



US009005254B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Rabiner et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,005,254 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Apr. 14, 2015**

(54) **METHODS FOR REPAIRING CRANIOMAXILLOFACIAL BONES USING CUSTOMIZED BONE PLATE**

(71) Applicant: **IlluminOss Medical, Inc.**, East Providence, RI (US)

(72) Inventors: **Robert A. Rabiner**, Tiverton, RI (US); **Joseph John Crisco, III**, Barrington, RI (US)

(73) Assignee: **Illuminoss Medical, Inc.**, East Providence, RI (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/163,027**

(22) Filed: **Jan. 24, 2014**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2014/0135847 A1 May 15, 2014

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 13/772,947, filed on Feb. 21, 2013, now Pat. No. 8,672,982, which is a continuation of application No. 11/964,370, filed on Dec. 26, 2007, now Pat. No. 8,403,968.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A61B 17/80 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **A61B 17/8061** (2013.01); **A61B 17/8085** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC A61B 17/8061; A61B 17/8085
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,280,233 A 7/1981 Raab
4,294,251 A 10/1981 Greenwald et al.
4,313,434 A 2/1982 Segal

(Continued)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DE 40 28 466 3/1992
EP 0 709 698 5/1996

(Continued)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US13/049773 dated Oct. 1, 2013.

(Continued)

Primary Examiner — David Bates

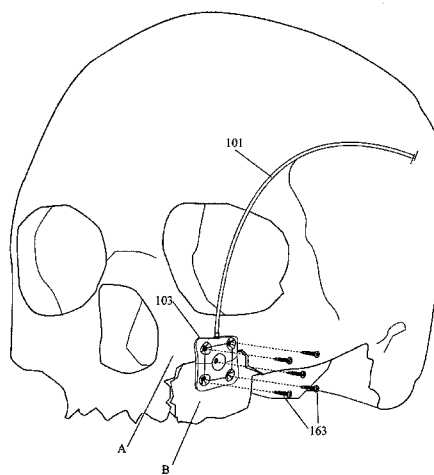
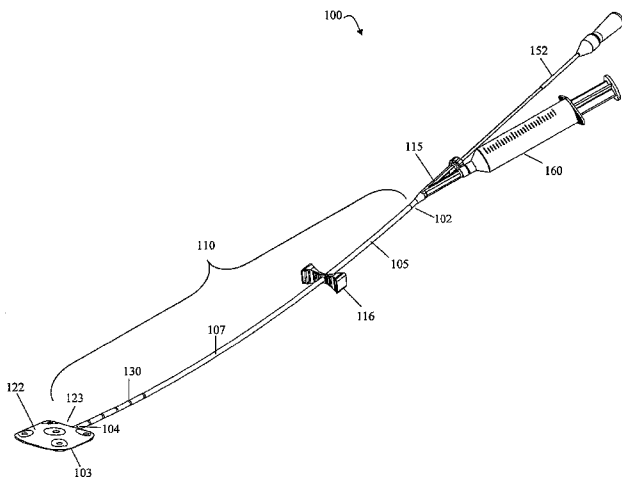
Assistant Examiner — Samuel Hanna

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Greenberg Traurig, LLP; David J. Dykeman; Roman Fayerberg

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Bone plates and methods of using the bone plates for adjoining bone fragments are disclosed herein. A device for adjoining at least two bone fragments includes a delivery catheter having an elongated shaft with a proximal end, a distal end, and a longitudinal axis therebetween, wherein the delivery catheter has an inner void for passage of at least one filling material and an inner lumen for passage of a light source; a conformable bone plate releasably engaging the distal end of the delivery catheter, wherein the conformable bone plate has a first surface, a second surface, a proximal end, and a distal end and at least one aperture extending from the first surface to the second surface for receiving a fastener; and an adapter releasably engaging the proximal end of the delivery catheter for receiving the light source and a delivery system housing the at least one filling material.

13 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets



(56)

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,341,691 A	7/1982	Anuta	6,110,176 A	8/2000	Shapira
4,369,772 A	1/1983	Miller	6,121,341 A	9/2000	Sawhney et al.
4,414,608 A	11/1983	Furihata	6,127,597 A	10/2000	Beyar et al.
4,422,719 A	12/1983	Orcutt	6,136,011 A	10/2000	Stambaugh
4,433,898 A	2/1984	Nasiri	6,140,452 A	10/2000	Felt et al.
4,462,394 A	7/1984	Jacobs	6,159,236 A	12/2000	Biel
4,466,435 A	8/1984	Murray	6,179,852 B1	1/2001	Strickland et al.
4,562,598 A	1/1986	Kranz	6,195,477 B1	2/2001	Denuto et al.
4,686,973 A	8/1987	Frisch	6,200,134 B1	3/2001	Kovac et al.
4,697,584 A	10/1987	Haynes	6,217,581 B1	4/2001	Tolson
4,735,625 A	4/1988	Davidson	6,223,085 B1	4/2001	Dann et al.
4,870,953 A	10/1989	DonMicheal et al.	6,224,630 B1	5/2001	Bao et al.
4,888,024 A	12/1989	Powlan	6,235,043 B1	5/2001	Reiley et al.
4,892,550 A	1/1990	Huebsch	6,241,734 B1	6/2001	Scribner et al.
4,904,391 A	2/1990	Freeman	6,248,110 B1	6/2001	Reiley et al.
4,961,424 A	10/1990	Kubota et al.	6,248,131 B1	6/2001	Felt et al.
4,963,151 A	10/1990	Ducheyne et al.	6,258,089 B1	7/2001	Campbell et al.
4,969,888 A	11/1990	Scholten et al.	6,261,289 B1	7/2001	Levy
5,030,093 A	7/1991	Mitnick	6,280,456 B1	8/2001	Scribner et al.
5,049,157 A	9/1991	Mittelman et al.	6,282,013 B1	8/2001	Ostler et al.
5,085,660 A	2/1992	Lin	6,290,382 B1	9/2001	Bourn et al.
5,092,899 A	3/1992	Forste	6,299,597 B1	10/2001	Buscemi et al.
5,102,413 A	4/1992	Poddar	6,306,177 B1	10/2001	Felt et al.
5,108,404 A	4/1992	Scholten et al.	6,319,255 B1	11/2001	Grundeil et al.
5,112,333 A	5/1992	Fixel	6,332,894 B1	12/2001	Stalcup et al.
5,207,669 A	5/1993	Baker et al.	6,336,914 B1	1/2002	Gillespie, III
5,295,733 A	3/1994	LeBegue	6,336,930 B1 *	1/2002	Stalcup et al. 606/284
5,295,962 A	3/1994	Crocker et al.	6,358,252 B1	3/2002	Shapira
5,303,718 A	4/1994	Krajicek	6,387,098 B1	5/2002	Cole et al.
5,316,550 A	5/1994	Forste	6,395,007 B1	5/2002	Bhatnagar et al.
5,336,699 A	8/1994	Cooke et al.	6,416,531 B2	7/2002	Chen
5,372,598 A	12/1994	Luhr et al.	6,416,737 B1	7/2002	Manolagas et al.
5,376,123 A	12/1994	Klaue et al.	6,419,483 B1	7/2002	Adam et al.
5,391,144 A	2/1995	Sakurai et al.	6,423,055 B1	7/2002	Farr et al.
5,415,654 A	5/1995	Daikuzono	6,423,083 B2	7/2002	Reiley et al.
5,423,850 A	6/1995	Berger	6,425,923 B1	7/2002	Stalcup et al.
5,432,876 A	7/1995	Appeldorn et al.	6,440,444 B2	8/2002	Boyce et al.
5,443,468 A	8/1995	Johnson	6,443,988 B2	9/2002	Felt et al.
5,462,552 A	10/1995	Kiester	6,447,514 B1	9/2002	Stalcup et al.
5,480,400 A	1/1996	Berger	6,458,375 B1	10/2002	Gertzman et al.
5,538,514 A	7/1996	Hawkins	6,478,751 B1	11/2002	Krueger et al.
5,548,676 A	8/1996	Savage, Jr.	6,482,234 B1	11/2002	Weber et al.
5,554,111 A	9/1996	Morrey et al.	6,485,512 B1	11/2002	Cheng
5,556,429 A	9/1996	Felt	6,494,883 B1	12/2002	Ferree
5,571,204 A	11/1996	Nies	6,524,251 B2	2/2003	Rabiner et al.
5,658,310 A	8/1997	Berger	6,524,313 B1	2/2003	Fassier et al.
5,658,963 A	8/1997	Qian et al.	6,551,321 B1	4/2003	Burkinshaw et al.
5,705,181 A	1/1998	Cooper et al.	6,551,337 B1	4/2003	Rabiner et al.
5,707,374 A	1/1998	Schmidt	6,565,528 B1	5/2003	Mueller
5,713,901 A	2/1998	Tock	6,579,277 B1	6/2003	Rabiner et al.
5,795,353 A	8/1998	Felt	6,579,279 B1	6/2003	Rabiner et al.
5,824,087 A	10/1998	Aspden et al.	6,620,185 B1	9/2003	Harvie et al.
5,827,289 A	10/1998	Reiley et al.	6,623,505 B2	9/2003	Scribner et al.
5,888,220 A	3/1999	Felt et al.	6,632,235 B2	10/2003	Weikel et al.
5,897,557 A	4/1999	Chin et al.	6,648,881 B2	11/2003	KenKnight et al.
5,908,433 A	6/1999	Eager et al.	6,652,547 B2	11/2003	Rabiner et al.
5,972,015 A	10/1999	Scribner et al.	6,652,587 B2	11/2003	Felt et al.
5,980,075 A	11/1999	Sheaffer	6,660,013 B2	12/2003	Rabiner et al.
5,980,253 A	11/1999	Oxman et al.	6,679,873 B2	1/2004	Rabiner et al.
5,987,199 A	11/1999	Zarian et al.	6,692,498 B1 *	2/2004	Niiranen et al. 606/70
5,989,230 A	11/1999	Frassica	6,695,781 B2	2/2004	Rabiner et al.
5,997,570 A	12/1999	Ligtenberg et al.	6,695,782 B2	2/2004	Rabiner et al.
6,008,264 A	12/1999	Ostler	6,696,073 B2	2/2004	Boyce et al.
6,019,761 A	2/2000	Gustilo	6,716,216 B1	4/2004	Boucher et al.
6,019,774 A	2/2000	Weiss et al.	6,719,773 B1	4/2004	Boucher et al.
6,033,411 A	3/2000	Preissman	6,726,691 B2	4/2004	Osorio et al.
6,039,762 A	3/2000	McKay	6,730,048 B1	5/2004	Hare et al.
6,042,380 A	3/2000	De Rowe	6,733,451 B2	5/2004	Rabiner et al.
6,048,346 A	4/2000	Reiley et al.	6,733,513 B2	5/2004	Boyle et al.
6,053,917 A	4/2000	Sherman et al.	6,740,093 B2	5/2004	Hochschulter et al.
6,059,789 A	5/2000	Dinger et al.	6,755,862 B2	6/2004	Keynan
6,066,154 A	5/2000	Reiley et al.	6,783,530 B1	8/2004	Levy
6,077,265 A	6/2000	Werding et al.	6,802,835 B2	10/2004	Rabiner et al.
6,079,868 A	6/2000	Rydell	6,818,018 B1	11/2004	Sawhney
6,103,203 A	8/2000	Fischer	6,852,095 B1	2/2005	Ray
			6,866,678 B2	3/2005	Shenderova et al.
			6,869,442 B2	3/2005	Cheng
			6,875,212 B2	4/2005	Shaolian et al.
			6,885,246 B2	4/2005	Tsutsui et al.

(56)

