

Claim Comparison Chart for n-Spine 057 Patent

1. A flexible, elongated connection unit for stabilizing a human spine where the flexible connection unit is configured to be surgically implanted into the human body adjacent the spine and held in place by at least a first and a second pedicle screw assembly that are configured to be anchored into a first and second, adjacent vertebra, respectively, the flexible, elongated connection unit comprising: (a) a first, metallic rigid portion having an outer surface configured to be secured within the first pedicle screw assembly, the outer surface of the first rigid portion having a dimension; (b) a second, metallic rigid portion; (c) a cylindrical flexible member directly secured to the first rigid portion and to the second rigid portion, the flexible member having an outer surface having a diameter less than the dimension of the outer surface of the first rigid portion at a position between the first and second rigid portions; (d) a longitudinally compressible spacer comprising: (1) a metallic, rigid portion having a length and having an inner bore extending the length of the spacer metallic portion, the flexible member extending through the bore of the spacer metallic portion, the inner bore of the spacer metallic portion having a larger dimension than the diameter of the outer surface of the flexible member along the length of the spacer metallic portion bore such that the spacer metallic portion can slide along the outer surface of the flexible member, and where the spacer metallic portion has an outer surface configured to be secured within the second pedicle screw assembly, the spacer metallic portion being located entirely between the first rigid portion and the second rigid portion such that along the length of the connection unit no portion of the spacer metallic portion overlaps with any portion of the first or second rigid portion; (2) a first elastomeric portion located at least partially between the first rigid portion and the spacer metallic portion, the first elastomeric portion having a length and having an inner bore	13. A flexible, elongated connection unit for stabilizing a human spine where the flexible connection unit is configured to be surgically implanted into the human body adjacent the spine and held in place by at least a first and a second bone coupling assembly that are configured to be anchored into a first and second, adjacent vertebra, respectively, the flexible connection unit comprising: (a) a first, metallic rigid portion having an outer surface configured to be secured within the first bone coupling assembly; (b) a second, metallic rigid portion; (c) a flexible member connected with the first rigid portion and the second rigid portion, the flexible member having an outer surface; (d) a longitudinally compressible spacer comprising: (1) a metallic, rigid portion having a length and having an inner bore extending the length of the spacer metallic portion, the flexible member extending through the inner bore of the spacer metallic portion, the inner bore of the spacer metallic portion having a larger dimension than the outer surface of the flexible member along the length of the spacer metallic portion bore such that the spacer metallic portion can slide along the outer surface of the flexible member, and where the spacer metallic portion has an outer surface configured to be secured within the second bone coupling assembly, the spacer metallic portion being located entirely between the first rigid portion and the second rigid portion such that along the length of the connection unit no portion of the spacer metallic portion overlaps with any portion of the first or second rigid portion; (2) a first elastomeric portion located at least partially between the first rigid portion and the spacer metallic portion, the first elastomeric portion having a length and having an inner bore extending	23. A flexible, elongated connection unit for stabilizing a human spine where the flexible connection unit is configured to be surgically implanted into the human body adjacent the spine and held in place by at least a first and a second bone coupling assembly that are configured to be anchored into a first and second, adjacent vertebra, respectively, the flexible connection unit comprising: (a) a first rigid portion having an outer surface configured to be secured within the first bone coupling assembly; (b) a second rigid portion; (c) a flexible member connected to the first rigid portion and the second rigid portion, the flexible member having an outer surface; (d) a longitudinally compressible spacer comprising: (1) a rigid portion having a length and having an inner bore extending the length of the spacer rigid portion, the flexible member extending through the inner bore of the spacer rigid portion, the inner bore of the spacer rigid portion having a larger dimension than the outer surface of the flexible member along the length of the spacer rigid portion bore such that the spacer rigid portion can slide along the outer surface of the flexible member, and where the spacer rigid portion has an outer surface configured to be secured within the second bone coupling assembly, the spacer rigid portion being located entirely between the first rigid portion and the second rigid portion such that along the length of the connection unit no portion of the spacer rigid portion overlaps with any portion of the first or second rigid portion; (2) a first elastomeric portion located at least partially between the first rigid portion and the spacer rigid portion, the first elastomeric portion having a length and having an inner bore	33. A flexible, spinal fixation assembly for stabilizing a human spine, comprising: (a) a first bone coupling assembly having a distal portion configured to be secured to a first vertebra and a proximal portion; (b) a second bone coupling assembly having a distal portion configured to be secured to a second vertebra and a proximal portion; (c) a first rigid portion having an outer surface secured within the proximal portion of the first bone coupling assembly; (d) a second rigid portion; (e) a flexible member connected to the first rigid portion and the second rigid portion, the flexible member having an outer surface; (f) a longitudinally compressible spacer