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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **VERTI-FLEX, INC.** [US/US]; 1954 Kellogg Avenue, Suite 100, Carlsbad, CA 92008 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **HAYES, Stanley, Kyle** [US/US]; 26721 Magdalena Lane, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 (US). **REGLOS, Joey, Camia** [US/US]; 22896 Willard Avenue, Lake Forest, CA 92630 (US). **ALTARAC, Moti** [IL/US]; 67 Coriander, Irvine, CA 92603 (US). **KIM, Daniel, H.** [US/US]; 411 Los Ninos Way, Los Altos, CA 94022 (US). **FLAHERY, Christopher, J.** [US/US]; 242 Ipswich Road, Topsfield, MA 01983 (US).

(74) Agent: **LUKAS, Rimas**; Vertiflex, Inc., 1954 Kellogg Avenue, Suite 100, Carlsbad, CA 92008 (US).

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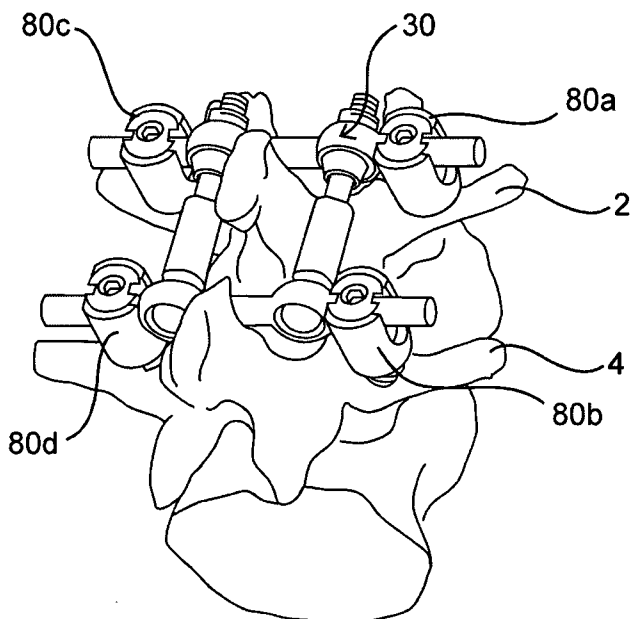
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(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR POSTERIOR DYNAMIC STABILIZATION OF THE SPINE

FIG. 4A



(57) Abstract: Systems and devices for dynamically stabilizing the spine are provided. The systems include a superior component for attachment to a superior vertebra of a spinal motion segment and an inferior component for attachment to an inferior vertebral of a spinal motion segment. The interconnection between the two components enables the spinal motion segment to move in a manner that mimics the natural motion of the spinal motion segment while substantially offloading the facet joints of the spine. Methods are also provided for stabilizing the spine and for implanting the subject systems.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US07/11597

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC: **A61B 17/70** (2006.01)

USPC: 606/257

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. : 606/257, 246,250,279

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 --- Y	US 2002/0133155 A1 (Ferree) 19 September 2002 (19.9.2002), paragraphs 39-47	77-79,81,84,92-95 ----- 83
X --- Y	US 5437669 (Yuan et al.) 1 August 1995 (1.8.1995), column 4-7.	1,2,5,7,27,34,35,44,50, 51,53-56,58,70,71 ----- 3,4,13,14,33,74,75
X --- Y	US 2006/0036240 A1 (Colleran et al.) 16 February 2006 (16.2.2006), entire document.	77,78,90-92,96,97,100- 112,115-117,120-124, 127-136 ----- 98,99,113,114,118,119, 125,126

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Authorized officer

Eduardo Robert

Telephone No. 571-272-3472

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

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

Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201