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

			8,936,644 B2	1/2015	Rabiner et al.
			8,939,977 B2	1/2015	DiPoto et al.
			2001/0011174 A1	8/2001	Reiley et al.
			2001/0044626 A1	11/2001	Reiley et al.
6,887,246 B2	5/2005	Bhatnagar et al.	2002/0082600 A1	6/2002	Shaolian et al.
6,887,275 B2	5/2005	Carchidi et al.	2002/0156482 A1	10/2002	Scribner et al.
6,899,713 B2	5/2005	Shaolian et al.	2002/0161373 A1	10/2002	Osorio et al.
6,899,719 B2	5/2005	Reiley et al.	2002/0198526 A1	12/2002	Shaolian et al.
6,932,843 B2	8/2005	Smith et al.	2003/0028210 A1	2/2003	Boyle et al.
6,964,667 B2	11/2005	Shaolian et al.	2003/0083642 A1	5/2003	Boyd et al.
6,979,341 B2	12/2005	Scribner et al.	2003/0105469 A1	6/2003	Karmon
6,981,981 B2	1/2006	Reiley et al.	2003/0114914 A1	6/2003	Cheng
7,001,431 B2	2/2006	Bao et al.	2003/0156431 A1	8/2003	Gozum et al.
7,008,433 B2	3/2006	Voellmicke et al.	2003/0199850 A1	10/2003	Chavez et al.
7,048,731 B2	5/2006	Altshuler et al.	2003/0212426 A1	11/2003	Olson et al.
7,052,498 B2	5/2006	Levy et al.	2003/0229372 A1	12/2003	Reiley et al.
7,077,865 B2	7/2006	Bao et al.	2004/0006341 A1	1/2004	Shaolian et al.
7,124,067 B2	10/2006	Ascenzi	2004/0024388 A1	2/2004	Altshuler
7,141,061 B2	11/2006	Williams et al.	2004/0034434 A1	2/2004	Evans et al.
7,144,414 B2	12/2006	Harvie et al.	2004/0059333 A1	3/2004	Carl et al.
7,153,305 B2	12/2006	Johnson et al.	2004/0059417 A1	3/2004	Smith et al.
7,156,861 B2	1/2007	Scribner et al.	2004/0092948 A1	5/2004	Stevens et al.
7,156,880 B2	1/2007	Evans et al.	2004/0098015 A1	5/2004	Weikel et al.
7,169,140 B1	1/2007	Kume	2004/0117025 A1	6/2004	Reindel
7,215,863 B1	5/2007	Arenella et al.	2004/0133280 A1	7/2004	Trieu
7,241,303 B2	7/2007	Reiss et al.	2004/0167561 A1	8/2004	Boucher et al.
7,252,677 B2	8/2007	Burwell et al.	2004/0167625 A1	8/2004	Beyar et al.
7,258,692 B2	8/2007	Thelen et al.	2004/0225296 A1	11/2004	Reiss et al.
7,261,720 B2	8/2007	Stevens et al.	2004/0228142 A1	11/2004	Takada et al.
7,320,709 B2	1/2008	Felt et al.	2004/0230309 A1	11/2004	Di Mauro et al.
7,341,601 B2	3/2008	Eisermann et al.	2004/0247641 A1	12/2004	Felt et al.
7,360,542 B2	4/2008	Nelson et al.	2005/0010231 A1	1/2005	Myers
7,407,616 B2	8/2008	Melikechi et al.	2005/0015140 A1	1/2005	deBeer
7,419,450 B2	9/2008	Ito	2005/0015148 A1	1/2005	Jansen et al.
7,427,295 B2	9/2008	Ellman et al.	2005/0018989 A1	1/2005	Shimizu et al.
7,547,319 B2	6/2009	Segal et al.	2005/0043733 A1	2/2005	Eisermann et al.
7,628,800 B2	12/2009	Sherman et al.	2005/0043808 A1	2/2005	Felt et al.
7,632,277 B2	12/2009	Woll et al.	2005/0049691 A1	3/2005	Mericle et al.
7,632,291 B2	12/2009	Stephens et al.	2005/0090901 A1	4/2005	Studer
7,666,205 B2	2/2010	Weikel et al.	2005/0119662 A1	6/2005	Reiley et al.
7,722,620 B2	5/2010	Truckai et al.	2005/0142315 A1	6/2005	DeSimone et al.
7,740,656 B2	6/2010	Mensah et al.	2005/0149022 A1	7/2005	Shaolian et al.
7,744,555 B2	6/2010	DiMauro et al.	2005/0159749 A1	7/2005	Levy et al.
7,766,965 B2	8/2010	Bao et al.	2005/0171604 A1	8/2005	Michalow
7,771,476 B2	8/2010	Justis et al.	2005/0192671 A1	9/2005	Bao et al.
7,776,075 B2	8/2010	Bruneau et al.	2005/0197711 A1	9/2005	Cachia
7,806,900 B2	10/2010	Rabiner	2005/0228260 A1	10/2005	Burwell et al.
7,811,284 B2	10/2010	Rabiner	2005/0234453 A1	10/2005	Shaolian et al.
7,811,286 B2	10/2010	Medoff	2005/0251140 A1	11/2005	Shaolian et al.
7,811,290 B2	10/2010	Rabiner	2005/0284485 A9	12/2005	Nelson et al.
7,842,040 B2	11/2010	Rabiner et al.	2006/0009550 A1	1/2006	Messersmith et al.
7,850,711 B1	12/2010	Stone et al.	2006/0015105 A1	1/2006	Warren et al.
7,857,748 B2	12/2010	Williams et al.	2006/0036253 A1	2/2006	Leroux et al.
7,879,041 B2	2/2011	Rabiner et al.	2006/0084985 A1	4/2006	Kim et al.
7,912,539 B2	3/2011	Doty et al.	2006/0100547 A1	5/2006	Rabiner et al.
7,947,015 B2	5/2011	Herweck et al.	2006/0100635 A1	5/2006	Reiley et al.
8,034,071 B2	10/2011	Scribner et al.	2006/0100706 A1	5/2006	Shaddock et al.
8,123,807 B2	2/2012	Kim et al.	2006/0111726 A1	5/2006	Felt et al.
8,210,729 B2	7/2012	O'Leary et al.	2006/0122625 A1	6/2006	Truckai et al.
8,211,121 B1	7/2012	Quinn et al.	2006/0142747 A1	6/2006	Appling
8,246,628 B2	8/2012	Rabiner	2006/0155296 A1	7/2006	Richter
8,328,402 B2	12/2012	O'Leary et al.	2006/0173464 A1	8/2006	Ellman et al.
8,348,956 B2	1/2013	Rabiner	2006/0183811 A1	8/2006	Melikechi et al.
8,366,711 B2	2/2013	Rabiner et al.	2006/0184246 A1	8/2006	Zwirkoski
8,403,968 B2	3/2013	Rabiner et al.	2006/0195165 A1	8/2006	Gertner et al.
8,413,664 B2	4/2013	Appling	2006/0217747 A1	9/2006	Ferree
8,512,338 B2	8/2013	Rabiner et al.	2006/0229617 A1	10/2006	Meller et al.
8,574,233 B2	11/2013	Rabiner et al.	2006/0247787 A1	11/2006	Rydell et al.
8,668,701 B2	3/2014	Rabiner et al.	2006/0253102 A1	11/2006	Nance et al.
8,672,982 B2	3/2014	Rabiner et al.	2006/0253200 A1	11/2006	Bao et al.
8,684,965 B2	4/2014	Rabiner et al.	2006/0258981 A1	11/2006	Eidenschink
8,708,955 B2	4/2014	Tilson et al.	2006/0264950 A1	11/2006	Nelson et al.
8,734,460 B2	5/2014	Rabiner et al.	2006/0264951 A1	11/2006	Nelson et al.
8,764,761 B2	7/2014	Truckai et al.	2006/0264952 A1	11/2006	Nelson et al.
8,870,965 B2	10/2014	Rabiner et al.	2006/0265077 A1	11/2006	Zwirkoski
8,906,030 B2	12/2014	Rabiner et al.	2006/0271061 A1	11/2006	Beyar et al.
8,906,031 B2	12/2014	Rabiner et al.	2006/0276793 A1	12/2006	Berry
8,915,966 B2	12/2014	Rabiner et al.	2006/0276819 A1	12/2006	Osorio et al.
8,936,382 B2	1/2015	O'Leary et al.	2006/0282169 A1	12/2006	Felt et al.

(56)

References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

2006/0287730 A1 12/2006 Segal et al.
 2007/0027547 A1 2/2007 Rydell et al.
 2007/0067032 A1 3/2007 Felt et al.
 2007/0087031 A1 4/2007 Ashman et al.
 2007/0100327 A1 5/2007 Smith
 2007/0104416 A1 5/2007 Shimizu et al.
 2007/0118143 A1 5/2007 Ralph et al.
 2007/0123876 A1 5/2007 Czartoski et al.
 2007/0123877 A1 5/2007 Goldin et al.
 2007/0123878 A1 5/2007 Shaver et al.
 2007/0161991 A1 7/2007 Altarac et al.
 2007/0198023 A1 8/2007 Sand et al.
 2007/0225705 A1 9/2007 Osorio et al.
 2007/0233146 A1 10/2007 Henniges et al.
 2007/0239148 A1 10/2007 Scheller
 2007/0255287 A1 11/2007 Rabiner
 2008/0015500 A1 1/2008 Herweck et al.
 2008/0019657 A1 1/2008 Maitland et al.
 2008/0021474 A1 1/2008 Bonutti et al.
 2008/0039854 A1 2/2008 Rabiner
 2008/0080205 A1 4/2008 Forrester et al.
 2008/0103505 A1 5/2008 Fransen
 2008/0125784 A1 5/2008 Rabiner et al.
 2008/0154266 A1 6/2008 Protopsaltis et al.
 2008/0154368 A1 6/2008 Justis
 2008/0154373 A1 6/2008 Protopsaltis et al.
 2008/0183122 A1 7/2008 Fisher et al.
 2008/0188858 A1 8/2008 Luzzi et al.
 2008/0234820 A1 9/2008 Felt et al.
 2008/0249529 A1 10/2008 Zarda et al.
 2008/0255560 A1 10/2008 Myers et al.
 2008/0269750 A1 10/2008 Justin
 2008/0287951 A1 11/2008 Stoneburger et al.
 2009/0018524 A1 1/2009 Greenhalgh et al.
 2009/0024166 A1 1/2009 Carl et al.
 2009/0048629 A1 2/2009 Rabiner
 2009/0054900 A1 2/2009 Rabiner et al.
 2009/0093887 A1 4/2009 Walter et al.
 2009/0112196 A1 4/2009 Rabiner et al.
 2009/0118833 A1 5/2009 Hudgins et al.
 2009/0171265 A1 7/2009 Doty et al.
 2009/0171358 A1 7/2009 Chang et al.
 2009/0177204 A1 7/2009 Colleran et al.
 2009/0182336 A1 7/2009 Brenzel et al.
 2009/0187192 A1 7/2009 Rabiner et al.
 2009/0216232 A1 8/2009 Buford, III et al.
 2009/0228007 A1 9/2009 Justin et al.
 2009/0254064 A1 10/2009 Boatman
 2009/0287309 A1 11/2009 Walch et al.
 2009/0306589 A1 12/2009 Tilson et al.
 2010/0234958 A1 9/2010 Linares
 2010/0241178 A1 9/2010 Tilson et al.
 2010/0249942 A1 9/2010 Goswami et al.
 2010/0256641 A1 10/2010 Rabiner et al.
 2010/0262069 A1 10/2010 Rabiner et al.
 2010/0262188 A1 10/2010 Rabiner et al.
 2010/0265733 A1 10/2010 O'Leary et al.
 2010/0318087 A1 12/2010 Scribner et al.
 2010/0331850 A1 12/2010 Rabiner
 2011/0004213 A1 1/2011 Rabiner et al.
 2011/0009871 A1 1/2011 Rabiner
 2011/0029093 A1 2/2011 Bojarski et al.
 2011/0046746 A1 2/2011 Rabiner et al.
 2011/0082504 A1 4/2011 Singhatt et al.
 2011/0098713 A1 4/2011 Rabiner et al.
 2011/0110114 A1 5/2011 Papac et al.
 2011/0112588 A1 5/2011 Linderman et al.
 2011/0118740 A1 5/2011 Rabiner et al.
 2011/0137317 A1 6/2011 O'Halloran et al.
 2011/0160870 A1 6/2011 Baumgartner et al.
 2011/0166306 A1 7/2011 Stansbury et al.
 2011/0313356 A1 12/2011 Rabiner et al.
 2012/0029102 A1 2/2012 Rose et al.
 2012/0041557 A1 2/2012 Frigg
 2012/0165941 A1 6/2012 Rabiner et al.

2012/0259375 A1 10/2012 Druma et al.
 2012/0262939 A1 10/2012 O'Leary et al.
 2012/0289968 A1 11/2012 Rabiner
 2012/0316652 A1 12/2012 Renganath et al.
 2013/0003406 A1 1/2013 O'Leary et al.
 2013/0006304 A1 1/2013 Rabiner et al.
 2013/0012998 A1 1/2013 Altarac et al.
 2013/0013008 A1 1/2013 Rabiner et al.
 2013/0013009 A1 1/2013 Colleran et al.
 2013/0013010 A1 1/2013 Rabiner et al.
 2013/0018482 A1 1/2013 Meridew et al.
 2013/0023876 A1 1/2013 Rabiner et al.
 2013/0023877 A1 1/2013 Rabiner et al.
 2013/0023886 A1 1/2013 Rabiner et al.
 2013/0041472 A1 2/2013 Rabiner et al.
 2013/0046390 A1 2/2013 Rabiner et al.
 2013/0066326 A1 3/2013 Rabiner et al.
 2013/0158607 A1 6/2013 Rabiner et al.
 2013/0184715 A1 7/2013 Rabiner et al.
 2014/0018806 A1 1/2014 DiPoto et al.
 2014/0142581 A1 5/2014 Rabiner et al.
 2014/0148813 A1 5/2014 Rabiner et al.
 2014/0163453 A1 6/2014 Rabiner et al.
 2014/0180288 A1 6/2014 Rabiner et al.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

JP 2001-527437 12/2001
 JP 2004-526525 9/2002
 JP 2005-511143 4/2005
 JP 2006-212425 8/2006
 NL 9001858 3/1992
 WO WO 98/38918 9/1998
 WO WO9943266 9/1999
 WO WO 02/43628 6/2002
 WO WO 03/047472 6/2003
 WO WO 2004/045393 6/2004
 WO WO 2004/058045 7/2004
 WO WO 2004/073563 9/2004
 WO WO 2004/112661 12/2004
 WO WO 2005/112804 12/2005
 WO WO 2006/016807 2/2006
 WO WO2007002251 1/2007
 WO WO 2007/059259 5/2007
 WO WO 2007/075375 7/2007
 WO WO 2007/127255 11/2007
 WO WO 2007/127260 11/2007
 WO WO 2008/039811 4/2008
 WO WO 2008/063265 5/2008
 WO WO 2009/059090 5/2009
 WO WO 2009/064847 5/2009
 WO WO 2009/082688 7/2009
 WO WO2009088927 7/2009
 WO WO 2009/131999 10/2009
 WO WO 2010/050965 5/2010
 WO WO 2010/118158 10/2010
 WO WO 2011/060062 5/2011
 WO WO 2011/071567 6/2011
 WO WO2011162910 12/2011
 WO WO2012051312 4/2012
 WO WO 2012/088432 6/2012
 WO WO 2013/013069 1/2013
 WO WO 2013/013071 1/2013
 WO WO 2013/013072 1/2013
 WO WO 2013/059609 4/2013
 WO WO2014011669 1/2014
 WO WO 2014/100427 6/2014

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/756,014 mailed Oct. 7, 2014.
 USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/553,450 mailed Oct. 24, 2014.
 USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/335,110 mailed Oct. 24, 2014.
 USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/553,247 mailed Dec. 5, 2014.

