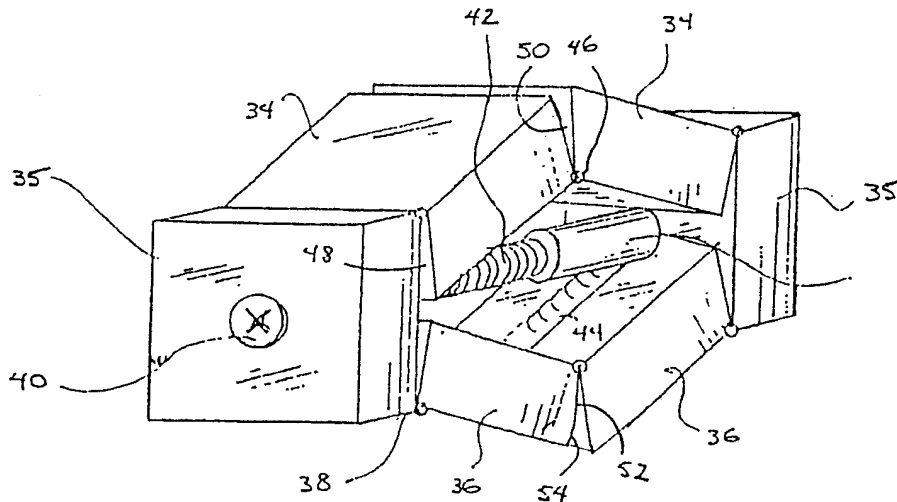




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(54) Title: MIDDLE EXPANDABLE INTERVERTEBRAL DISK IMPLANT AND METHOD



(57) Abstract

Artificial disk implant and methods for implanting same, the implant having a member (32, 34, 36, 77, 92, 94) for adapting in size and shape to the anatomical space between vertebrae, and apparatus (25, 42, 60, 112) for expanding the implant in the middle portion thereof to conform to the space. In one embodiment, there is provided an artificial intervertebral disk implant having a cylindrical body (20, 41, 56, 88) comprised of cylindrical subunits (32, 34, 36, 92, 94) capable of expansion. In another embodiment, rectangular members (34, 36) or elongate ribs (77) capable of expansion are provided. The implant can be used alone or in various combinations for the purpose of spinal fusion.

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MIDDLE EXPANDABLE INTERVERTEBRAL DISK IMPLANT AND METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to an intervertebral disk implant and a method of implanting same. More specifically, the present invention relates to cylindrical and rectangular disk implants which are expandable in the middle portion which are used alone or in various combinations for the purpose of spinal fusion.

The spine is a flexible structure comprised of thirty-three vertebrae separated and cushioned from each other by fibrous intervertebral disks. If the spine is injured or becomes diseased, surgical intervention involving removal of one or more disks, and fusion of the adjacent vertebrae, may be indicated. The more frequent injuries are in the lower lumbar and in the lower cervical regions.

Treatment of a herniated disk in the neck and in the lumbar region continues to be a challenging field of medicine. The classical treatment for a ruptured disk continues to be diskectomy, i.e., removal of the disk from between the vertebrae. In this process, all or a portion of the intervertebral disk is removed, leaving a defect which continues to bother the patients throughout the rest of their lives. An additional procedure is to replace the disk space with a bone graft, usually bone chips cut from the patient's iliac crest, bringing about fusion of the vertebrae above and below the disk, eliminating the empty space between the vertebrae.

Theoretically, a diskectomy with fusion is a satisfactory procedure, though not ideal because the replaced bone does not have any of the functions of the cartilage tissue of the disk, i.e. no cushioning effect,

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and has complications because of several factors. First, the bone plug used to pack the disk space does not conform to the shape of the disk because the disk bulges maximally in the center. The disk space is wider in the middle and narrower at its anterior and posterior ends. Consequently, a bone plug having its maximum width at the center, e.g., one which is shaped to fit the space, cannot be inserted through the narrow mouth of the disk space. For this reason, the various bone plugs which are currently available commercially have only four contact points, i.e. at the front and back of the disk space. Secondly, access to the disk is from one side or the other of the dorsal spine of the adjacent vertebrae, leaving a space that is "off-center" relative to the bodies of the adjacent vertebrae. An implant inserted into that off-center space, therefore, replaces only a portion of the disk and consequently contacts only a portion of the bodies of the adjacent vertebrae such that the stability of the implant is even more problematical than might be apparent from the limited contact resulting from the shape of the intervertebral space in the first place. Another complication is the possibility of infection or other conditions which may require the removal of the implant. Also, if the bone pieces do not fuse, they may eventually extrude out of the disk space, causing pressure on the nerve roots.

Various prosthetic disk plugs, or implants, are disclosed in the art, but all are characterized by limitations of not conforming to the shape of the disk space, lack of stability when inserted off-center, inability to be removed, or other disadvantages. For instance, U.S. Patent No. 4,863,476 describes an elongated body divided longitudinally into two portions having a cam device movable therebetween for increasing the space between the two body portions. However, that device is

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generally cylindrical in shape such that the only contact points are at the front and back of the disk space, creating increased likelihood of instability and generally rendering that device unsuitable for use after partial
5 diskectomy. The art also discloses intervertebral disk prostheses (e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 3,867,728, 4,309,777, 4,863,477 and 4,932,969 and French Patent Application No. 8816184) which may have more general contact with the adjacent disks, but which are not intended for use in
10 fusion of the disks. The art also includes spinal joint prostheses such as is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,759,769, which is again not indicated for use when fusion is the preferred surgical intervention.

From this prior art, it is apparent that there has
15 long been a need for a disk plug, or implant, capable of supporting the disk space after a simple diskectomy for fusion of adjacent vertebrae, and the object of the present invention is to provide such an implant.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

20 An intervertebral disk implant is described for implantation into the disk space after surgical removal of all or a portion of a diseased or damaged disk. Implants according to this invention include means for changing the shape of the implant to adapt to the shape of the disk
25 space by expanding the implant to conform to the contour of that space, and are, for that reason, referred to herein as being "middle expandable".

In one embodiment, there is provided an intervertebral disk implant with a cylindrical body comprised of subunits
30 capable of radially outward expansion. In another embodiment, there is provided an implant having a substantially rectangular body likewise comprised of subunits capable of radially outward expansion. Both are disk plugs expandable in the middle portion to provide

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contact with substantially the entire area of the disk space against the vertebral bodies.

In the method of the present invention, there is provided a method of fusing two adjacent vertebrae after
5 removal of all or a portion of the disk from therebetween which comprises inserting a disk implant into the space from which the disk has been removed, expanding the middle portion of the implant outwardly in a radial direction, injecting cancellous bone chips into the disk space medial
10 to the implant, and applying a physiologically compatible adhesive over the bone chips medial to the implant to close off the opening of the disk space.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings, Figure 1 is a projected view of one
15 embodiment of the disk implant of the present invention.

Figure 2 is a cross sectional view of the disk implant of Fig. 1 taken along the line 2-2 in Fig. 1.

Figure 3 is a projected view of the central axis of the disk implant of Fig. 1 having the members coiled
20 therearound removed therefrom.

Figure 4 is a projected view of the implant of Fig. 1 after expansion of the middle portion thereof.

Figure 5 is a projected, exploded view of a second embodiment of the disk implant of the present invention.

25 Figure 6 is a projected view of the implant of Fig. 5 showing that implant after expansion thereof.

Figure 7 is a top, plan view of a lumbar vertebra of a human patient having a top, plan view of the implant of
30 Fig. 6 superimposed thereon to show the spatial relationship of the implant to the adjacent vertebrae after insertion into the disk space.

Figure 8 is a projected view of another embodiment of the implant of the present invention.

35 Figure 9 is a projected view of the disk implant of Fig. 8 after expansion of the middle portion thereof.

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Figure 10 is an exploded, projected view of a fourth embodiment of the implant of the present invention.

Figure 10A is a side view of two hinged members comprising the middle portion of the implant of Fig. 10 and removed therefrom.

Figure 11 is a projected view of a fifth embodiment of the disk implant of the present application.

Figure 12 is a cross sectional view of the disk implant of Fig. 11 taken along the line 12-12 in Fig. 11.

Figure 13 is a side view of the disk implant of Fig. 11 showing a portion broken away therefrom.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Figure 1 depicts a cylindrical embodiment of the disk implant of the present invention. The disk implant 20 shown in that figure is comprised of a strong, thin non-porous material. Suitable materials for the disk implant 20 include modified carbon, titanium, steel, metals and/or metal alloys having a memory (see below), physiologically inert and/or medically compatible polymers such as a urethane or DELRIN® polymer, or any generally rigid, biologically compatible material used for surgical implants. It is also useful to use a material which is compatible with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) procedures. The disk implant 20 is comprised of a plurality of longitudinally aligned sections, or subunits 22, 24 and 26, and a screw 28 to which each section is mounted (as described below) is turned to cause differential, radially outward expansion of subunits 24 and 26. The subunits 24 and 26 are preferably comprised of a material capable of maintaining spring tension and are mounted to and wound around an elongate longitudinal axis in the form of central rod 25 (see Figs. 2 and 3) integral with screwhead 28. Because of this structure, each of the subunits is conveniently referred to as including a coiled member as identified at reference numeral 32.

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Each coiled member 32 is mounted to central rod 25 by welding, riveting, or by other manner depending upon the material(s) comprising the sheet 32 and central rod 25 as known in the art. In the preferred embodiment shown in
5 Figures 1-4, the central rod 25 is provided with a flat 23 to provide a stable surface for mounting of the member 32 thereto by, for instance, welding. At the other, free end of each coiled member 32, the coiled member 32 is beveled as at reference numeral 33 so as to provide a smooth,
10 generally round exterior surface on each of the subunits 24 and 26 and to facilitate the sliding of the free end of coiled member 32 along the outside surface thereof as the subunits 24 and 26 are expanded radially outwardly as described below.

