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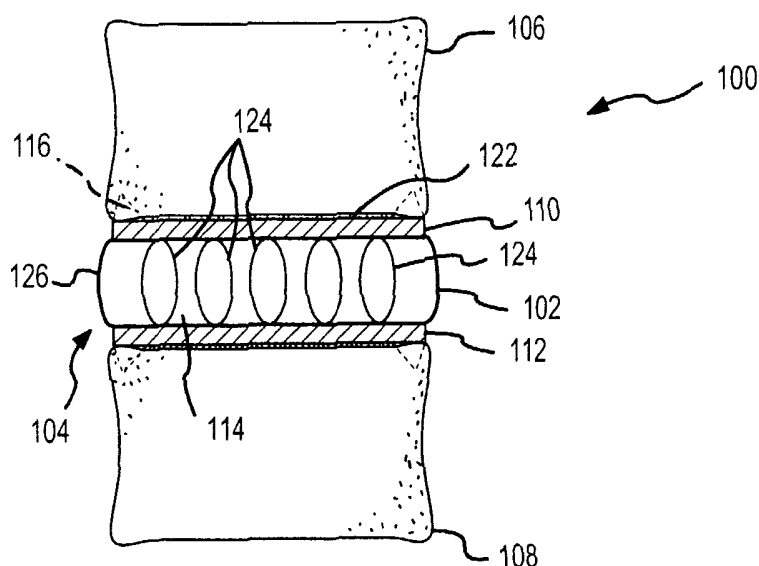
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(54) Title: SHAPED MEMORY ARTIFICIAL DISC AND METHODS OF ENGRAFTING THE SAME



(57) Abstract: The present invention comprises an artificial disc for a spine and methods of implanting the same. The artificial disc includes an upper (110) and lower (112) endplate to be coupled to upper (106) and lower (108) vertebral bodies. A core (102) of shaped memory alloy material is placed between the endplates to mimic the spinal disc.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/US03/25811

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61F 2/44

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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. : 623/17.11,17.13,17.15,17.16;606/61,104

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 --P Y	US 6,488,710 B2 (BESSELINK) 3 December 2002 (03.12.2003), Figures 6a-8c and column 7, lines 25+.	1,4- 7,9,10,12,13,14,16,17, 19,20 ----- 2,3,8,11,15,18
Y, P	US 6,558,423 B1 (MICHELSON) 6 May 2003 (06.05.2003), Figure 4 and disclosure.	2,3,8
Y, P	US 6,491,724 B1 (FERREE) 10 December 2002 (10.12.2002), column 6, lines 5+ and Figures 1 and 9A	2,3,8,15
Y, E	US 6,620,196 B1 (TRIEU) 16 September 2003 (16.08.2003), Figures 1-7 and column 8, lines 26+.	11

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	"&" document member of the same patent family

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