(56)

References Cited

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/553,051 mailed Dec. 23, 2014.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/262,370 mailed Jan. 14, 2015.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/617,557 mailed Jan. 15, 2015.
- Jovanovic et al., "Fixion Nails for Humeral Fractures, Injury", *Int. J. Care Injured*, vol. 35, Issue 11, pp. 1140-1142, Nov. 2004.
- Maruyama et al., "Metacarpal Fracture Fixation with Absorbable Polyglycolide Rods and Stainless Steel K Wires: A Biomechanical Comparison", *Journal of Biomedical Materials Research (Applied Biomaterials)*, vol. 33, Issue 1, pp. 9-12, Apr. 1996.
- Waris et al., "Bioabsorbable Miniplating Versus Metallic Fixation for Metacarpal Fractures", *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research*, No. 410, pp. 310-319, May 2003.
- Waris et al., "Self-Reinforced Bioabsorbable Versus Metallic Fixation Systems for Metacarpal and Phalangeal Fractures: A Biomechanical Study", *The Journal of Hand Surgery*, vol. 27A, No. 5, pp. 902-909, Sep. 2002.
- PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US07/20402 dated Apr. 1, 2008.
- PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US07/10050 dated Apr. 17, 2008.
- PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US07/10038 dated Aug. 27, 2008.
- PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US08/81929 dated Jan. 12, 2009.
- PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US08/81924 dated Feb. 9, 2009.
- PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US08/87630 dated Feb. 24, 2009.
- PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US10/30275 dated Aug. 11, 2010.
- PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US10/56219 dated Jan. 20, 2011.
- PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US10/46003 dated May 24, 2011.
- PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US11/38389 dated Sep. 22, 2011.
- PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US11/66871 dated May 1, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/789,906 mailed Apr. 29, 2009.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/789,906 mailed Mar. 11, 2010.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/789,906 mailed Apr. 30, 2010.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/789,907 mailed May 11, 2010.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/903,123 mailed Jul. 1, 2010.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/262,411 mailed Sep. 1, 2010.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/964,370 mailed Dec. 9, 2010.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/964,370 mailed Apr. 28, 2011.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/964,370 mailed Sep. 23, 2011.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/858,924 mailed Oct. 24, 2011.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/755,784 mailed Dec. 23, 2011.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/886,288 mailed Dec. 27, 2011.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/875,460 mailed Mar. 8, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/964,370 mailed Mar. 16, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/858,924 mailed Apr. 4, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/756,014 mailed May 11, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/262,370 mailed May 29, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/943,544 mailed Jun. 8, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/886,288 mailed Jun. 26, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 11/964,370 mailed Jul. 6, 2012.
- Extended European Search Report based on EP 07 75 6022 dated Jul. 19, 2012.
- Extended European Search Report based on EP 07 75 6016 dated Jul. 18, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/755,784 mailed Aug. 1, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/858,924 mailed Aug. 2, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/886,288 mailed Aug. 15, 2012.
- PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US12/47447 dated Oct. 2, 2012.
- PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US12/47446 dated Oct. 15, 2012.
- PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US12/47444 dated Oct. 18, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/756,014 mailed Oct. 25, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/859,680 mailed Nov. 9, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/943,544 mailed Dec. 3, 2012.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/262,370 mailed Dec. 14, 2012.
- International Search Report and Written Opinion for PCT/US2012/061047 mailed Jan. 7, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/859,680 mailed Jan. 17, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/756,014 mailed Jan. 22, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/088,916 mailed Jan. 23, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/617,557 mailed Feb. 4, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/755,784 mailed Mar. 13, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/616,416 mailed Mar. 25, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/561,249 mailed Apr. 23, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/262,370 mailed Apr. 26, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/088,916 mailed May 13, 2013.
- Supplemental European Search Report based on EP 08 87 7881 dated May 15, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/772,947 mailed Jun. 19, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/859,680 mailed Jul. 9, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/561,249 mailed Sep. 16, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/088,916 mailed Sep. 17, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/943,544 mailed Sep. 25, 2013.
- USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/617,557 mailed Oct. 9, 2013.
- Extended European Search Report based on EP 10 76 2390 dated Oct. 30, 2013.

(56)

References Cited

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/262,370 mailed Nov. 21, 2013.
USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/983,496 mailed Feb. 5, 2014.
USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/756,014 mailed Feb. 13, 2014.
USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/617,181 mailed Feb. 25, 2014.
PCT International Search Report based on PCT/US13/076598 dated Mar. 19, 2014.
USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/655,808 mailed Mar. 27, 2014.
USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/553,247 mailed May 7, 2014.

Extended European Search Report based on EP 14156473 dated May 13, 2014.
USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/800,518 mailed Jun. 10, 2014.
USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 12/262,370 mailed Jun. 26, 2014.
USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/617,557 mailed Jun. 27, 2014.
USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/335,110 mailed Jul. 31, 2014.
USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/616,781 mailed Aug. 26, 2014.
USPTO Office Action in U.S. Appl. No. 13/730,521 mailed Sep. 8, 2014.

* cited by examiner

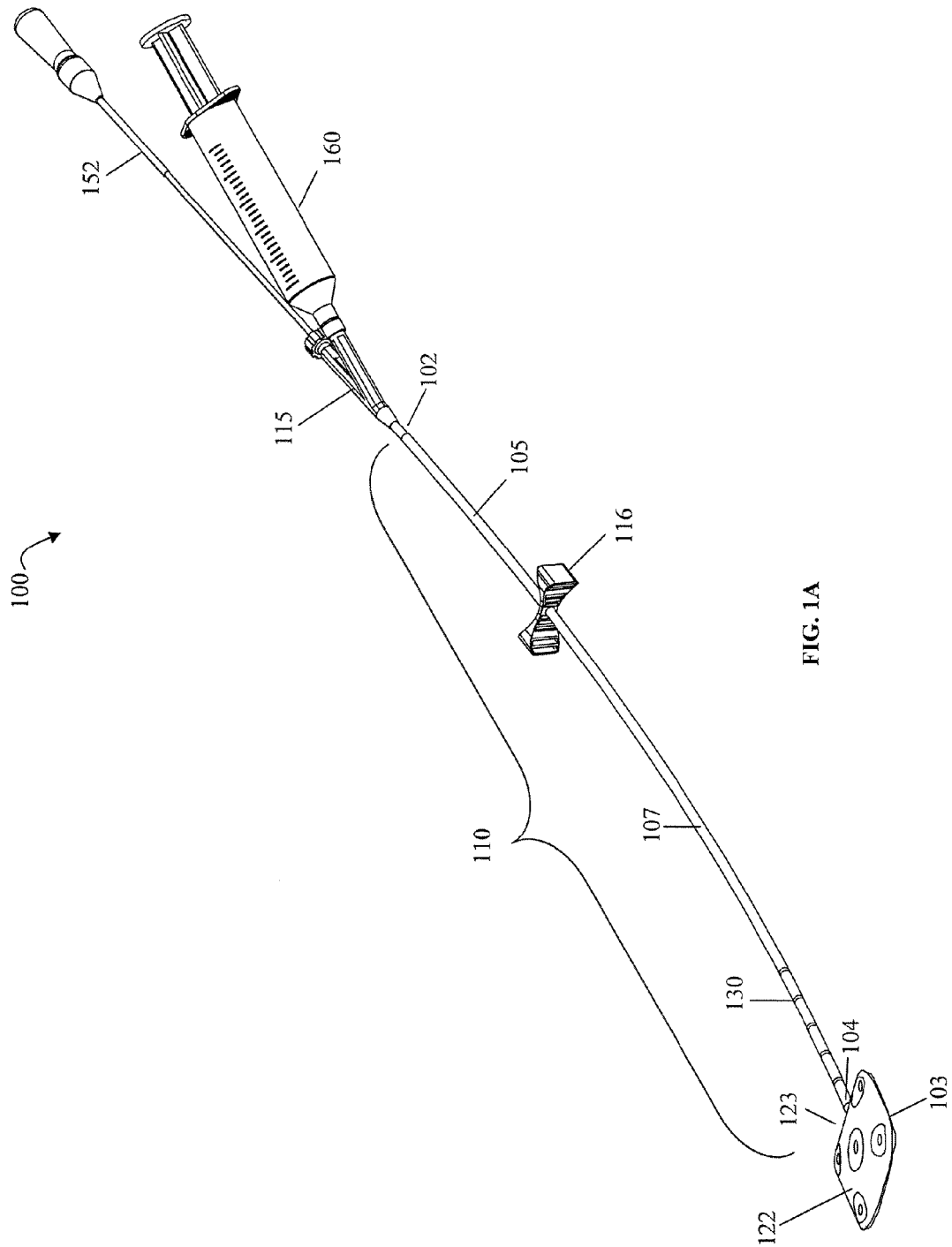
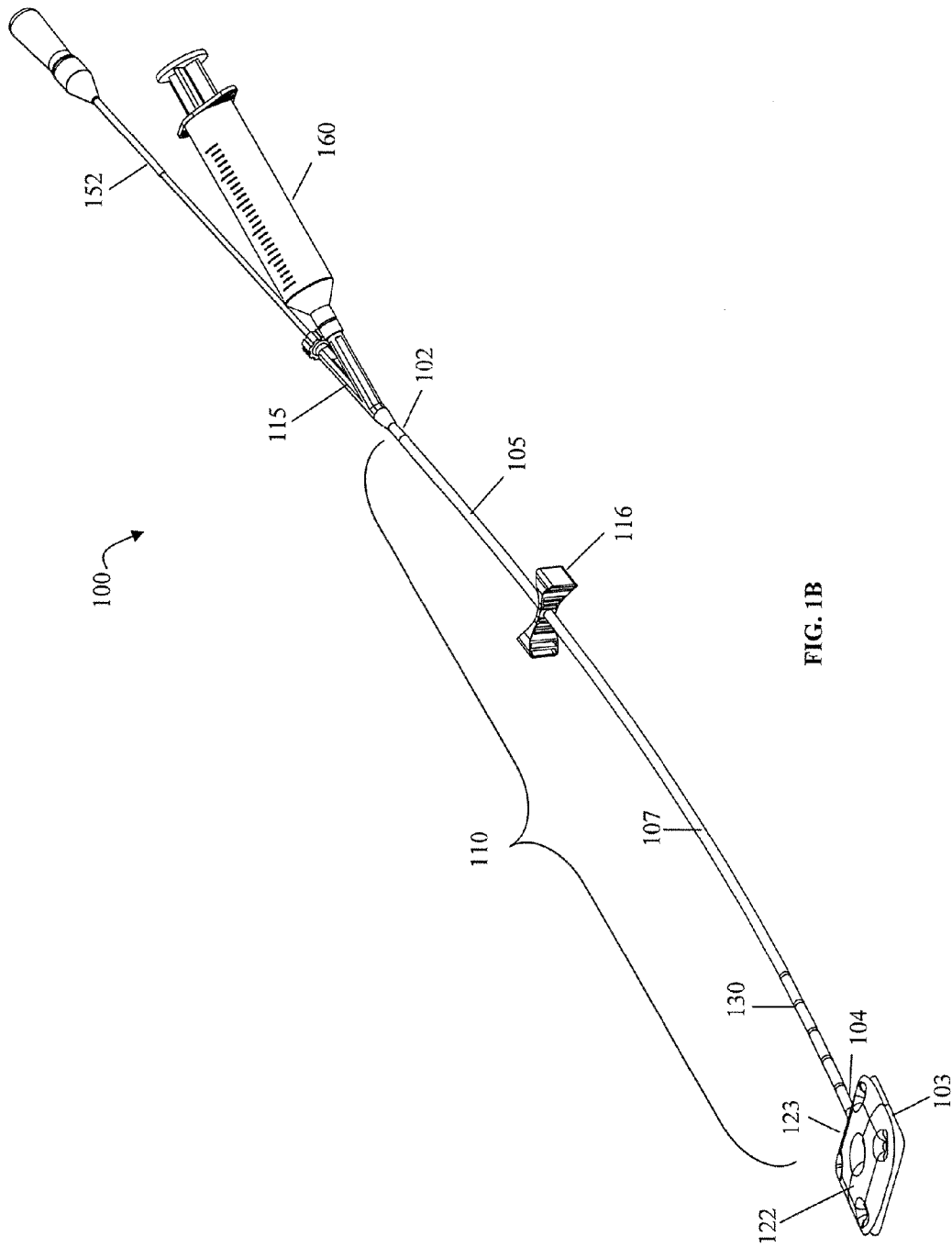


