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Compressible Self-Distracting Joint Replacement Assembly

Chronic low back pain is the primary cause of disability in active age groups of the society, playing a major role in the medical, social, and economic structure of industrial countries. The management of chronic low back pain is a prevalent problem to the clinician. It has been estimated that 70% of the population in the United States has experienced low back pain during their lives. In the United States, the estimated health care cost for the treatment of chronic low back pain is 33 billion dollars per year. The current surgical treatment methods for intervertebral disc degeneration primarily involve the surgical stabilization and/or fusion of adjacent vertebrae of the spine. One of the most recent developments for nonfusion surgical treatment is the total replacement of the intervertebral disc with a mechanical disc. In order to perform such replacement surgeries, the surgeon must carefully measure each patient's body and the space in which the replacement assembly is to be inserted. Since every patient is unique, the surgeon must find and use the exact right sized and shaped replacement assembly. The hospitals and surgeons must have an extensive inventory in order to meet each patient's unique needs. Also, there is a concern that the surgeon might encounter unexpected circumstances which could affect the type and size of replacement assembly to be inserted into the patient. Therefore, a compressible, self-distracting joint replacement assembly has been developed which is distracted to an open, working position once the assembly is inserted into a patient. This device fulfills the great need for a replacement assembly that provides a desired fit for each unique patient.

The University of Toledo is seeking a company interested in utilizing this compressible, self-distracting joint replacement assembly .

Applications:

Patients with intervertebral disc disease

Advantages:

1. Reduces amount of parts surgeon needs for insertion
2. Lowers total cost of implant
3. Reduces surgery time
4. Provides a better implant fit

This invention is patent pending

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