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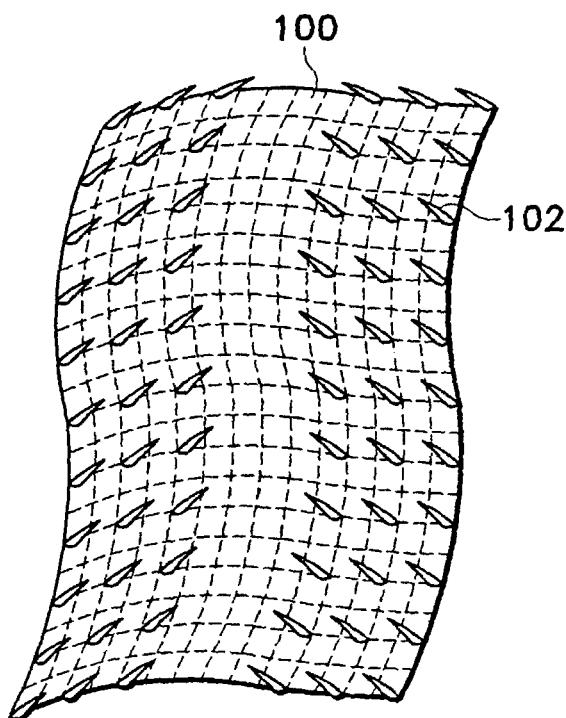
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(54) Title: TISSUE APPROXIMATION DEVICE AND A METHOD USING IT



(57) Abstract: A tissue approximation device and processes for using the device are provided. The device is an implantable, biodegradable construct (except for hernia repairs) that has attachment points emanating from a supportive backing. The device improves the mechanical phase of wound healing and evenly distributes tension over the contact area between the device and tissue. Processes for using the device include wound closure, vascular anastomoses, soft tissue attachment and soft tissue to bone attachment. Several variations are particularly applicable to facilitating tissue approximation in surgical cosmetic applications including, for example, orbital rim reconstruction and tissue suspension.

WO 01/89392 A3



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