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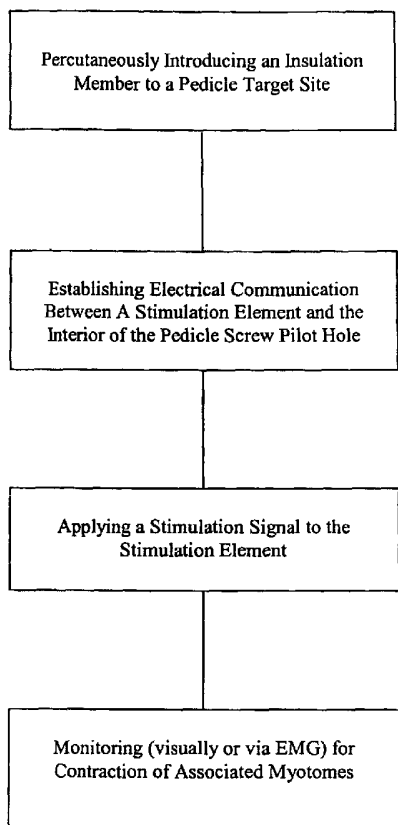
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(54) Title: SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PERFORMING PERCUTANEOUS PEDICLE INTEGRITY ASSESSMENTS



(57) Abstract: The present invention involves systems (20) and related methods for performing percutaneous pedicle integrity assessments involving the use of neurophysiology. The fundamental method steps for performing the percutaneous pedicle integrity assessments include (a) percutaneously introducing an insulation member to a pedicle target site; (b) establishing electrical communication between a stimulation element and an interior of a pedicle screw pilot hole; (c) applying a stimulation signal to the stimulation element; and (d) monitoring to assess whether nerves adjacent the pedicle are innervating as a result of the step of applying the stimulation signal to the stimulation element.



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**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
 U.S. : 600/546, 544, 300

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 5,196,015 A (Neubardt) 23 March 1993 (23.03.1993), column 4, line 50 - column 9, line 38.	1 - 4 and 11 - 22
A	US 5,284,153 A (Raymond et al.) 8 February 1994 (08.02.1994), entire document	1 - 22
X	US 5,474,558 A (Neubardt) 12 December 1995 (12.12.1995), column 4, line 50 - column 11, line 30.	1 - 4 and 11 - 22

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

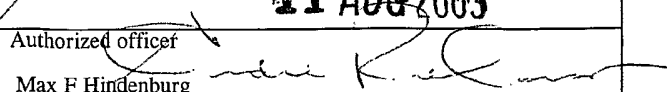
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