15 A Phillips head-type slot 18 is provided in the screwhead 28 for rotation of the rod 25 as described below, and the head 28 is provided with a plurality of teeth 19 for interdigitating with the reciprocal cavities in the lock nut 21 to prevent undesired rotation of central rod
20 25. The Allen screws 30 are loosened to force lock nut 21 away from the end surface 27 of subunit 22 so that the teeth 19 on the head 28 of central rod 25 are disengaged from the cavities in lock nut 21 to allow rotation of screwhead 28 and rod 25. Alternatively, either or both of
25 rod 25 or lock nut 21 is comprised of a resilient, medically compatible polymer material which allows rotation of the teeth 19 past the cavities in lock nut 21 in one direction but not the other. The expanded shape of a section of the disk implant 20 is shown in Figure 2.

30 Turning screwhead 28 and central rod 25 using the slot 18 expands the sections 24 and 26, which remain expanded due to the interaction of the teeth 19 and the cavities in lock nut 21 and the compression of the implant 20 between the bodies of the vertebrae above and below the implant 20
35 once inserted into the disk space. In other words,

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engagement of the free end of coiled member 32 by the adjacent vertebrae prevents the slipping of the free end of the coiled member 32 around the outside circumference of implant 20 such that members 32 do not "re-wind" after
5 being expanded.

As shown in Figure 3, central rod 25 is provided with a portion 29 approximately mid-way between the ends thereof having a larger diameter than the rest of the central rod 25. By use of the central rod with sections of different
10 diameters and/or thicknesses of the cylindrically wound member 32, the subunits 24 and 26 are differentially expanded. Turning screw 28 allows for maximal expansion of the subunit 26 and moderate expansion of the subunit 24 because the member 32 comprising subunit 26 is mounted to
15 the rod 25 on the portion 29 of larger diameter while each of the members 32 comprising subunits 22 and 24 is mounted to central rod 25 between the portion 29 and the subunits 22. Turning the central rod 25 uncoils the members 32 because each member 32 is attached to the central rod 25.

20 Figure 4 illustrates the cylindrical disk implant 20 in its radially expanded form. Once expanded, the implant cannot be removed from the disk space except by turning the allen screws 30 to either back out or remove lock nut 21, thereby allowing rotation of rod 25.

25 Referring now to Figures 5 and 6, an alternative embodiment of the implant 20 is shown at reference numeral 56. Implant 56 is comprised of a single piece of metal, such as a titanium alloy, or medical grade polymeric plastic, such as DELRIN®, which is resilient and has a
30 memory for the shape in which it is molded, shown in Fig. 6. Implant 56 is molded in the same generally elongate, cylindrical shape as the implant 20 shown in Figs. 1-4, but is molded in a shape in which the middle portion 58 thereof is normally expanded radially outwardly from the central
35 axis of the cylinder. An elongate screw 60 is provided

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having two sets of threads 62 and 66 thereon, the former for engaging the threads 68 formed in the bore 70 extending longitudinally through implant 56, the latter for engaging a similarly formed set of threads located in the bore 70 at the other end of implant 56 and therefore not visible in Figures 5 and 6. A slot 72 is formed in the head 74 of screw 60 for turning screw 60 to move the opposite ends 76a and 76b of implant 56 away from each other, thereby extending implant 56 and decreasing the radially outward expansion of the middle 58 thereof as shown in Fig. 5 for insertion into the disk space. Longitudinal slots 75 are molded into implant 56 to form ribs 77 which flex to allow the extension and outward expansion of implant 56 in this manner.

As noted above, the instability of prior implants once inserted into the disk space is problematical, and Fig. 7, showing the implant 56 in place relative to the body 78 of an adjacent lumbar vertebra 80 illustrates how the apparatus of the present invention overcomes this limitation of prior implants. The implant 56 is inserted into the disk space in an anterior-posterior (A-P) orientation, the dorsal spine 82 of vertebra 80 being pointed posteriorly. As clearly shown in Fig. 7, when so positioned, implant 56 occupies only a portion of the surface area of the vertebral body 78, the remainder of the area being occupied by that portion of the intervertebral disk (not shown) which is not removed during the diskectomy procedure (or, in a fusion procedure, this area is packed with cancellous bone chips). Access to that area is from the posterior aspect of the disk medial to the implant. In addition, the periphery 88 of vertebral body 78 is, as described above, thicker than the central portion 90 of body 78, further limiting access and creating an uneven surface on which the body 78 bears on the implant. However, because of the expansion of only the middle 58 of

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implant 56, the implant 56 is stable in the A-P orientation shown. Once implanted, the screw 60 is backed out of the bore 70 in implant 56 and implant 56 assumes the shape shown in Figs. 6 and 7.

5 Figure 8 depicts a rectangular disk implant 31 constructed according to the present invention. Turning Phillips head 39 of screw 42 encapsulated in a sheath 44 (best shown in Fig. 9) formed in the hinged members 34 and 36 forming intermediate subunits in the same manner as the
10 subunits, or sections, 24 and 26 of implant 20 causes the radially outward expansion of superior hinged members 34 superiorly and inferior hinged members 36 inferiorly. Although shown in Figures 8 and 9 with two of the hinged members 34 and 36, it will be understood by those skilled
15 in the art who have the benefit of this disclosure that the plug, or implant, 31 may be provided with four, eight, or even more of the hinged members 34 and 36 as shown at reference numerals 92 and 94 in Figure 10 and numeral 41 in
20 Figures 11-13. The expanded shape of the rectangular disk plug 31 is illustrated in Figure 9. Hinged members 34 and 36 are secured to an end cap or subunit 33 by hinge 38 and to each other by hinge 46. Upon rotation of screw 42 using a conventional screwdriver and the Phillips head slot 39, the end caps 33 are drawn closer together by movement along
25 the threads of screw 42. To insure that the members 34 and 36 expand radially outwardly from screw 42, the ends 48 of each respective member 34 and 36 abutting the end caps 33 are angled so as to create a force vector outwardly away from screw 42 when end cap 33 exerts pressure on the
30 surface 48, the hinge 38 being mounted in the acute angle formed by surface 48 and end cap 33.

In one embodiment (best shown in Figures 11-13 and discussed below), the tendency of this force vector to cause the members 34 and 36 to expand is increased by
35 angling the face 50 of one member 34 or 36 in the same

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direction as the angle in the surface 48. The surface 52 of the opposed member 34 and 36 is similarly angled, but with a bearing surface 54 formed therein that is angled in the same direction as the angle in surface 48 and face 50 so that the face 50 rides upwardly onto bearing surface 54 to translate the opposed, end-to-end force vectors applied to end caps 33 by rotation of screw 42 into a force vector having a radially outward (from screw 42) component. By referring to Figures 11-13, it can be seen that the radially outward expansion of the middle portion of implant 31 caused by rotation of the screw 42 effectively simulates the opening of two opposed umbrellas, and the particular embodiment shown in those figures may be conveniently referred to as having a "double umbrella" configuration.

A threaded lock nut 40 is inserted over Phillips screw head 39 (see Figure 8). Lock nut 40 prevents the members 34 and 36 from moving once expanded. Removing lock nut 40 provides access to screw head 39 to allow members 34 and 36 to return to the position shown in Figure 8.

The above-referenced, double-umbrella configuration of the implant of the present invention is illustrated at reference numeral 88 in Figure 10. In this embodiment, the hinged members 92 and 94 are mounted on pivot pins 96 to the first and second end members 90 and 98, respectively, as well as to each other, most of the pins 96 and all but two sets of the hinged members 92 and 94 being omitted from the figure for purposes of clarity. The pivot pins 96 which mount members 92 and 94 to the ends 90 and 98 are received within the bores 100 and 102 formed in each end member 90 and 98, the bores 100 and 102 being numbered separately to draw attention to their arrangement on the end members 90 and 98. The ears 104 on hinged members 92' and 94' are longer than the ears 106 on hinged members 92'' and 94'' and the bores 100, for receiving the pivot pin 96 are located closer to the end surface 108 of end member 90

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(and the corresponding end surface of end member 98 at the opposite end of implant 88) than the bores 102. By this arrangement, the strength of the implant 88 is significantly increased.

5 Expansion of the middle portion of implant 88 is accomplished by turning the screw 112 using the hex head 114 formed at one end thereof, the other end of screw 112 being received by the threads 115 formed in the second end member 98. To increase the tendency of the hinged members
10 92 and 94 to expand in the radially outward direction, the holes in the hinged members 92 and 94 in which pivot pins 96 reside are offset along the longitudinal axis of implant 88. The offset holes are better shown in Figure 10A in which one pair of the members 92 and 94 is shown in side
15 view removed from implant 88. The direction of expansion is shown by the arrow 95 in Figure 10A and, as can be seen, the center holes 97 are offset outwardly (e.g., in the direction of arrow 95) relative to the holes 99 at the ends of hinged members 92 and 94 (e.g., in the ears 106).

20 A lock nut 116 having threads 118 formed in the outside surface thereof is received by the threads 120 formed in the bore 122 in end member 90 through which the screw 112 is received for preventing undesired rotation of screw 112. Lock nut 116 is provided with a hex slot 124 to
25 facilitate insertion and/or removal and hex slot 124 extends all the way through lock nut 116 and is of large enough size that a hex key can be inserted through slot 124 and into hex head 114 for turning screw 112 without adjustment of lock nut 116.

30 Another embodiment of the double-umbrella configuration of the implant of the present invention is shown at reference numeral 41 in Figures 11-13. As is the case with the implant 88 shown in Figure 10, the implant 41 is generally cylindrical in shape, yet utilizes the hinged
35 member 34 and 36 construction of implant 31 shown in

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Figures 8 and 9. Figure 12 shows a projected view of the disk implant 41 shown in Figure 11 having the members 34 and 36 cut in section. This view shows how the hinged members 34 and 36 fit together in the unexpanded position due to their beveled sides 64, giving the implant 41 its generally cylindrical shape. The sides 110 of the hinged members 92 and 94 of implant 88 are similarly beveled (Figure 10).

