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(54) Title: INTEGRATED DENTAL IMPLANT ABUTMENTS

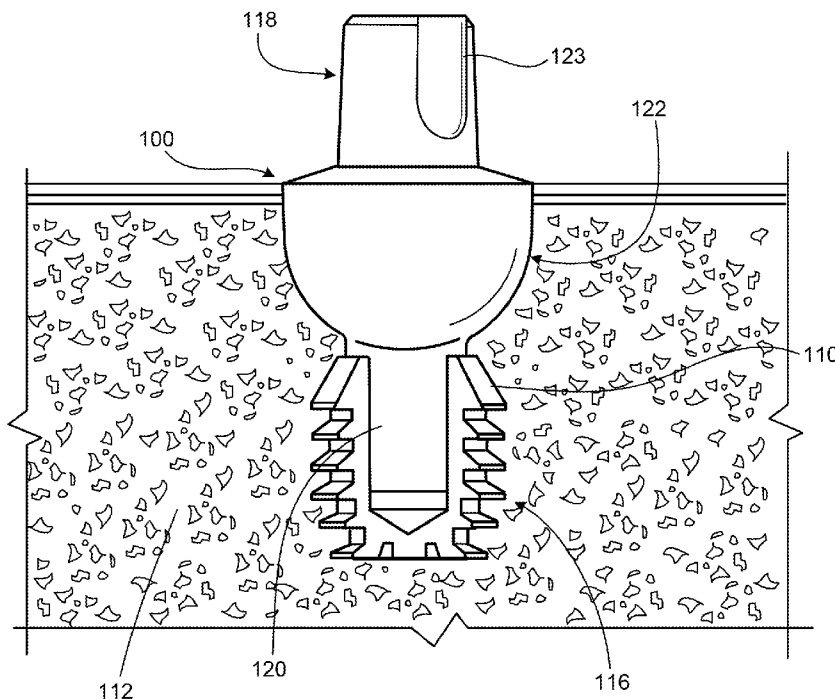


FIG. 1A

(57) Abstract: A dental abutment having a coronal portion for supporting a prosthesis separated from a post for seizing, galling or cold welding in a dental implant by a cylindrical portion and hemispherical base portion of length less than the combined length of the prosthetic head and locking taper post portions. The hemispherical portion of the abutment having a sloping shoulder with a surface that forms a small angle with a perpendicular to the cylindrical surface. A dental prosthesis system including such dental abutments.

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## Integrated Dental Implant Abutments

### **PRIORITY CLAIM**

[0001] This application claims priority to U.S. Application No. 14/591,654 entitled “Integrated Dental Implant Abutments,” filed January 7, 2015, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

### **FIELD**

[0002] The present disclosure concerns dental implant abutments.

### **BACKGROUND**

[0003] Dental implants are often the best treatment for missing teeth. When a damaged or decayed tooth is removed, both the visible part of the tooth, called the crown, and the root are lost.

[0004] A dental implant can be placed in the jawbone so that it can be fused with natural bone and become a strong and sturdy foundation for replacement teeth. Implants can be used to replace an individual tooth or for an implant-supported bridge or denture containing multiple teeth.

[0005] A dental implant abutment is a device that connects the prosthetic tooth/teeth to the dental implant. The replacement tooth is custom made to match a patient’s natural teeth and is sometimes referred to as a crown or dental prosthesis.

### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

[0006] This disclosure describes dental abutments that can not only be used for all conventional restorative techniques, but can also be readily scanned digitally, which enables precise restorations of a tooth or teeth to be fashioned more easily and conveniently than abutments whose geometry preclude the use of digital scanning or require modification or interpretation of scanned images for use. This feature supports the movement of the dental implant field toward precise customizable

prosthetic restorations and digital dentistry with the increased use of CAD/CAM technologies.

[0007] The dental abutments described within can also include anti-rotational features for the prosthetic component (i.e. crown) that allows the patient's prosthesis to have a precise fit. Grooves on opposite sides of the coronal end of the abutment (i.e. longitudinal end of abutment located farthest from the bone in the implanted site) provide the anti-rotation element. Each groove is generally of a constant depth that slopes toward the shoulder to end the anti-rotational element. The sloping of the groove is symmetric to reduce material stress. The coronal end of the abutment can also have a rough surface (e.g., a grit-blasted surface) to facilitate retention. For example, grit blasting can provide asperities up to 300 microns in size. The term "asperities" is used to indicate sharp, rough, or rugged projections extending from a surface.

[0008] The described dental abutments have a post in the area of the apical end of the abutment (i.e. longitudinal end located closest to the bone in the implanted site) that is received by the open end of the dental implant. The post allows for a 360° of rotation during seating to increase the likelihood of correct orientation of the abutment, or abutment-restoration unit, either intra-orally or extra-orally. This 360° rotation also facilitates parallelism for angled abutments. The post and implant connection utilizes a friction fit connection which is a locking taper. Once fully engaged, this mechanism limits or prevents unintentional rotation between the dental abutment and implant and can provide a bacterially sealed connection. The post has a cylindrical shape for simplicity and compatibility with a large number of dental implants.

[0009] Some dental abutments include a coronal portion that slopes to a shoulder of the dental abutment after a fixed distance of at least a 15° angle to allow for the scanning to be performed without any additional modifications or interpretations to the scan. The distance from the coronal end to the shoulder and the shoulder width has a ratio of less than seven with a shoulder width of greater than 0.02 inches. The team that developed the present dental abutments has found that the width of the shoulder and the ratio between the distance from the coronal end to the shoulder and the shoulder width to be particularly significant in providing an

abutment that is conducive to digital scanning. The coronal portion slopes toward the shoulder of the dental abutment at about a 3° angle to allow the anti-rotational element to work properly.

[0010] In some dental abutments, the distance from the bevel at the coronal end to the top of the hemispherical shoulder is long enough to allow all the edges of the dental abutment to be digitally scanned without additional modifications or interpretations. In contrast, other dental abutments have margins that are not smooth and/or not visible on scans so users manually draw in the margin on the scan results.

[0011] The geometry of these dental abutments also allows for one conventional recording sleeve configuration to suffice for registering multiple different abutment dimensions, since different abutment sizes and angulations are independent of the prosthetic attachment aspect of the abutment. Conventional dental impression materials can be used to record and represent multiple different abutment dimensions prosthetically.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS**

[0012] Figures 1A and 1B show a dental implant and dental abutment before and after the addition of a crown, respectively.

[0013] Figure 2A is a side view of a dental abutment. Figures 2B and 2C depict the cross section and coronal views of the abutment in Figure 2A, respectively.

[0014] Figures 3A and 3B show two dental abutments of different sizes with and without a crown.

[0015] Figures 4A and 4B show two dental abutments of different configurations with and without a crown.

[0016] Figures 5A – 5C show a dental prosthesis supported by multiple dental abutments.

[0017] Figures 6A and 6B are, respectively, a front view and a side cross-sectional view of an angled dental abutment.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0018] Figure 1A shows a dental abutment 100 engaged in a dental implant 110 which has been placed in a patient's jawbone 112. Figure 1B shows the dental abutment 100 and the dental implant 110 after a crown 114 has been placed on the dental abutment 100.

[0019] The dental abutment 100 in Figure 1A extends from the apical end 116 (i.e. toward the jaw) to the coronal end 118 (i.e. toward the crown) in the longitudinal direction. The dental abutment 100 has a post 120, which is designed to be received by the open end of the dental implant 110. The post 120 extends from the apical end 116 of the dental abutment 100 to a retention element 122. The dental abutment 100 also has a coronal portion (or head) 123 which designed to support the crown 114. The coronal portion 123 extends from the coronal end 118 of the dental abutment 100 to the retention element 122.

[0020] The dental abutment 100 can be made out of a variety of materials, including titanium alloy or polyether ether ketone (PEEK).

[0021] figures 2A-2C shows the dental abutment 100 in isolation to more clearly illustrate features of the dental abutment 100.

[0022] The post 120 is substantially cylindrical, which allows for the 360° rotation of the dental abutment 100 while it is being seated into the dental implant 110 (see Figures 1A and 1B) in order to facilitate a dentist's correct orientation of the prosthesis or crown 114 (see Figure 1B), either intra-orally or extra-orally. This cylindrical shape provides the opportunity for the prosthesis to be used to orient and initially seat the abutment in the well of the implant. The simplicity of the cylindrical shape affords for improved manufacturability and also makes the dental abutment 100 compatible with a number of different types of dental prostheses. While substantially cylindrical, the post 120 is tapered to provide a friction fit connection which is a locking taper between the post 120 and the dental implant 110 (see Figures 1A and 1B). This configuration can facilitate seizing, galling or cold welding between the post 120 and the dental implant 110.

