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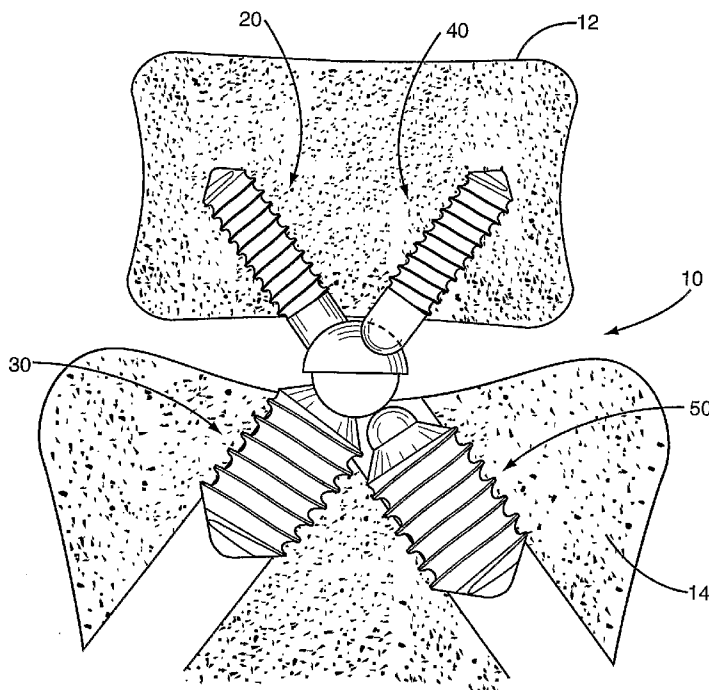
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: INTERVERTEBRAL JOINT



(57) Abstract: An intervertebral joint with one embodiment comprising a socket screw (20), a ball screw (30), and two support screws (40,50). The socket screw and ball screw form a socket joint between two vertebral members. A first support screw braces the socket screw. A second support screw braces the ball screw.

WO 2006/113256 A3

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US2006/013596

## Box 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.: **26-33**  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
**Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery**
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 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 all searchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
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.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. claims: 1-3, 14, 16, 17

An orthopedic device comprising:  
a threaded shaft having a longitudinal axis; and  
a ball socket connected to the threaded shaft and oriented  
at an angle to the  
longitudinal axis of the threaded shaft,  
the threaded shaft includes a longitudinally extending guide  
hole.

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2. claims: 4-11, 18-25

An orthopedic device assembly comprising:  
a socket screw including a threaded shaft and an angularly  
disposed ball socket;  
and  
a support screw including a shaft having seat formed in a  
first end thereof to engage and support said socket screw.

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3. claims: 12, 13, 15

An orthopedic device comprising:  
a threaded shaft; and  
a rounded head connected to one end of the threaded shaft;  
the rounded head be offset from a longitudinal centerline  
extending through the threaded shaft.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/US2006/013596

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 2005/033434 A1 (BERRY BRET M) 10 February 2005 (2005-02-10) figures 2, 6a-7b paragraph [0035] - paragraph [0039]	1,3,14, 16,17
Y	-----	2
X	US 5 993 486 A (TOMATSU ET AL) 30 November 1999 (1999-11-30) figures column 2, line 38 - column 3, line 17	1,3
A	-----	14,16,17
X	US 6 375 684 B1 (KRIEK HANS RUDOLF) 23 April 2002 (2002-04-23) figures 16-19 column 4, line 23 - line 59 -----	14
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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

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 August 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

17. 01. 2006

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4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/US2006/013596

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2002/038123 A1 (VISOTSKY JEFFREY L ET AL) 28 March 2002 (2002-03-28) figures paragraph [0026]	2
A	-----	1
A	DE 197 55 369 A1 (ASAHI KOGAKU KOGYO K.K., TOKIO/TOKYO, JP) 18 June 1998 (1998-06-18) figures 3,7c column 2, line 26 - line 30 column 3, line 31 - line 51 -----	1,2

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2006/013596

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