All of the disk implants of the present invention are expandable in the middle portion, i.e., the portion intermediate the ends, to contact substantially the entire anterior-posterior dimension of the disk space against the vertebral bodies as described above in connection with the description of Figure 7. If a complete intervertebral fusion is being performed, the plug is used in conjunction with intervertebral cancellous bone packing. Because of the support provided by the plug, until fusion is established, the cancellous bone pieces have a better chance of fusion due to the presence of the implant, and the bone pieces and the disk implant have a better chance of staying in the intervertebral disk space. Alternatively, the plug is used to maintain the spacing between vertebrae and can be used in conjunction with intertransverse posterior lateral fusion. In short, the implant acts as a physiological support for the rest of the patient's life or until a bone fusion is established.

The disk implant of the present invention may have additional indications, e.g. short segment scoliosis, where the curvature of the spine can be corrected by distracting the vertebral bodies on the inside of the curvature. By expanding the middle portion of the plug inside the disk space, the vertebral bodies are distracted, thereby helping straighten the spinal column.

If no bone graft is planned, discectomy can be made minimally through one side exposure so that when the disk

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plug is inserted and expanded, it will occupy the empty space. Because there is no further movement at this disk space, the chance of recurrent disk herniation is minimized. Also, the likelihood of recurrent disk herniation due to opening and closing of the space on the side of the diskectomy is reduced because the disk plug closes this mouth. Consequently, in addition to the advantages of a one sided, simple diskectomy, the risk of recurrent disk herniation can be reduced.

10 The cylindrical 20, 41, 56, and 88 and rectangular 31 implants are inserted after a simple diskectomy. Ordinarily, the size of the disk implant is approximately 2.5 to 3.5 centimeters in length and 1.0 to 1.5 centimeters in height and width. The same plug in smaller dimensions is used in thoracic and cervical levels where indicated.

15 By reference to the figures, it can be seen that both the rectangular and the cylindrical implants have the common feature of being expandable in the middle without changing the diameter of the dimensions of the two ends. Consequently, surgery is performed as in simple diskectomy, and the disk is exposed through a small laminotomy. The disk material is removed and any nerve root compression is corrected. The posterior longitudinal ligament and disk cartilage are removed until the vertebral surfaces are exposed above and below the disk space. The shape of the disk space determines whether the disk plug used is cylindrical or rectangular. The disk plug is then inserted and hammered into place so that the anterior end of the disk plug almost touches the anterior longitudinal ligament. Subsequently, using a Phillips screwdriver, the posterior screw end is turned. This implant method also gives good distraction to the vertebral bodies. In the case of simple disk problems, no further treatment may be required.

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When used in interbody fusion, cancellous bone chips are made into very fine particles and pumped into the disk space medial to the disk plug and packed into the space. The posterior longitudinal ligament is intact to the opposite side and to the center of the disk space. These cancellous bone chips are held tightly in place. Since the mouth of the disk space is closed with the disk plug, the risk of the cancellous bone chips coming out is minimized. Also, the disk plug prevents the opening and closing of the disk space, thus preventing the bone chips coming out. If necessary, a small amount of a physiologically compatible adhesive of a type known in the art is applied over the cancellous bone chips just medial to the disk plug to close off the remaining portion of the opening of the disk space. The patient should be able to ambulate soon after the surgery because of the stability given by the disk plug. Before narrowing of the disk space occurs, the cancellous bone chips will have started the fusion process.

If a posterior lateral intertransverse fusion is desired, this procedure is also done in conjunction with the middle expandable disk plug. The disk plug is applied as explained above and the posterior lateral fusion performed. Since the disk plug provides stability to the spine until the posterior lateral fusion is solid, the patient can ambulate soon after the surgery. This procedure also prevents the disk space narrowing, which is a common problem with posterior lateral fusion.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An implant for disposition in the space between two vertebrae of a patient after removal of a portion of the disk therefrom comprising:

an elongate, threaded rod;

5 first and second end caps having holes there-
through for receiving said rod, the hole in said
second end cap being threaded for engaging the threads
on said rod to move said second end cap along said rod
relative to said first end cap when said rod is
10 rotated; and

an intermediate portion mounted between said
first and second end caps, whereby rotation of said
rod causes radially outward expansion of said
intermediate portion to conform the shape of the
15 expanded implant to the shape of the anatomical region
of the disk space.

2. An implant of claim 1, additionally comprising a lock nut for engaging said rod to prevent the rotation of said rod.

3. An implant of claim 1, wherein said intermediate portion comprises a plurality of members hingedly mounted to said end caps.

4. An implant of claim 3, wherein rotation of said rod causes said second end cap to move along said rod to move said second end cap toward said first end cap, thereby forcing said intermediate portion radially outwardly.

5. An implant of claim 3, wherein the edges of said hinged members are beveled.

6. An implant of claim 3, wherein the hinges between said hinged members are offset so as to cause said hinged members to expand radially outwardly when said rod is rotated.

7. An implant of claim 3, wherein a sheath is formed in said hinged members to allow said hinged members to

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close around said rod before said hinged members are expanded so as to minimize the thickness of the implant.

8. An implant of claim 1 wherein said intermediate portion comprises a plurality of spring-tensioned members spaced along the length of and wound around said rod and having one end affixed thereto.

9. An implant of claim 8 wherein said rod is provided with a plurality of different diameters spaced along the length thereof and having the end of one of said spring-tensioned members affixed to each section thereof.

10. A method of maintaining the space between two adjacent vertebrae of a patient after removal of the disk from therebetween comprising the steps of:

5 inserting an elongate implant into the space between two vertebrae after removal of the disk therefrom, the implant having a length which approximates the anterior-posterior dimension of the body of the vertebrae and a vertical dimension small enough to allow the insertion of the implant;

10 expanding the implant radially outwardly in the portion intermediate the ends of the implant to conform the shape of the implant to the shape of the anatomical region of the disk space into which the implant is inserted; and

15 preventing the reversal of the outward radial expansion of the intermediate portion of the implant.

11. A method of claim 10 further comprising injecting cancellous bone chips into said disk space medial to the disk plug.

12. A method for fusing two adjacent vertebrae after removal of a portion of the disk from therebetween comprising the steps of:

5 inserting an elongate implant through an opening into a space between two adjacent vertebrae of a patient after removal of the disk from between the

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vertebrae, the implant having a length which approximates the anterior-posterior dimension of the body of the vertebrae and a vertical dimension small enough to allow insertion of the implant;

10 expanding the middle portion of the implant outwardly in a radial direction to conform the shape of the implant to the shape of the space from which the disk has been removed;

15 injecting cancellous bone chips into the space between the vertebrae medial to the implant; and

 applying a physiologically compatible adhesive over the cancellous bone chips medial to the disk implant to close off the opening into the space from

20 which the disk has been removed.

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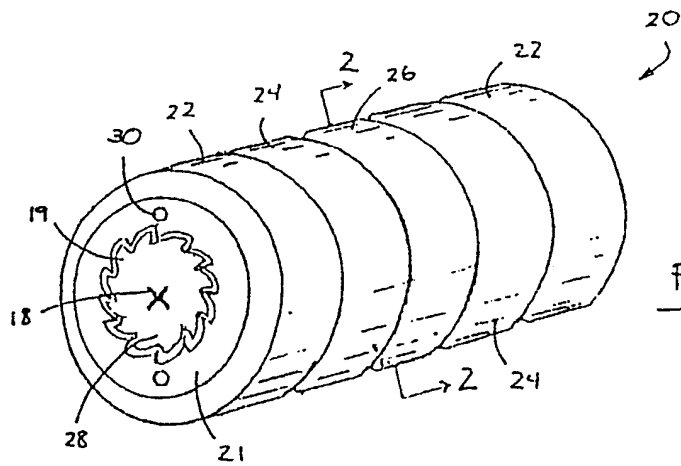