comprising: (1) a rigid portion having a length and having an inner bore extending the length of the spacer rigid portion, the flexible member extending through the inner bore of the spacer rigid portion, the inner bore of the spacer rigid portion having a larger dimension than the outer surface of the flexible member along the length of the spacer rigid portion bore such that the spacer rigid portion can slide along the outer surface of the flexible member, and where the spacer rigid portion has an outer surface secured within the proximal portion of the second bone coupling assembly; 34. The spinal fixation assembly of claim 33, wherein the spacer rigid portion is located entirely between the first rigid portion and the second rigid portion such that along the length of the fixation assembly no portion of the spacer rigid portion overlaps with any portion of the first or second rigid portion. (2) a first elastomeric portion located at least partially between the first rigid portion and the spacer rigid portion, the first elastomeric portion having a length and having an inner bore	46. A kit for stabilizing a human spine, comprising: (a) a first bone coupling assembly and a second bone coupling assembly, each having a distal portion configured to be secured to a vertebra and a proximal portion; and (b) a flexible, connection unit comprising: (1) a first rigid portion having an outer surface configured to be secured within the proximal portion of the first bone coupling assembly; (2) a second rigid portion; (3) a flexible member connected to the first rigid portion and the second rigid portion, the flexible member having an outer surface; (4) a longitudinally compressible spacer comprising: (i) a rigid portion having a length and having an inner bore extending the length of the spacer rigid portion, the flexible member extending through the inner bore of the spacer rigid portion, the inner bore of the spacer rigid portion having a larger dimension than the outer surface of the flexible member along the length of the spacer rigid portion bore such that the spacer rigid portion can slide along the outer surface of the flexible member, and where the spacer rigid portion has an outer surface configured to be secured within the proximal portion of the second bone coupling assembly; 47. The kit of claim 46, wherein the spacer rigid portion is located entirely between the first rigid portion and the second rigid portion such that along the length of the connection unit no portion of the spacer rigid portion overlaps with any portion of the first or second rigid portion. (ii) a first elastomeric portion located at least partially between the first rigid portion and the spacer rigid portion, the first elastomeric portion having a length and having an inner bore
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7. The flexible connection unit of claim 6, wherein the spacer metallic portion physically separates the first and second elastomeric portions. 8. The flexible connection unit of claim 6, wherein the entire outer, longitudinal surface of each of the first rigid portion and the spacer metallic portion is cylindrical and uniform. 9. The flexible connection unit of claim 6, wherein both the first and second spacer elastomeric portions comprise polycarbonate urethane. 10. The flexible connection unit of claim 8, wherein the first rigid portion is longer than the second rigid portion. 11. The flexible connection unit of claim 8, wherein both the first and second spacer elastomeric portions comprise polycarbonate urethane. 12. The flexible connection unit of claim 1, wherein the flexible member is metallic.	18. The flexible connection unit of claim 17, wherein the spacer metallic portion physically separates the first and second elastomeric portions. 19. The flexible connection unit of claim 17, wherein the entire outer, longitudinal surface of each of the first rigid portion and the spacer metallic portion is cylindrical and uniform. 22. The flexible connection unit of claim 17, wherein both the first and second spacer elastomeric portions comprise polycarbonate urethane. 20. The flexible connection unit of claim 17, wherein the first rigid portion is longer than the first rigid portion. 21. The flexible connection unit of claim 17, wherein the spacer metallic portion is longer than the second rigid portion.	28. The flexible connection unit of claim 27, wherein the spacer rigid portion physically separates the first and second elastomeric portions. 29. The flexible connection unit of claim 27, wherein the entire outer, longitudinal surface of each of the first rigid portion and the spacer rigid portion is cylindrical and uniform. 32. The flexible connection unit of claim 31, wherein both the first and second spacer elastomeric portions comprise polycarbonate urethane. 30. The flexible connection unit of claim 27, wherein the first and second rigid portions are metallic. 31. The flexible connection unit of claim 30, wherein the spacer rigid portion is metallic.	41. The spinal fixation assembly of claim 40, wherein the spacer rigid portion physically separates the first and second elastomeric portions. 42. The spinal fixation assembly of claim 40, wherein the entire, longitudinal outer surface of each of the first rigid portion and the spacer rigid portion is cylindrical and uniform. 45. The spinal fixation assembly of claim 40, wherein both the first and second spacer elastomeric portions comprise polycarbonate urethane. 35. The spinal fixation assembly of claim 34, wherein the first rigid portion and the second rigid portion are metallic. 37. The spinal fixation assembly of claim 36, wherein the spacer rigid portion is metallic.	52. The kit of claim 51, wherein the spacer rigid portion physically separates the first and second elastomeric portions. 53. The kit of claim 52, wherein the entire, longitudinal outer surface of each of the first rigid portion and the spacer rigid portion is cylindrical and uniform. 54. The kit of claim 53, wherein both the first and second spacer elastomeric portions comprise polycarbonate urethane. 48. The kit of claim 47, wherein the first rigid portion and the second rigid portion are metallic. 50. The kit of claim 49, wherein the spacer rigid portion is metallic.
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