[0023] Once fully engaged, this mechanism limits or prevents unintentional rotation and micro-movement between the dental abutment 100 and dental implant 110 (see Figures 1A and 1B). The locking taper can also provide a bacterial seal

between the two components. The angle  $\alpha$  between sides of the post 120 and a longitudinal axis 124 of the dental abutment 100 is approximately  $1.3^\circ$ . Depending on the dental abutment variant, the angle between sides of the post 120 and a longitudinal axis 124 of the dental abutment 100 is typically between  $1.1^\circ$  and  $1.6^\circ$ . The geometry of the dental abutment 100 is symmetrical along the longitudinal axis 124.

[0024] The retention element 122 extends from the post 120 to the coronal portion 123. The retention element 122 has a base 128 and a shoulder 130 which meets the base 128 at a margin 132. The transition between the base 128 and the post 120 is a curve 134 with a radius of curvature 136 (see Figure 2B) of approximately 0.02 inches. In some dental abutments, the radius of curvature 136 is more or less than 0.02 inches (e.g., between 0.01 and 0.03 inches) which can reduce stress factors and resulting fractures. The surface of the base 128 has a radius of curvature 138 (see Figure 2B) of approximately 0.08 inches. In some dental abutments, the radius of curvature 138 is more or less than 0.08 inches (e.g., between 0.08 and 0.15 inches). The shape of the base 128 provides for the consistent confrontation of what is an approximation of a hemispherical contour to tissues in the proximity to the periosteum. This confrontation in turn can stimulate osteoblastic activity and subsequent bone growth.

[0025] Between the hemisphere and the shoulder 130, the side of the abutment extends for a length  $L_1$  to the margin 132. The perimeter (e.g., circumference) of the dental abutment increases at  $1-2^\circ$  in this portion of the dental abutment as distance from the apical end 116 of the dental abutment 100. In the dental abutment 100, the length  $L_1$  is 0.16 inches (4 mm). As discussed in more detail below with reference to Figures 3A and 3B, some dental abutments are configured in which the length  $L_1$  is more or less than 0.16 inches (4 mm) (e.g., between 0.05 (1.3 mm) and 0.32 inches (8.1 mm)). This variability provides the opportunity to use the same inferior or post and superior or head contours on the abutment, while providing the flexibility to use with implants placed at different depths within the jaw bone.

[0026] The diameter of the dental abutment at the margin 132 is 0.24 inches (6 mm). In some dental abutments, the diameter of the dental abutment at the margin 132

is more or less than 0.24 inches (6 mm) (e.g., between 0.16 inches (4 mm) and 0.31 inches (8 mm)).

[0027] An angle  $\beta$  is defined between the shoulder 130 and a plane 140 that is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis 124. In dental abutment 100, the angle  $\beta$  is approximately  $15^\circ$ . In some dental abutments, the angle  $\beta$  is more or less than  $15^\circ$  (e.g., between  $10^\circ$  and  $20^\circ$ ). It has been found that dental abutments in which the angle  $\beta$  is approximately  $15^\circ$  allow the scanning to be performed without any additional modifications or interpretations to the scan.

[0028] The coronal portion 123 includes a neck 142, an anti-rotation portion 144, and a bevel 146 at the coronal end of the dental abutment 100. The neck 142 has a length  $L_2$ . The neck 142 is substantially cylindrical with sides that are substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis 124 of the dental abutment 100. Some dental abutments have necks with other shapes such as, for example, with rectangular or octagonal (rather than circular) cross-sections.

[0029] In contrast, the anti-rotation portion 144 of the coronal portion 123 is tapered with a cone angle  $\gamma$  such that the perimeter (e.g., circumference) of the coronal portion 123 at the coronal end of the anti-rotation portion 144 is smaller than the apical end of the anti-rotation portion 144. In dental abutment 100, the cone angle  $\gamma$  is approximately  $3^\circ$ . In some dental abutments, the angle  $\gamma$  is more or less than  $3^\circ$  (e.g., between  $2.5^\circ$  and  $3.5^\circ$ ). It has been found that dental abutments in which the angle  $\gamma$  is more than  $2.5^\circ$  help enable scanning to be performed without any additional modifications or interpretations to the scan.

[0030] The surface of coronal portion 123 can be either rough or smooth based on the individual needs dictated by the procedure. A roughened surface can be achieved, for example, through the use of grit blasting. This provides a better surface for the adhesion of dental materials, such as opaque (i.e., composite dental resin that is used to cover unsightly dentition), as well as the crown 114 or prosthesis to the coronal portion 123. In particular, the roughened surface can facilitate the mechanical retention of chemical bonding agents such as opaque layers of composite resins or prosthetic cementing agents.

[0031] The structure of the coronal portion 123 provides the dental abutment 100 with a configuration that can be easily scanned. The perimeter (e.g., the

circumference) of the dental abutment 100 increases monotonically from the coronal end 118 to the margin 132 defined between the base 128 and the shoulder. The edge between the bevel 146 and the anti-rotation portion 144 is smaller than the edge between anti-rotation portion 144 and the neck 142. The edge between the anti-rotation portion 144 and the neck 142 is smaller than margin 132 between the neck 142 and the base 128. As can be seen best in Figure 2C, the shoulder 130 is visible and clearly delineated which makes the shoulder 130 easy to record during digital scanning. In addition, the length  $L_3$  (from the bevel 146 to the neck 142 of the coronal portion 123) is long enough that when present in concert with angle  $\gamma$ , allows all the edges of the dental abutment to be observed with a digital scanner without additional modifications or interpretations to the scan. Unlike abutments whose geometry preclude the use of digital scanning or require modification or interpretations of scanned images for use, the abutments presented in this application allow for easy digital scanning which enables the rapid and precise restorations of a tooth or teeth. This feature supports movement of the dental implant field toward customizable restorations or prostheses and digital dentistry with the increased use of CAD/CAM technologies.

[0032] The geometry of these dental abutments not only facilitate their recording by digital scanning technologies, but also allows for a singular conventional recording sleeve configuration to suffice for registering multiple different abutment dimensions. Further conventional dental impression materials can be used to record and represent their multiple different abutment dimensions prosthetically.

[0033] The anti-rotation portion 144 of the coronal portion 123 includes anti-rotation features in the form of two grooves 148 on opposite sides of the coronal end 118. The anti-rotational features help control the orientation of a prosthetic component or crown 114 which helps provide a precise fit of the prosthesis. The grooves also guide the prosthetic component or crown 114 into the correct orientation.

[0034] The anti-rotation grooves 148 located on opposite sides of the coronal end 118 of the dental abutment 100 are generally of a constant depth that slopes toward the shoulder to end the anti-rotational element. The sloping of the groove is symmetric to reduce material stress.

[0035] The length  $L_3$  (see Figure 2A) of the anti-rotation portion 144 and the grooves 148 are nominally 0.125 inches (3.2 mm). The width  $W$  (see Figure 2A) of the grooves 148 is nominally 0.055 inches (1.4 mm). The depth  $D$  (see Figure 2B) of the grooves 148 is nominally 0.02 inches (0.51 mm). As discussed above, the anti-rotation portion 144 of the coronal portion 123 is tapered with an angle  $\gamma$  of approximately  $3^\circ$ . The angled surface allows the anti-rotational element (e.g., grooves 148) to work properly. In addition, the sloping surface facilitates attaching other components as it is difficult to attach additional components to parallel surfaces,

[0036] Some dental abutments have grooves 148 in which the length  $L_3$  is more or less than 0.125 inches (3.2 mm) (e.g., between 0.1 (2.5 mm) and 0.3 inches (7.6 mm)), the width  $W$  is more or less than 0.055 inches (1.4 mm) (e.g., between 0.04 inches (1 mm) and 0.06 inches (1.5 mm)), and/or the depth  $D$  is more or less than 0.02 inches (0.51 mm) (e.g., between 0.010 inches (0.254 mm) to 0.030 inches (0.76 mm)). Some dental abutments include other anti-rotation features such as, for example, hexagonal or multi-sided flat surfaces and/or a variety of slots or grooves.

[0037] As discussed above, some dental abutments are configured in which the length  $L_1$  (between the hemispherical portion of the base 128 and the margin 132) is more or less than 0.16 inches (4 mm) (e.g., between 0.06 inches (1.5 mm) and 0.32 inches (7 mm)).

[0038] Figures 3A and 3B compare the dental abutment 100 with a dental abutment 200 that has a length  $L_1$  that is 0.24 inches (~ 6 mm). The dental abutment 100 and the abutment 200 have identical configurations except for the differences in the length  $L_1$ . In particular, the dimensions of the post 120 are the same in both the dental abutment 100 and the abutment 200 such that a single type of dental implant can be used with either abutment. This configuration allows a dentist to set the position of the coronal portion 123 of the dental abutment 100, 200 relative to the gum above an implant regardless of the implant's axial position in the jawbone 112.