FIG. 1

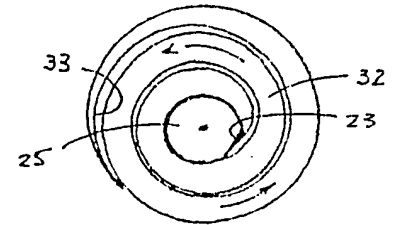


FIG. 2

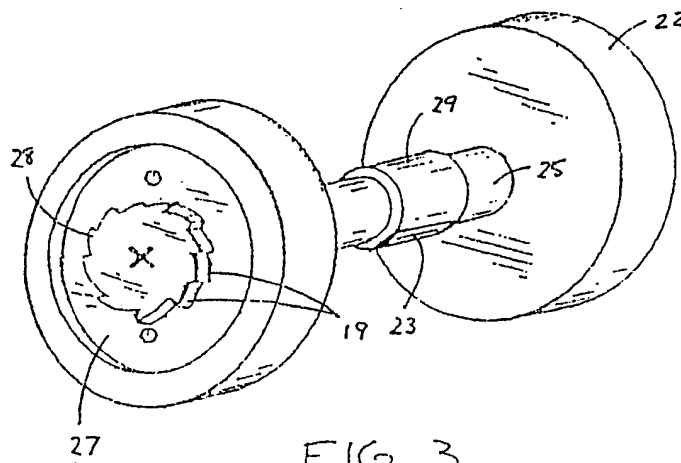


FIG. 3

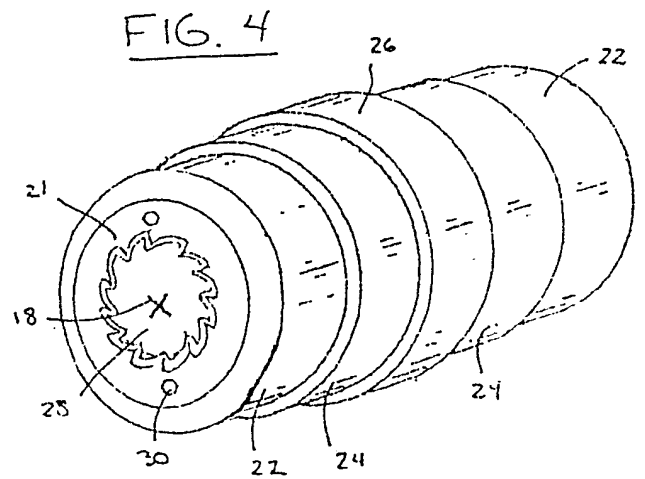


FIG. 4

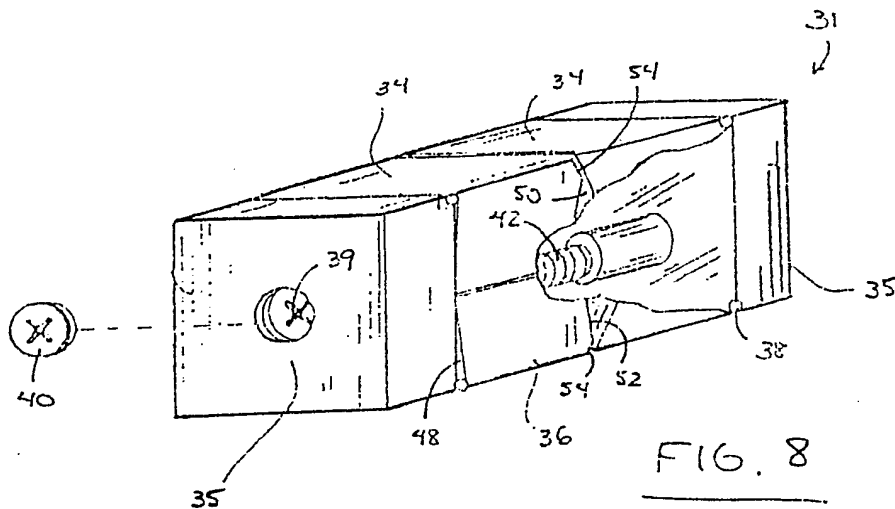


FIG. 8

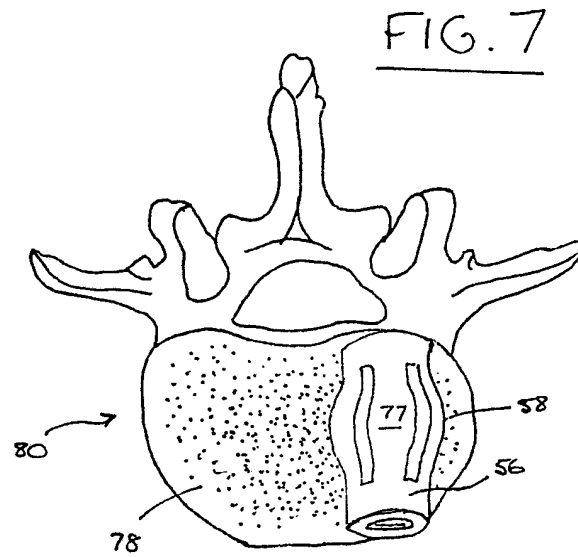
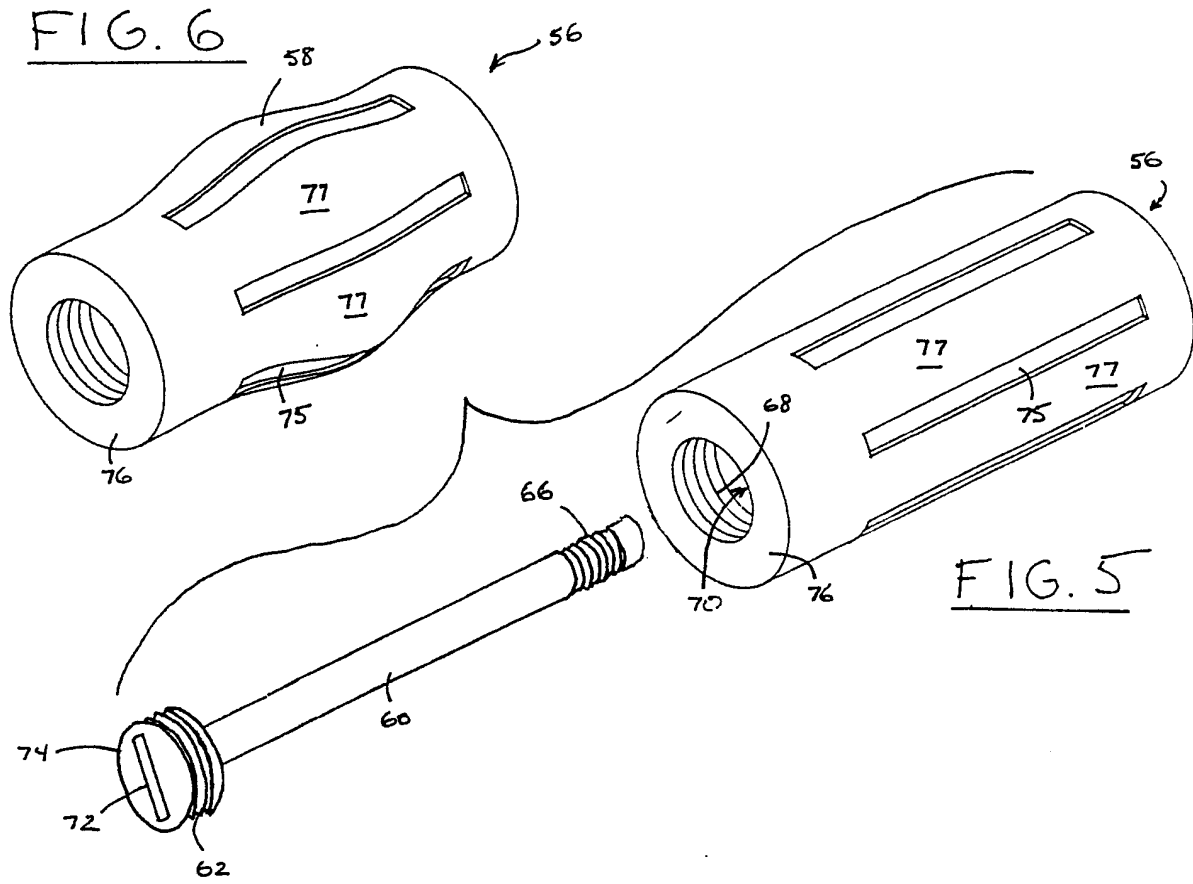


FIG. 9

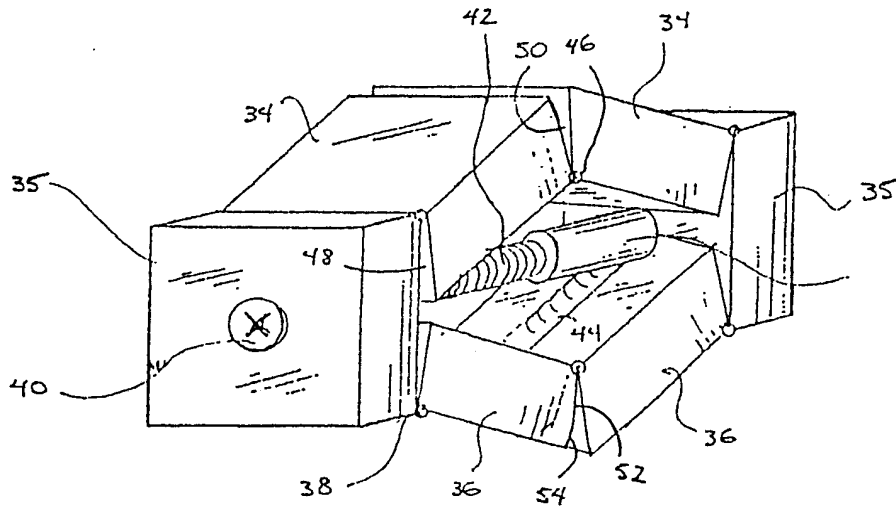


FIG. 11

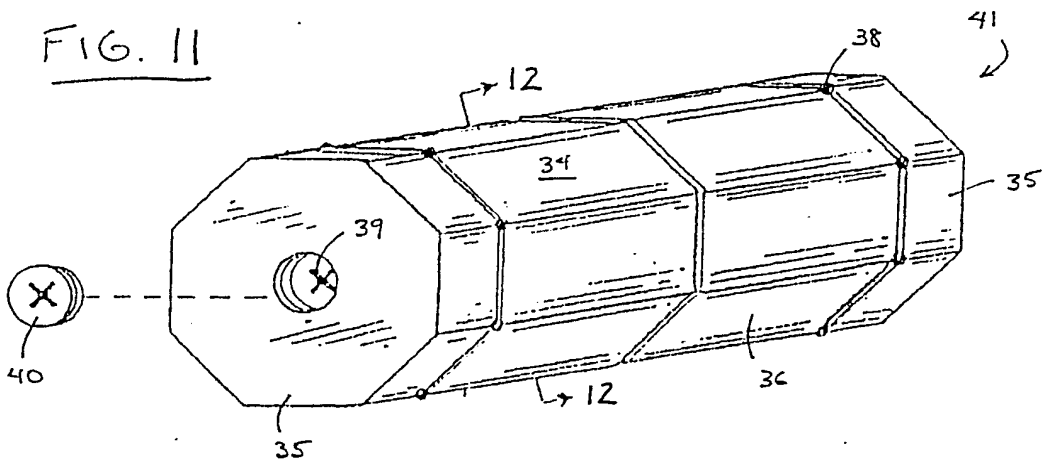


FIG. 12

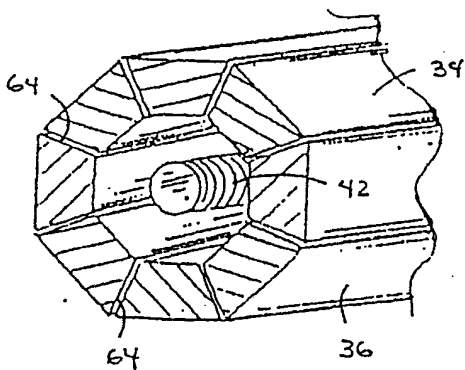
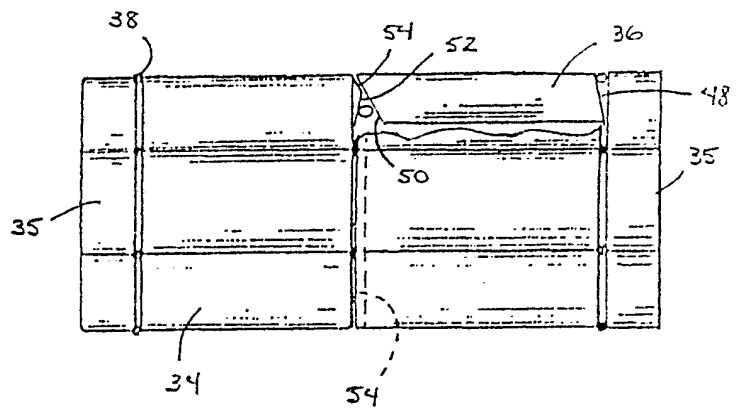
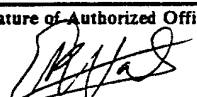


