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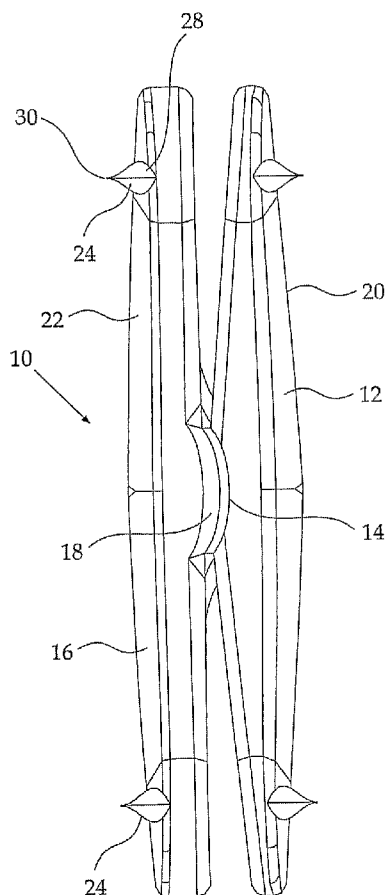
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): IMPLI-
ANT LTD. [IL/IL]; 43 Hamelacha Street, P.O.Box 8630,
42504 Ramat-poleg (IL).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ARNIN, Uri
[IL/IL]; 1 Ha'amelim Street, 36089 Kiryat Tivon (IL).
FLEISCHER, Shai [IL/IL]; 9A Beit Lechem Street,
35565 Haifa (IL).
- (74) Agent: KLEIN, David; Beit HaRof'im, 18 Menuha VeNa-
hala Street, Room 27, 76209 Rehovot (IL).
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: FIXATION OF SPINAL PROSTHESIS



(57) Abstract: An endoprosthesis (10) including first and second attachment surfaces (20,22) for attachment to spinal structure, and a fixation element (24) rotatably disposed in at least one of the attachment surfaces, the fixation element being rotatable between a stowed position, wherein the fixation element does not substantially protrude from the at least one of the attachment surfaces, and a deployed position, wherein the fixation element does substantially protrude from the at least one of the attachment surfaces for entering and being fixed to the spinal structure.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61F2/44

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)

A61F

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 609 635 A (MICHELSON GARY K [US]) 11 March 1997 (1997-03-11) figures 31,32 column 12, line 36 - line 57	1-3,5,6, 8,9
X	FR 2 846 876 A1 (RAZIAN HASSAN [FR]) 14 May 2004 (2004-05-14) figures page 3, line 33 - page 4, line 32 page 7, line 5 - page 8, line 7	1-4,7-10
X	US 6 179 873 B1 (ZIENTEK BERNHARD [DE]) 30 January 2001 (2001-01-30) figures 1-8,18-20,22-30 column 4, line 40 - column 5, line 15	1,2,8

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 document 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.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

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Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Stach, Rainer

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IL2007/000401

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:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an 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.:

see annex

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.

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-10

Apparatus comprising:

an endoprosthesis comprising first and second attachment surfaces for attachment to spinal structure; and a fixation element rotatably disposed in at least one of said attachment surfaces, said fixation element being rotatable between a stowed position, wherein said fixation element does not substantially protrude from said at least one of said attachment surfaces, and a deployed position, wherein said fixation element does substantially protrude from said at least one of said attachment surfaces for entering and being fixed to the spinal structure, wherein said fixation element comprises a driver interface for turning by means of a manipulating tool.

2. claims: 11-20

An endoprosthesis comprising:

a first articulating member formed with a generally concave articulating surface;
and a second articulating member formed with a generally convex articulating surface which articulates with said concave articulating surface, said first and second articulating members each having a generally planar attachment surface for attachment to spinal structure;
a fixation element rotatably disposed in at least one of said attachment surfaces, said fixation element being rotatable between a stowed position, wherein said fixation element does not substantially protrude from said at least one of said attachment surfaces, and a deployed position, wherein said fixation element does substantially protrude from said at least one of said attachment surfaces for entering and being fixed to the spinal structure.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

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