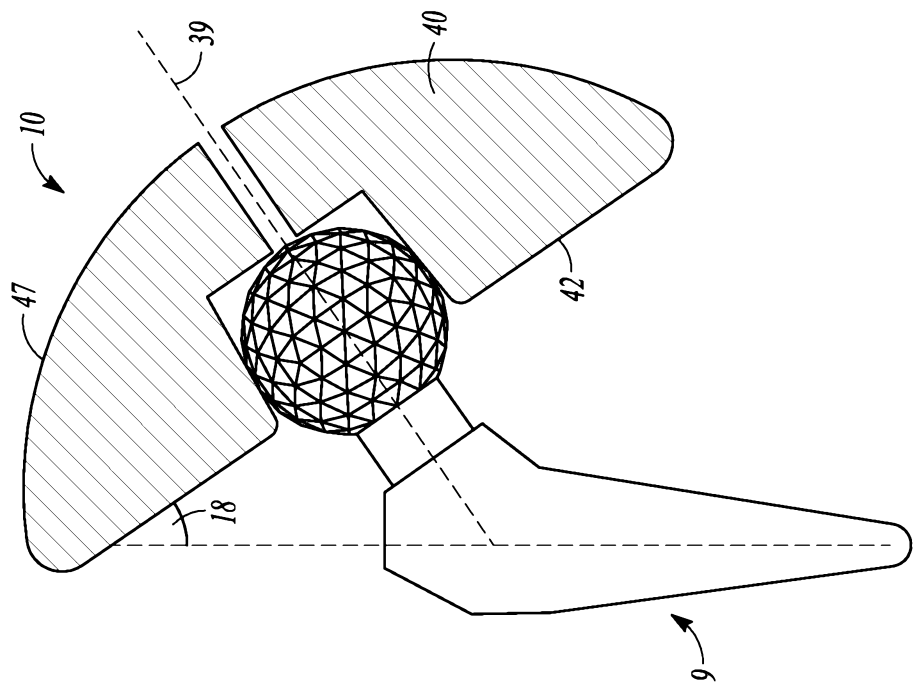


FIG. 1B

