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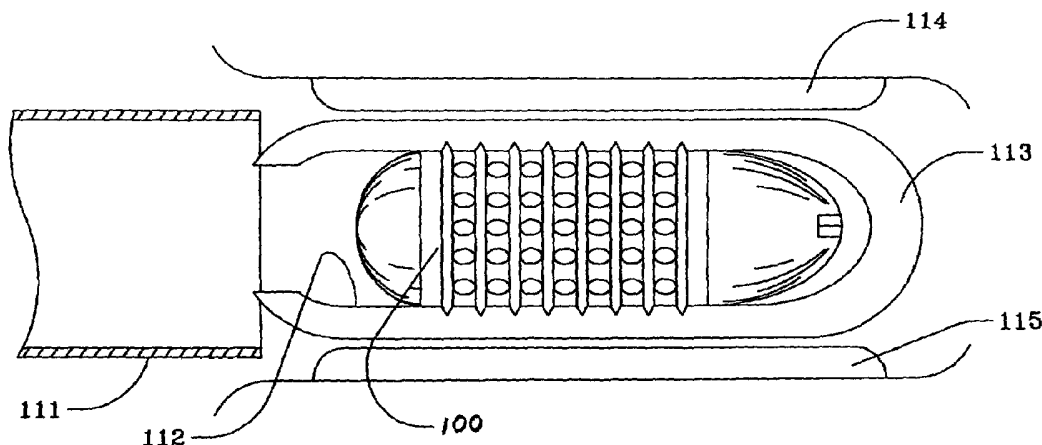
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(54) Title: DEVICES AND METHODS FOR MINIMALLY INVASIVE TREATMENT OF DEGENERATED SPINAL DISCS



(57) Abstract: Spinal stabilization devices (100) and their methods of insertion and use to treat degenerated lumbar, thoracic or cervical spinal discs in minimally invasive, outpatient procedures are described. The spinal stabilization device (100) which is an expandable cage made of a coil or perforated cylindrical tube has a bulbuous-shaped distal end and a rounded proximal end. The device (100) is inserted through a cannula (111) into a tunnel (112) created within the spinal disc (113). The spinal stabilization device is spaced between adjacent vertebrae (114 and 115).



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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61F 02/44

US CL : 623/17.11

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. : 623/17.11,17.16;606/61

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)

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 5,669,090 A (ZDEBLICK et al) 23 September 1997 (23.09.1997), column 9, lines 55-65 and Figures 2,3,8-10.	1-5,10,12,14-18,20-24,29,31,32,35 ----- 7,8,19
X --- Y	US 5,976,187 A (RICHELSON) 2 November 1999 (02.11.1999), column 3, lines 25+ and column 6, lines 41-42. Figures 1-5.	1,7-9,19,25,26,35 ----- 7,8,19
Y	US 5,693,100 A (PISHARODI) 02 December 1997 (02.12.1997), Figures 5-7.	6,27,28
A	US 6,120,502 A (MICHELSON) 19 September 2000 (19.09.2000), see entire disclosure and Figures.	1-35
X, P	US 6,558,386 B1 (CRAGG) 06 May 2003 (06.05.2003), column 18, lines 17-43.	30,33,34

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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

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