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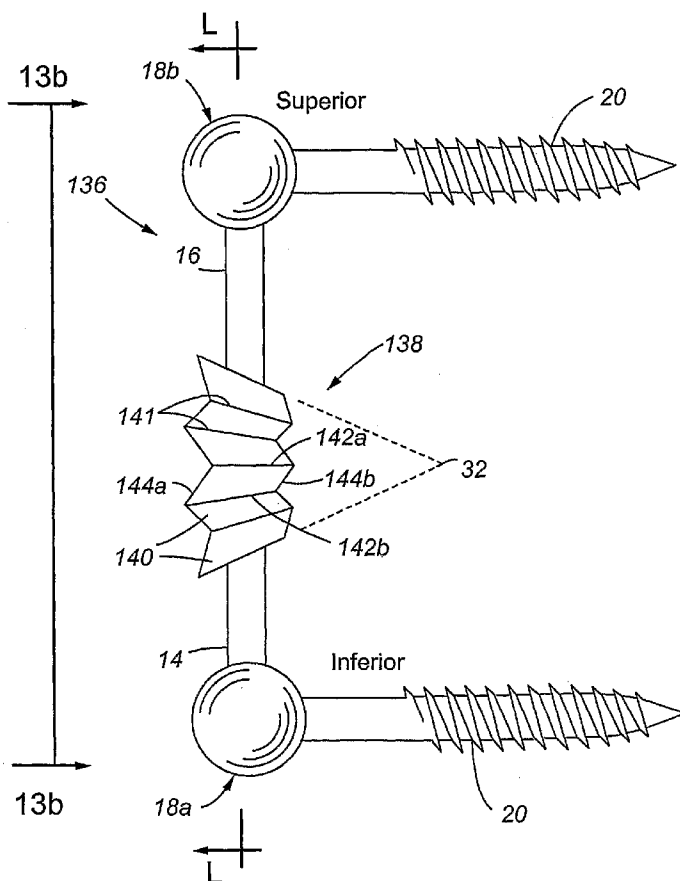
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(54) Title: DYNAMIC FIXATION DEVICE AND METHOD OF USE



(57) Abstract: A dynamic fixation device is provided that allows the vertebrae to which it is attached to move in flexion within the normal physiological limits of motion, while also providing structural support that limits the amount of translation motion beyond normal physiological limits. The present invention includes a flexible portion and two ends that are adapted for connection to pedicle screws. In at least one embodiment of the present invention, the normal axis of rotation of the vertebrae is substantially duplicated by the dynamic fixation device. The flexible portion of the dynamic fixation device can include a flexible anterior-posterior segment, an anterior-posterior segment bounded by one or more zones with cuts in the rod portions, a flexible accordion-like segment, and/or a hinge portion.

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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

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
 PubWEST (PGPB, USPT, USOC, EPAB, JPAB); DialogPRO (Engineering) and Google Scholar.  
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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 2004/0002708 A1 (RITLAND) 01 January 2004 (01.01.2004), fig. 4a - 4c, 7a - 7c, 8a, 9a - 9c; para [0016], [0022], [0029], [0063], [0067], [0072], [0073], [0079] - [0082], [0084], [0086] - [0088], [0097].	1 - 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 15, 16, 19 - 22, 25, 26, 29 - 32. ----- 4, 7, 8, 11 - 14
X	US 2003/0191470 A1 (RITLAND) 09 October 2003 (09.10.2003), fig. 3, 4; para [0022] - [0024], [0027], [0043], [0044], [0052], [0065].	17, 18, 23, 24, 27, 28.
Y	US 2002/0013586 A1 (JUSTIS et al) 31 January 2002 (31.01.2002) para [0052], fig 10, 11a, 11b	4, 11 - 14
Y	US 5,785,712 A (RUNCIMAN et al) 28 July 1998 (28.07.1998) Fig. 1 and col 3, ln 30; col 4, ln 17-22	7-8

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