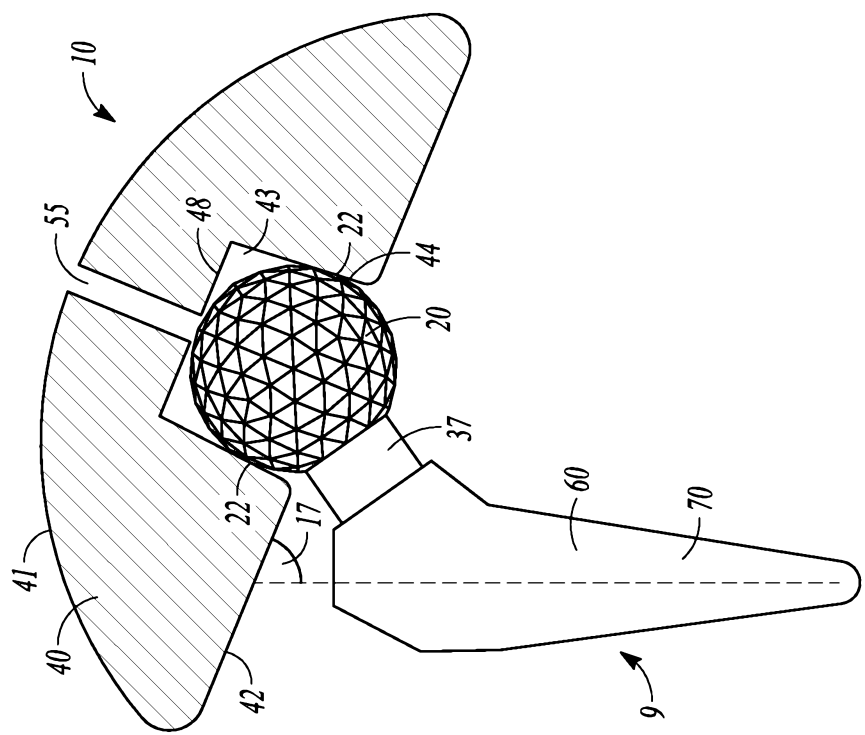
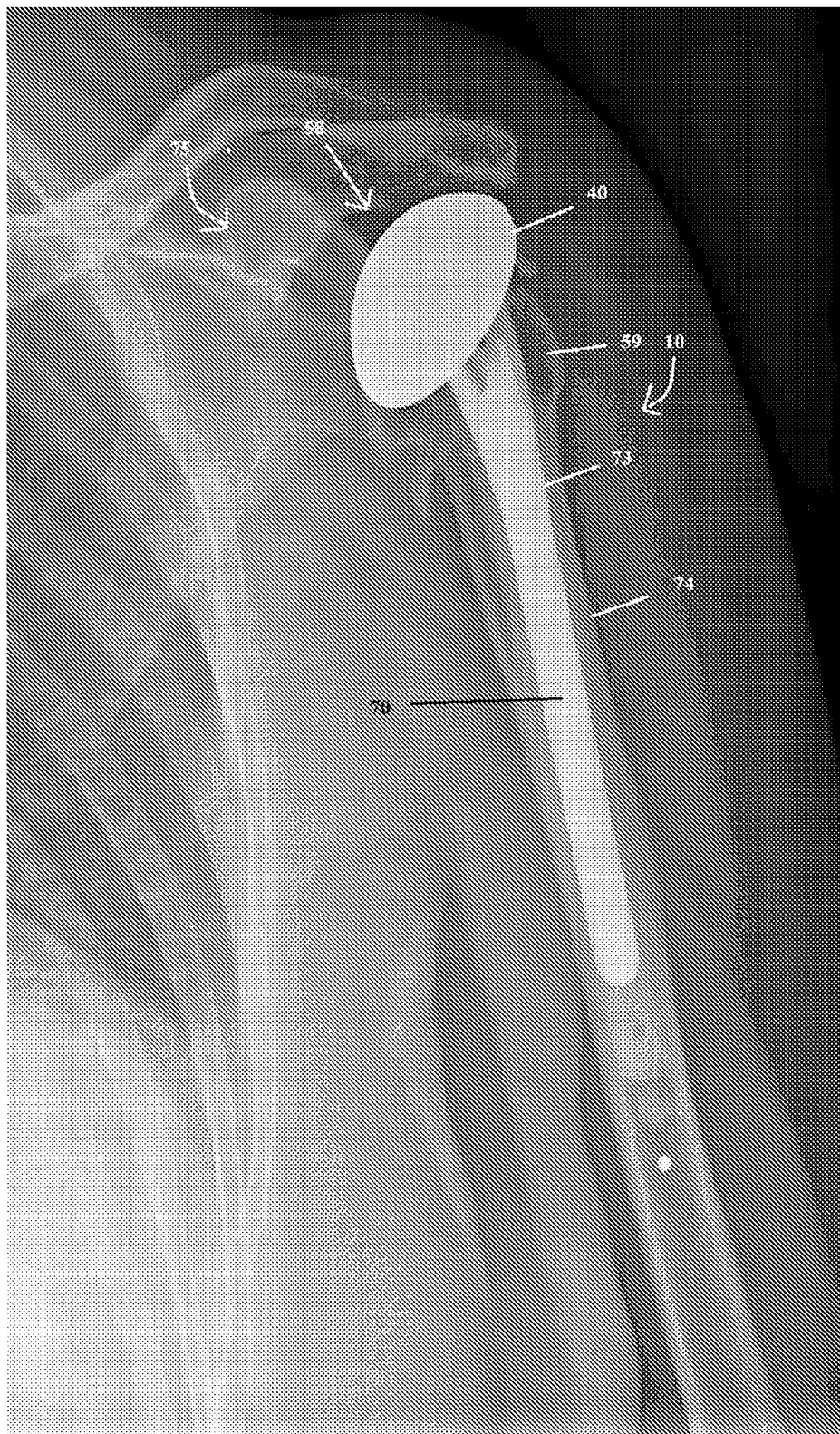