FIG. 1A



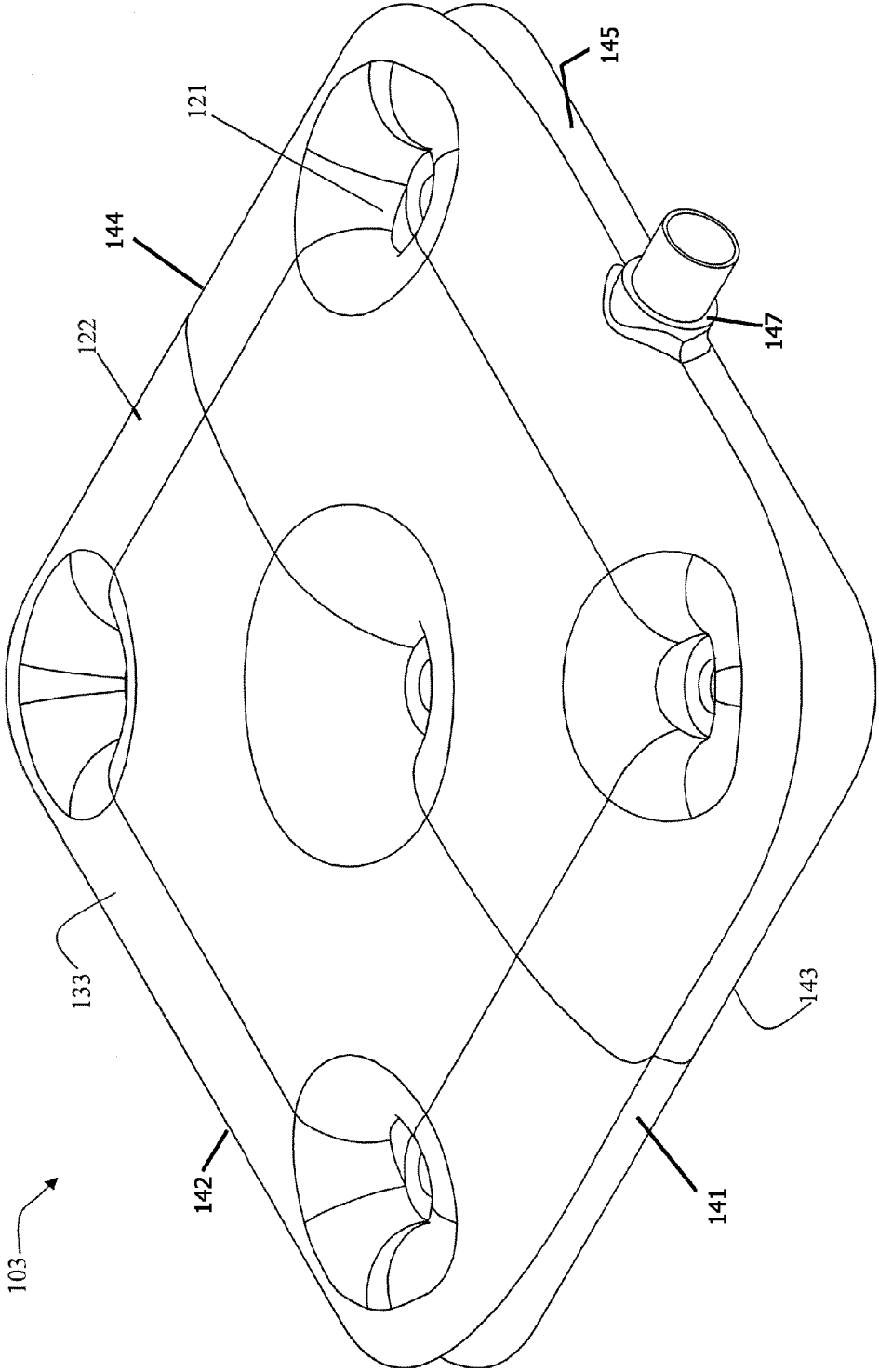


FIG. 2

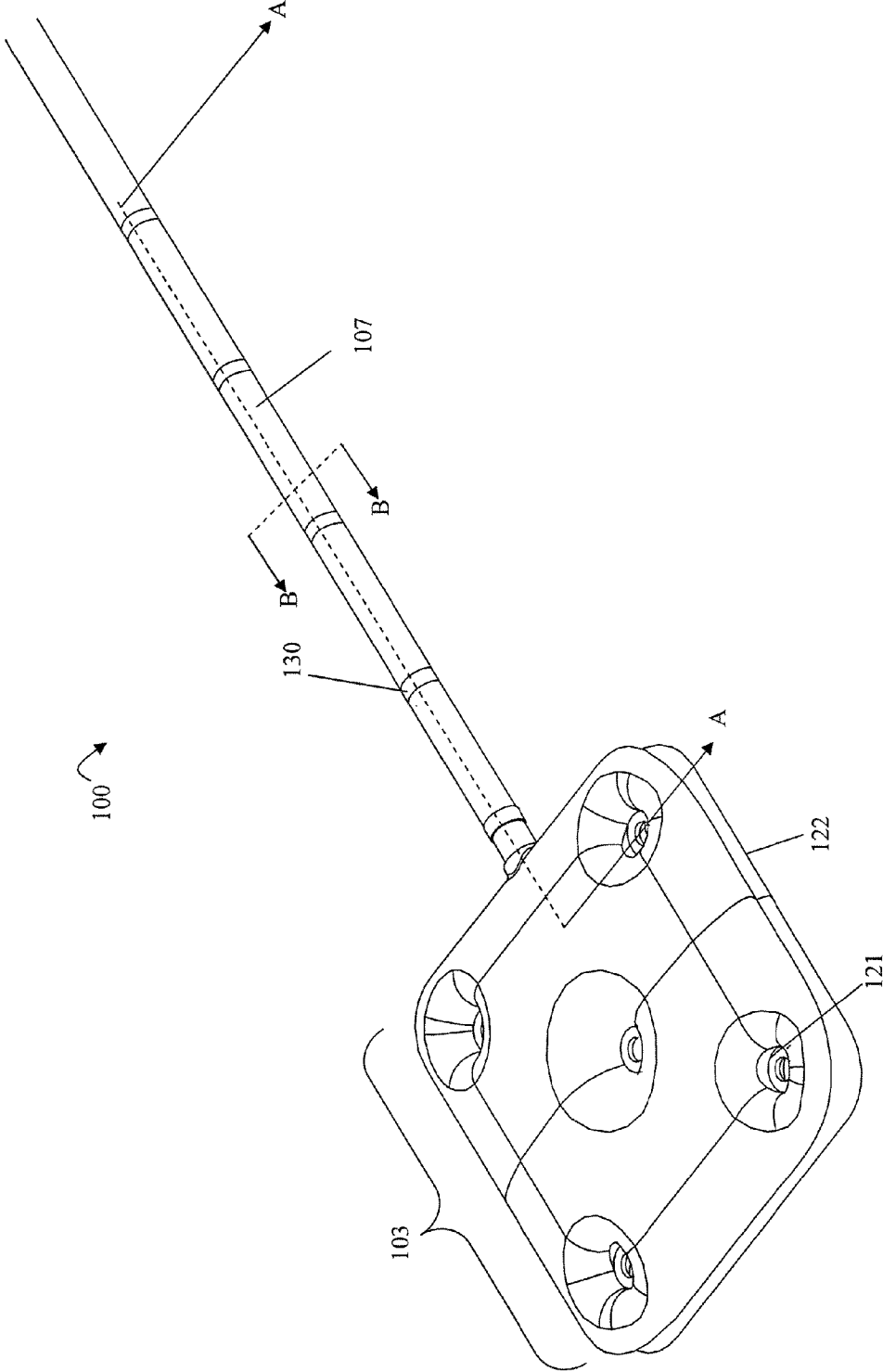


FIG. 3A

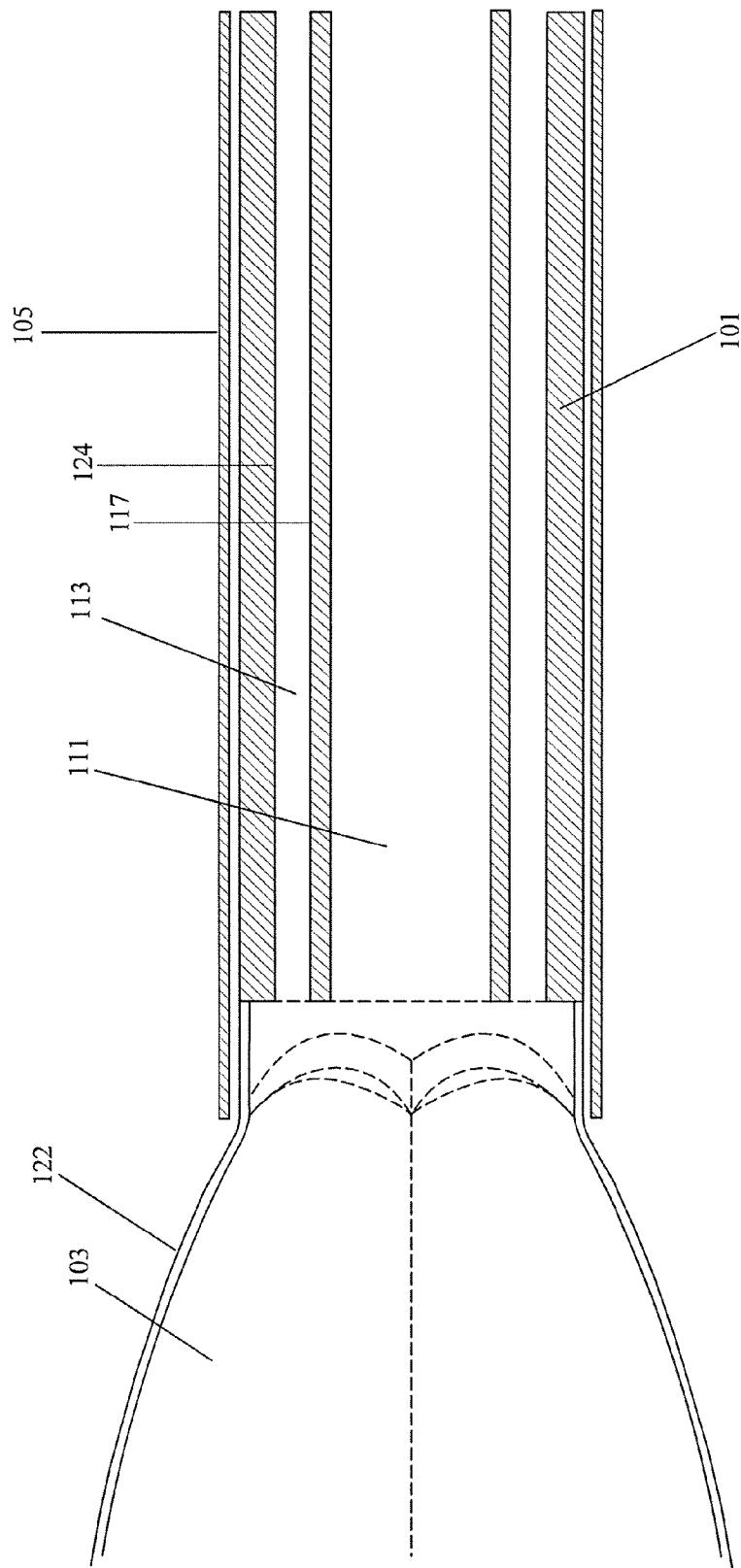


FIG. 3B

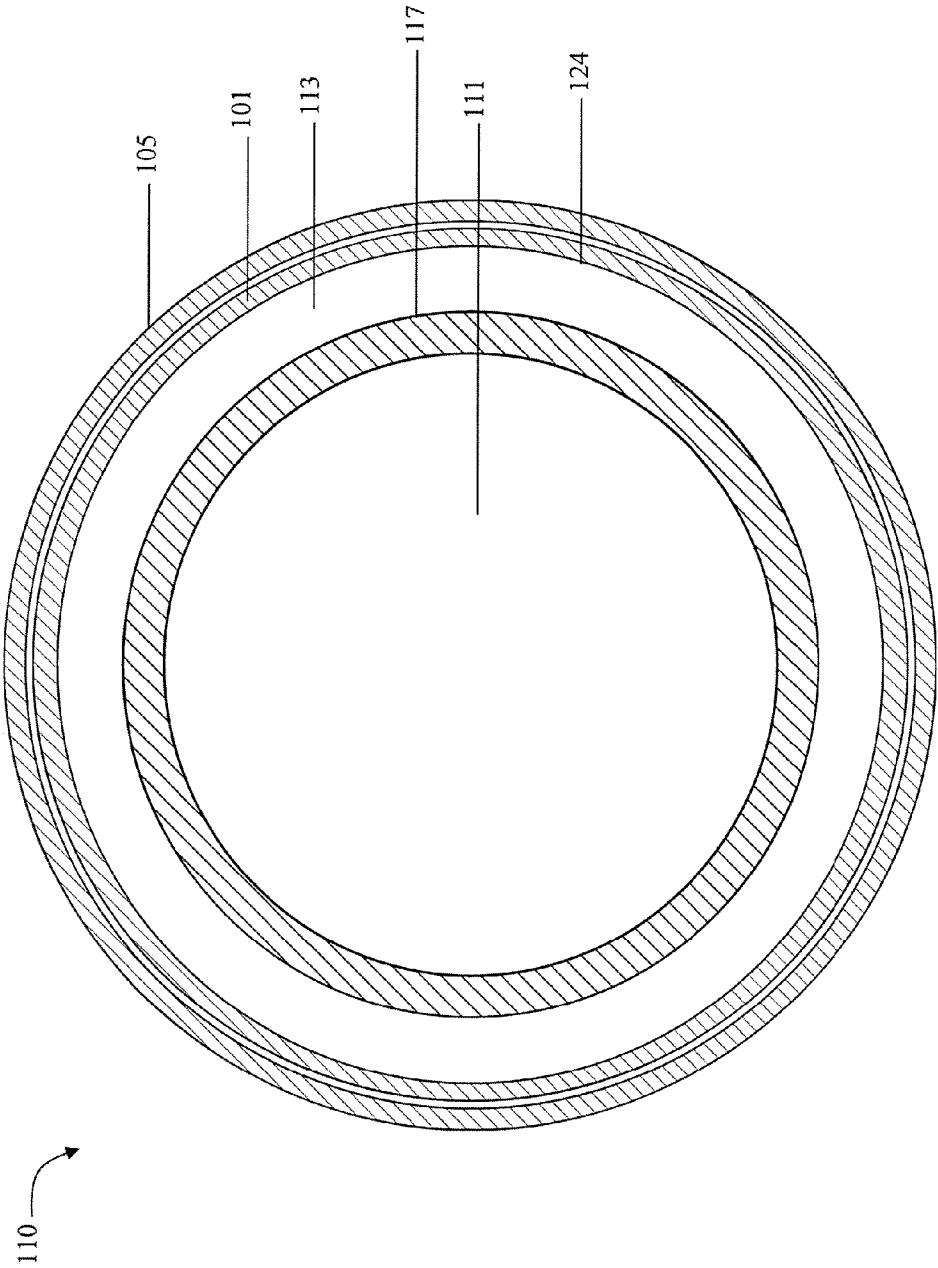


FIG. 3C

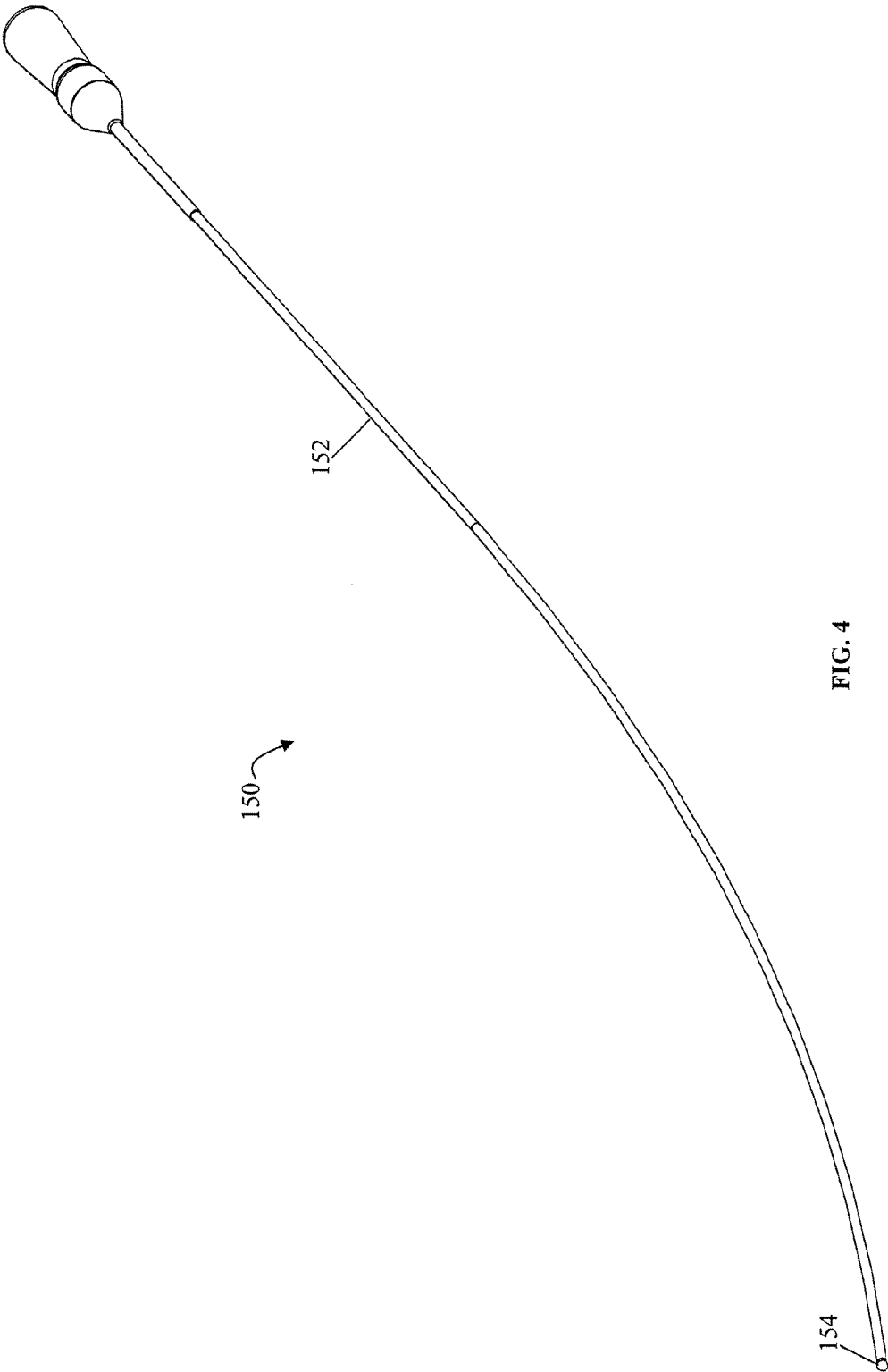


FIG. 4

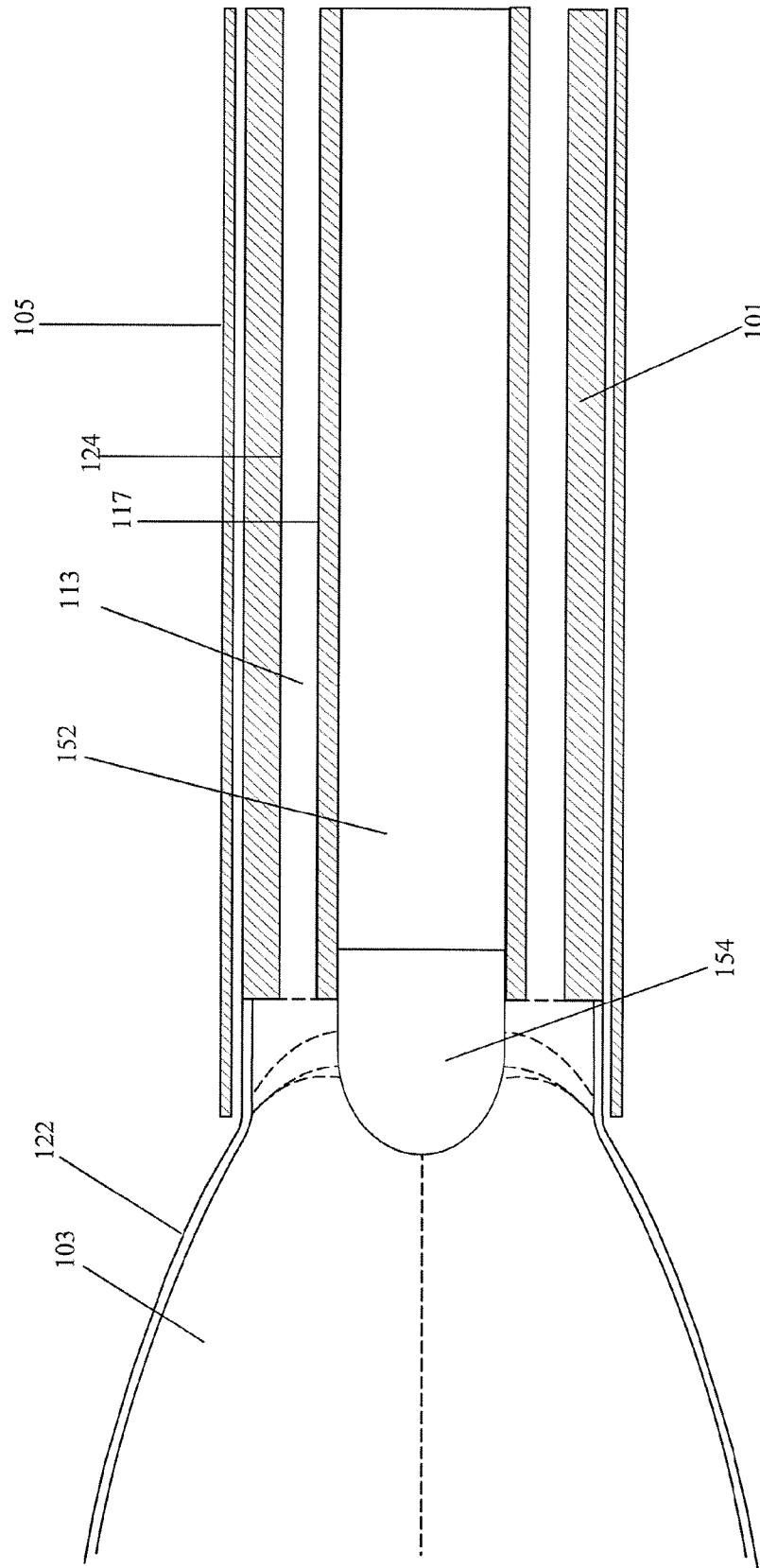


FIG. 5A

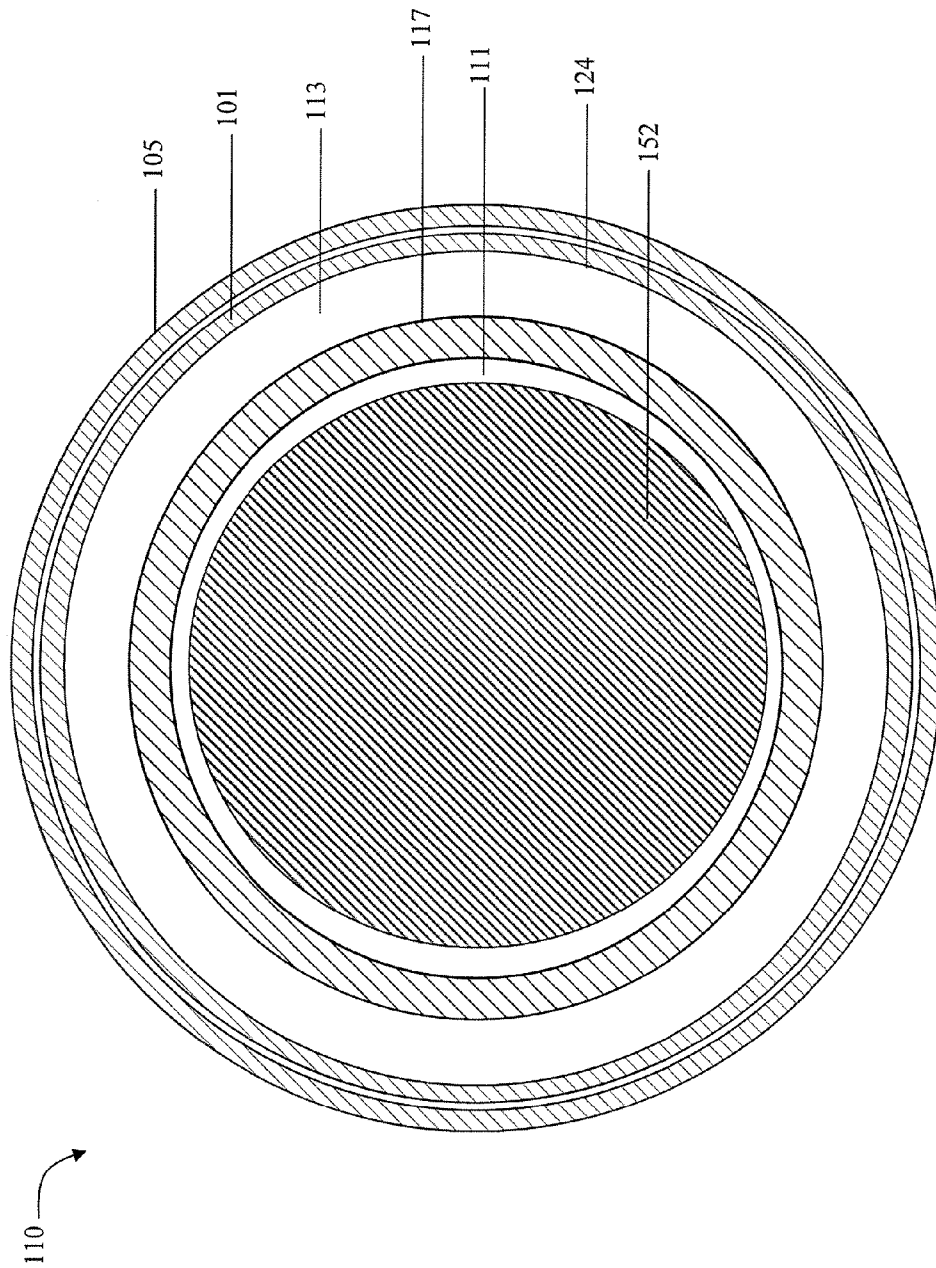


FIG. 5B

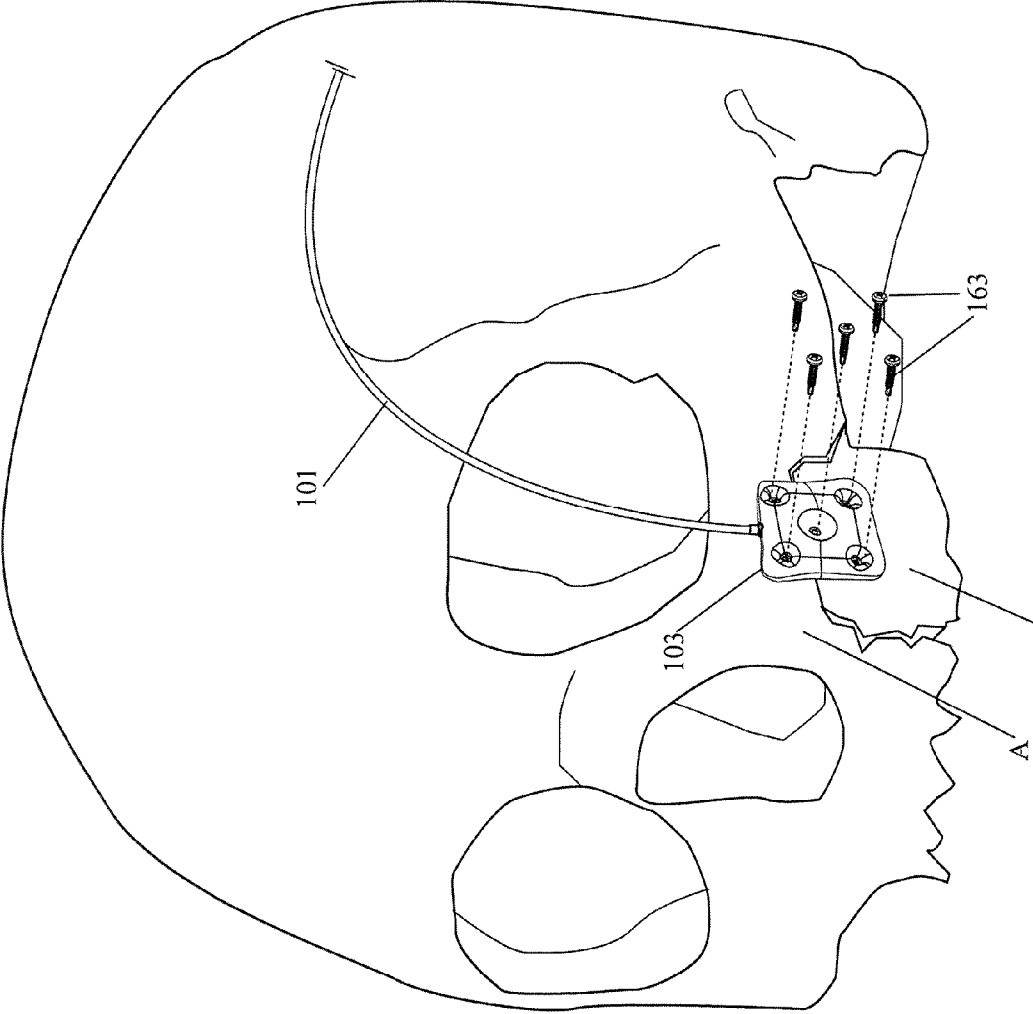


FIG. 6

1

METHODS FOR REPAIRING CRANIOMAXILLOFACIAL BONES USING CUSTOMIZED BONE PLATE

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 13/772,947, filed Feb. 21, 2013, which is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 11/964,370, filed on Dec. 26, 2007, now U.S. Pat. No. 8,403,968, the entirety of these applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD

The embodiments disclosed herein relate to medical devices for use in adjoining bone fragments, and more particularly to conformable bone plates for repair of craniomaxillofacial bony defects and methods of using conformable bone plates.

BACKGROUND

Maxillofacial and craniofacial injuries encompass any injury to the mouth, face and jaw. Common serious injury to the face occurs when bones are broken (a fracture). Fractures can involve the lower jaw, upper jaw, palate, cheekbones, eye sockets and combinations of these bones. The fracture needs to be held in the correct position while the bone is healing. In most cases this requires fixing the bones using metal or bio-degradable plates and screws, known as internal fixation.

