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(54) **FACET DISTRACTION DEVICE, FACET JOINT IMPLANT, AND ASSOCIATED METHODS**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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See application file for complete search history.

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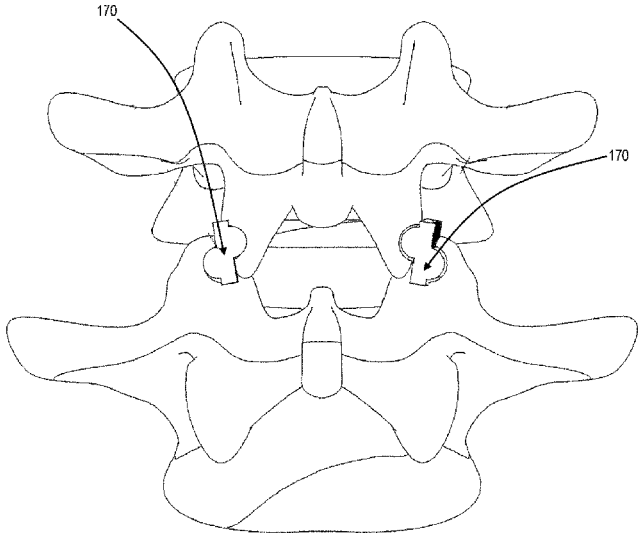
(57) **ABSTRACT**

In various exemplary embodiments, the present invention provides devices, implants, and methods for distracting and/or stabilizing a facet joint of the spine of a patient or other similar joint or bony structures, optionally including modifying the facet joint and implanting an implant in the facet joint so as to distract the foramen in order to reduce compression on nerve roots.

12 Claims, 18 Drawing Sheets