[0039] Some dental abutments have retention elements 122 that have different perimeters (e.g., diameters for the illustrated dental abutments). Figures 4A and 4B compare the dental abutment 100 with a dental abutment 300 in which both length  $L_1$  and the diameter of the retention element are smaller than those of the dental

abutment 100. It accommodates implant wells that are more parallel for greater retention or wider for greater strength and resistance to metal fatigue and breakage.

[0040] This specification has described a dental prostheses system including versatile abutments with numerous advantages. Dentists may now make numerous uses and modifications of and departures from the specific embodiments and techniques disclosed herein without departing from the inventive concepts. For example, multiple dental abutments as described above can be used to support a single dental prosthesis. Figures 5A-5C show a system in which four dental abutments 100 are used to support a single dental prosthesis 114. In another example, dental abutments can be formed with the features described above but with the post set at angle relative to the coronal portion. Figures 6A and 6B show a dental abutment 400 in which an axis 124' of the post 120 set at angle relative to an axis 124'' of the coronal portion 123. Consequently, the claims are to be construed as embracing each and every novel feature and novel combination of features presented in or possessed by the apparatus and techniques herein disclosed.

[0041] There has been described novel apparatus and techniques in connection with dental implanting. It is evident that those skilled in the art may make numerous modifications of and departures from the specific apparatus and techniques herein disclosed without departing from the inventive concepts. Consequently, the invention is to be construed as embracing each and every novel concept and combination of concepts disclosed herein and limited only by the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A dental abutment extending from an apical end to a coronal end along a longitudinal axis, the dental abutment comprising:

a retention element with a base oriented towards the apical end of the dental implant and a shoulder oriented towards the coronal end of the dental abutment, the shoulder oriented at an angle of at least  $12.5^\circ$  relative to a plane that is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis such that the perimeter of the retention element increases with increasing distance from the coronal end of the dental abutment through the region of the shoulder;

a post extending from the apical end of the dental abutment to the base of the retention element; and

a head extending from the coronal end of the dental abutment to the shoulder of the retention element, the head having a cone angle between  $2.5^\circ$  and  $3.5^\circ$ .

2. The dental abutment of claim 1, wherein the head defines two anti-rotational grooves on diametrically opposite sides on the coronal end.

3. The dental abutment of claim 2, wherein each groove extends from the coronal end towards the apical end and is configured to receive a securing element on a prosthesis which has a conical support face.

4. The dental abutment of claim 1, wherein the post has an apical taper angle between  $1.1^\circ$  and  $1.6^\circ$ .

5. The dental abutment of claim 1, wherein the angle of the shoulder relative to the plane that is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis is between  $0^\circ$  and  $20^\circ$ .

6. The dental abutment of claim 5, wherein the angle of the shoulder relative to the plane that is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis is greater than  $10^\circ$ .

7. The dental abutment of claim 6, wherein the angle of the shoulder relative to the plane that is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis is greater than  $12.5^\circ$ .

8. The dental abutment of claim 7, wherein the angle of the shoulder relative to the plane that is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis is greater than  $15^\circ$ .

9. The dental abutment of claim 1, wherein a perimeter taken in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis increases monotonically from the coronal end to a margin defined between the base and the shoulder.

10. The dental abutment of claim 9, wherein the head comprises a bevel at the coronal end, a cylindrical portion adjacent the retention element, and an angled portion extending between the bevel and the cylindrical portion.

11. The dental abutment of claim 10, wherein the angled portion has a length from the bevel to the cylindrical portion and a cone angle such that all edges of the dental abutment can be seen when scanned from above.

12. The dental abutment of claim 1, wherein the dental abutment provides an approximation of a hemispherical contour in the base of the retention element.

13. The dental abutment of claim 1, wherein the head has a grit-blasted roughened surface to facilitate prosthetic retention.

14. The dental abutment of claim 1, wherein the head has asperities of between 100 and 300 microns in size.

15. A dental implant abutment comprising a geometric shape that provides for being readily imaged such that the position of the abutment relative to the implant and surrounding tissues can be recorded accurately either by conventional dental techniques or by digital scanning techniques without adjustments or interpretations.

16. The dental abutment of claim 15, wherein the abutment has a coronal portion for supporting a prosthesis attached to a post for seizing, galling or cold welding in a dental implant by a locking taper conical portion and hemispheric portion of length less than the combined length of the prosthetic head and post portion; and the hemispherical portion having a sloping shoulder with a surface that forms a small angle with a perpendicular to the cylindrical surface.

17. The dental abutment of claim 16, wherein the post has an apical taper angle between  $1.1^\circ$  and  $1.6^\circ$ .

18. The dental abutment of claim 15, wherein the angle of the shoulder relative to the plane that is perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the abutment is between 0° and 20°.

19. The dental abutment of claim 18, wherein a perimeter taken in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis increases monotonically from the coronal end to a margin defined between the base and the shoulder.

20. The dental abutment of claim 15, wherein a single design of conventional recording sleeve configuration suffices for registering multiple different abutment dimensions.

21. The dental abutment of claim 15, wherein the dental abutment of different dimensions cooperates with conventional dental impression material to record multiple different abutment dimensions and be represented prosthetically with a single abutment analog or die.

22. The dental abutment of claim 15, wherein the dental abutment allows for one relative position of a given configuration above an implant regardless of the implant's axial position in bone.

23. The dental abutment of claim 15, wherein the dental abutment allows for the consistent approximation of a hemispherical contour in proximity to the periosteum to stimulate bone growth.

24. The dental abutment of claim 15, wherein the dental abutment permits the use of guide pin of a single height regardless of an implant's depth within the bone.

25. A dental prosthesis system comprising:

a plurality of dental abutments as per claim 1, each dental abutment comprising:

a retention element with a base oriented towards the apical end of the dental implant and a shoulder oriented towards the coronal end of the dental abutment, the shoulder oriented at an angle of at least 12.5° relative to a plane that is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis such that the perimeter of the retention element

increases with increasing distance from the coronal end of the dental abutment through the region of the shoulder;

a post extending from the apical end of the dental abutment to the base of the retention element; and

a head extending from the coronal end of the dental abutment to the shoulder of the retention element, the head having a cone angle between  $2.5^\circ$  and  $3.5^\circ$ ,

wherein the plurality of dental abutments includes dental abutments with heads that have different configurations.

26. The dental prosthesis system of claim 25, comprising a set of transfer impression sleeves, waxing sleeves, temporization sleeves.

27. The dental abutment of claim 25, wherein the angle of the shoulder relative to the plane that is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis is between  $12.5^\circ$  and  $20^\circ$ .

28. The dental abutment of claim 25, wherein a perimeter taken in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis increases monotonically from the coronal end to a margin defined between the base and the shoulder.

29. The dental abutment of claim 28, wherein the head comprises a bevel at the coronal end, a cylindrical portion adjacent the retention element, and an angled portion extending between the bevel and the cylindrical portion.

30. The dental abutment of claim 29, wherein the angled portion has a length from the bevel to the cylindrical portion and a cone angle such that all edges of the dental abutment can be seen when scanned from above.

