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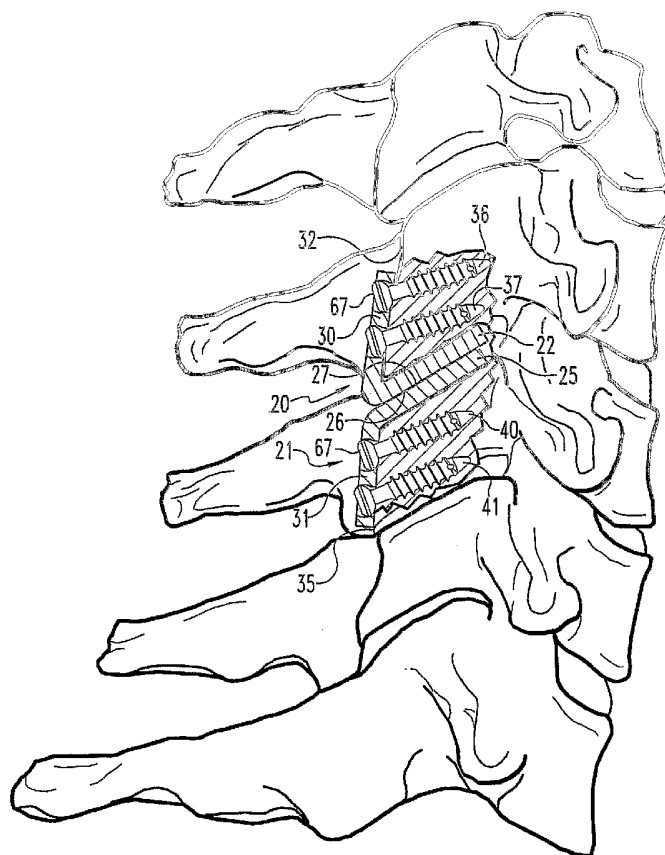
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(54) Title: REPLACEMENT FACET JOINT AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: Prostheses and methods for repair of a cervical facet joint. The articulating surfaces of the natural facets of the facet joint are removed only a sufficient amount to allow the insertion of flat or slightly curvilinear portions of prostheses therebetween in an overlapping relationship. The portions are so inserted and the prostheses mounted by attachment to adjacent vertebrae. Also, a single natural facet may be similarly repaired with a single prosthesis.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC: A61B 17/56(2006.01) USPC: 606/61 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. : 606/61,72,73; 623/17.11-17.16 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 2002/0151895 A1 (SOBOLESKI et al) 17 October 2002 (17.10.2002), see whole document.	1-27																								
A	US 5,571,191 A (FITZ) 05 November 1996 (05.11.1996), see whole document.	1-27																								
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.																										
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