FIG. 1A

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*FIG. 1C*

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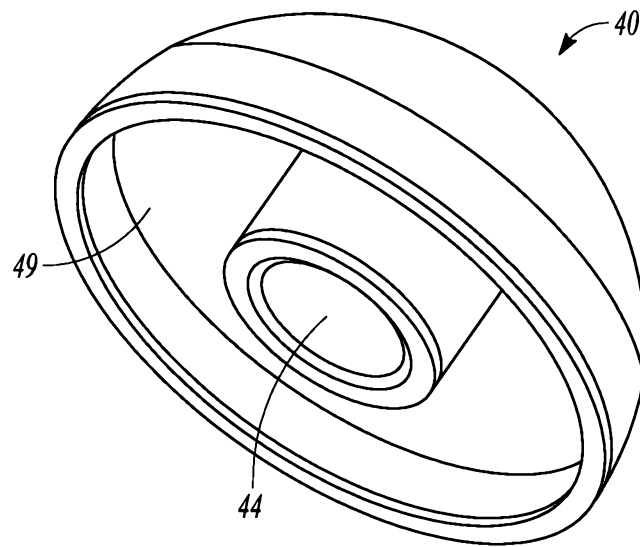


FIG. 2

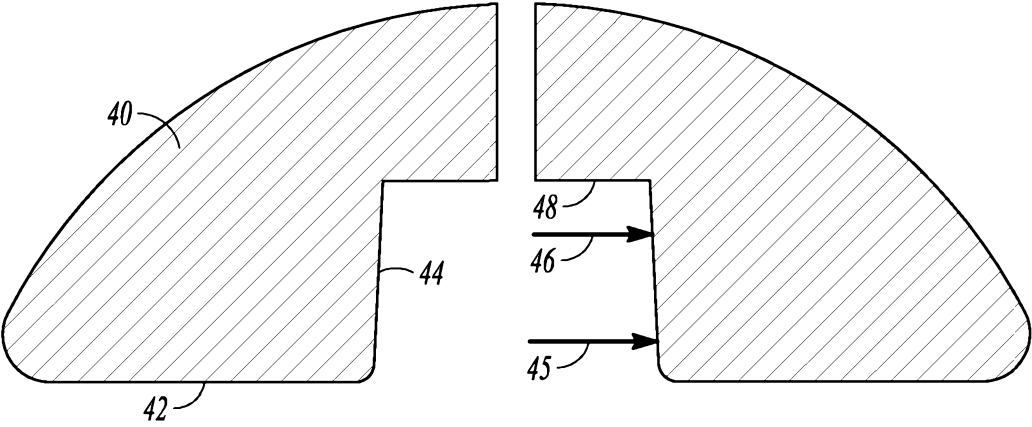


FIG. 3A

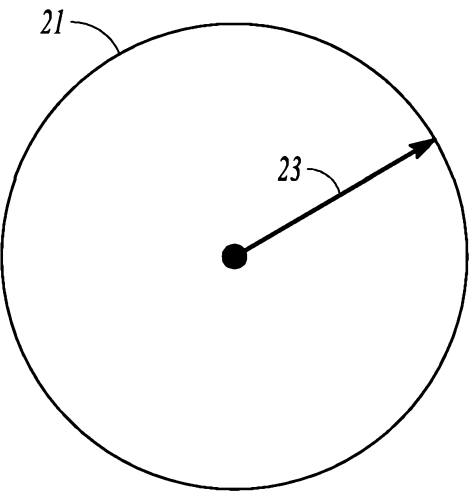


FIG. 3B

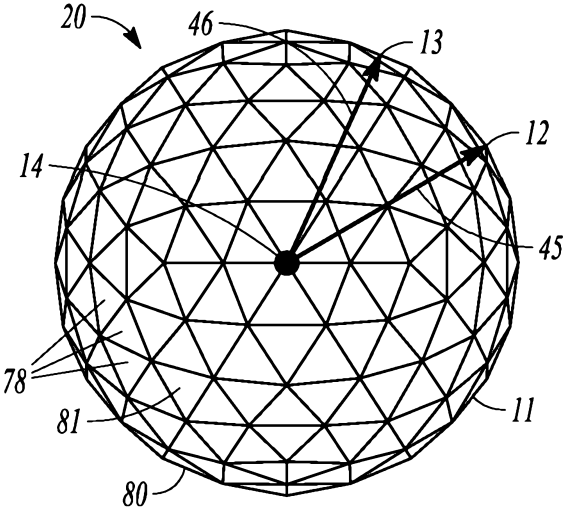


FIG. 3C

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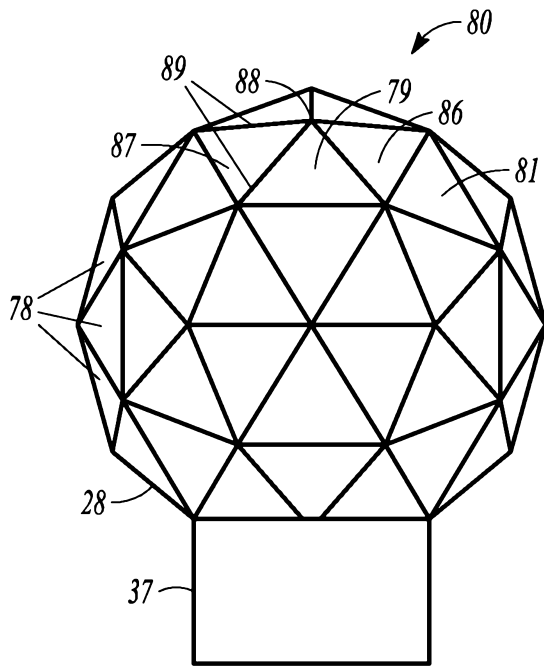