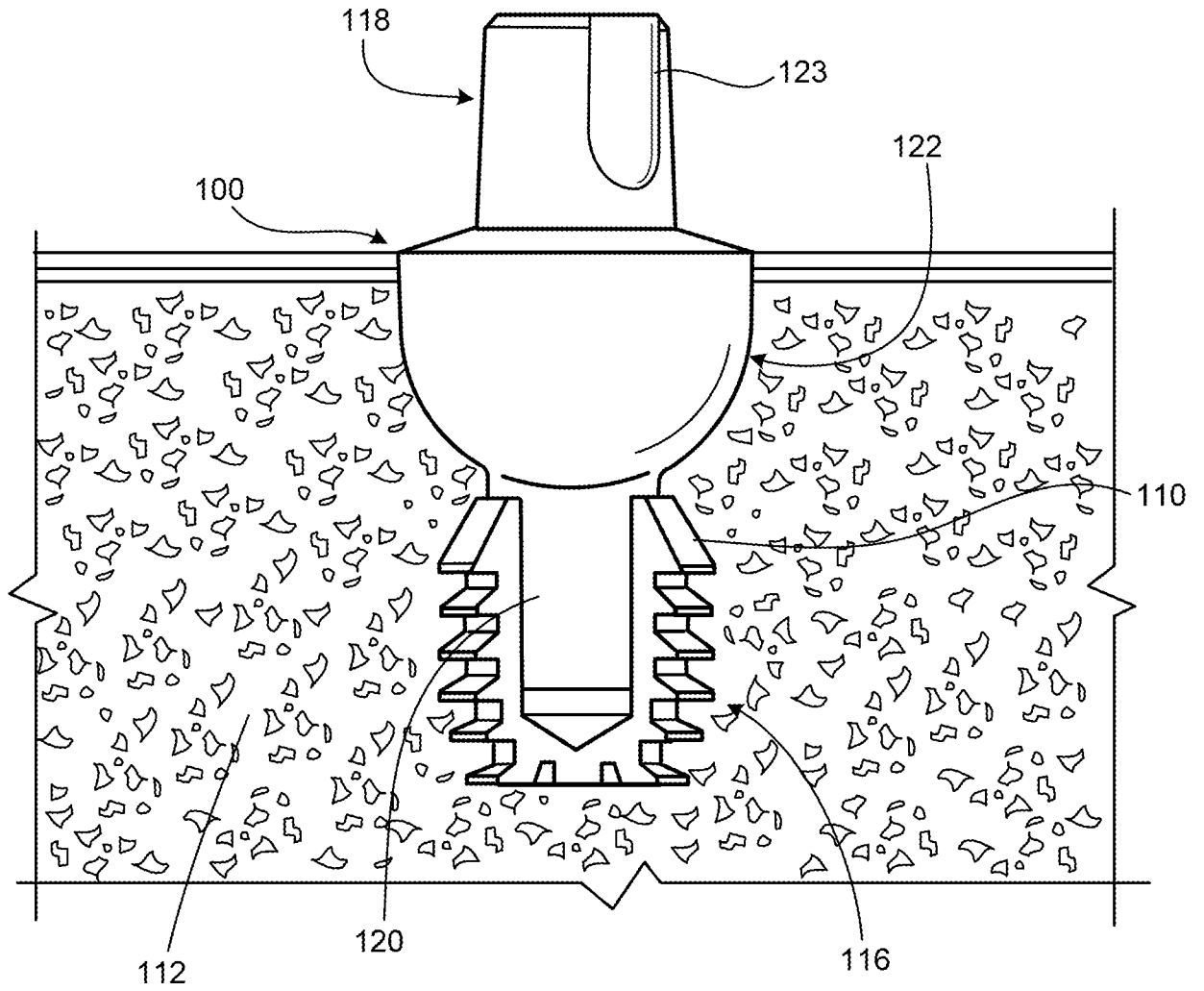


FIG. 1A

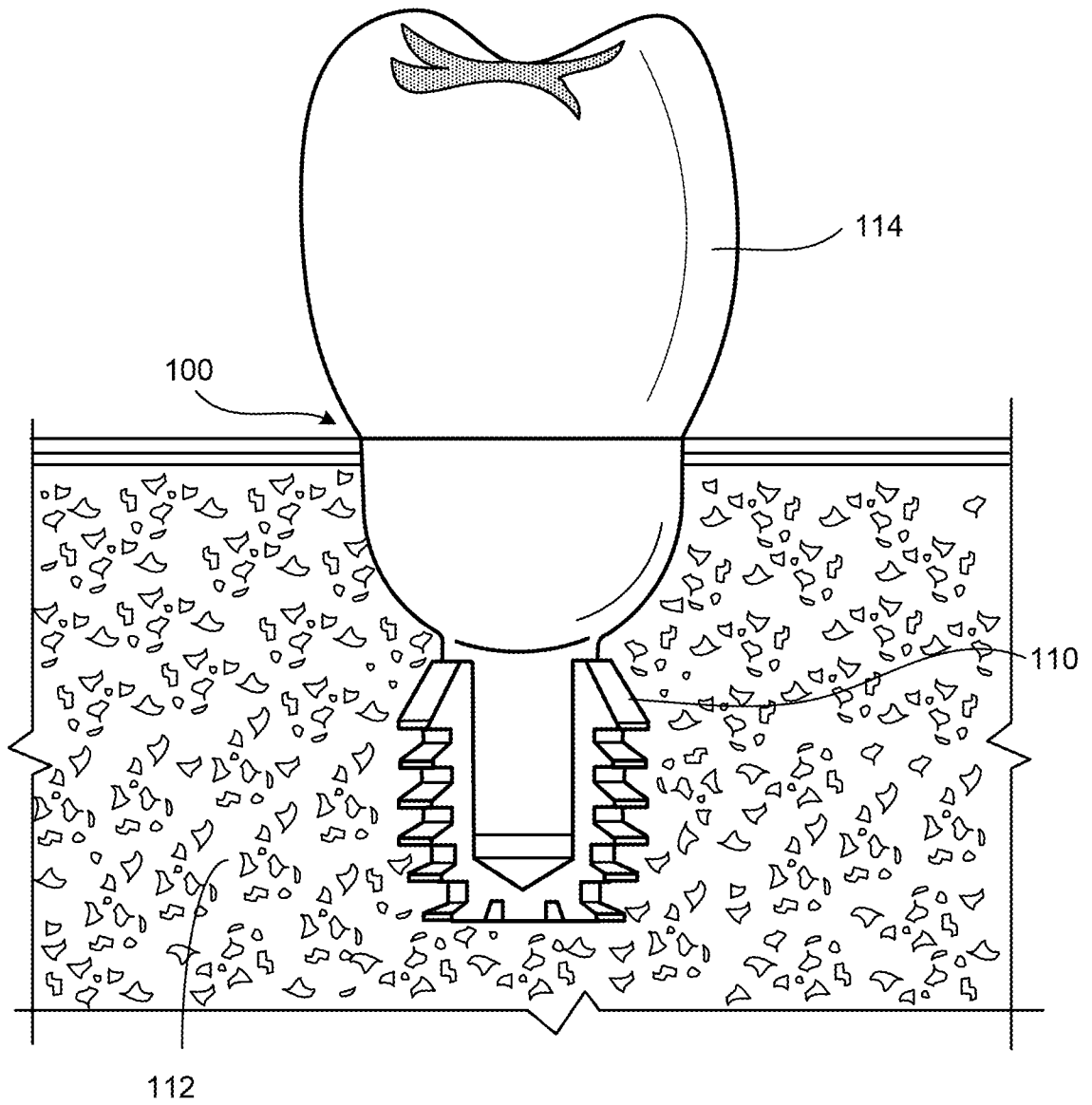


FIG. 1B

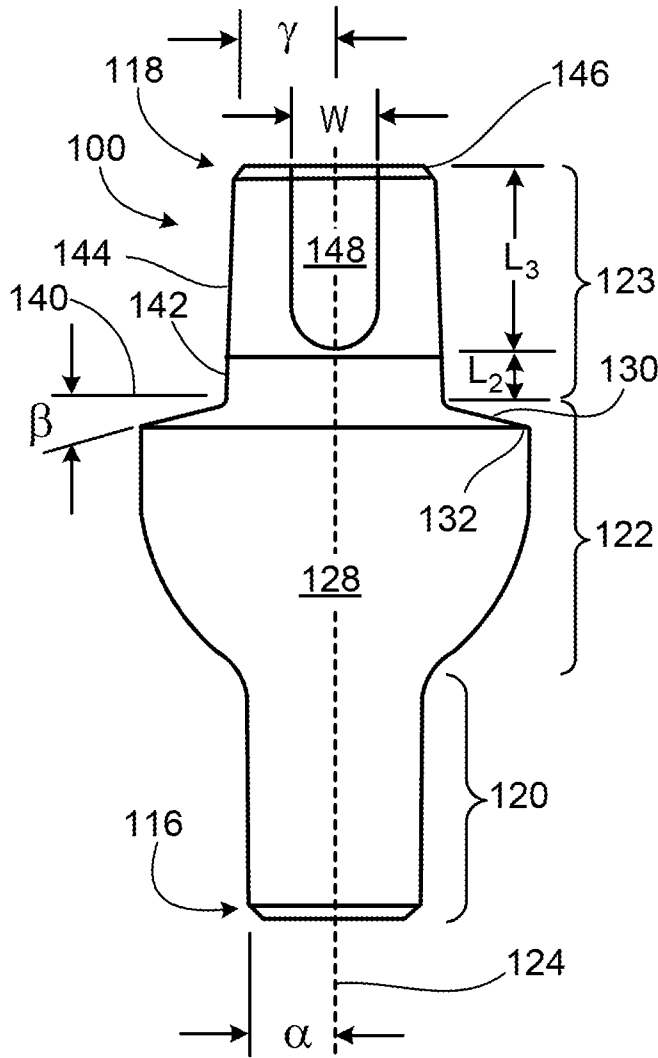


FIG. 2A

