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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **ALIGN-MED, INC.** [US/US]; 2400 S. Pullman Street, Santa Ana, California 92705 (US).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **BROWN, Timothy, W.** [US/US]; 468 Bonvue Terrace, Laguna Beach, California 92651 (US).
- (74) Agent: **STOUT, Donald, E.**; Stout, Uxa, Buyan & Mullins, LLP., 4 Venture, Suite 300, Irvine, California 92618 (US).
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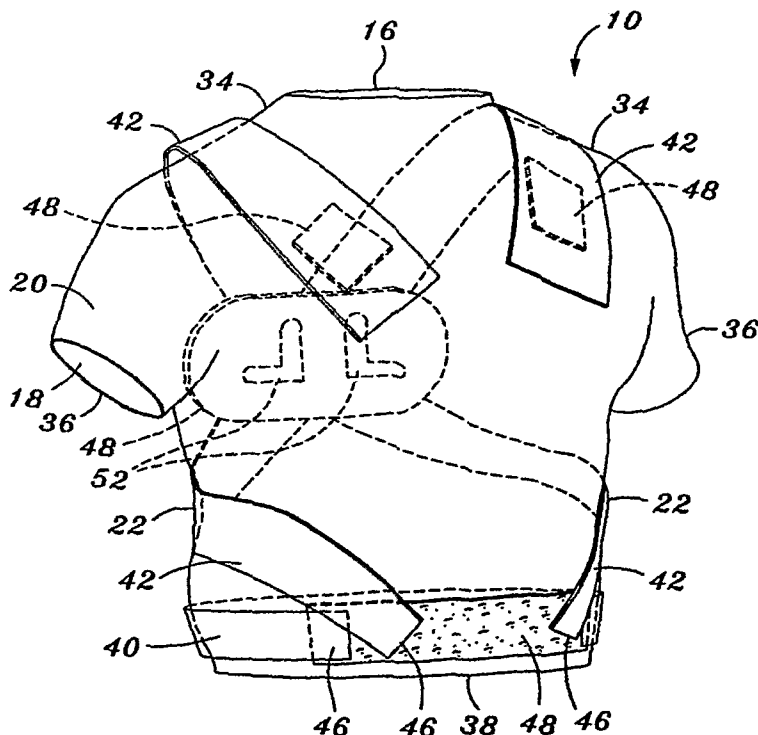
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(54) Title: POSTURE IMPROVEMENT DEVICE AND METHOD OF USE



(57) Abstract: A device for improving the posture of a patient comprises a garment and a pair of tension straps. The garment is configured to tightly envelop the patient's torso and the patient's upper arms. The garment has an inner surface, a front side, and a back side. The front side includes a chest portion. The back side includes a back portion. The garment defines opposing shoulder portions and a waist portion. The tension straps are releasably securable to the back portion in diagonal relation to one another. Each one of the tension straps has opposed free ends that extend upwardly from the back portion to the chest portion and downwardly to the waist portion. The device includes viscoelastic pads releasably mounted on the inner surface of the garment, generally opposite to the free ends and are configured to restrict movement of the free ends relative to the patient's skin.

WO 2005/086840 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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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) U.S. : 602/19		
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)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,176,816 B1 (Dicker et al.) 23 January 2001 (23.01.2001), column 6, lines 35-37, 59-61, figures 9-12	1
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Y		4,5,7-9,17
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
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"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer Henry Bennett <i>A. Hurley for</i> Telephone No. 571-727-3700