There are a variety of micro, mini and reconstruction plating systems. One of the most commonly used plating system developed to date is the Luhr system manufactured by Howmedica, Inc. Subsequently, based on the original concept by Luhr, several complete systems have been developed for use in all the various situations encountered in trauma and reconstructive surgery of the facial skeleton. Techniques and materials used for the internal fixation of the maxillofacial skeleton continue to evolve and improve. For example, metal plates have been used for the repair of craniomaxillofacial bone fractures. These metal plates are generally secured to the fractured bone portions with fasteners such as screws. The plates conventionally employed generally comprise small, generally flat, elongated sections of metal. The sections contain round screw holes at various points along their lengths for fastening the sections to bone. The metal plate is then bent into shape and secured to the fractured bone using a plurality of fasteners seated within the screw holes. While known systems utilizing plates and fasteners for aiding the osteosynthesis of severed bone regions have proven to be acceptable for certain applications, such systems are nevertheless susceptible to improvements that may enhance their performance. For example, metals are difficult to shape and are hampered by disadvantages such as infection and corrosion. Several resorbable plate and screw fixation systems are now available for use in the maxillofacial skeleton. These systems allow initial stable fixation of bone segments during the bone-healing phase and then gradually are reabsorbed through physiologic processes.

Regardless of the plate system used, the plate must be contoured to lay passively against the underlying bone surfaces. Therefore, even though the plating systems themselves are manufactured with extremely precise tolerances, an element of imprecision remains for surgeons who repair facial fractures and do orthognathic surgery or reconstructive procedures repositioning the facial skeletal structures to improve esthetics or function. When an osteotomy, fracture, or bone

2

graft is placed into appropriate position, the bone plate has to be manually bent to the contour of the anatomy. This manual manipulation creates a substantial element of imprecision even with the use of templates. Maladapted bone plates lead to inappropriate bone contour, irritation of the overlying soft tissues, abnormal anatomy or contour defects and either non-union, malunion or unaesthetic results.

Thus, there is a need in the art for devices and methods for repairing maxillofacial and craniofacial bony defects that are easy to use, biocompatible, require minimal manipulation once in place, and are customizable on a patient-by-patient basis.

SUMMARY

Conformable bone plates and methods for using the bone plates to adjoin bone fragments are disclosed herein. According to aspects illustrated herein, there is provided a bone plate for adjoining at least two bone fragments that includes a flexible pad capable of expanding, the pad having a first surface and a second surface; and at least one aperture for receiving a fastener, the at least one aperture extending from the first surface to the second surface, wherein the bone plate is able to move from a first compact position to a second expanded position and is contoured to passively engage against the at least two bone fragments.

According to aspects illustrated herein, there is provided a device for adjoining at least two bone fragments that includes a delivery catheter having an elongated shaft with a proximal end, a distal end, and a longitudinal axis therebetween, wherein the delivery catheter has an inner void for passage of at least one filling material and an inner lumen for passage of light from a light source; a conformable bone plate releasably engaging the distal end of the delivery catheter, wherein the conformable bone plate has a first surface, a second surface, a proximal end, and a distal end and at least one aperture extending from the first surface to the second surface for receiving a fastener; and an adapter releasably engaging the proximal end of the delivery catheter for receiving light from the light source and a delivery system housing the at least one filling material.

According to aspects illustrated herein, there is provided a method for adjoining at least two bone fragments that includes providing a device for adjoining at least two bone fragments, the device including a conformable bone plate engaged to a delivery catheter having an elongated shaft with a proximal end, a distal end, and a longitudinal axis therebetween, wherein the conformable bone plate has at least one aperture extending from a first surface of the bone plate to a second surface of the bone plate for receiving a fastener to affix the bone plate to the at least two bone fragments; positioning the conformable bone plate over an exterior surface spanning the at least two bone fragments; attaching a delivery system housing at least one filling material to the delivery catheter, wherein the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter has an inner void for passage of the at least one filling material to the conformable bone plate; inserting a light source into the delivery catheter, wherein the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter has an inner lumen for passage of the light source to the conformable bone plate; infusing the at least one filling material through the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter and into the conformable bone plate to expand the conformable bone plate; activating the light source to harden the at least one filling material in the expanded conformable bone plate; releasing the hardened conformable bone plate from

the delivery catheter; and affixing the conformable bone plate to the exterior surfaces of the at least two bone fragments to adjoin the bone fragments.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The presently disclosed embodiments will be further explained with reference to the attached drawings, wherein like structures are referred to by like numerals throughout the several views. The drawings shown are not necessarily to scale, with emphasis instead generally being placed upon illustrating the principles of the presently disclosed embodiments.

FIG. 1A and FIG. 1B show perspective views of a device for repairing a craniomaxillofacial injury of the presently disclosed embodiments. FIG. 1A shows a conformable bone plate of the device in a deflated state. FIG. 1B shows a conformable bone plate of the device in an inflated state.

FIG. 2 shows an enlarged perspective view of the conformable bone plate of the device in an inflated state.

FIG. 3A, FIG. 3B and FIG. 3C show close-up views of some of the main components of a device for repairing a craniomaxillofacial injury of the presently disclosed embodiments. FIG. 3A shows a perspective view of a distal end of the device. FIG. 3B shows a side cross-sectional view taken along line A-A in FIG. 3A of the device. FIG. 3C shows a cross-sectional view of the device taken along line B-B in FIG. 3A.

FIG. 4 shows a perspective view of a light source for use with a device for repairing a craniomaxillofacial injury of the presently disclosed embodiments.

FIG. 5A and FIG. 5B show close-up cross-sectional views of some of the main components, including a light pipe, of the device for repairing a craniomaxillofacial injury of the presently disclosed embodiments. FIG. 5A shows a side cross-sectional view of the device taken along line A-A from FIG. 3A. FIG. 5B shows a cross-sectional view of the device taken along line B-B from FIG. 3A.

FIG. 6 shows the placement of a conformable bone plate of the presently disclosed embodiments during repair of a craniomaxillofacial injury.

While the above-identified drawings set forth presently disclosed embodiments, other embodiments are also contemplated, as noted in the discussion. This disclosure presents illustrative embodiments by way of representation and not limitation. Numerous other modifications and embodiments may be devised by those skilled in the art which fall within the scope and spirit of the principles of the presently disclosed embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Medical devices and methods for repairing maxillofacial and craniofacial injuries are disclosed herein. The craniomaxillofacial bone plates of the presently disclosed embodiments are made from a pliable, resilient, conformable, biocompatible, and strong material. At least one filling material is contained within the bone plates of the presently disclosed embodiments. During a procedure for repairing a craniomaxillofacial injury, a conformable bone plate is brought to the site of injury (an osteotomy, a fracture, a bone graft or other site of injury) in a deflated state. Once in place, the bone plate is expanded from a deflated state to an inflated state in situ by the addition of the at least one filling material. The addition of the at least one filling material may be precisely controlled such that the bone plate will resemble the contour of the site, on a patient-by-patient basis. Once the desired level of expansion is achieved, the at least one filling material is hardened

within the bone plate using a light source. The hardened bone plate is then affixed to the site using fasteners. The customizable bone plate of the presently disclosed embodiments provides support and proper orientation of the bony defect resulting in the repair, healing, and strengthening of the defect.

Filling materials include, but are not limited to, bone reinforcing mixtures (such as bone cement mixtures, bone void fillers, epoxies, glues and similar adhesives), orthopedic wires, stainless-steel rods, metal pins, and other similar devices. The filling material may be a natural or synthetic material for strengthening, replacing, or reinforcing of bones or bone tissue. Bone reinforcing mixtures include glues, epoxies, adhesives, cements, hard tissue replacement polymers, biodegradable polymers such as PLA, PGA, and PLA-PGA copolymers, natural coral, hydroxyapatite, beta-tricalcium phosphate, and various other biomaterials known in the art for strengthening, replacing or reinforcing bones. As inert materials, bone reinforcing mixtures may be incorporated into surrounding tissue or gradually replaced by original tissue. Those skilled in the art will recognize that numerous bone reinforcing mixtures known in the art are within the spirit and scope of the presently disclosed embodiments.

A device disclosed herein may be used for the repair of a craniomaxillofacial bony defect related to trauma, tumors, as well as for developmental and congenital craniomaxillofacial deformities.

The main components of a device for repairing a craniomaxillofacial bony defect are shown generally in FIG. 1A and FIG. 1B in conjunction with FIG. 2. The device 100 includes a delivery catheter 110 having an elongated shaft with a proximal end 102, a distal end 104, and a longitudinal axis therebetween. In an embodiment, the delivery catheter 110 has a diameter of about 3 mm. The distal end 104 of the delivery catheter 110 terminates in a releasable conformable bone plate 103. The bone plate 103 may move from a deflated state (FIG. 1A) to an inflated state (FIG. 1B) when at least one filling material is delivered to the bone plate 103. In an embodiment, the thickness of the deflated conformable bone plate 103 is about 7 mm. An inflated conformable bone plate 103, as shown in FIG. 1B, may have a size of about 3 mm by about 10 mm. Alternately, the inflated conformable bone plate 103 may have a size of about 25 mm by about 25 mm. Those skilled in the art will recognize that variations within these ranges are possible and still within the scope and spirit of the presently disclosed embodiments. The filling material is delivered to the bone plate 103 via an inner void capable of allowing the filling material to pass through. In an embodiment, the filling material is a UV-activated glue.

A stiffening member 105 may surround the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter 110 and provides rigidity over the elongated shaft. A pusher or stabilizer 116 is loaded proximal to the bone plate 103. A slip sleeve 107 may surround the stiffening member 105. In an embodiment, the slip sleeve 107 surrounds the stiffening member 105 from a proximal end 123 of the bone plate 103 up until the pusher 116. One or more radiopaque markers or bands 130 may be placed at various locations along the bone plate 103 and/or the slip sleeve 107 for alignment of the device 100 during fluoroscopy or other forms of visualization. The one or more radiopaque bands 130, using radiopaque materials such as barium sulfate, tantalum, or other materials known to increase radiopacity, allows a medical professional to view the device 100 using fluoroscopy techniques. The one or more radiopaque bands 130 also provide visibility during inflation of the bone plate 103 to determine the precise positioning of the bone plate 103 and the device 100 during placement and inflation. The one or more radiopaque bands 130 permit visualization of any voids

that may be created by air that gets entrapped in the bone plate **103**. The one or more radiopaque bands **130** permit visualization to preclude the bone plate **103** from misengaging or not meeting the bony defects due to improper inflation. It may be desirable to imbed radiopaque beads on the corners of the conformable bone plate **103** to assist in the visualization/location of the bone plate **103**.

In an embodiment, an adapter **115**, such as a Tuohy-Borst adapter, engages the proximal end **102** of the delivery catheter **110**. A light source that includes a light pipe **152** may be introduced into one of the side-arms of the adapter **115** and passes within an inner lumen of the delivery catheter **110** up until the distal end **104** of the delivery catheter **110**. A delivery system **160** housing the filling material may be introduced into another side-arm of the adapter **115**, as shown in FIG. 1A. Alternately, a Luer fitting may engage the proximal end **102** of the delivery catheter **110** and a Luer fitting would exist on the light source such that the delivery catheter **110** and the light source would lock together.

Examples of delivery systems include, but are not limited to, caulking gun type systems, syringe systems, bag systems that contain the filling material where the delivery of the filling material is controlled using a tube clamp or any other restrictor valve. In the embodiments shown in FIG. 1A and FIG. 1B, the delivery system **160** is a syringe. In an embodiment, the syringe **160** has a control mechanism that regulates the flow of the filling material. The control mechanism of the syringe **160** allows the filling material to flow into the delivery catheter **110** and the flow may be stopped if desired. The syringe **160** makes direct contact to control the directional flow of the filling material, and the direction of flow of the filling material instantaneously changes within the delivery catheter **110** in response to a change in the direction of the syringe **160**.

In an embodiment, the syringe **160** is opaque and does not allow light to penetrate within the syringe **160**. Having an opaque syringe **160** ensures that the filling material contained in the syringe **160** is not exposed to light and will not cure in the syringe **160**. The filling material is of a liquid consistency, as measured in Centipoise (cP), the unit of dynamic viscosity, so the filling material may be infused from the syringe **160** into the delivery catheter **110** and into the bone plate **103**. Because the filling material has a liquid consistency and is viscous, the filling material may be delivered using low pressure delivery and high pressure delivery is not required, but may be used.

In an embodiment, a separation area is located at the junction between the proximal end **123** of the bone plate **103** and the delivery catheter **110**. The separation area may also include an illumination band. When activated, the illumination band causes light to cure the filling material located in the bone plate **103** within the illumination band. The illumination band extends around the delivery catheter **110** and has a stress concentrator. The stress concentrator may be a notch, groove, channel or similar structure that concentrates stress in the illumination band. The stress concentrator of the illumination band may be notched, scored, indented, pre-weakened or pre-stressed to direct separation of the bone plate **103** from the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter **110** under specific torsional load. The separation area ensures that there are no leaks of filling material from the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter **110** and/or the bone plate **103**. The separation area seals the bone plate **103** and removes the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter **110** by making a break at a known or predetermined site (e.g., a separation area). The separation area may be various lengths and up to about an inch long. When torque (twisting) is applied to the delivery catheter **110**,

the elongated shaft separates from the bone plate **103**. The twisting creates a sufficient shear to break the residual filling material and create a clean separation of the plate/shaft interface. The illumination band may be connected to the light source and may be activated by a separate switch. Having a distinct switch to activate the illumination band may help to prevent inadvertent delivery of light from the light source to cure the filling material. The activation of the illumination band seals the bone plate **103** and seals the end of the delivery catheter **110**, and ensures that there is a "hard seal" of the filling material at the illumination band allowing no filling material to leak from the bone plate **103** or the delivery catheter **110**.

FIG. 2 shows a close-up view of the bone plate **103**. The bone plate **103** is a pad having, a first surface **133**, a second surface **143**, a right side surface **145**, a left side surface **142**, a front surface **141**, a back surface **144**, and an inner space therebetween. The first surface **133** and the second surface **143** each have a first area. The left side surface **142** and the right side surface **145** each have a second area. The front surface **141** and the back surface **144** each have a third area. The first area is greater than the second area. A major longitudinal axis runs from the left side surface **142** to the right side surface **145**, and a minor longitudinal axis runs from the first surface **133** to the second surface **143**. The pad includes an opening **147** positioned only through the right side surface **145** of the pad, wherein the opening **147** is sufficiently designed to engage the delivery catheter **110**. At least one pre-punched aperture **121** extends from the first surface **133** to the second surface **143**, along the minor longitudinal axis, for attaching the bone plate **103** to an exterior surface of the bone fragments. In the embodiment depicted in FIG. 2, there are five pre-punched apertures **121** for attaching the bone plate **103** to the bone fragments, one aperture at each corner and one aperture in the middle. This arrangement of apertures **121** permits multiple connections to bones and ensures contouring and consistent engagement to bones. Those skilled in the art will recognize that the number and placement of the pre-punched apertures **121** on the bone plate **103** may vary and still be within the scope and spirit of the presently disclosed embodiments. The apertures **121** may be threaded or simply formed as non-threaded through holes. The apertures **121** are adapted to receive a fastener for interconnecting the bone plate **103** with a severed bone region. In an embodiment, the bone plate **103** may have a baffle structure which reduces wave motion of the filling material in the bone plate **103**. Baffles would float within the bone plate **103** and may have serpentine, cone, coil or cylindrical shapes.

