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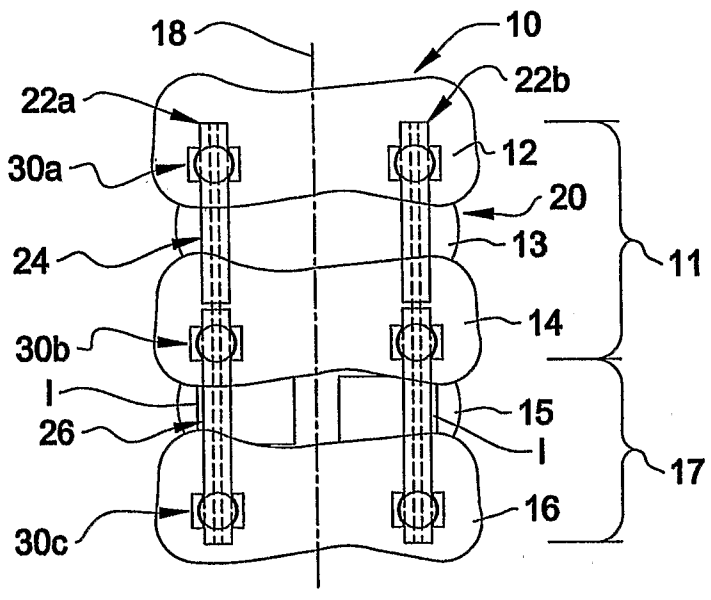
Declarations under Rule 4.17:
— *as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))*
— *as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))*

Published:
— *with international search report*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
24 May 2007

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: MULTI-LEVEL MULTI-FUNCTIONAL SPINAL STABILIZATION SYSTEMS AND METHODS



(57) Abstract: Systems and methods for multi-level, multi-functional stabilization of a spinal column segment are provided. The systems (20) include one or more constructs (22, 122, 222, 322, 422) having a motion preserving portion (40, 140, 240, 340, 440, 540, 640, 740, 840, 860, 870, 880) that permits motion of at least a portion of a vertebral level (11, 17) and a motion preventing portion (50, 250, 350, 450, 550, 650, 750, 850, 865, 875, 885) that substantially prevents motion of at least a portion of a second, adjacent vertebral level (11, 17).

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2006/023830

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61B17/70

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)
A61B

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, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	WO 2005/039454 A2 (BIEDERMANN MOTECH GMBH [DE]; BIEDERMANN LUTZ [DE]; MATTHIS WILFRIED [D) 6 May 2005 (2005-05-06) page 22, paragraph 5; figure 18 page 23, paragraph 5 - page 24, paragraph 1; figure 24	1-6,8, 11-13, 16-18 22
X	US 2005/038432 A1 (SHAOLIAN SAMUEL M [US] ET AL) 17 February 2005 (2005-02-17) paragraph [0105]	1,8,9
X	EP 1 488 751 A (ULRICH GMBH & CO KG [DE]) 22 December 2004 (2004-12-22) paragraph [0016]	14

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

[X] 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	Date of mailing of the international search report
12 February 2007	13/04/2007

Name and mailing address of the ISA/	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Angeli, Markus

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2005)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2006/023830

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 2005/030066 A (MATHYS MEDIZINALTECHNIK AG [CH]; HARTMANN STEPHAN [CH]; STUDER ARMIN [) 7 April 2005 (2005-04-07) page 5, paragraph 2 - page 6, paragraph 1; figure 2	22

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (April 2005)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2006/023830

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. [X] Claims Nos.: 23-27
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. [X] 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.:

Remark on Protest

[ ] The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

[X] 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: 1-3,11-15

   Spinal stabilisation system directed to passage through first and second bodies for connecting said parts by means of a separate flexible linking member.

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2. claims: 4-7,16,17

   Spinal stabilisation system directed to an integrally formed linking member for connection without a separate linking member.

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3. claims: 8-10,18-22

   Spinal stabilisation system directed to first and second bodies being connected by means of an form firing end-to-end engagement for enhancing friction between said bodies.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
PCT/US2006/023830

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2005039454 A2	06-05-2005	EP 1673048 A2	28-06-2006
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