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

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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ALIGNING A MASK WITH THE VISUAL AXIS OF AN EYE**

(56) **References Cited**

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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 1224 days.

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(21) Appl. No.: **11/418,390**

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(65) **Prior Publication Data**

(Continued)

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**Related U.S. Application Data**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
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*A61F 2/14* (2006.01)

An apparatus is provided for aligning an implant with a visual axis of an eye of a patient. The apparatus has an instrument with an instrument axis and an aperture through which the patient may look along the instrument axis. The implant includes an aperture having an implant axis that can be positioned substantially collinear with the instrument axis. The implant further includes a substantially opaque annulus extending between the aperture and an outer periphery of the implant. The annulus has a nutrient transport structure for conveying nutrients between anterior and posterior surfaces of the implant.

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **351/200**; 351/247; 623/5.11; 623/5.13; 623/5.16

(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 351/205, 351/208, 200; 623/4.1, 5.11-5.13, 5.16  
See application file for complete search history.

**18 Claims, 31 Drawing Sheets**