FIG. 4A

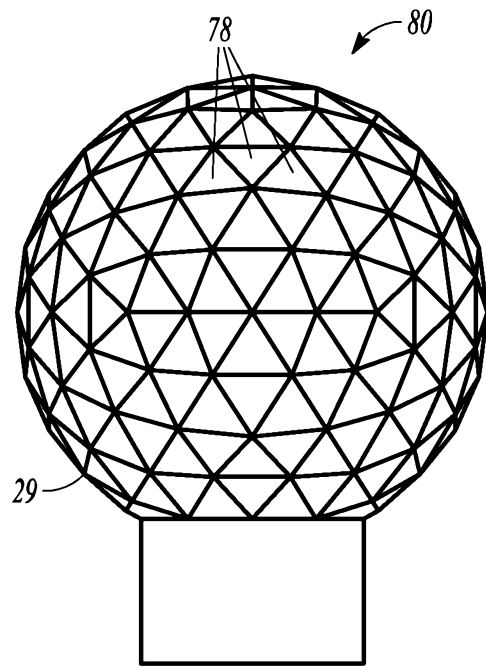


FIG. 4B

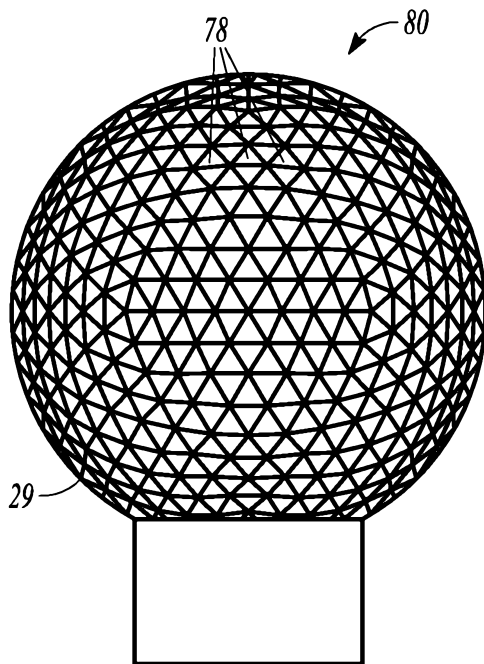


FIG. 4C

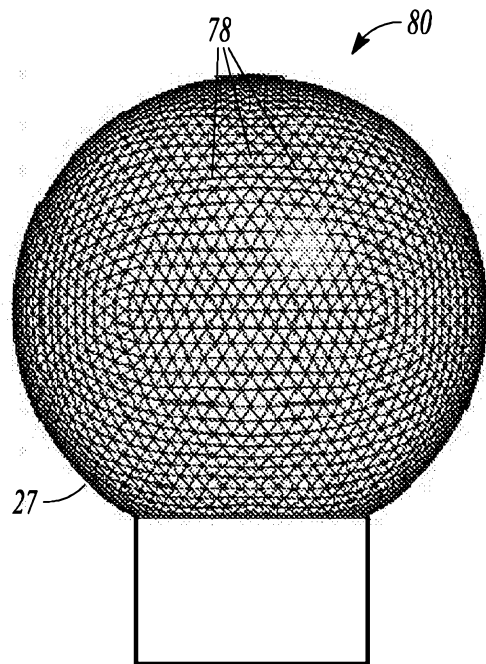


FIG. 4D

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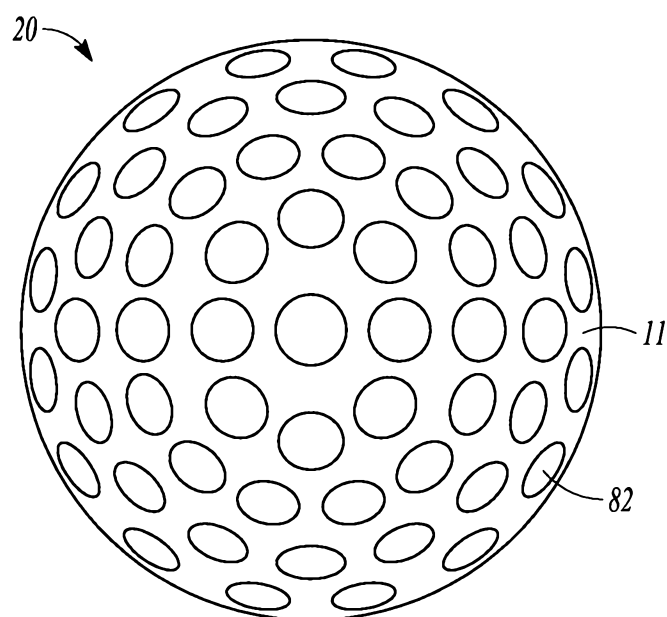


FIG. 5A

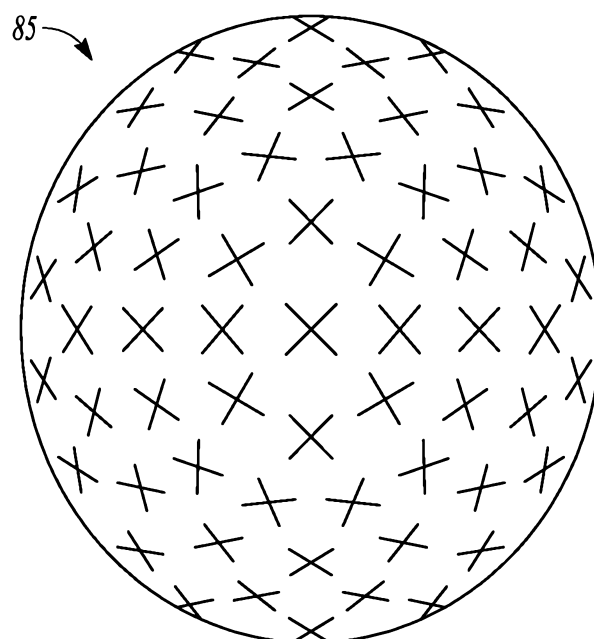


FIG. 5B

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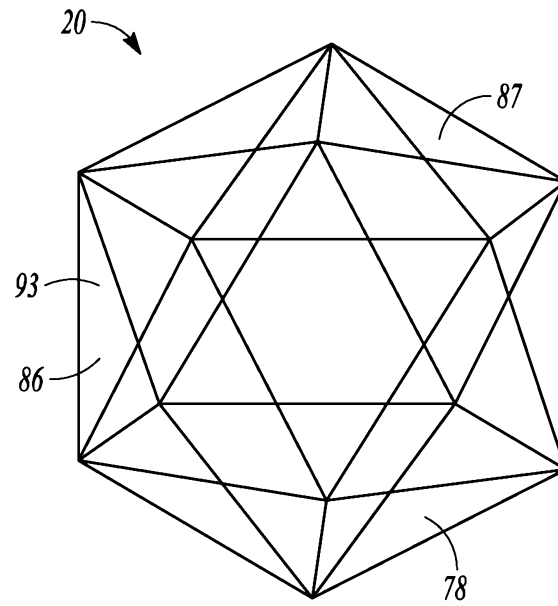