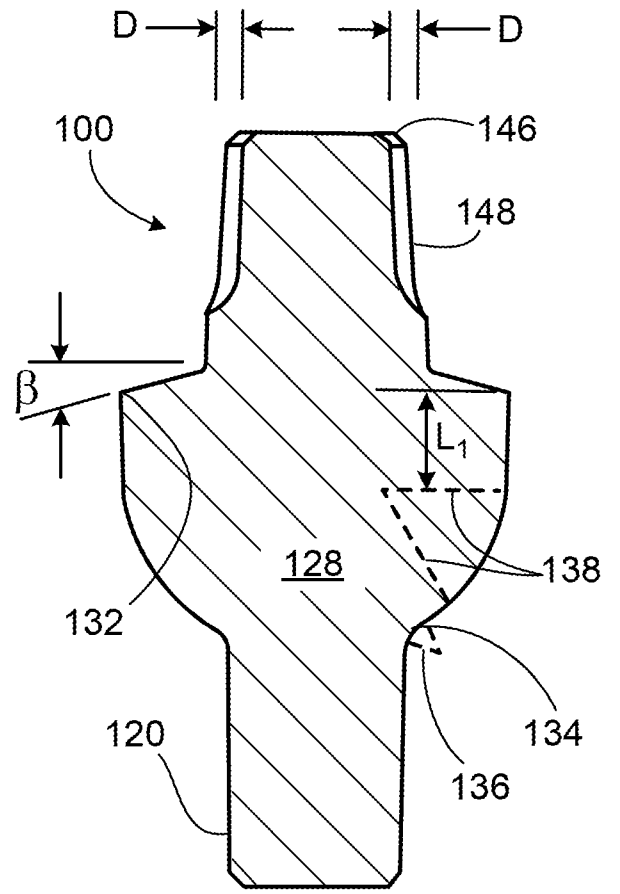


FIG. 2B

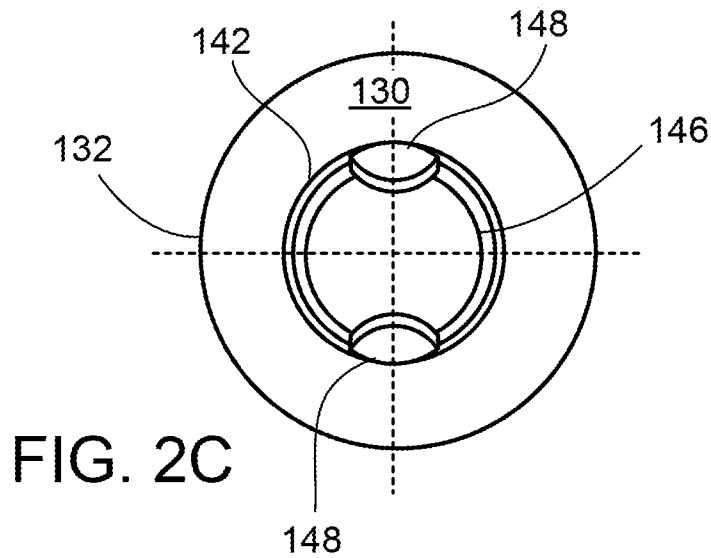


FIG. 2C

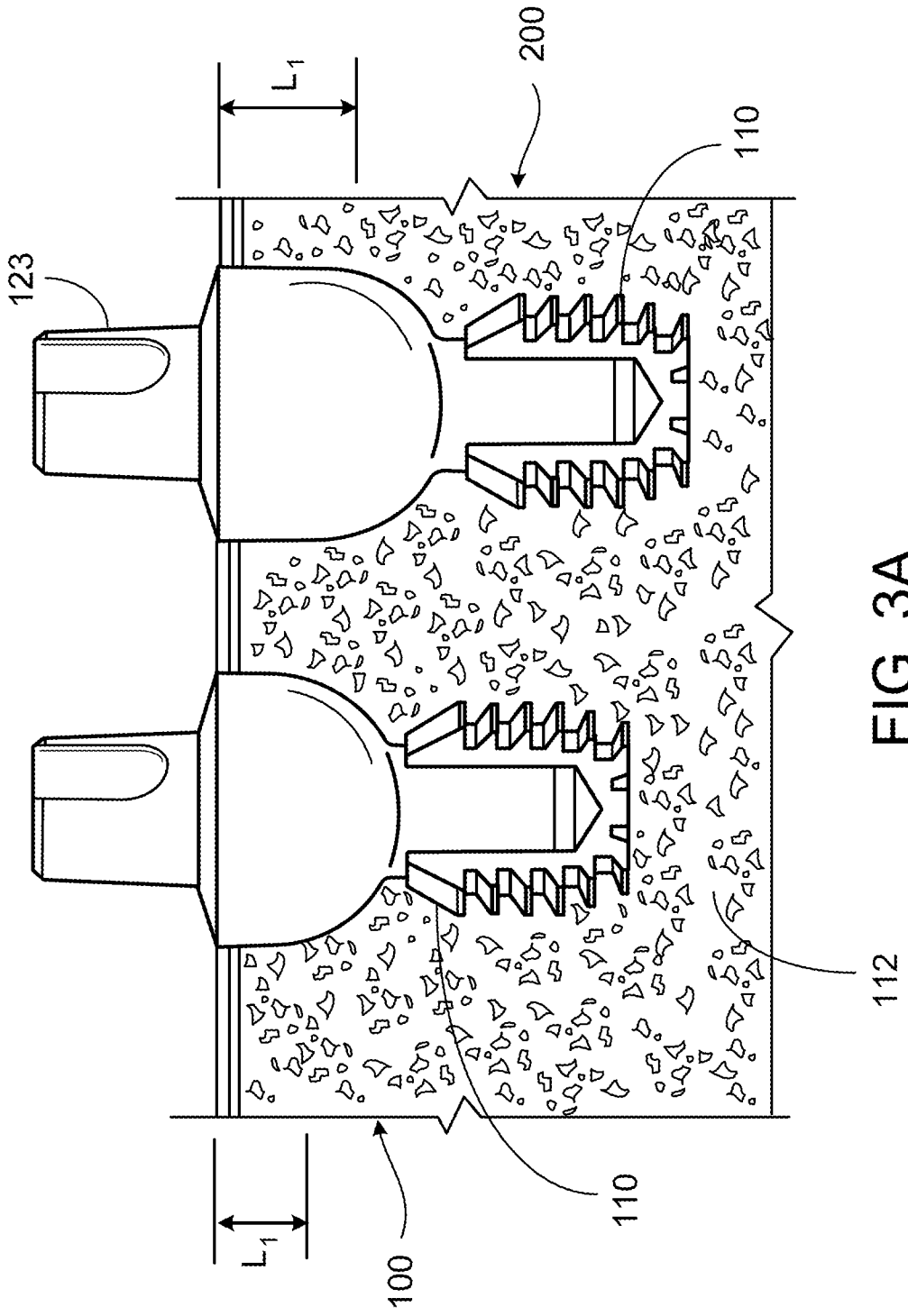


FIG. 3A

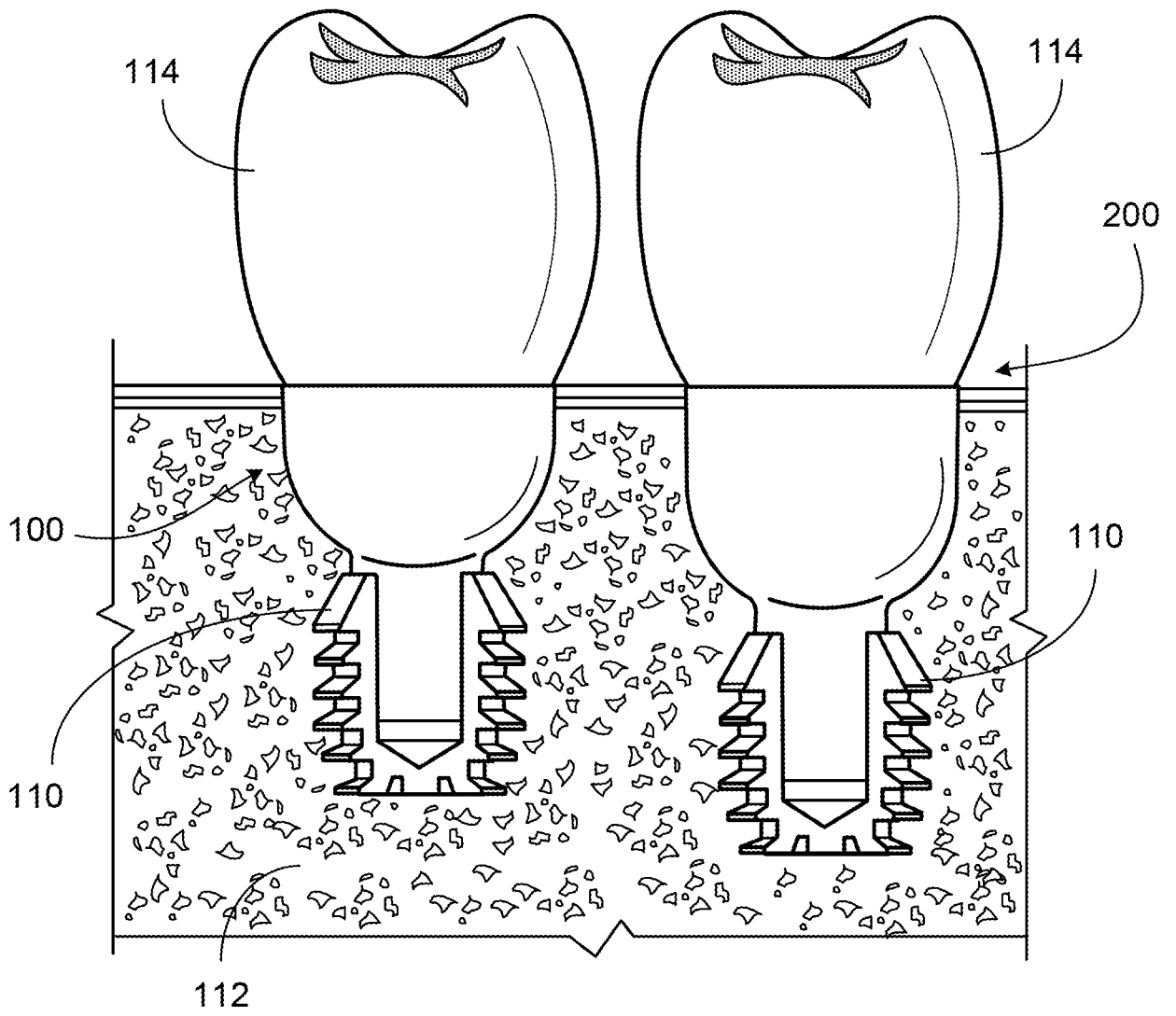


