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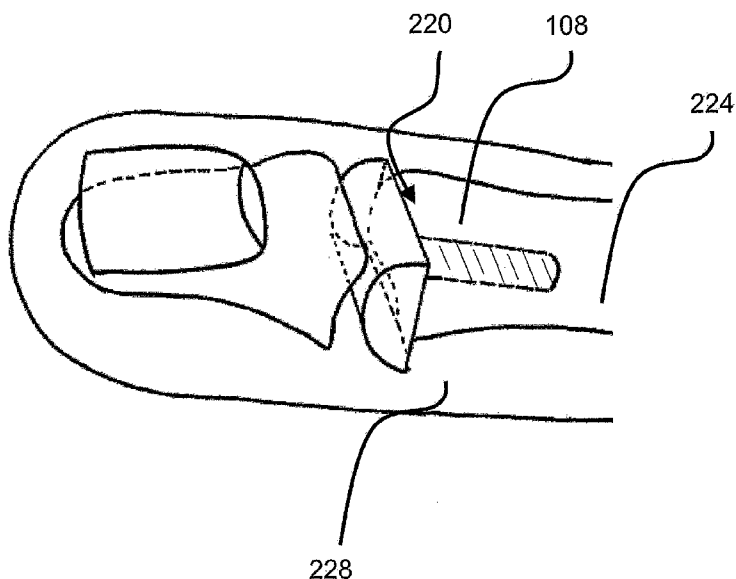
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(54) Title: SMALL JOINT HEMIARTHROPLASTY



(57) Abstract: Methods and apparatuses for digit joint arthroplasty. The present invention preferably allows for the treatment of disorders of digit joints generally and interphalangeal joints more specifically. The present invention provides implants for the replacement of digit joint cartilage. The implants of the present invention preferably include a head and a shaft. The head may be shaped similarly to the cartilage that is being replaced. The shaft is adapted so as to be able to be fit into, for example, the phalanx. In certain preferred embodiments, the shaft is threaded so that it may gain purchase to the phalangeal cortex. The articulating portion of the implant preferably mimics the articular surface of the native phalanx and thereby places minimal motion restriction on the patient. The implants and methods of the present invention have particular utility with the DIP joint of the hand.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
 IPC(8) - A61F 2/42 (2007.01)  
 USPC - 623/21.11  
 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)  
 IPC(8): A61F 2/42 (2007.01)  
 USPC: 623/21.11

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
 Broad search with no classification on PubWEST and Google

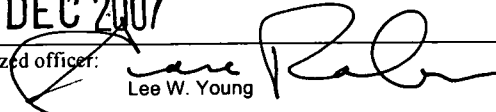
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
 PubWEST(USPT,PGPB,EPAB,JPAB)  
 Search Terms Used: digit, finger, shaft, shank, interphalangeal, joint, distal, phalanx, implant\$, arthroplasty

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ----- Y	US 6,699,292 B2 (OGILVIE et al) 2 March 2004 (02.03.2004), FIGS. 1, 3a-3d, 5, col 6, ln 48-56; col 7, ln 12-13; col 12, ln 13-16	1-5, 7, 11, 12 ----- 6, 8-10, 13, 15, 17, 21
X ----- Y	US 5,984,970 A (BRAMLET) 16 November 1999 (16.11.1999), FIGS. 3, 75-77, 80; col 19, ln 40-67	14, 16, 18-20 ----- 6, 8-10, 13, 15, 17, 21

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