FIG. 6A

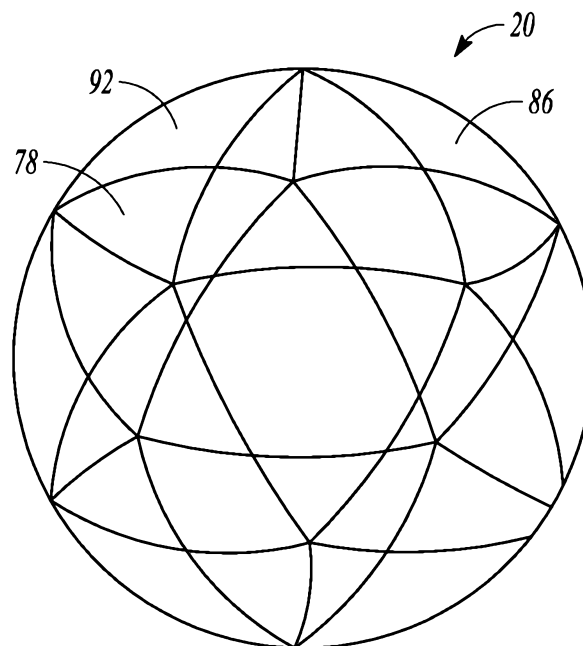


FIG. 6B

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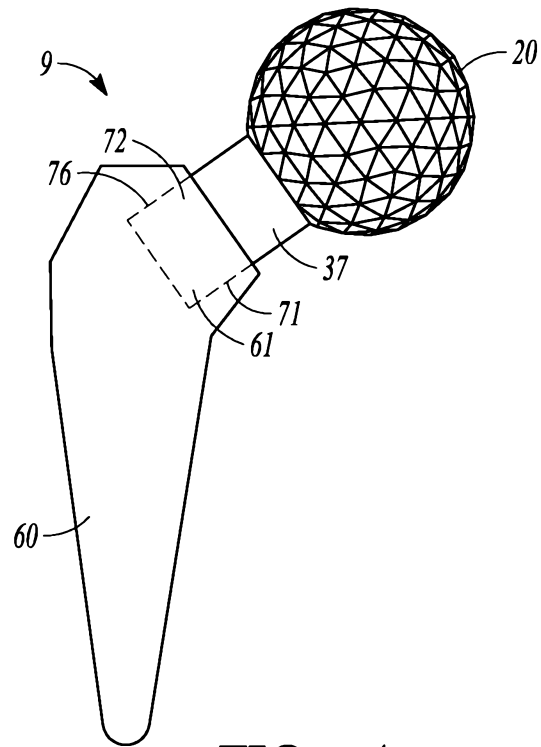


