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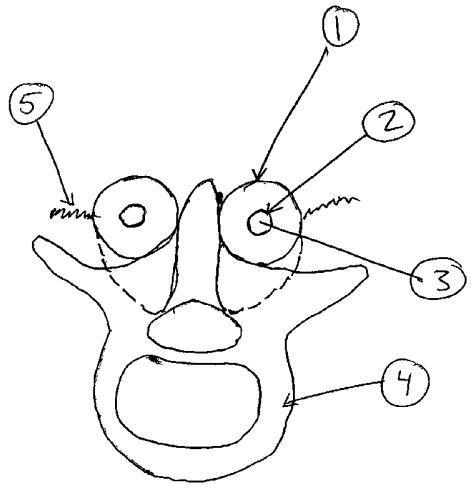
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METAL-BACKED UHMPE ROD SLEEVE SYSTEM PRESERVING SPINAL MOTION

KEY PATENTABLE PART IS Metal-Backed UHMWPE ROD SLEEVE



(57) Abstract: A spinal rod sleeve system comprises attachment anchors having a plastic (preferably UHMWPE) sleeve which at least partially encircles a spinal rod, so as to allow a vertebra to slide cephalad or caudad along the spinal rod sleeve system. Preferably, said sleeve has a metal backed exterior surface, said rod has a hard outer surface suitable for gliding within said sleeve. The system helps preserve range of motion following spinal surgery.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US03/26333

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 17/70
US CL : 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. : 606/53, 54, 56, 58, 60, 61

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)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,413,576 A (RIVARD) 9 May 1995, Figs. 3-4 and col. 4, lines 41-46.	1-3, 5-10, 15, 18
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Y		4, 16, 17
A	US 4,369,769 A (EDWARDS) 25 January 1983, all.	

☐ 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

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

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"&" document member of the same patent family

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:
EAST
search terms: spine, spinal, rod, sleeve, UHMWPE, ultra, high, molecular, weight, polyethylene, plastic, non-metallic