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(54) Title: BIODEGRADABLE MESH IMPLANT FOR SOFT TISSUE REPAIR, IN PARTICULAR HERNIA REPAIR

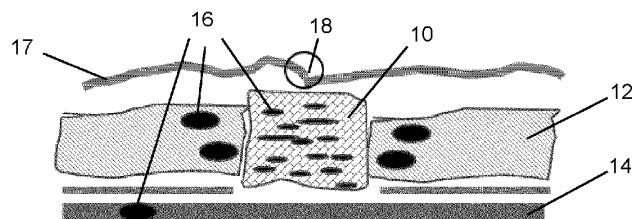


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a biodegradable mesh implant for use in soft tissue repair, in particular surgical hernia, chronic wound healing or fistula repair, within the body of a patient. The mesh implant comprises a porous, hydrophilic biodegradable polymeric carrier mesh (10) and fibroblasts (16) on or within the polymeric carrier mesh. The carrier mesh (10) comprises a sponge-like structure with interconnected pores of different sizes, it has a water contact angle of less than 75° and is made of at least a first polymer comprising polylactic acid as a main component.

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