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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: METHODS FOR USING GADOLINIUM AS A CONTRAST MEDIA

(57) Abstract: Disclosed herein are methods of using gadolinium as a contrast substance. Preferred embodiments of the method use gadolinium to localize placement of a needle for an injection of a substance. The preferred method includes injecting gadolinium into a target portion of a spinal area to create a contrast between the target portion and surrounding tissue and fluoroscopically creating a visualization of the contrast for guiding injection into the target portion of at least one of a diagnostic substance and a therapeutic substance. At least one of the diagnostic substance and the therapeutic substance is preferably then injecting into the target portion. In some aspects of the preferred embodiment, the placement of the needle is adjusted prior to injecting into the target portion at least one of the diagnostic substance and the therapeutic substance. Additional methods are disclosed herein, including for example, methods of using gadolinium to facilitate lumbar discography



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/14384

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61K 51/00

US CL : 424/9.42, 9.4, 9.1, 1.65

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. : 424/9.42, 9.4, 9.1, 1.65

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.
Y	US 5,865,184 A (TAKIGUCHI) 02 February 1999 (02.02.1999), see abstract and column 5, lines 40+.	1-19
Y	US 6,366,801 B1 (CASH, JR. et al) 02 April 2002 (02.04.2002), see column 2, lines 60+ and column 8, lines 28+.	1-19



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



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"T"

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

APS

search terms: Gd, gadolinium, xray, radiology, radiography, imaging, fluoroscopy, fluoroscopically, spine, spinal, nerves, nervous, sacroiliac, lumbar, disc, epidural.