FIG. 13



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No **PCT/US 92/01397**

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC Int. Cl. 5 A 61 F 2/44		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
Int. Cl. 5	A 61 F	A 61 B
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹		
Category ^o	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
A	EP, A, 0260044 (SHEPPERD) 16 March 1988, see abstract; figure 2 (cited in the application) -----	1
A	EP, A, 0304305 (CEDAR SURGICAL) 22 February 1989, see column 4, lines 50-62; figure 1 -----	1
<p>^o Special categories of cited documents :¹⁰</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search		Date of Mailing of this International Search Report
05-06-1992		14. 07. 92
International Searching Authority		Signature of Authorized Officer
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE		 Els Vonk

**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

US 9201397
SA 58198

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on 03/07/92. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP-A- 0260044	16-03-88	JP-A- 63145650	17-06-88
		US-A- 4863476	05-09-89
EP-A- 0304305	22-02-89	US-A- 4772287	20-09-88
		JP-A- 1070041	15-03-89
		US-A- 4904260	27-02-90

EPO FORM P0479

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

<h1>TRANSMITTAL FORM</h1> <p><i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i></p>	Application Number	11/093,409	
	Filing Date	March 29, 2005	
	First Named Inventor	Matthew Curran	
	Art Unit	3733	
	Examiner Name	Elana Beth Fisher	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	12	Attorney Docket Number	104US1

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below): Request for Continued Examination		
<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 100px;">Remarks</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			Remarks	
Remarks				

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm Name	NUVASIVE INC.		
Signature	/Jennifer Risser/		
Printed name	Jennifer Risser		
Date	November 18, 2010	Reg. No.	60,059

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:			
Signature			
Typed or printed name		Date	

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: **Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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The **Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579)** requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

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2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11093409
Filing Date:	29-Mar-2005
Title of Invention:	Systems and methods for spinal fusion
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew Curran
Filer:	Jennifer Lynn Risser
Attorney Docket Number:	104US1

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Extension-of-Time:				

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Miscellaneous:				
Submission- Information Disclosure Stmt	1806	1	180	180
Total in USD (\$)				180

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	9203688
Application Number:	11093409
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6640
Title of Invention:	Systems and methods for spinal fusion
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew Curran
Customer Number:	30328
Filer:	Jennifer Lynn Risser
Filer Authorized By:	
Attorney Docket Number:	104US1
Receipt Date:	10-JAN-2011
Filing Date:	29-MAR-2005
Time Stamp:	23:22:06
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$180
RAM confirmation Number	6763
Deposit Account	502040
Authorized User	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
		1166			

1	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed (SB/08)	2011-01-10- SupplementalIDS104US1.pdf	613386 11ab68f6107f65ebb22cdd1141caf3b7b2198e5a	no	6
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2	Foreign Reference	WO199000037A1.pdf	917824 f3749d9e322fed8f3a2d9bc13aea22023dbe51a2	no	35
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Information:					
3	Foreign Reference	WO1992014423A1.pdf	683387 5b0541c7f41927bc20b449c7059194af2600fc77	no	25
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Information:					
4	NPL Documents	Baulot.pdf	2092847 3bdb52d5bd196ffaca8f70914f3ef246c6efe1dd	no	6
Warnings:					
Information:					
5	NPL Documents	Berry.pdf	322776 5b8aca5ba082438377b6eada3c4a20e5c1167581	no	6
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Information:					
6	NPL Documents	Crock1.pdf	5360727 63eb26d74567fef63ce7b1156a5dd4e5f29b2cf9	no	13
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8	NPL Documents	KEMP.pdf	2380605 89962bdfb44b9ac178166b5aca763cedbae8fad5	no	20
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16	NPL Documents	AppendixB1.pdf	371014	no	63
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21	NPL Documents	AppendixB18.pdf	334824	no	14
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Information:					

28	NPL Documents	AppendixB14.pdf	696703	no	27
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29	NPL Documents	AppendixB15.pdf	787792	no	50
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Information:					
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35	NPL Documents	AppendixB16.pdf	1087937	no	35
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Information:					
1170					

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New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.



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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

30328 7590 01/20/2011

NuVasive
c/o CPA Global
P.O. Box 52050
Minneapolis, MN 55402

EXAMINER: FISHER, ELANA BETH
ART UNIT: 3733 PAPER NUMBER:
DATE MAILED: 01/20/2011

Table with 5 columns: APPLICATION NO., FILING DATE, FIRST NAMED INVENTOR, ATTORNEY DOCKET NO., CONFIRMATION NO.

11/093,409 03/29/2005 Matthew Curran 104US1 6640

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION

Table with 7 columns: APPLN. TYPE, SMALL ENTITY, ISSUE FEE DUE, PUBLICATION FEE DUE, PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE, TOTAL FEE(S) DUE, DATE DUE

nonprovisional YES \$755 \$0 \$0 \$755 04/20/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.
B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or
B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

30328 7590 01/20/2011

NuVasive
 c/o CPA Global
 P.O. Box 52050
 Minneapolis, MN 55402

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

11/093,409 03/29/2005 Matthew Curran 104US1 6640

TITLE OF INVENTION: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
-------------	--------------	---------------	---------------------	----------------------	------------------	----------

nonprovisional YES \$755 \$0 \$0 \$755 04/20/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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FISHER, ELANA BETH 3733 623-017160

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : Individual Corporation or other private group entity Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- Issue Fee
- Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- A check is enclosed.
- Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.
- b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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Table with columns: APPLICATION NO., FILING DATE, FIRST NAMED INVENTOR, ATTORNEY DOCKET NO., CONFIRMATION NO., EXAMINER, ART UNIT, PAPER NUMBER. Includes application details for NuVasive and examiner FISHER, ELANA BETH.

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 11 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 11 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (http://pair.uspto.gov).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

11/093,409

Applicant(s)

CURRAN ET AL.

Examiner

ELANA B. FISHER

Art Unit

3733

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- 1. This communication is responsive to the request for continued examination submitted on November 18, 2010.
- 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 31-51.
- 3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 - 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

- 4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 - 5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
- 6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 01/10/2011
- 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6. Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 20110112.
- 7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9. Other _____.

/Elana B Fisher/
Examiner, Art Unit 3733

/EDUARDO C. ROBERT/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3733

Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary	Application No. 11/093,409	Applicant(s) CURRAN ET AL.	
	Examiner ELANA B. FISHER	Art Unit 3733	

All Participants:

(1) ELANA B. FISHER.

(2) RORY SCHERMERHORN.

Status of Application: _____

(3) _____.

(4) _____.

Date of Interview: 28 December 2010

Time: 4 PM

Type of Interview:

- Telephonic
 Video Conference
 Personal (Copy given to: Applicant Applicant's representative)

Exhibit Shown or Demonstrated: Yes No

If Yes, provide a brief description: .

Part I.

Rejection(s) discussed:

N/A

Claims discussed:

36 & 37

Prior art documents discussed:

N/A

Part II.

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW DESCRIBING THE GENERAL NATURE OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED:

Examiner contacted applicant's representative about antecedent basis issues with claims 36 and 37. Applicant's representative agreed to an examiner's amendment in order to place the application in condition for allowance.

Part III.

- It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview directly resulted in the allowance of the application. The examiner will provide a written summary of the substance of the interview in the Notice of Allowability.
 It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview did not result in resolution of all issues. A brief summary by the examiner appears in Part II above.

/Elana B Fisher/
Examiner, Art Unit 3733

(Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature – if appropriate)

Art Unit: 3733

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Rory Schermerhorn on December 28, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 36, line 1: "The implant of claim 31..." has been changed to "The implant of claim 2..."

Claim 37, lines 2-3: "said later side" has been changed to "said anterior side"

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ELANA B. FISHER whose telephone number is (571)270-3643. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on (571)272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3733


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Elana B Fisher/

Examiner, Art Unit 3733

/EDUARDO C. ROBERT/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3733

Index of Claims 	Application/Control No. 11093409	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination CURRAN ET AL.
	Examiner ELANA B FISHER	Art Unit 3733

✓	Rejected
=	Allowed


-	Cancelled
÷	Restricted

N	Non-Elected
I	Interference

A	Appeal
O	Objected

Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant
 CPA
 T.D.
 R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE							
Final	Original	02/12/2007	02/27/2008	09/12/2008	08/16/2009	05/15/2010	01/12/2011		
	1	÷	✓	✓	✓	✓	=		
	2	÷	✓	✓	✓	✓	=		
	3	÷	✓	✓	✓	✓	=		
	4	÷	✓	✓	✓	✓	=		
	5	÷	✓	✓	✓	✓	=		
	6	÷	✓	-	-	-	-		
	7	÷	✓	-	-	-	-		
	8	÷	✓	-	-	-	-		
	9	÷	✓	-	-	-	-		
	10	÷	✓	-	-	-	-		
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	12	÷	✓	✓	-	-	-		
	13	÷	✓	✓	-	-	-		
	14	÷	N	N	-	-	-		
	15	÷	N	N	-	-	-		
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	24	÷	N	N	-	-	-		
	25	÷	N	N	-	-	-		
	26	÷	N	N	-	-	-		
	27			✓	-	-	-		
	28			✓	-	-	-		
	29			N	-	-	-		
	30			N	-	-	-		
	31				✓	✓	=		
	32				✓	✓	=		
	33				✓	✓	=		
	34				✓	✓	=		
	35				✓	✓	=		
	36				✓	✓	=		

