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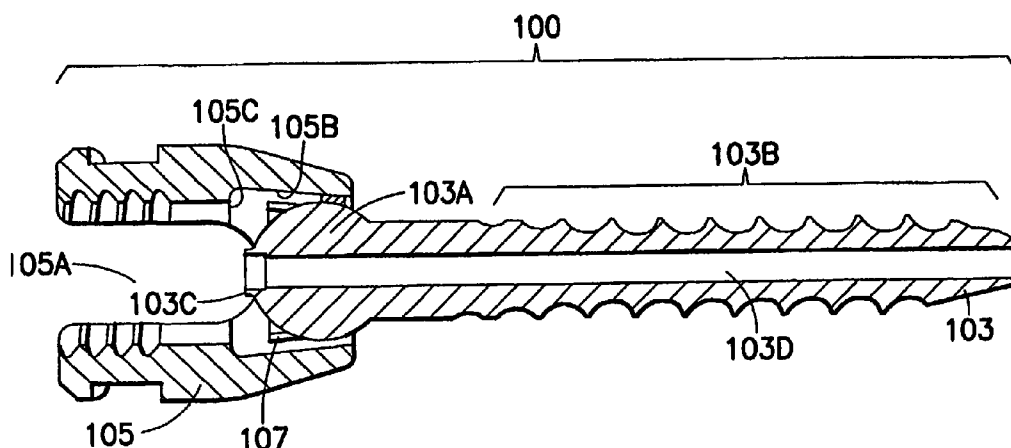
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(54) Title: MULTI-AXIAL CONNECTION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: In one embodiment of the present invention a system for connecting a fastener element (e.g., a pedicle screw) relative to a rod for the purposes of vertebral fixation is provided. The system may permit multi-axial movement between the fastener element and the rod. Further, the system may permit the angular relationship between the fastener element and the rod to be held in a desired orientation. For the purposes of describing and claiming the present invention, the term "rod" is intended to refer to any elongated structure. Such an elongated structure may be solid or hollow and may have any desired cross-section (e.g., circular, oval, square, rectangular). Further, for the purposes of describing and claiming the present invention, the term "interference fit" is intended to refer to physical contact between two or more components.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>  Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 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)				
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X	US 6,660,004 B2 (BARKER et al) 09 December 2003 (09.12.2003), entire disclosure.	1-40		
X	US 2004/0138662 A1 (LANDRY et al) 15 July 2004 (15.07.2004), entire disclosure.	1-40		
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.				
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