FIG. 3B

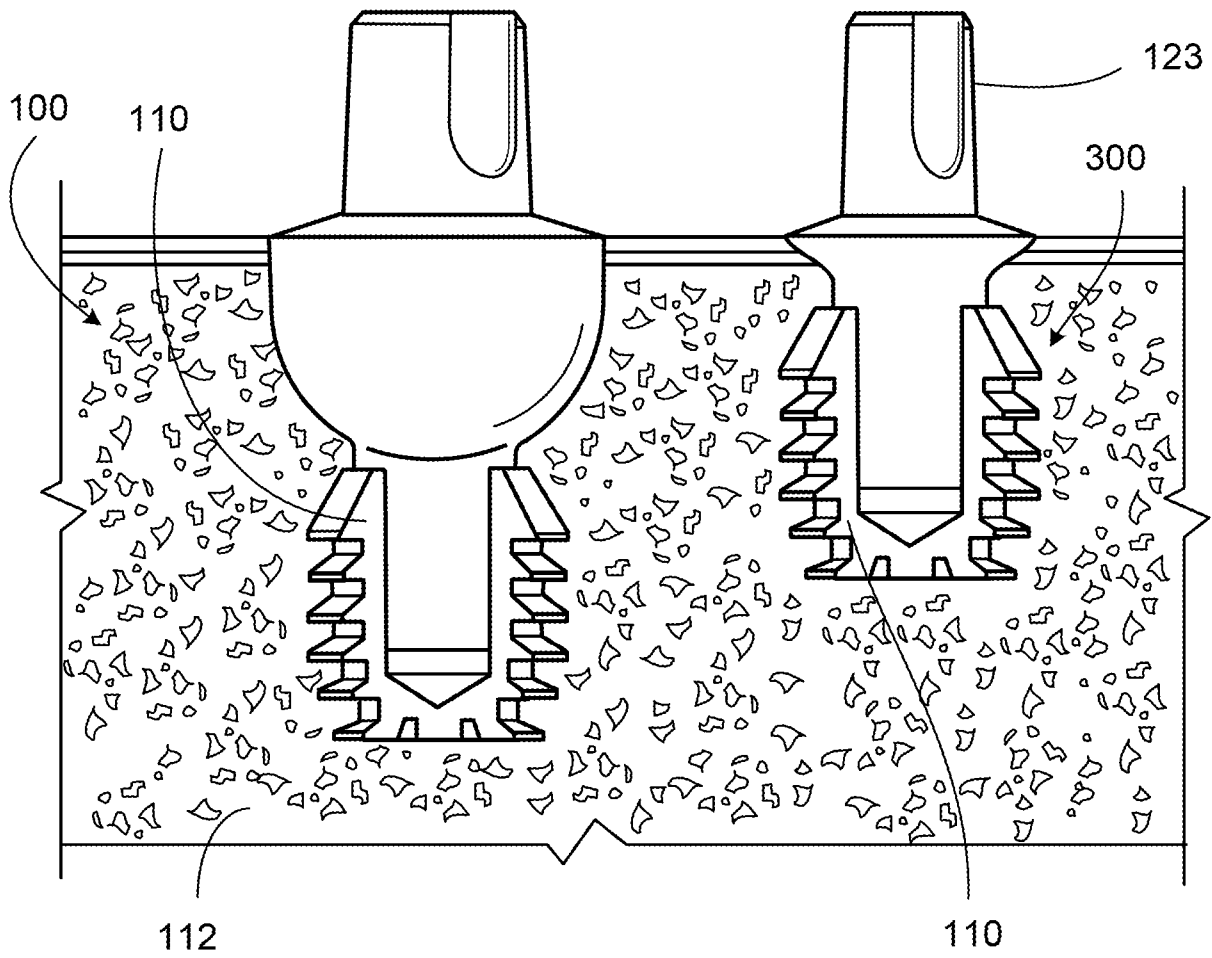


FIG. 4A

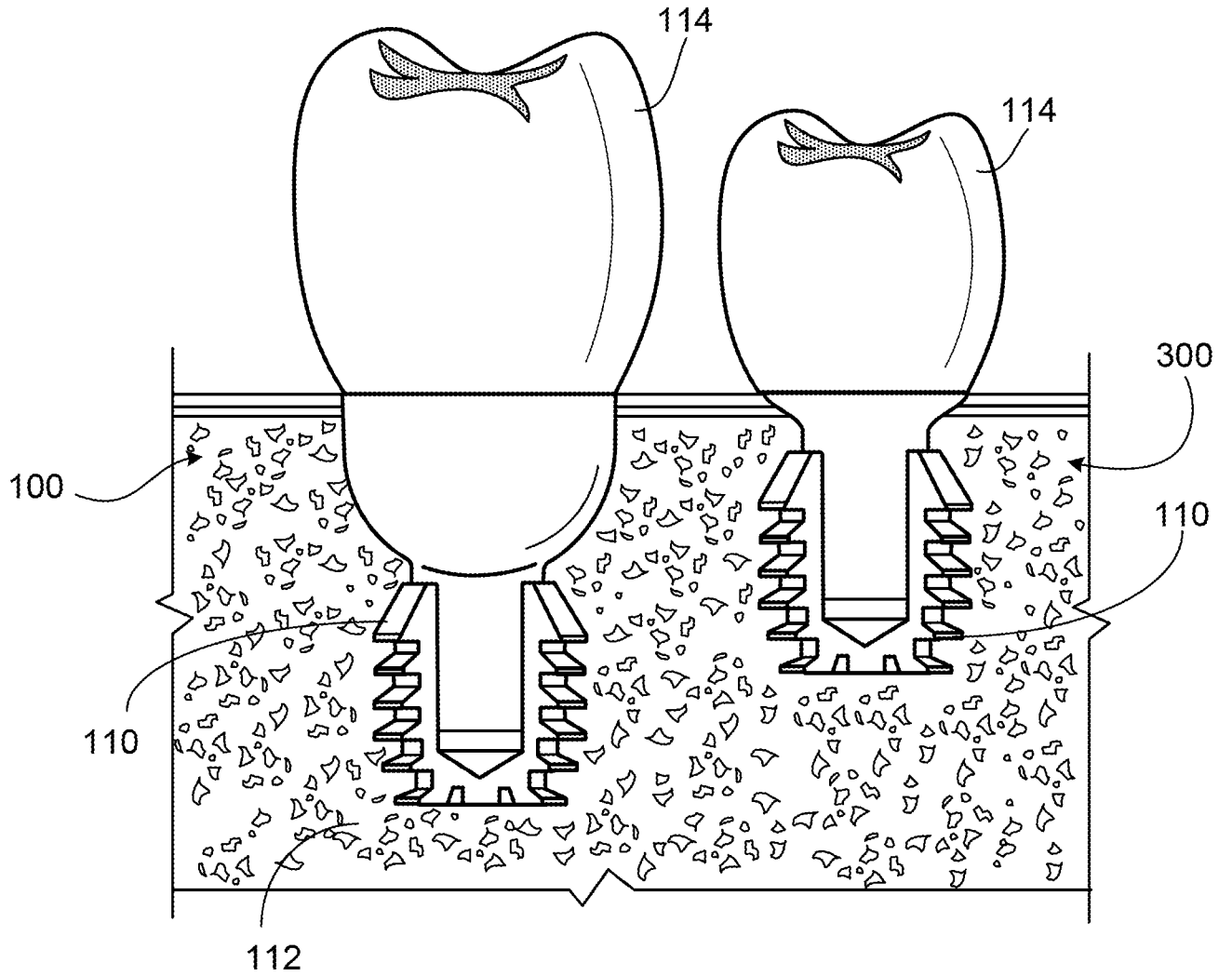


FIG. 4B

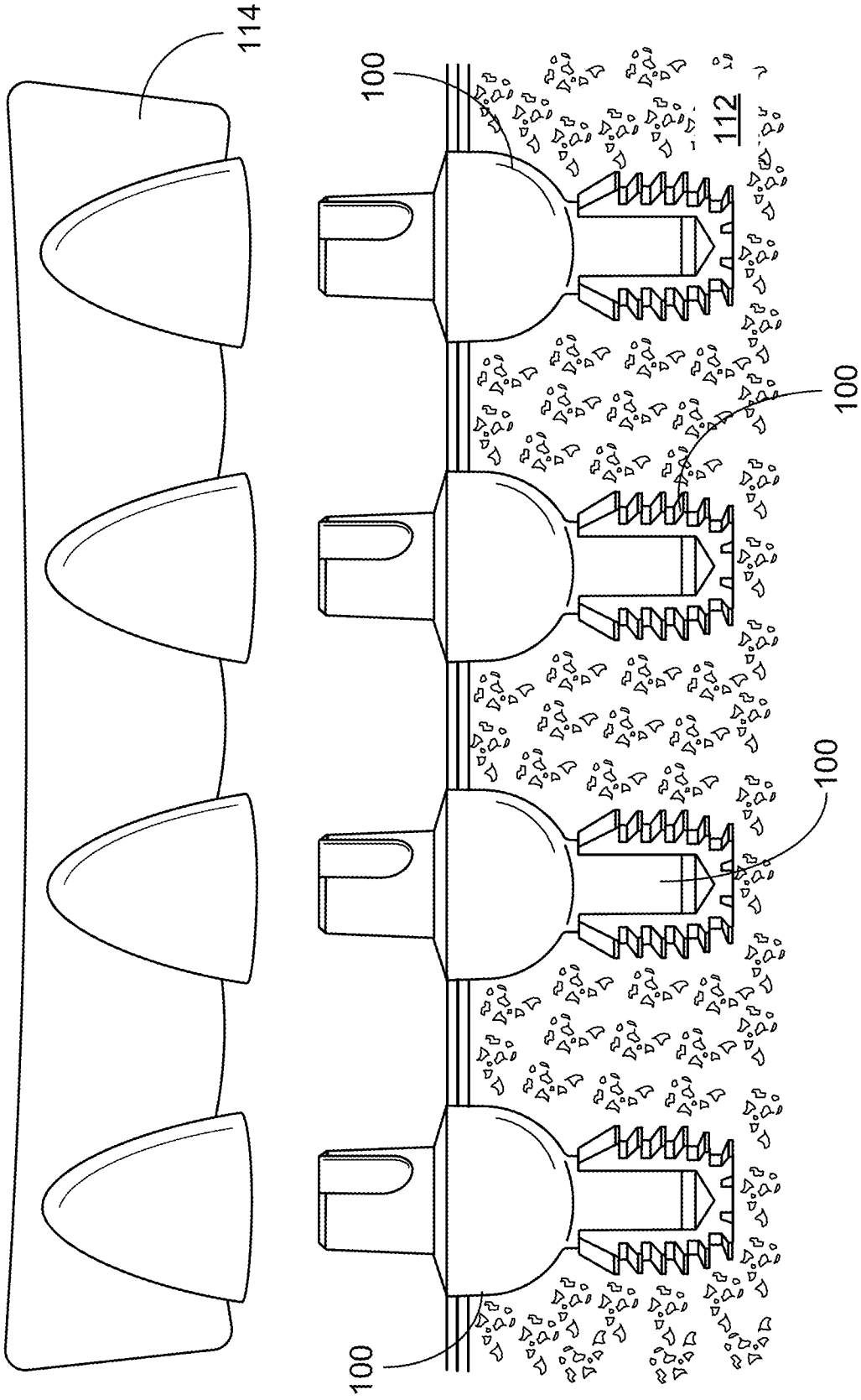