<i>Index of Claims</i> 	Application/Control No. 11093409	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination CURRAN ET AL.
	Examiner ELANA B FISHER	Art Unit 3733

✓	Rejected
=	Allowed


-	Cancelled
÷	Restricted

N	Non-Elected
I	Interference

A	Appeal
O	Objected

Claims renumbered in the same order as presented by applicant
 CPA
 T.D.
 R.1.47

CLAIM		DATE							
Final	Original	02/12/2007	02/27/2008	09/12/2008	08/16/2009	05/15/2010	01/12/2011		
	37				✓	✓	=		
	38				✓	✓	=		
	39				✓	✓	=		
	40				✓	✓	=		
	41				✓	✓	=		
	42				✓	✓	=		
	43				✓	✓	=		
	44					✓	=		
	45					✓	=		
	46					✓	=		
	47					✓	=		
	48					✓	=		
	49					✓	=		
	50					✓	=		
	51					✓	=		

Search Notes 	Application/Control No. 11093409	Applicant(s)/Patent Under Reexamination CURRAN ET AL.
	Examiner JERRY CUMBERLEDGE	Art Unit 3733

SEARCHED			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
623	17.11-17.16	2/27/2008	JLC
606	99	2/27/2008	JLC
	Updated Search	9/12/2008	JLC
	Above Updated	08/16/2009	EF
	Above Updated	05/15/2010	EF
	Above Updated	01/12/2011	EF

SEARCH NOTES		
Search Notes	Date	Examiner
Inventor Name Search Performed	2/27/2008	JLC
EAST classification search	08/16/2009	EF
EAST citation search	08/16/2009	EF
EAST text search	08/16/2009	EF
IDS reference search in EAST	08/16/2009	EF
Above Updated	05/15/2010	EF
Above Updated	01/12/2011	EF

INTERFERENCE SEARCH			
Class	Subclass	Date	Examiner
	See Attached	01/12/2011	EF

/ELANA B FISHER/ Examiner.Art Unit 3733	
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EAST Search History**EAST Search History (I nterference)**

Ref #	Hits	Search Query	DBs	Default Operator	Plurals	Time Stamp
L1	0	((spinal adj fusion adj implant) and (top adj surface) and (bottom adj surface) and (distal adj side) and (proximal adj side) and (first adj side adj wall) and (second adj side adj wall) and (anterior adj side) and (posterior adj side) and length and (fusion adj apertures) and (radiopaque adj marker) and three and (medial adj support)).clm.	USPAT; UPAD	OR	ON	2011/01/12 15:00

1/ 12/ 2011 3:00:36 PM**C:\ Documents and Settings\ efisher1\ My Documents\ EAST\ Workspaces
\ 11093409.wsp**

Receipt date: 01/10/2011

Doc code: IDS

Doc description: Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed

11093409 - GAI: 3733

Pat. Sec. 101 (11)

Approved for use through 07/31/2012. OMB 0651-0031

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number		11093409
	Filing Date		2005-03-29
	First Named Inventor	Matthew Curran	
	Art Unit		3733
	Examiner Name	Elana Beth Fisher	
	Attorney Docket Number		104US1

U.S. PATENTS							Remove
Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Patent Number	Kind Code ¹	Issue Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
	1	3867728		1975-02-25	Stubstad et al.		
	2	4501269		1985-02-26	Bagby		
	3	4834757		1989-05-30	Brantigan		
	4	5015247		1991-05-14	Michelson		
	5	5047055		1991-09-10	Bao et al.		
	6	5192327		1993-03-09	Brantigan		
	7	5263953		1993-11-23	Bagby		
	8	5397364		1995-03-14	Kozak		

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number	11093409	11093409 - GAU: 3733
	Filing Date	2005-03-29	
	First Named Inventor	Matthew Curran	
	Art Unit	3733	
	Examiner Name	Elana Beth Fisher	
	Attorney Docket Number	104US1	
	Receipt date: 01/10/2011		

	9	5489307		1996-02-06	Kuslich et al.	
	10	5658337		1997-08-19	Kohrs et al.	
	11	4545374		1985-10-08	Jacobson	
	12	5026373		1991-06-25	Ray	
	13	5071437		1991-12-10	Steffee	
	14	4961740		1990-10-09	Ray et al.	

If you wish to add additional U.S. Patent citation information please click the Add button.

U.S.PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS

Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Publication Number	Kind Code ¹	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages,Columns,Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	1					

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Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Foreign Document Number ³	Country Code ² i	Kind Code ⁴	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages,Columns,Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁵

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number	11093409	11093409 - GAU: 3733
	Filing Date	2005-03-29	
	First Named Inventor	Matthew Curran	
	Art Unit	3733	
	Examiner Name	Elana Beth Fisher	
	Attorney Docket Number	104US1	

1	90/00037	WO		1990-01-11	Michelson	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	92/14423	WO		1992-09-03	Pisharodi	<input type="checkbox"/>

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NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc), date, pages(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁵
	1	BAULOT et al. "Complementary anterior spondylodesis by thoracoscopy. Technical note regarding an observation," Technical Designs and Experimental Research, 90(5):347-351 (1994).	<input type="checkbox"/>
	2	BERRY et al. "A morphometric study of human lumbar and selected thoracic vertebrae, study of selected vertebrae" (1986)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	3	CROCK, H.V., "Anterior Lumbar Interbody Fusion" Clinical Orthopaedics & Related Research (1982)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	4	CROCK, H.V., "A short practice of spinal surgery," Published 1993 by Springer-Verlag/Wien, New York	<input type="checkbox"/>
	5	EDELAND, H.G. "Some additional suggestions for a intervertebral disk prosthesis" 7 Journal of Biomedical Engineering 57 (1985)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	6	KEMP, H.B.S. "Anterior fusion of the spine for infective lesions in adults" 55B Journal of Bone & Joint Surgery 715 (1973)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	7	NUVASIVE, INC. Corrected Final Invalidation Contentions Regarding US Patent Nos. 5,860,973, 6,592,586 and 6,945,933 filed in the United States District Court Southern District of California on June 14, 2010 (and 23 Appendices)	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you wish to add additional non-patent literature document citation information please click the Add button

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number	11093409	11093409 - GAU: 3733
	Filing Date	2005-03-29	
	First Named Inventor	Matthew Curran	
	Art Unit	3733	
	Examiner Name	Elana Beth Fisher	
	Attorney Docket Number	104US1	

EXAMINER SIGNATURE			
Examiner Signature	/Elana Fisher/	Date Considered	01/12/2011

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through a citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.USPTO.GOV or MPEP 901.04. ² Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ³ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁴ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁵ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/093,409	03/29/2005	Matthew Curran	104US1	6640
30328	7590	02/16/2011	EXAMINER	
NuVasive c/o CPA Global P.O. Box 52050 Minneapolis, MN 55402			FISHER, ELANA BETH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3733	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			02/16/2011	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
11093409	3/29/2005	CURRAN ET AL.	104US1

NuVasive
c/o CPA Global
P.O. Box 52050
Minneapolis, MN 55402

EXAMINER

ELANA B. FISHER

ART UNIT	PAPER
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3733

20110212

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

The IDS submitted on April 22, 2005 has been reconsidered.

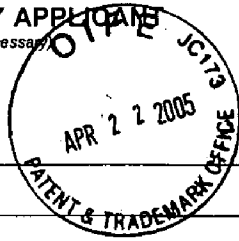
/EDUARDO C. ROBERT/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3733

/Elana B Fisher/
Examiner, Art Unit 3733

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)



Complete if Known

Application Number	11/093,409
Filing Date	March 29, 2005
First Named Inventor	Matthew Curran
Group Art Unit	Unknown
Examiner Name	Unknown

Sheet 1 of 6

Attorney Docket No: 104US1

US PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial *	USP Document Number	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	US-2002/0058950 A1	05/16/2002	Winterbottom, et al.	
	US-2003/0105528	06/05/2003	Shimp, et al.	
	US-3,486,505	12/30/1969	Morrison, Gordon M.	
	US-3,518,993	07/07/1970	Blake, Lawrence W.	
	US-3,604,487	09/14/1971	Gilbert, Richard S.	
	US-3,745,995	07/17/1973	Kraus	
	US-3,848,601	11/19/1974	Ma, et al.	
	US-4,026,304	05/31/1971	Levy	
	US-4,026,305	05/31/1977	Brownlee, et al.	
	US-4,646,738	03/03/1987	Trott, Arthur F.	
	US-4,657,550	04/14/1987	Daher	
	US-4,743,256	05/10/1988	Brantigan	
	US-4,781,591	11/01/1988	Allen	
	US-4,834,757	05/30/1989	Brantigan	
	US-4,877,020	10/31/1989	Vich	
	US-4,878,915	11/07/1989	Brantigan,	
	US-4,932,975	06/12/1990	Main, et al.	
	US-4,961,740	10/09/1990	Ray, et al.	
	US-4,962,766	10/16/1990	Herzon, G. D.	
	US-5,026,373	06/25/1991	Ray, et al.	
	US-5,055,104	10/08/1991	Ray	
	US-5,062,845	11/05/1991	Kuslich, et al.	
	US-5,092,572	03/03/1992	Litwak, et al.	
	US-5,133,717	07/28/1992	Chopin	
	US-5,133,755	07/28/1992	Brekke	
	US-5,171,278	12/15/1992	Pisharodi	
	US-5,192,327	03/09/1993	Brantigan, John W.	
	US-5,217,497	06/08/1993	Mehdian	
	US-5,269,785	12/14/1993	Bonutti	
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	US-5,290,494	03/01/1994	Coombes, et al.	
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)	<i>Complete if Known</i>	
	Application Number	11/093,409
	Filing Date	March 29, 2005
	First Named Inventor	Matthew Curran
	Group Art Unit	Unknown
	Examiner Name	Unknown
Sheet 2 of 6	Attorney Docket No: 104US1	

