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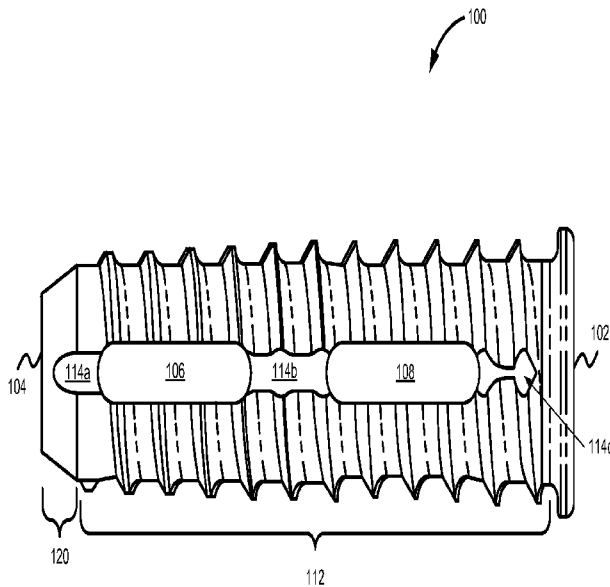


FIG. 1A

(57) Abstract: Techniques for joint fusion are described, including obtaining a visual image of a joint and two or more bones connected by the joint, examining the visual image to confirm a pathology and identify a location in which to insert an implant, creating an incision in a tissue adjacent to the joint, preparing the location for insertion of the implant, inserting the implant into the joint using one or more tools, the one or more tools including a drill guide. Some embodiments include packing an implanted or implantable screw with a material using a packing tube.



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<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC: <b>A61B 17/58</b> (2006.01)  USPC:       606/96 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>  Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 606/96  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.
Y	US 7,527,611 B2 (Sweeney) 05 May 2009, see entire document.	1-20
Y	US 5,334,205 (Cain) 02 August 1994, see entire document.	1-20
Y	US 2,243,718 (GODOY MOREIRA FRANCISCO ELIAS) 27 May 1941, see entire document.	2
Y	US 1,563,574 (JENSEN JOHN) 02 December 1925, see entire document.	3
Y	US 5,743,916 A(Greenberg et al.) 28 April 1998, see entire document.	4
Y	US 2010/0256688 A1(Giersch et al.) 07 October 2010, see entire document.	6 AND 7
Y	US 2001/0021852 A1 (Chappius) 13 September 2001, see entire document.	20
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