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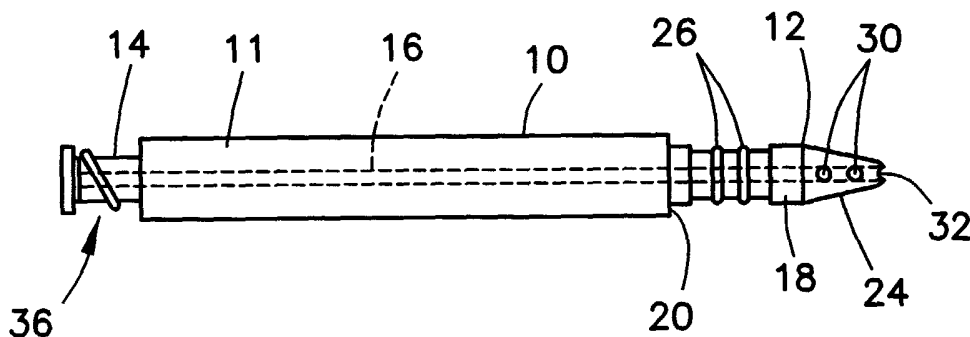
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(54) Title: DEVICES AND METHODS FOR THE RESTORATION OF A SPINAL DISC



(57) Abstract: A system and method is provided for maintaining a proper intervertebral disc height during the replacement or augmentation of the spinal disc. In one embodiment, a cannulated distractor (10) is used to distract the adjacent vertebrae and maintain a proper disc space height. The cannulated distractor (10) is fluidly connected to a source of fluent material for injection into the disc space. The distraction includes a distraction tip (18) resident within the disc space that includes a central lumen and a number of openings communicating with the lumen (16) to dispense the fluent material within the disc space.



WO 03/037166 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/34706

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61B 17/58
 US CL : 606/92

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. : 606/92,93,94,95,99,61,90; 604/500,506,164.11,38; 623/17.11,17.16,17.12,17.15

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)
 EAST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P ---	US 6,436,143 B1 (ROSS et al) 20 August 2002 (20.08.2002), see entire document.	1-15,21-32
Y,P		----- 16-20
A	US 6,248,110 B1 (REILEY et al.) 19 June 2001(19.06.2001), see entire document.	1-32
A,P	US 6,375,659 B1 (ERBE et al.) 23 April 2002 (23.04.2002), see entire document.	1-32
A,P	US 6,395,034 B1 (SUDDABY) 28 May 2002 (28.05.2002), see entire document.	1-32
A	US 5,562,736 A (RAY et al.) 08 October 1996 (08.10.1996), see entire document.	1-32
A,P	US 6,383,190 B1 (PREISSMAN) 07 May 2002 (07.05.2002), see entire document.	1-32

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