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
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<i>Complete if Known</i>	
Application Number	11/093,409
Filing Date	March 29, 2005
First Named Inventor	Matthew Curran
Group Art Unit	Unknown
Examiner Name	Unknown

Sheet 3 of 6

Attorney Docket No: 104US1

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT
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First Named Inventor	Matthew Curran
Group Art Unit	Unknown
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket No: 104US1	

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	Application Number	11/093,409
	Filing Date	March 29, 2005
	First Named Inventor	Matthew Curran
	Group Art Unit	Unknown
	Examiner Name	Unknown
Sheet 5 of 6	Attorney Docket No: 104US1	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Foreign Document No	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ²
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OTHER DOCUMENTS -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
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	Filing Date	March 29, 2005
	First Named Inventor	Matthew Curran
	Group Art Unit	Unknown
	Examiner Name	Unknown
Sheet 6 of 6	Attorney Docket No: 104US1	

OTHER DOCUMENTS -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
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**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
 or Fax (571) 273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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 Minneapolis, MN 55402

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(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/093,409	03/29/2005	Matthew Curran	104US1	6640

TITLE OF INVENTION:

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$0	\$1510	04/20/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).
 Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
 "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list
 (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1	NUVASIVE INC.
2	Jonathan Spangler
3	

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE NUVASIVE INC.	(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY) San Diego CA
---------------------------------------	--

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : Individual Corporation or other private group entity Government

4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:
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4b. Payment of Fee(s):
 A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
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5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)
 a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

The Director of the USPTO is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above. NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature <u>/Jennifer Risser/</u>	Date March 1, 2011
Typed or printed name Jennifer Risser	Registration No. 60059

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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11093409
Filing Date:	29-Mar-2005
Title of Invention:	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew Curran
Filer:	Jennifer Lynn Risser
Attorney Docket Number:	104US1

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Utility Appl issue fee	1501	1	1510	1510

Extension-of-Time:

1198

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				1510

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	9560525
Application Number:	11093409
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6640
Title of Invention:	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew Curran
Customer Number:	30328
Filer:	Jennifer Lynn Risser
Filer Authorized By:	
Attorney Docket Number:	104US1
Receipt Date:	01-MAR-2011
Filing Date:	29-MAR-2005
Time Stamp:	15:01:30
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$1510
RAM confirmation Number	1289
Deposit Account	502040
Authorized User	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
		1200			

1	Issue Fee Payment (PTO-85B)	2011-03-01- IssueFeePartB104US1.pdf	220605	no	2
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Warnings:

Information:

2	Fee Worksheet (PTO-875)	fee-info.pdf	29641	no	2
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Warnings:

Information:

Total Files Size (in bytes):			250246		
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This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.

New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.

Receipt date: 04/22/2005

11093409 - GAU: 3733

PTO/SBDBA(06-03)
Approved for use through 07/31/2006 OMB 0651-0031
US Patent & Trademark Office U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)	<small>Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it carries a valid OMB control number.</small>	
	<small>Complete if Known</small>	
	Application Number	11/093,409
	Filing Date	March 29, 2005
	First Named Inventor	Matthew Curran
Group Art Unit	Unknown	
Examiner Name	Unknown	
Sheet 3 of 6	Attorney Docket No: 104US1	

	US-5,683,400	11/04/1997	McGuire, David A.	
	US-5,683,464	11/04/1997	Wagner, et al.	
	US-5,690,629	11/25/1997	Asher, et al.	
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Change(s) applied to document, /D.H.P./ 3/2/2011	US-5,779,642	04/14/1998 7/1998	Nightengale, Christopher	
	US-5,782,830	07/21/1998	Farris, Robert A.	
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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

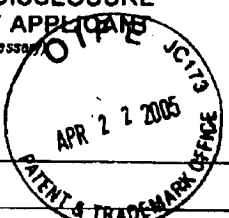
Substitute Disclosure Statement Form (PTO-1449)
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional) Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /E.F./

Receipt date: 04/22/2005

11093409 - GAU: 3733

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT
 (Use as many sheets as necessary)



PTO/SB/08A(08-03)
 Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0851-0031
 US Patent & Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Complete if Known

Application Number	11/093,409
Filing Date	March 29, 2005
First Named Inventor	Matthew Curran
Group Art Unit	Unknown
Examiner Name	Unknown

Attorney Docket No: 104US1

Sheet 1 of 6

US PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial *	USP Document Number	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
	US-2002/0058950 A1	05/16/2002	Winterbottom, et al.	
	US-2003/0105528	06/05/2003	Shimp, et al.	
	US-3,486,505	12/30/1969	Morrison, Gordon M.	
	US-3,518,993	07/07/1970	Blake, Lawrence W.	
	US-3,604,487	09/14/1971	Gilbert, Richard S.	
	US-3,745,995	07/17/1973	Kraus	
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	US-4,026,304	05/31/1977	Levy ^{5/1977}	
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	US-5,026,373	06/25/1991	Ray, et al.	
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Change(s) applied to document, /D.H.P./ 3/2/2011

EXAMINER /Elana Fisher/

DATE CONSIDERED 02/12/2011

Substitute Disclosure Statement Form (PTO-1449)
 * EXAMINER: Initial reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §909. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional) 2 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

ALL REFERENCES CONSIDERED EXCEPT WHERE LINED THROUGH. /E.F./

⑥ 1449 02 16 11

Receipt date: 01/21/2009

11093409 - GAI: 3733

Doc code: IDS

Doc description: Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed

Approved for use through 01/31/2009. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99)	Application Number		11093409
	Filing Date		2005-03-29
	First Named Inventor	Matthew Curran	
	Art Unit	3733	
	Examiner Name	Jerry L. Cumberledge	
	Attorney Docket Number	104US1	

U.S. PATENTS							Remove
Examiner Initial*	Cite No	Patent Number	Kind Code ¹	Issue Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
	1	4950296		1990-08-21	McIntyre, J. L.		
	2	5484437		1996-01-16	Michelson, Gary K.		
	3	5741253		1998-04-21	Michelson, Gary K.		
Change(s) applied to document /D.H.P./ 3/2/2011	4	5860973		1996-10-30 1/1999	Michelson, Gary K.		
	5	6059829		2000-05-09	Schlapfer, F. et al.		
	6	6120503		2000-09-19	Michelson, Gary K.		
	7	6409766		2002-06-25	Brett, D. C.		
	8	6432140		2002-08-13	Lin, Chih-I		



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov



Bib Data Sheet

CONFIRMATION NO. 6640

Table with 5 columns: SERIAL NUMBER (11/093,409), FILING OR 371(c) DATE (03/29/2005), CLASS (623), GROUP ART UNIT (3733), ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. (104US1)

APPLICANTS

Matthew Curran, Carlsbad, CA;
Mark Peterson, Medford, OR;

** CONTINUING DATA *****

This appln claims benefit of 60/557,536 03/29/2004

** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS *****

IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED

** 04/23/2005

Table with 6 columns: Foreign Priority claimed (checkboxes), 35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met (checkboxes), STATE OR COUNTRY (CA), SHEETS DRAWING (20), TOTAL CLAIMS (26), INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (2)

ADDRESS

30328

TITLE

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION

Table with 2 main columns: FILING FEE RECEIVED (715) and FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. for following: (checkboxes for All Fees, 1.16 Fees, 1.17 Fees, 1.18 Fees, Other, Credit)



APPLICATION NO.	ISSUE DATE	PATENT NO.	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
11/093,409	04/05/2011	7918891	104US1	6640

30328 7590 03/16/2011
NuVasive
c/o CPA Global
P.O. Box 52050
Minneapolis, MN 55402

ISSUE NOTIFICATION

The projected patent number and issue date are specified above.

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment is 308 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the adjustment on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Application Assistance Unit (AAU) of the Office of Data Management (ODM) at (571)-272-4200.

APPLICANT(s) (Please see PAIR WEB site <http://pair.uspto.gov> for additional applicants):

Matthew Curran, Carlsbad, CA;
Mark Peterson, Medford, OR;

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Matthew Curran et al. Art Unit : 3733
Patent No. : 7,918,891 Examiner : Elana Beth Fisher
Issue Date : April 5, 2011 Conf. No. : 6640
Serial No. : 11/093,409
Filed : March 29, 2005
Title : SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST TO CORRECT INVENTORSHIP
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.324(a)

Applicant requests correction of inventorship for the above-captioned issued patent by the addition of the following inventor:

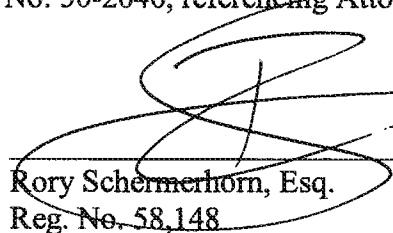
LUIZ PIMENTA

Applicant submits herewith the following:

- 1) Inventor's Declaration to Correct Inventorship by LUIZ PIMENTA ;
- 2) Declarations by current named Inventors: MATTHEW CURRAN and MARK PETERSON;
- 3) Consent of Assignee to Correct Inventorship;
- 4) Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. §3.73(b); and
- 5) Certificate of Correction.

A credit card payment of \$230 (\$130 in payment for the petition fee of §1.20(b), \$100 in payment for the Certificate of Correction fee of §1.20(a)) is submitted herewith. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 50-2040, referencing Attorney Docket No. 104US1.

Date: June 21, 2013



Rory Schermerhorn, Esq.
Reg. No. 58,148

Customer Number 30328
NuVasive, Inc.
c/o CPA Global
P.O. Box 52050
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (858) 909-1845

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : NuVasive, Inc.	Art Unit : 3733
Patent No. : 7,918,891	Examiner : Elana Beth Fisher
Issue Date : April 5, 2013	Conf. No. : 6640
Serial No. : 11/092,409	
Filed : March 28, 2005	
Title : SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION	

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INVENTOR'S DECLARATION TO CORRECT INVENTORSHIP

I, MARK PETERSON declare:


1. That I am an original named inventor of the noted patent application.

2. That through error, without any deceptive intention on my part or that of any actual inventor, the above-captioned application was filed naming MATTHEW CURRAN and MARK PETERSON, rather than MATTHEW CURRAN, MARK PETERSON and LUIZ PIMENTA. This error was discovered after the application was filed.

