Title: INTERVERTEBRAL IMPLANT FOR TRANSFORAMINAL POSTERIOR LUMBAR INTERBODY FUSION PROCEDURE

Abstract: An intervertebral implant for fusing vertebrae is disclosed. The implant has a body with curved, substantially parallel posterior and anterior faces separated by two narrow implant ends, superior and inferior faces having a plurality of undulating surfaces for contacting upper and lower vertebral endplates, and at least one depression in the anterior or posterior face for engagement by an insertion tool, at least two vertical through-channels extending through the implant from the superior face to the inferior face, a chamfer on the superior and inferior surfaces at one of the narrow implant ends, and a beveled edge along a perimeter of the superior and inferior faces. The arcuate implant configuration and the chamfers on the superior and inferior faces at the narrow end facilitate insertion of the implant from a transfornaminal approach into a symmetric position about the midline of the spine so that a single implant provides balanced support to the spinal column. The implant may include radiopaque markers extending through the thickness of the implant to indicate the location and size of the implant. The implant may be formed of a plurality of interconnecting bodies assembled to form a single unit. An implantation kit and method are also disclosed.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : F28F 7/00
US CL : 165/185, 80.3; 257/707,713; 361/708, 717-18, 705: 428/41.8, 42.2, 423

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 165/185, 80.3; 257/707,713; 361/708, 717-18, 705: 428/41.8, 42.2, 423

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
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<td>16-17</td>
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<td>Y</td>
<td>US 6,054,198 A (Bunyan et al.) 25 April 2000 (25.04.2000), See col. 2 line 1, 48-55.</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,059,116 A (Hinshaw et al.) 09 May 2000 (09.05.2000), See entire document.</td>
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search: 30 June 2004 (30.06.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report: 14 DEC 2004

Authorized officer: [Signature]

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