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(54) Title: ULTRASOUND IMAGING METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR IDENTIFYING AN ANATOMICAL FEATURE OF A SPINE

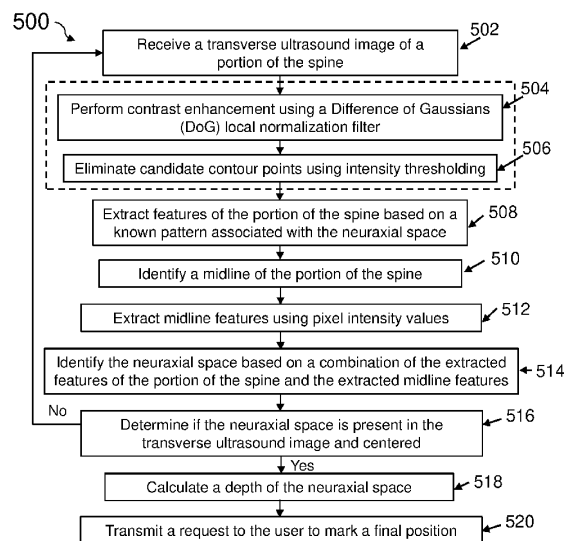


Figure 5

(57) Abstract: Ultrasound imaging methods for identifying an anatomical feature of a spine are described. In an embodiment, the method comprises: receiving a transverse ultrasound image of a portion of the spine; extracting features of the portion of the spine from the image based on a distinct pattern associated with the anatomical feature of the spine; identifying a midline of the portion of the spine in the image; extracting midline features using pixel intensity values of the image; and identifying, based on a combination of the extracted features of the portion of the spine and the extracted midline features, the anatomical feature in the image. In another embodiment, the method comprises: receiving a paramedian sagittal ultrasound image of a portion of the spine; identifying morphological features of the image; and determining if the portion of the spine includes a sacrum using a Support Vector Machine classifier.

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