3. That I hereby consent to the correction of inventorship to include LUIZ PIMENTA, as described in paragraph 2, hereinabove.

4. That all statements made herein of my own knowledge and true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: 6/1/13



 MARK PETERSON
 340 Royal Avenue, Suite #1
 Medford, OR 97504
 United States

Customer Number 30328
NuVasive
c/o CPA Global
P.O. Box 52050
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (858) 999-1845

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Matthew Curran et al. Art Unit : 3733
Patent No. : 7,918,891 Examiner : Elana Beth Fisher
Issue Date : April 5, 2011 Conf. No. : 6640
Serial No. : 11/093,409
Filed : March 29, 2005
Title : SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR §3.73(b)

Under 37 CFR §3.73(b) NUVASIVE, INC., a corporation, certifies that it is the assignee of the entire right, title and interest in the patent application identified above by virtue of assignments from the inventors of the patent application identified above. The assignments were recorded in the Patent and Trademark Office at

Reel 016832, Frame 0646 on August 4, 2005; and

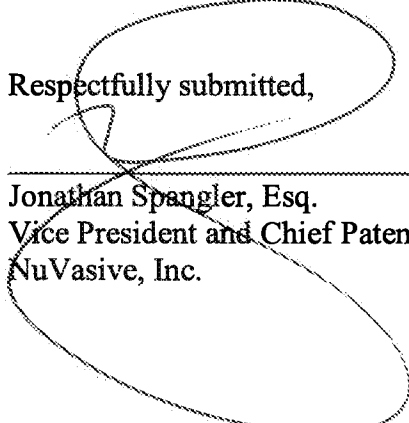
Reel 030212, Frame 0928 on April 15, 2003.

The undersigned, whose title is supplied below, is empowered to act on behalf of the assignee.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief and believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 20, 2013


Jonathan Spangler, Esq.
Vice President and Chief Patent Counsel of
NuVasive, Inc.

Customer Number 30328
NuVasive
c/o CPA Global
P.O. Box 52050
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (858) 909-1845

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Matthew Curran et al. Art Unit : 3733
Patent No. : 7,918,891 Examiner : Elana Beth Fisher
Issue Date : April 5, 2011 Conf. No. : 6640
Serial No. : 11/093,409
Filed : March 29, 2005

Title : SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION

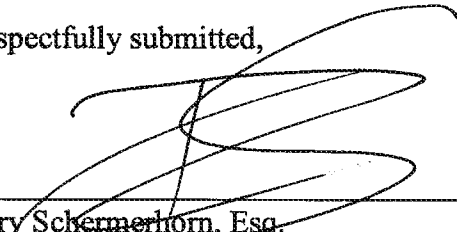
Attn.: Certificate of Corrections Branch
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Applicant hereby requests that a certificate of correction be issued for the above patent in accordance with the attached request.

One or more of the errors sought to be corrected were made by Applicants, therefore a credit card payment of the \$100 required fee of 37 CFR §1.20(a) is submitted herewith. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account 50-2040, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 104US1.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: June 21, 2013

Rory Schermerhorn, Esq.
Reg. No. 58,148

Customer Number 30328
NuVasive, INC.
c/o CPA Global
P.O. Box 52050
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (858) 909-1845

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Page 1 of 1

PATENT NO. : 7,918,891
APPLICATION NO.: 11/093,409
ISSUE DATE : April 4, 2011
INVENTOR(S) : Matthew Curran et al.

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Title Page, Inventors, please insert -- Luiz Pimenta, Sao Paulo, Brasil --

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER (Please do not use customer number below):

NuVasive, c/o CPA Global, P.O. Box 52050, Minneapolis, MN 55402

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.322, 1.323, and 1.324. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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The **Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579)** requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Electronic Patent Application Fee Transmittal

Application Number:	11093409
Filing Date:	29-Mar-2005
Title of Invention:	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew Curran
Filer:	Rory A. Schermerhorn/Marjorie Jarvis
Attorney Docket Number:	104US1

Filed as Large Entity

Utility under 35 USC 111(a) Filing Fees

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Basic Filing:				
Pages:				
Claims:				
Miscellaneous-Filing:				
Petition:				
Patent-Appeals-and-Interference:				
Post-Allowance-and-Post-Issuance:				
Certificate of Correction	1811	1	100	100
Processing Fee Correcting Inventorship	1816	1	130	130

Description	Fee Code	Quantity	Amount	Sub-Total in USD(\$)
Extension-of-Time:				
Miscellaneous:				
Total in USD (\$)				230

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt

EFS ID:	16125041
Application Number:	11093409
International Application Number:	
Confirmation Number:	6640
Title of Invention:	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Matthew Curran
Customer Number:	30328
Filer:	Rory A. Schermerhorn/Marjorie Jarvis
Filer Authorized By:	Rory A. Schermerhorn
Attorney Docket Number:	104US1
Receipt Date:	21-JUN-2013
Filing Date:	29-MAR-2005
Time Stamp:	18:53:43
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Credit Card
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$230
RAM confirmation Number	17157
Deposit Account	
Authorized User	

File Listing:

Document Number	Document Description	File Name	File Size(Bytes)/ Message Digest	Multi Part /.zip	Pages (if appl.)
		1218			

1	Petition for review/processing depending on status	2013-06-21_RqstCorrInventors hip_104US1.pdf	24185 f50675827a24bab35cab4f47d600c475c29f be17	no	1
Warnings:					
The page size in the PDF is too large. The pages should be 8.5 x 11 or A4. If this PDF is submitted, the pages will be resized upon entry into the Image File Wrapper and may affect subsequent processing					
Information:					
2	Oath or Declaration filed	2013-06-21_Declaration_Pimenta_104US1.pdf	50213 cc235c351a7aa84d7570414d2fe7cd87bba 0ba5c	no	1
Warnings:					
The page size in the PDF is too large. The pages should be 8.5 x 11 or A4. If this PDF is submitted, the pages will be resized upon entry into the Image File Wrapper and may affect subsequent processing					
Information:					
3	Oath or Declaration filed	2013-06-21_Declaration_Curran_104US1.pdf	50340 945d6c4bc6573cfa09712d9eee56640dfe5 acfc	no	1
Warnings:					
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Information:					
4	Oath or Declaration filed	2013-06-21_Declaration_Peterson_104US1.pdf	75103 69a2af1fe34b3d1491ff49a31afe20c90f9ba d52	no	1
Warnings:					
Information:					
5	Consent of Assignee accompanying the declaration	2013-06-21_ConsentAssignee_104US1.pdf	29947 47fb0b0ecbf41960d9654aa1d326f3d702f5 bf5c	no	1
Warnings:					
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Information:					
6	Assignee showing of ownership per 37 CFR 3.73.	2013-06-21_Cert3-73b_104US1.pdf	32291 dcb0731ba18272ede83fd0c015a86e05f56 bdb17	no	1
Warnings:					
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Information:					
7	Request for Certificate of Correction	2013-06-21_COC_Transmittal_104US1.pdf	25017 f571dd2476f9008dae3218aa3f706f4a89e1 9a1a	no	1
Warnings:					
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Information:					
8	Request for Certificate of Correction	2013-06-21_COC_104US1.pdf	164255 f7ea6632f26ee58eba723bd172b6b39afe8b0db	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
9	Fee Worksheet (SB06)	fee-info.pdf	31854 d964adda40a4933659395d4d94f3b15766069708	no	2
Warnings:					
Information:					
Total Files Size (in bytes):				483205	
<p>This Acknowledgement Receipt evidences receipt on the noted date by the USPTO of the indicated documents, characterized by the applicant, and including page counts, where applicable. It serves as evidence of receipt similar to a Post Card, as described in MPEP 503.</p> <p><u>New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111</u> If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.</p> <p><u>National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371</u> If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.</p> <p><u>New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office</u> If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.</p>					



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Table with columns: APPLICATION NO., FILING DATE, FIRST NAMED INVENTOR, ATTORNEY DOCKET NO., CONFIRMATION NO., EXAMINER, ART UNIT, PAPER NUMBER, NOTIFICATION DATE, DELIVERY MODE. Includes application details for NuVasive, Inc. and examiner FISHER, ELANA BETH.

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ip@nuvasive.com
docketing@cpaglobal.com



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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
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In re Patent No. CURRAN ET AL. :
Issue Date: April 5, 2011 : **DECISION GRANTING**
Appl No.: 11/093,409 : **PETITION**
Filed: March 29, 2005 : *37 CFR 1.324*
For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FUSION :
:
:
:

This is a decision on the petition filed June 21, 2013 to correct inventorship under 37 CFR 1.324.

The petition is granted.

The patented file is being forwarded to Certificate of Corrections Branch for issuance of a certificate naming only the actual inventor or inventors.

/Eduardo C. Robert/

EDUARDO C. ROBERT
Supervisory Patent Examiner
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Art Unit: 3733



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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450
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DATE: August 6, 2013
TO: Certificates of Correction Branch
FROM: Eduardo C. Robert, SPE, Art Unit 3733
SUBJECT: Request for Certificate of Correction

Please issue a Certificate of Correction in U. S. Letters Patent No. 7,918,891 as specified on the attached Certificate.

/Eduardo C. Robert/

Eduardo C. Robert, SPE
Art Unit 3733

Art Unit: 3733

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE CERTIFICATE

Patent No. 7,918,891

Patented: April 5, 2011

On petition requesting issuance of a certificate for correction of inventorship pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 256, it has been found that the above identified patent improperly sets forth the inventorship. Accordingly, it is hereby certified that the correct inventorship of this patent is:

Matthew Curran, Carlsbad, CA; Mark Peterson, Medford, OR; Luiz Pimenta, Sao Paulo, Brasil

/Eduardo C. Robert/

Eduardo C. Robert, Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3733