



Figure B

The Line A-A divides the vertebral body shown in Figure B into an anterior portion and a posterior portion. Thus, according to the definition from TheFreeDictionary's Medical dictionary, a plane extending vertically (with respect to the vertebral body) through the Line A-A would be considered a coronal plane. Furthermore, the Line A-A passes through the medial aspect and the lateral aspect of the vertebrae, and is anterior to the transverse processes thereof.

Accordingly, to position the implant I (as depicted in FIG. 30), the axis of the path of insertion necessarily would (1) lie in a coronal plane, (2) pass through the lateral aspect and the medial aspect of the vertebra, and (3) be anterior to the transverse processes. Therefore, Applicant submits that the present application supports the recitation of independent claims 2, 10, 18, and 25 of "a path [of insertion of an implant] having an axis lying in a coronal plane passing through a lateral aspect and a medial aspect of the two adjacent vertebrae and anterior to the transverse processes." Furthermore, Applicant submits that this recitation is neither vague nor indefinite.

-15-

29