FIG. 7A

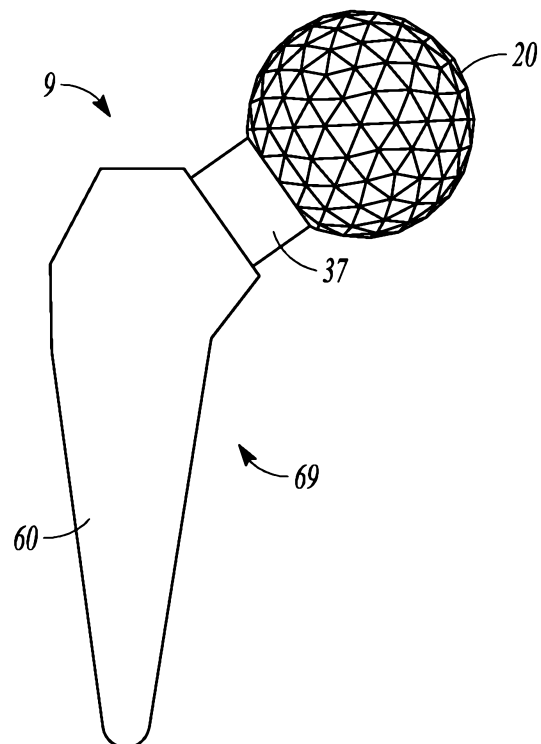
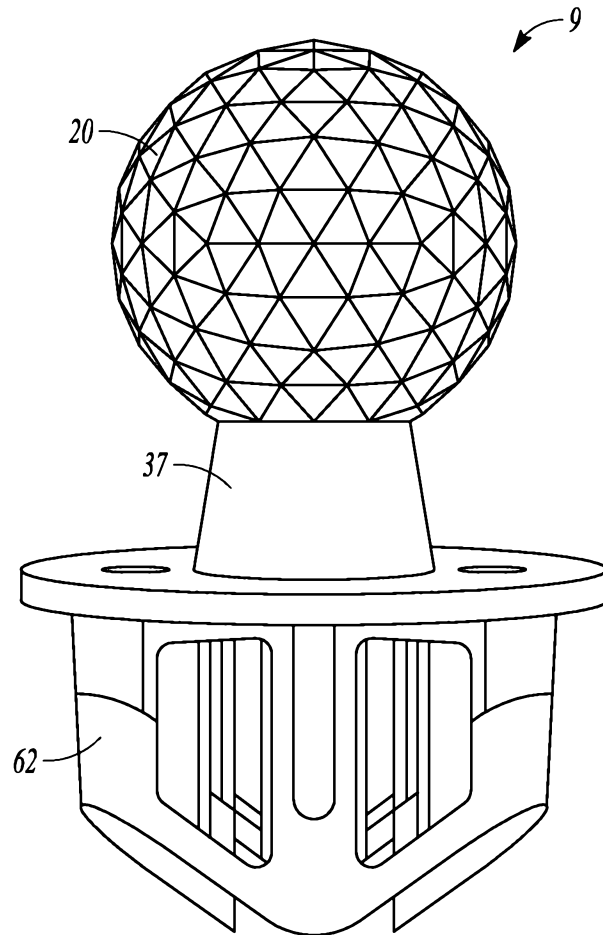
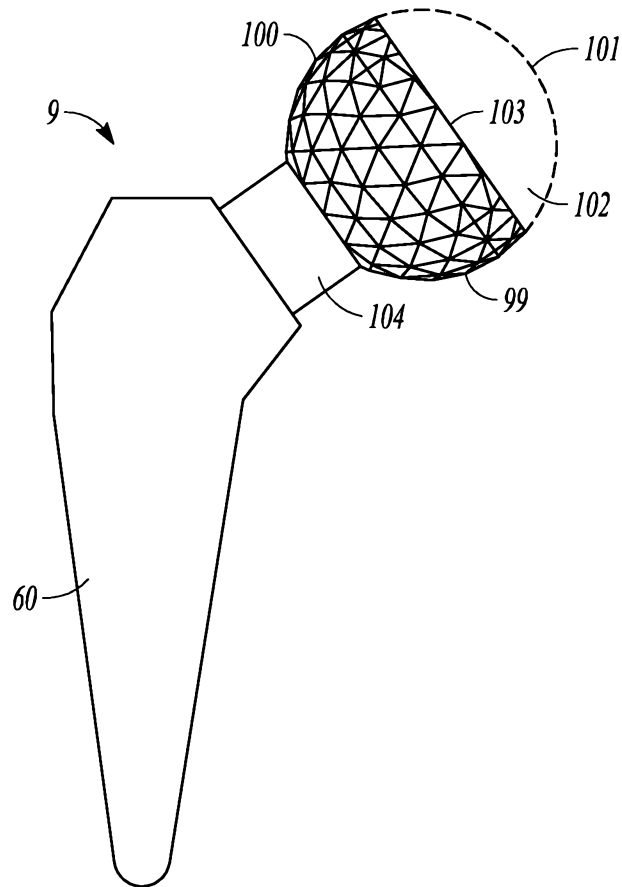


FIG. 7B

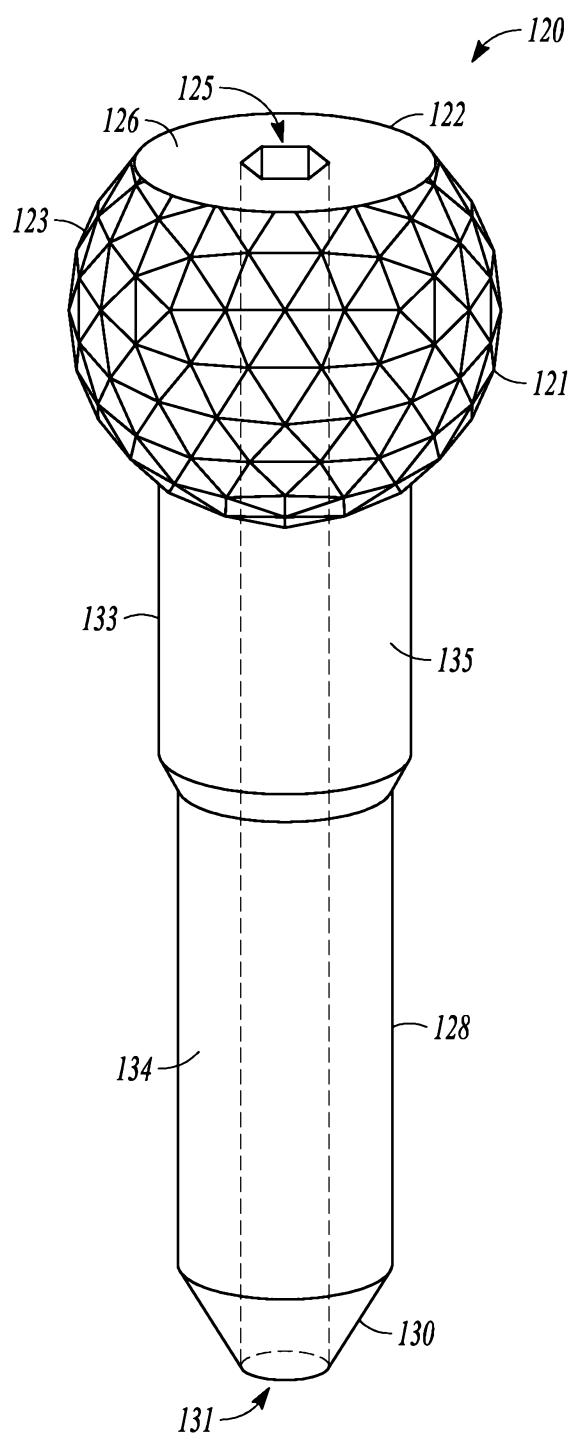
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**FIG. 8**