In an embodiment, the bone plate **103** may have a pre-defined shape to fit over a specific bony defect site. The bone plate **103** may be a pad that is round, flat, cylindrical, oval, rectangular or another shape, as long as the bone plate **103** bridges and supports fragments of fractured bone. For example, as depicted in the embodiment of FIG. 2, the pre-defined shape of the bone plate **103** is a generally square pad.

The bone plate **103** may be formed of a pliable, resilient, conformable, biocompatible, and strong material, including but not limited to urethane, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), nylon elastomer and other similar polymers. In an embodiment, the bone plate **103** is constructed out of a PET nylon aramet or other non-consumable materials. PET is a thermoplastic polymer resin of the polyester family that is used in synthetic fibers. Depending on its processing and thermal history, PET may exist both as an amorphous and as a semi-crystalline material. Semi-crystalline PET has good strength, ductility, stiffness and hardness. Amorphous PET has better ductility, but less stiffness and hardness. PET can be semi-

rigid to rigid, depending on its thickness, and is very light-weight. PET is strong and impact-resistant, naturally colorless and transparent and has good resistance to mineral oils, solvents and acids.

The bone plate **103** has an outer surface **122**. The outer surface **122** is resilient and puncture resistant. In an embodiment, the outer surface **122** of the bone plate **103** is substantially even and smooth. In an embodiment, the outer surface **122** of the bone plate **103** is not entirely smooth and may have some small bumps or convexity/concavity along the length. In an embodiment, the outer surface **122** of the bone plate **103** may have ribs, ridges, bumps or other shapes to help the bone plate **103** conform to the shape of a bony defect. In an embodiment, the bone plate **103** has a textured surface which provides one or more ridges that allow grabbing all portions of bony defects. In an embodiment, sand blasted surfacing on the outer surface **122** of the bone plate **103** improves the connection and adhesion between the outer surface **122** of the bone plate **103** and the bony defect. The surfacing significantly increases the amount of surface area that comes in contact with the bone resulting in a stronger grip.

The outer surface **122** of the bone plate **103** may be coated with materials such as drugs, bone glue, proteins, growth factors, or other coatings. For example, after a surgical procedure an infection may develop in a patient, requiring the patient to undergo antibiotic treatment. An antibiotic drug may be added to the outer surface **122** of the bone plate **103** to prevent or combat a possible infection. Proteins, such as, for example, the bone morphogenic protein or other growth factors have been shown to induce the formation of cartilage and bone. A growth factor may be added to the outer surface **122** of the bone plate **103** to help induce the formation of new bone. Due to the lack of thermal egress of the filling material in the bone plate **103**, the effectiveness and stability of the coating is maintained. In an embodiment, a water soluble glue is applied to the outer surface **122** of the bone plate **103**. When the bone plate **103** is expanded and engages a moist bone, the water soluble glue on the outer surface **122** of the bone plate **103** becomes sticky or tacky and acts as a gripping member to increase the conformal bond of the bone plate **103** to the bone. Once the bone plate **103** is inflated, the outer surface **122** of the bone plate **103** grips the bone forming a mechanical bond as well as a chemical bond. These bonds prevent the potential for a bone slippage. The water soluble glue may be cured by any light (e.g., UV not required).

The bone plate **103** of the device **100** typically does not have any valves. One benefit of having no valves is that the bone plate **103** may be inflated or deflated as much as necessary to resemble the contour of the new anatomy of an osteotomy, fracture or bone graft site. Another benefit of the bone plate **103** having no valves is the efficacy and safety of the device **100**. Since there is no communication passage of filling material to the body there cannot be any leakage of material because all the material is contained within the bone plate **103**. In an embodiment, a permanent seal is created between the bone plate **103** that is both hardened and affixed prior to the delivery catheter **110** being removed. In an embodiment, a permanent seal is created between the bone plate **103** that is hardened, the deliver catheter **119** is removed, and the bone plate **103** is affixed to the bone. The bone plate **103** may have valves, as all of the embodiments are not intended to be limited in this manner.

FIG. 3A, FIG. 3B and FIG. 3C show close-up views of some of the main components of the device **100**. One or more radiopaque markers or bands **130** may be placed at various locations along the slip sleeve **107** of the device **100**. Those skilled in the art will recognize that radiopaque markers **130**

may also be placed at various locations along the bone plate **103**. In an embodiment, the one or more radiopaque bands **130** are placed at intervals of about 10 mm along the length of the slip sleeve **107**. The radiopaque markers **130** are formed using radiopaque material such as barium sulfate, tantalum, or other materials known to increase radiopacity. The radiopaque markers **130** provide visibility during inflation of the bone plate **103** to determine the precise positioning of the bone plate **103** and the delivery catheter during placement and inflation. The radiopaque markers **130** permit visualization of voids created by air that may be entrapped in the bone plate **103**. The radiopaque markers **130** permit visualization to preclude the bone plate **103** from misengaging or not meeting the bony defects due to improper inflation.

Once the correct positioning of the bone plate **103** and delivery catheter are determined, the proximal end of the delivery catheter may be attached to a delivery system that contains a filling mixture.

FIG. 3B shows a cross-sectional view taken along line A-A of FIG. 3A. As shown in FIG. 3B, an elongated shaft **101** of the delivery catheter terminates in the bone plate **103** having the outer surface **122**. Within the elongated shaft **101** of the delivery catheter **110** is a light pipe conduit **111** for accepting a light source (not shown). A void **113** for passage of at least one filling material is formed between an inner surface **124** of the delivery catheter and an outer surface **117** of the light pipe conduit **111**. A delivery system comprising the at least one filling material may be attached to a side arm of a Tuohy-Borst adapter that is engaged to a proximal end of the delivery catheter. The at least one filling material passes through the void **113** of the delivery catheter and enters the bone plate **103**. The infusion of the filling material causes the bone plate **103** to inflate to a desired state. In an embodiment, the filling material is infused through the void **113** in the delivery catheter to expand the bone plate **103** such that the bone plate **103** will resemble the contour of the new anatomy of an osteotomy, fracture or bone graft site. Orientation of the bones and bone plate **103** may be done without any visualization of the process or using x-ray or a fluoroscope. In an embodiment, a C arm imaging system is used as part of a fluoroscope. The C arm imaging system may allow movement or manipulation of the fluoroscope to rotate around tissue while viewing. Other techniques may be used for monitoring or inspecting the expansion of the bone plate **103** such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), ultrasound imaging, x-ray fluoroscopy, Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy, ultraviolet or visible spectroscopy. The bone plate **103** may be composed of non ferromagnetic materials and, thus, is compatible with MRI.

FIG. 3C shows a cross-sectional view taken along line B-B of FIG. 3A. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 3C, the outer slip sleeve has been removed. The stiffening member **105** surrounds and provides rigidity to the elongated shaft **101** of the delivery catheter **110**. The light pipe conduit **111** provides a space for a light source to pass through. The void **113** is formed between the outer surface **117** of the light pipe conduit **111** and the inner surface **124** of the elongated shaft **101**. This void **113** provides a passageway for the at least one filling material. The outer surface **117** of the light pipe conduit **111** allows for a separation between the light source and the filling material.

FIG. 4 in conjunction with FIGS. 1A and 1B, shows a light source **150** for use with the device **100** of the presently disclosed embodiments. The light source **150** is used to harden the filling material that has been infused into the bone plate **103** through the delivery catheter **110**.

The light source **150** includes a light pipe **152** which terminates in an optical lens **154**. Energy emitted from the light pipe **152** is projected through the optical lens **154** and guided into the bone plate **103** of the device **100**. The optical lens **154** may be convex, concave or planar. The optical lens **154** is curved to converge or diverge the transmitted energy from the light pipe **152**. In an embodiment, the optical lens **154** is made out of a plastic material such as Acrylic (PMMA), Polycarbonate (PC), Polystyrene (PS), or other similar materials known to those in the art such as Cyclic Olefin Copolymer (COC), and Amorphous Polyolefin (Zeonex). In an embodiment, the optical lens **154** is made out of a glass material such as quartz.

The light source **150** is introduced into a side arm of the adapter **115** that engages the proximal end **102** of the delivery catheter **110**, as shown in FIG. 1A. The light source **150** runs through the elongated shaft **101** of the delivery catheter **110** through the light pipe conduit and up into the proximal end **123** of the bone plate **103A**. The activation of the light source **150** cures the filling material resulting in the affixing of the bone plate **103** in an expanded shape. A cure may refer to any chemical, physical, and/or mechanical transformation that allows a composition to progress from a form (e.g., flowable form) that allows it to be delivered through the void in the delivery catheter **110**, into a more permanent (e.g., cured) form for final use in vivo. For example, "curable" may refer to uncured composition, having the potential to be cured in vivo (as by catalysis or the application of a suitable energy source), as well as to a composition in the process of curing (e.g., a composition formed at the time of delivery by the concurrent mixing of a plurality of composition components).

In an embodiment, the filling material is a light cure adhesive or ultraviolet (UV) adhesive. A benefit of UV curing is that it is a cure-on-demand process and that adhesives may be free of solvents and include environmentally friendly resins that cure in seconds upon exposure to long wave UV light or visible light. Different UV adhesives use photoinitiators sensitive to different ranges of UV and visible light. Being very energetic, UV light can break chemical bonds, making molecules unusually reactive or ionizing them, in general changing their mutual behavior. Visible light, for example, visible blue light, allows materials to be cured between substrates that block UV light but transmits visible light (e.g., plastics). Visible light penetrates through the adhesive to a greater depth. Since the visible light penetrates through the adhesive, curing of the adhesive increases as a greater portion of the electromagnetic spectrum is available as useful energy. Additives may be used with the UV adhesive delivery system, including, but not limited to drugs (for example, antibiotics), proteins (for example, growth factors) or other natural or synthetic additives.

The electromagnetic spectrum is the range of all possible electromagnetic radiation. The electromagnetic spectrum of an object is the frequency range of electromagnetic radiation that the object emits, reflects, or transmits. The electromagnetic spectrum extends from just below the frequencies used for modern radio (at the long-wavelength end) to gamma radiation (at the short-wavelength end), covering wavelengths from thousands of kilometers down to fractions of the size of an atom. In an embodiment, the UV adhesive is a single-component, solvent-free adhesive that will not cure until a UV light engages the adhesive, and when that occurs, the adhesive will cure in seconds to form a complete bond with a shear strength. In an embodiment, the filling material exhibits a shrinkage upon cure of about 2 to about 3 percent.

UV light wavelength ranges from about 1 nm to about 380 nm, and can be subdivided into the following categories: near

UV (380-200 nm wavelength; abbreviated NUV), far or vacuum UV (200-10 nm; abbreviated FUV or VUV), and extreme UV (1-31 nm; abbreviated EUV or XUV). Similarly, visible light has a wavelength spectrum of between about 380 to about 780 nm. Those skilled in the art will recognize that some UV adhesives may be activated by UV light, visible light, x-rays, gamma rays, microwaves, radio waves, long waves or any light having a wavelength less than about 1 nm, between about 1 nm and about 380 nm, between about 380 nm and about 780 nm, or greater than 780 nm, as not all embodiments are intended to be limited in that respect.

Using a UV light to cure the filling material assists in holding broken bones in place, filling of the bone plate, and viewing under a C arm imaging system. The filling materials cure in such a way that is sufficient to conform to the contour of a bony defect. More specifically, the ability to inflate, set, adjust, orient bones, and the resulting union of the bone are available prior to hardening the filling material. The introduction of the UV light starts the photoinitiator and the UV adhesive hardens. Once the UV light is introduced, the adhesive inside the bone plate hardens and the adhesives inside are affixed in place. Until the UV light is introduced, the bone placement is not disturbed or rushed as there is no hardening of the adhesives until the light is introduced, the bone plate may be inflated or deflated due to the viscosity of the adhesive. The adhesive may be infused or removed from the bone plate due to the low viscosity of the adhesive. In an embodiment, the viscosity of the filling material has a viscosity of about 1000 cP or less. In an embodiment, the filling material has a viscosity ranging from about 650 cP to about 450 cP. Not all embodiments are intended to be limited in this respect and some embodiments may include filling materials having a viscosity exactly equal to or greater than 1000 cP. In an embodiment, a contrast material may be added to the filling material without significantly increasing the viscosity. Contrast materials include, but are not limited to, barium sulfate, tantalum, or other contrast materials known in the art.

Several epoxies known in the art are suitable for use as filling materials and vary in viscosity, cure times, and hardness (durometer or shore) when fully cured. A durometer of a material indicates the hardness of the material, defined as the material's resistance to permanent indentation. Depending on the amount of resultant support that is necessary for a given bony defect, a specific durometer UV adhesive may be chosen. Alternately, multiple UV adhesives having varying durometers may be chosen for the repair of a bony defect and be within the scope and spirit of the presently disclosed embodiments. The durometer of a material may be altered to achieve either greater rigidity or a more malleable result. The mechanical properties of the epoxies may dictate using methods/measures that are typical for high-strength and high-impact materials including but not limited to, tensile strength and tensile modulus, tensile strength tests, ultimate modulus, Poisson's ratio, hardness measurements like Vickers and Charpy Impact which measures yield strength and toughness.

In an embodiment, the filling material is cured by chemical activation or thermal activation. Chemical activation includes but is not limited to water or other liquids. In an embodiment, the filling material is a drying adhesive which has a polymer dissolved in a solvent such that as the solvent evaporates, the adhesive hardens. In an embodiment, the filling material is a hot or thermoplastic adhesive such that as the adhesive cools, the adhesive hardens.

