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Way, Eatontown, NJ 07724 (US).(72) Inventors: LIN, Jo-Wen; 80 Diane Drive, Teton Falls, NJ
07753 (US). SCARBOROUGH, Nelson, L.; 47 Lambert
Johnson Drive, Ocean, NJ 07712 (US).(74) Agents: DILWORTH, Peter, G. et al.; Dilworth & Bar-
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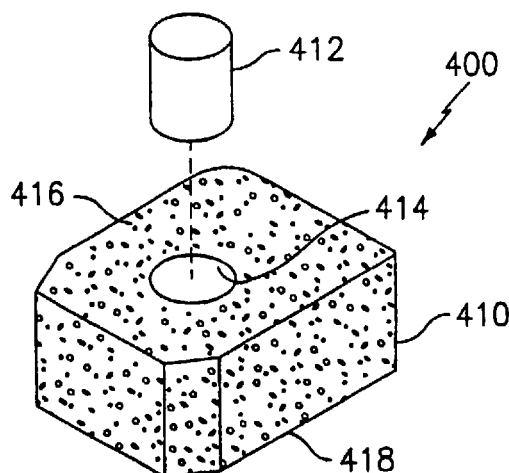
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(54) Title: INTERVERTEBRAL SPACER AND IMPLANT INSERTION INSTRUMENTATION

(57) Abstract: An intervertebral spacer (400) formed of dense cancel-
lous human or animal bone is provided. In one preferred embodiment,
the intervertebral spacer (400) includes at least one bore (414) which is
dimensioned to receive a plug (412) formed from cortical bone tissue.
The cortical bone plug (412) provides increased mechanical strength to
the intervertebral spacer (400). Instrumentation for gauging the size of
an intervertebral receiving bed and for grasping and inserting an inter-
vertebral spacer or implant into an intervertebral receiving bed are also
provided. These instruments include a spacer trial or set of spacer trials
for determining the appropriate size spacer required for a particular
surgical procedure, a spacer introducer for grasping and positioning a
spacer at least partially within a receiving bed formed in the interverte-
bral space, and a bone tamp for driving a spacer into the receiving bed.
Any one or all these instruments may be provided in a kit for inserting
an implant into the intervertebral space. The kit may also include one
or more intervertebral spacers or implants.