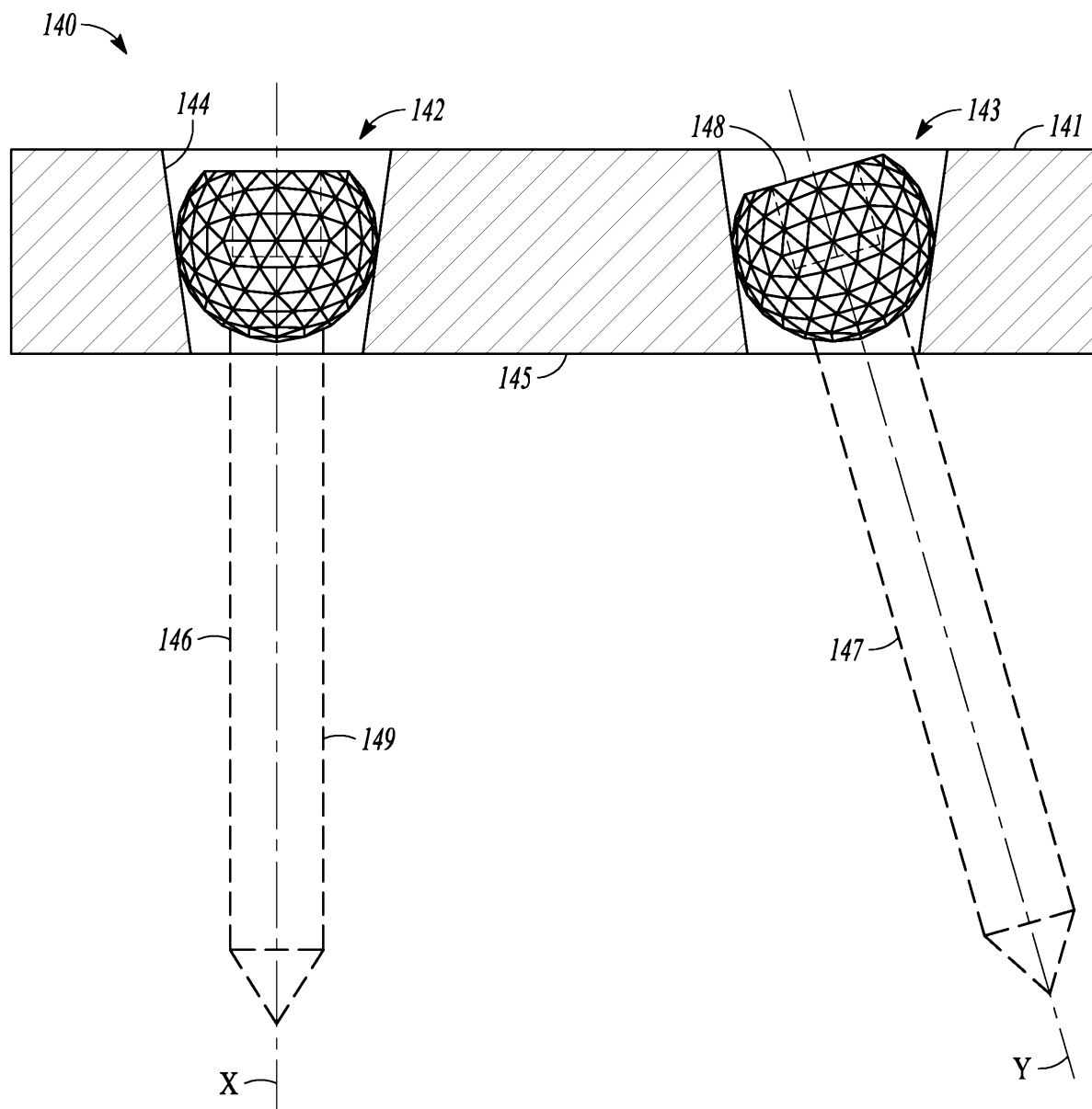
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**FIG. 9**