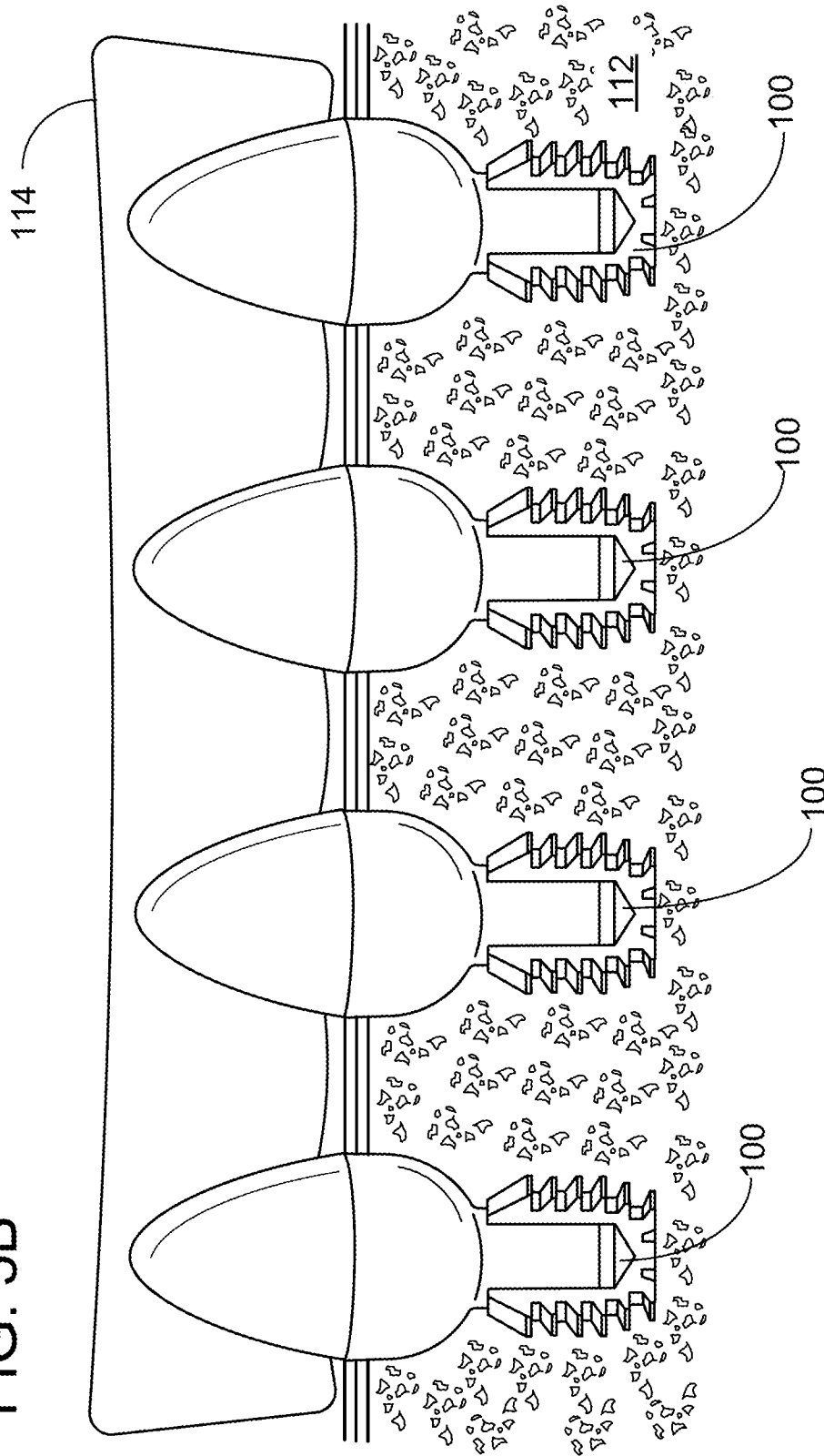
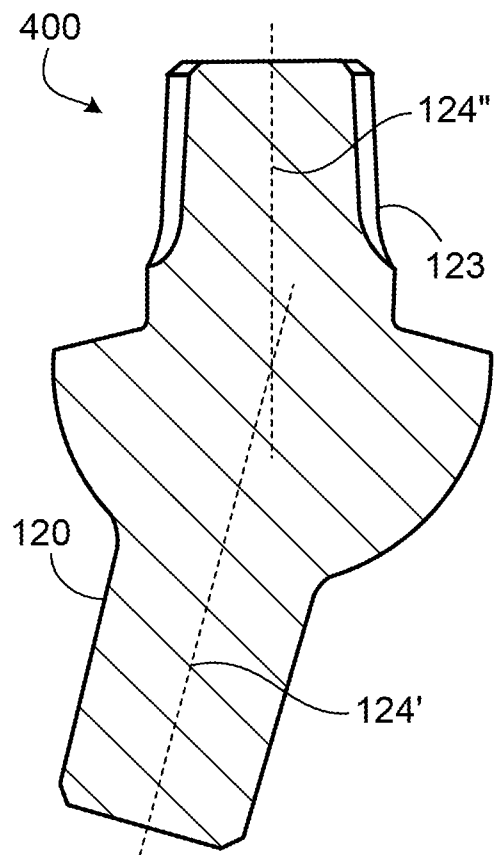
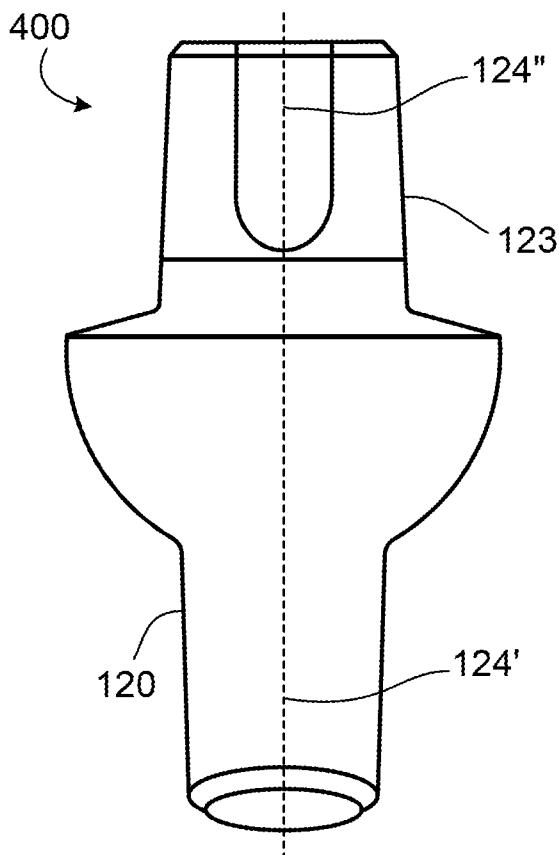
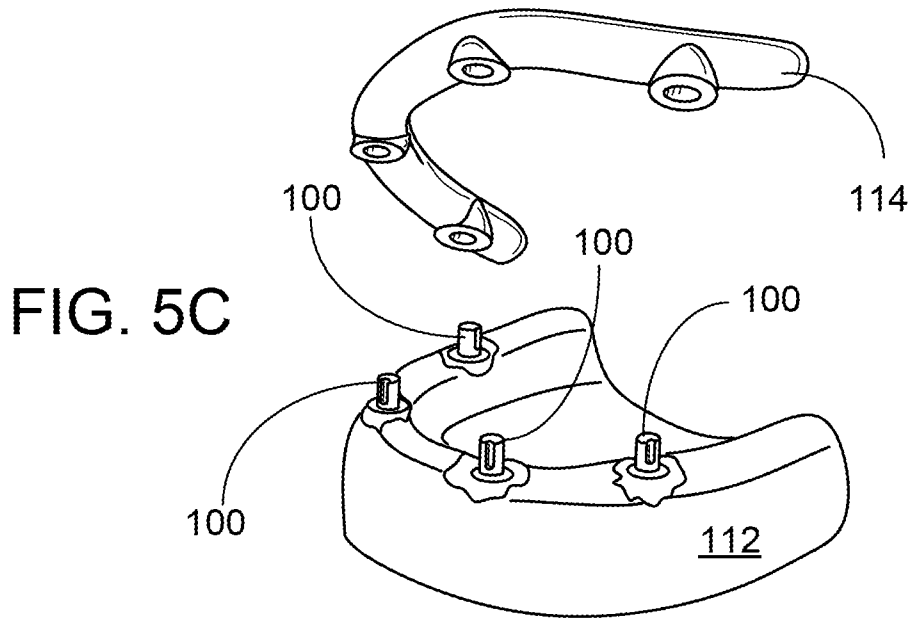


