

ABSTRACT

A SPINAL IMPLANT SYSTEM AND A METHOD FOR
INSTALLING THE IMPLANT ONTO A VERTEBRAL COLUMN

A spinal implant that has a rod that connects and stabilizes the vertebrae of a vertebral column. The implant has screws that are attached to the vertebrae. Each screw has a clamp with a first bore that allows the clamp to be placed over the screw. The first bore of the clamp is larger than the major diameter of the screw, so that the clamp can float about the screws. The clamps each have a second bore perpendicular to the first bore, adapted to receive and hold the rod. Integrally formed with the second bore of each clamp are a pair of flanges. When the flanges are deflected inward, the clamp "grabs" the rod. The clamp is placed on a hexagonally shaped shoulder of the screw. A nut is fastened onto the opposite side of the clamp, such that the flanges are pressed between the shoulder and the nut. The diameter of the second bore and rod are approximately the same so that a small deflection of the flanges produces a large clamping force on the rod.

This Sheet Has Been Replaced