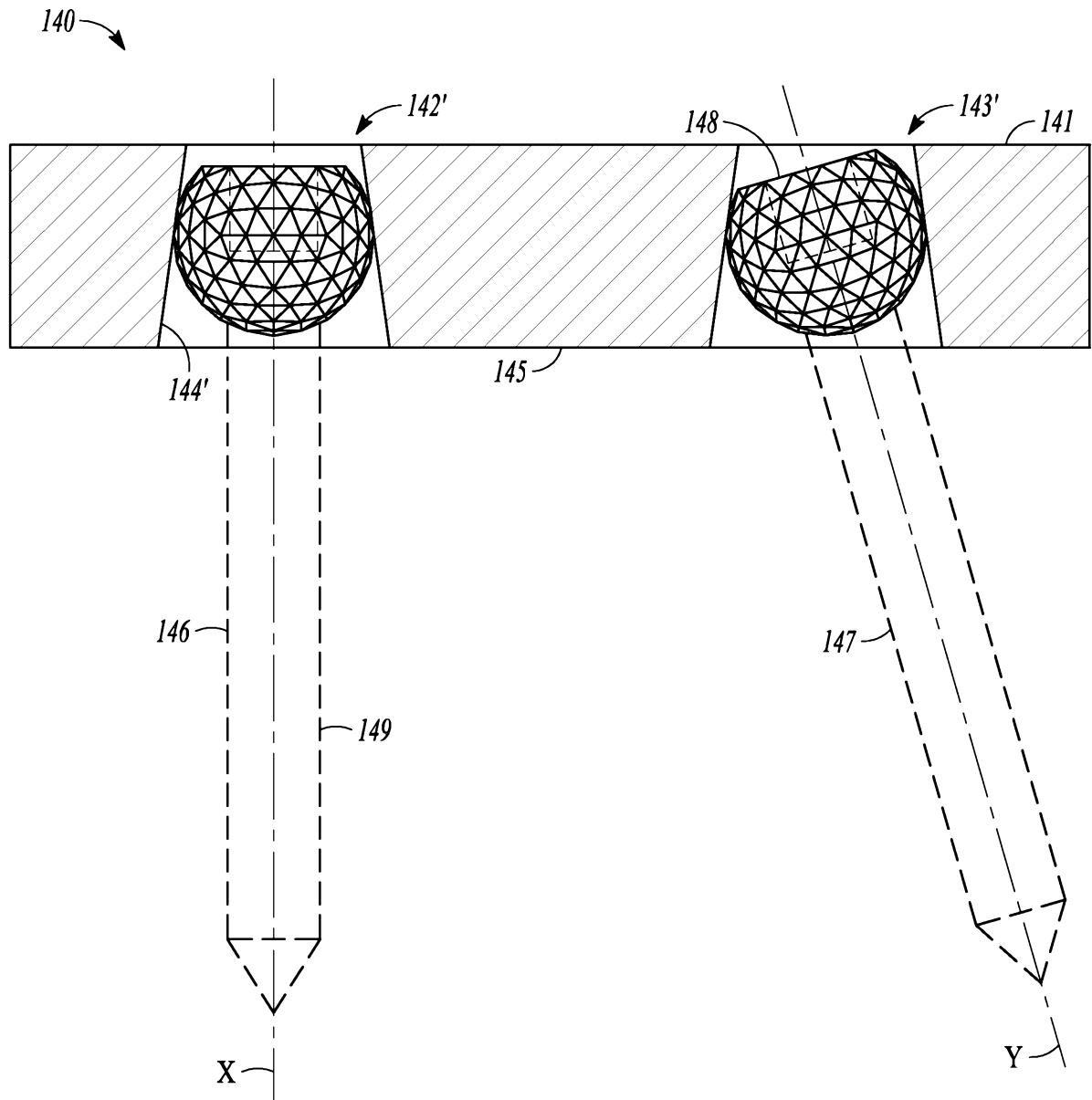
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**FIG. 10**

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**FIG. 11**

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**FIG. 12**

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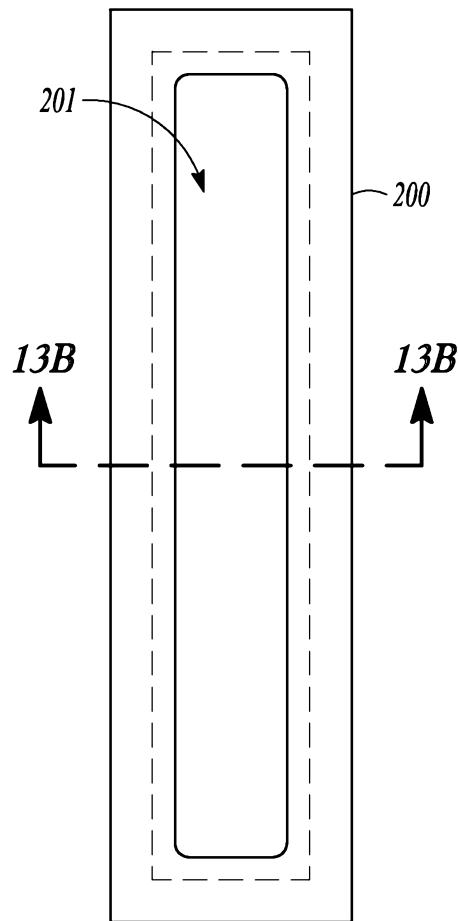


FIG. 13A

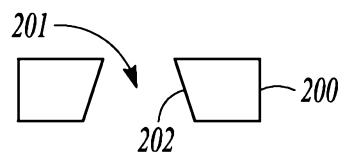


FIG. 13B

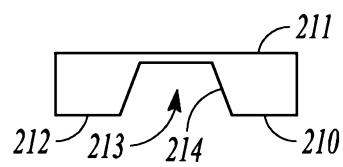


FIG. 13C