FIG. 5A

FIG. 5B





## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US16/12520

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61C 8/00, 9/00, 13/08, 13/093, 13/10, 13/225 (2016.01)

CPC - A61C 8/0054, 8/0069

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): A61C 8/00, 9/00, 13/08, 13/093, 13/10, 13/225 (2016.01)

CPC: A61C 8/0054, 8/0069; USPC: 433/172, 173

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)

PatSeer (US, EP, WO, JP, DE, GB, CN, FR, KR, ES, AU, IN, CA, INPADOC Data); Google; Google Scholar; Google Patent; EBSCO.  
Search terms: Dental\*, Oral\*, Abut\*, Reten\*, Exten\*, Shoulder\*, Shelf\*, Post\*, Shaft\*, Head\*, Implant\*, Prosth\*, Crown\*, Dentur\*, Angle\*, Degree\*

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X -- Y	US 2003/0082499 A1 (HALLDIN, A, et al.) May 1, 2003; abstract; figures 1a-e, 10c; paragraphs [0073], [0077]-[0080], [0083], [0086], [0090], [0149], [0157], [0162]	1, 9, 10, 25, 28-29 ----- 2-8, 11-14, 26-27, 30
Y	US 2011/0229850 A1 (BRETTON, JN, et al.) September 22, 2011; figures 2-4; paragraphs [0028], [0033]	2-3
Y	US 6290500 B1 (MORGAN, VJ, et al.) September 18, 2001; abstract; figure 3; column 2, lines 35-50; column 5, lines 20-65; column 6, lines 7-34	4-8, 12, 26-27
Y	US 2012/0035889 A1 (LAWITSCHKA, U, et al.) February 9, 2012; figure 2a; paragraphs [0014], [0026]	11, 30
Y	US 2005/0244789 A1 (CROHIN, CC, et al.) November 3, 2005; figure 6; paragraph [0030]	13-14

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

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&amp;" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 February 2016 (23.02.2016)

Date of mailing of the international search report

12 MAY 2016

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. 571-273-8300

Authorized officer

Shane Thomas

PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300  
PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US16/12520

**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 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.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
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 No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I: Claims 1-14, 25-30 are directed towards a dental abutment with a retention element with a base oriented towards the apical end of the dental implant and a shoulder oriented towards the coronal end of the dental abutment, the shoulder oriented at an angle of at least 12.5°.

Group II: Claims 15-24 are directed towards dental implant abutment comprising a geometric shape that provides for being readily imaged such that the position of the abutment relative to the implant and surrounding tissues can be recorded accurately.

-\*\*\*-Continued Within the Next Supplemental Box-\*\*\*-

1.  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 additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3.  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.:
  
4.  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.:  
1-14, 25-30

**Remark on Protest**

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**  
Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US16/12520

\*\*\*Continuation of Box No. III - Observations where unity of invention is lacking:\*\*\*

The inventions listed as Groups I-II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: the special technical features of Group I include a dental abutment comprising a head having a cone angle between 2.5 degrees and 3.5 degrees, which are not present in Group II; the special technical features of Group II include a dental implant abutment comprising a geometric shape that provides for being readily imaged such that the position of the abutment relative to the implant and surrounding tissues can be recorded accurately either by conventional dental techniques or by digital scanning techniques without adjustments or interpretations, which are not present in Group I.

The common technical features of Groups I and II are a dental abutment.

These common technical features are disclosed by US 2003/0082499 A1 to Halldin, et al. (hereinafter 'Halldin'). Halldin discloses a dental abutment (dental abutment 1; abstract; figures 1a-e; paragraph [0073]).

Since the common technical features are previously disclosed by the Halldin reference, the common features are not special and so Groups I and II lack unity.