Some filling materials may require or be enhanced by curing via any means, such as UV or visible light, heat, and/or

addition or removal of a chemical or substance, may utilize any outside or internal processes to cure the material, or may not require curing.

In an embodiment, carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are added to the filling material to increase the strength of the material. Carbon nanotubes are an allotrope of carbon that take the form of cylindrical carbon molecules and have novel strength properties. Carbon nanotubes exhibit extraordinary strength. Nanotubes are members of the fullerene structural family, which also includes buckyballs. Whereas buckyballs are spherical in shape, a nanotube is cylindrical with at least one end typically capped with a hemisphere of the buckyball structure. Nanotubes are composed entirely of sp² bonds, similar to those of graphite. This bonding structure, which is stronger than the sp³ bonds found in diamond, provides the molecules with their unique strength. Nanotubes naturally align themselves into “ropes” held together by Van der Waals forces. Single walled nanotubes or multi-walled nanotubes may be used to strengthen the filling materials.

In an embodiment, a central space may remain in the bone plate 103 which may be filled in order to provide extra strength and support to the fractured bones. An optical rod or similar device may be positioned in the central space and turned on or illuminated. An optical rod or similar device can be made of fiber, silica, quartz, sapphire or similar materials. The end of the optical rod may be cut and remain in the bone plate 103 to provide increased rigidity.

FIG. 5A and FIG. 5B show cross-sectional views of the device 100 of FIG. 1A, showing the light source 150 of FIG. 4 passing through the light pipe conduit 111 of the delivery catheter 110, through the opening 147 and into the inner space of the pad along the longitudinal axis of the pad. The light source includes the light pipe 152 terminating in the optical lens 154. The light source is used to harden the filling material that has been infused into the bone plate 103 of the device 100. Energy from the light source 150 is emitted from the light pipe 152, projected through the optical lens 154, and guided into the bone plate 103 of the device 100. The optical lens 154 may be convex, concave or planar. The optical lens 154 is curved to converge or diverge the transmitted energy from the light pipe 152.

Millions of people sustain trauma to the head and face resulting in complex fractures which, if not correctly diagnosed and treated, may cause permanent functional and cosmetic deformities. In acute trauma cases, the goal of reconstruction is a one-stage repair which has been made possible by the application of craniofacial techniques. Delayed treatment has been replaced by early or immediate surgical treatment and stabilization of small bone fragments augmented by bone grafts and miniplate fixation. These recent advances have allowed surgeons to approach and often reach the goal of restoring preinjury facial appearance and function while at the same time minimizing revisional surgery. Without treatment in a timely manner, many individuals will develop future problems, the severity and consequences of which can be much greater than if the injury had been immediately repaired. Craniofacial surgery encompasses the reconstruction of a broad spectrum of facial deformities including, but not limited to, zygomatic fractures, maxillary fractures, nasomaxillary orbital fractures, internal orbital fractures, mandibular fractures, post-traumatic facial deformities, soft tissue deformities, and facial bone contouring. An implant for fracture fixation must be strong, ductile, adaptable to the bone surface and biocompatible. Fixation system quality includes adequate strength and rigidity, avoiding adverse reactions, interference with bone healing, intracranial migration, visibility and palpability and implant removal operation.

FIG. 6 illustrates the device 100 of the presently disclosed embodiments in use during a procedure for repairing a craniomaxillofacial bony defect in a patient. The procedure begins with placing the deflated bone plate 103 of the device 100 at the bony defect, where the bone plate 103 spans at least two bone fragments (A and B in FIG. 6). A delivery system, such as the syringe 160 filled with the filling material (not shown), is attached to the device 100. The filling material is then infused through the inner void in the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter 110 and enters the bone plate 103 of the device 100, causing the bone plate 103 to move from a deflated state to an expanded state. Once the bone plate 103 has been expanded to a desired level (which is controlled by a medical professional with the syringe 160), and orientation of the bone fragments are confirmed to be in a desired position, the light source 152 is attached to the device 100. The light source 152 is passed through the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter 110 through the light pipe conduit. In an embodiment, the filling material is a UV curable glue which requires a UV light source to cure the adhesive. The light source 152 is then activated which causes the filling material to harden. The hardened bone plate 103 may be affixed to the bony defect site, thus stabilizing the fracture. The light source 152 is removed from the device 100 and the bone plate 103 is released from the delivery catheter 110. In an embodiment, the delivery catheter 110 is cut to separate the bone plate 103 from the elongated shaft 101. A device slides over the delivery catheter 110 and allows a right angle scissor to descend through the delivery catheter 110 and make a cut. The location of the cut may be determined by using a fluoroscope or an x-ray. In an embodiment, the cut location is at the junction where the elongated shaft 101 meets the bone plate 103.

In an embodiment, a separation area is located at the junction between the proximal end 123 of the bone plate 103 and the delivery catheter 110. The separation area may also include an illumination band. When activated, the illumination band causes light to cure the filling material located in the bone plate 103 within the illumination band. The illumination band extends around the delivery catheter 110 and has a stress concentrator. The stress concentrator may be a notch, groove, channel or similar structure that concentrates stress in the illumination band. The stress concentrator of the illumination band may be notched, scored, indented, pre-weakened or pre-stressed to direct separation of the bone plate 103 from the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter 110 under specific torsional load. The separation area ensures that there are no leaks of filling material from the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter 110 and/or the bone plate 103. The separation area seals the bone plate 103 and removes the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter 110 by making a break at a known or predetermined site (e.g., a separation area). The separation area may be various lengths and up to about an inch long. When torque (twisting) is applied to the delivery catheter 110, the elongated shaft separates from the bone plate 103. The twisting creates a sufficient shear to break the residual filling material and create a clean separation of the plate/shaft interface. The illumination band may be connected to the light source and may be activated by a separate switch. Having a distinct switch to activate the illumination band may help to prevent inadvertent delivery of light from the light source to cure the filling material. The activation of the illumination band seals the bone plate 103 and seals the end of the delivery catheter 110, and ensures that there is a “hard seal” of the filling material at the illumination band allowing no filling material to leak from the bone plate 103 or the delivery catheter 110.

13

The bone plate **103** may be fastened to the bony defect before, after or during a repair procedure. Fasteners **163** are disposed through the apertures **121** and engage the bone plate **103** to secure the bone plate **103** to one or more portions of bone.

A method for adjoining at least two bone fragments includes providing a device for adjoining at least two bone fragments, the device including a conformable bone plate engaged to a delivery catheter having an elongated shaft with a proximal end, a distal end, and a longitudinal axis therebetween, wherein the conformable bone plate has at least one aperture extending from a first surface of the bone plate to a second surface of the bone plate for receiving a fastener to affix the bone plate to the at least two bone fragments; positioning the conformable bone plate over an exterior surface spanning the at least two bone fragments; attaching a delivery system housing at least one filling material to the delivery catheter, wherein the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter has an inner void for passage of the at least one filling material to the conformable bone plate; inserting a light source into the delivery catheter, wherein the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter has an inner lumen for passage of the light source to the conformable bone plate; infusing the at least one filling material through the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter and into the conformable bone plate to expand the conformable bone plate; activating the light source to harden the at least one filling material in the expanded conformable bone plate; releasing the hardened conformable bone plate from the delivery catheter; and affixing the conformable bone plate to the exterior surfaces of the at least two bone fragments to adjoin the bone fragments. In an embodiment, the at least two bone fragments are bones of the face. In an embodiment, the light source is removed from the delivery catheter once the at least one filling material has been hardened.

The bone plates and devices disclosed herein have been discussed in the repair of a craniomaxillofacial bony defect. Those skilled in the art will recognize that the bone plates and devices may be used in a variety of areas, such as bones of the vertebrae and any other fractured bone that required support on its exterior surface so as to hold the disassociated portions in alignment during healing.

All patents, patent applications, and published references cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. It will be appreciated that various of the above-disclosed and other features and functions, or alternatives thereof, may be desirably combined into many other different systems or applications. Various presently unforeseen or unanticipated alternatives, modifications, variations, or improvements therein may be subsequently made by those skilled in the art which are also intended to be encompassed by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for adjoining at least two craniomaxillofacial bone fragments comprising:

positioning a conformable bone pad in a deflated state over an exterior surface of the at least two craniomaxillofacial bone fragments, the conformable bone pad having an opening engaged to a delivery catheter, the delivery catheter having an elongated shaft with a proximal end, a distal end, and a longitudinal axis extending therebetween, wherein the conformable bone pad has at least one through aperture extending from a first bone contacting surface of the conformable bone pad to a second outer surface of the conformable bone pad for receiving a fastener to affix the bone pad to the at least two bone fragments, the conformable bone pad further

14

includes a proximal side surface, an opposing distal side surface, a right side surface and an opposing left side surface extending between the first bone contacting surface and the second outer surface of the conformable bone pad defining an inner space within the conformable bone pad in communication with the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter,

wherein the opening of the conformable bone pad extends through at least one of the proximal and distal side surface of the conformable bone pad;

attaching a delivery system having at least one filling material to the delivery catheter, wherein the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter has an inner void for passage of the at least one filling material through the opening extending through at least one of the proximal and distal side surface of the conformable bone pad to the inner space within the conformable bone pad;

inserting a light fiber into the delivery catheter, wherein the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter has an inner lumen for passage of the light fiber into the conformable bone pad;

infusing the at least one filling material through the elongated shaft of the delivery catheter and into the inner space within the conformable bone pad to expand the conformable bone pad from the deflated state to an inflated state;

activating the light source to harden the at least one filling material in the expanded conformable bone pad;

releasing the hardened conformable bone pad from the delivery catheter; and

affixing the conformable bone pad to the exterior surfaces of the at least two craniomaxillofacial bone fragments to adjoin the bone fragments, by inserting at least one fastener through the at least one aperture of the conformable bone pad and into at least one of the at least two craniomaxillofacial bone fragments,

wherein the conformable bone pad includes a major longitudinal axis running from the proximal side surface to the distal side surface and a minor longitudinal axis running from the first bone contacting surface to the second outer surface and intersecting the major longitudinal axis at an intersection,

wherein the at least one aperture includes at least one centered through aperture extending from the second outer surface to the first bone contacting surface through a center of the conformable bone pad and through the intersection of the minor longitudinal axis and the major longitudinal axis of the conformable bone pad, and

wherein the at least one aperture includes one or more peripheral through apertures extending from the second outer surface to the first bone contacting surface to a periphery of the conformable bone pad.

2. The method of claim **1** further comprising contouring the comfortable to engage against the at least two craniomaxillofacial bone fragments.

3. The method of claim **1** wherein the at least two bone fragments are bones of the face.

4. The method of claim **1** further comprising removing the light fiber from the delivery catheter after the at least one filling material has been hardened.

5. The method of claim **1** wherein the conformable bone pad is constructed from a polymer material.

6. A method for repairing craniomaxillofacial bone fractures comprising:

placing a conformable bone pad spanning at least two craniomaxillofacial bone fragments, the conformable bone pad being releasably engaged to a delivery catheter

15

having an elongated shaft with a proximal end, a distal end, and a longitudinal axis extending therebetween, wherein the conformable bone pad comprises:

a first bone contacting surface and an opposing second outer surface, a left side surface and an opposing right side surface extending between the first bone contacting surface and the second outer surface, and a proximal side surface and an opposing distal side surface extending between the first bone contacting surface and the second outer surface defining an inner space within the conformable bone pad in communication with an inner void of the delivery catheter for passage of at least one filling material into the inner space of the conformable bone pad for expanding the expandable conformable bone pad;

a major longitudinal axis running from the proximal side surface to the distal side surface;

a minor longitudinal axis running from the first bone contacting surface to the second outer surface and intersecting the major longitudinal axis at an intersection;

an opening extending through at least one of the proximal and distal side surfaces of the conformable bone pad to pass the at least one filling material from the delivery catheter into the inner space of the conformable bone pad; and

at least one through aperture extending from the second outer surface to the first bone contacting surface for receiving a fastener therethrough to affix the bone pad to at least two craniomaxillofacial bone fragments;

engaging the at least two craniomaxillofacial bone fragments with the conformable bone pad by positioning the conformable bone pad in a deflated state over an exterior surface of the at least two craniomaxillofacial bone fragments;

expanding the conformable bone pad from the deflated state to an inflated state by infusing the at least one filling material into the inner space within the conformable bone pad through the inner void of the delivery catheter;

hardening the at least one filling material in the inner space of the expanded conformable bone pad by transmitting light from a light source through the delivery catheter;

16

releasing the hardened conformable bone pad from the delivery catheter; and affixing the conformable bone pad to the exterior surfaces of the at least two craniomaxillofacial bone fragments with at least one fastener inserted through the at least one through aperture and into at least one of the at least two craniomaxillofacial bone fragments,

wherein the at least one aperture includes at least one centered through aperture extending from the second outer surface to the first bone contacting surface through a center of the conformable bone pad and through the intersection of the minor longitudinal axis and the major longitudinal axis of the conformable bone pad, and

wherein the at least one aperture includes one or more peripheral through apertures extending from the second outer surface to the first bone contacting surface at a periphery of the conformable bone pad.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising passing a light fiber into the inner space of the conformable bone pad through an inner lumen of the delivery catheter.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the optical fiber is passed into the inner space of the conformable bone pad through the opening of the conformable bone pad along the major longitudinal axis of the conformable bone pad.

9. The method of claim 6 further comprising transmitting light from the light source through a light fiber into the inner space for hardening the at least one filling material in the inner space of the conformable bone pad.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising removing the light fiber from the delivery catheter after at least one filling material has been hardened.

11. The method of claim 6 further comprising contouring the conformable bone pad to engage against the at least two craniomaxillofacial bone fragments.

12. The method of claim 6 wherein the conformable bone pad is constructed from a polymer material.

13. The method of claim 6 wherein the at least one filling material is a light curable glue.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 9,005,254 B2
APPLICATION NO. : 14/163027
DATED : April 14, 2015
INVENTOR(S) : Robert A. Rabiner and Joseph John Crisco, III

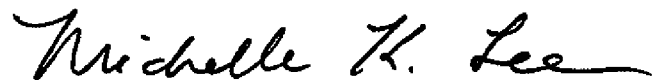
Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In the claims:

Column 14, line 54, Claim 2 replace the word “comfortable” with --comfortable bone pad--.

Signed and Sealed this
Twenty-fifth Day of October, 2016



Michelle K. Lee
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office