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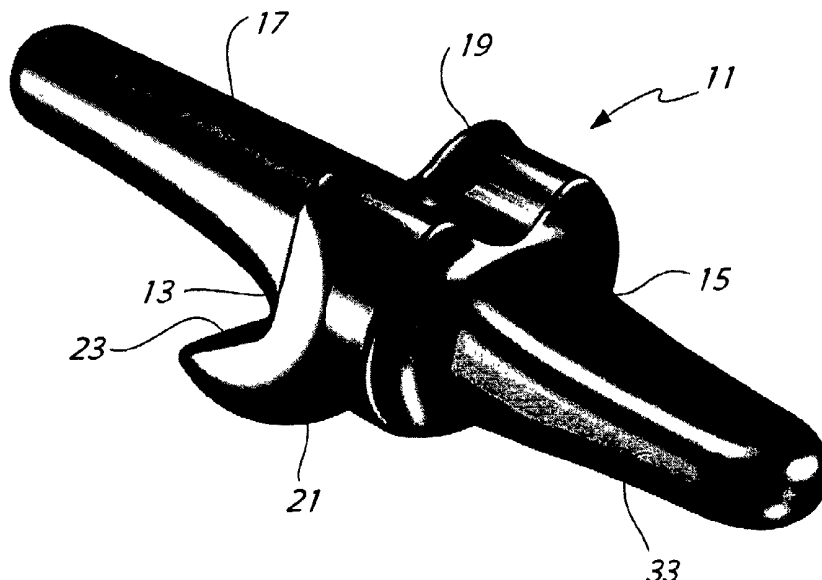
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(54) Title: INTERPHALANGEAL JOINT REPLACEMENT



(57) Abstract: First and second element (13, 15) that have mating heads (19, 31) form an interphalangeal joint prosthesis (11) that allows smooth articulation dorsal to volar. The first element head (19) has a proximal surface (23) defined by two intersecting planes, a stem portion (17) that extends longitudinally therefrom and a convex bicondylar articulating surface (21) having a central valley (27). The second element (15) has a biconcave articulating proximal surface which mates with the first element articulating surface (43) and a stem portion (33) that extends longitudinally from the distal surface thereof, with a notch (41) being formed in a dorsal surface of the head (31) at a location that does not disturb attachments to the dorsal tubercle or the function of the median band of the extensor expansion. Sets of such joint prostheses of varying sizes are provided which are designed so that adjacent sizes interfit. A method for treating a deteriorated PIP joint is described.



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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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)

IPC 7 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.
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

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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

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 782 927 A (OGILVIE WILLIAM F ET AL) 21 July 1998 (1998-07-21) cited in the application figures column 5, line 44 - line 54 -----	1, 15

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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