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(54) **INTERVERTEBRAL DISC TREATMENT APPARATUS**

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USPC ..... 600/439; 601/2–3
See application file for complete search history.

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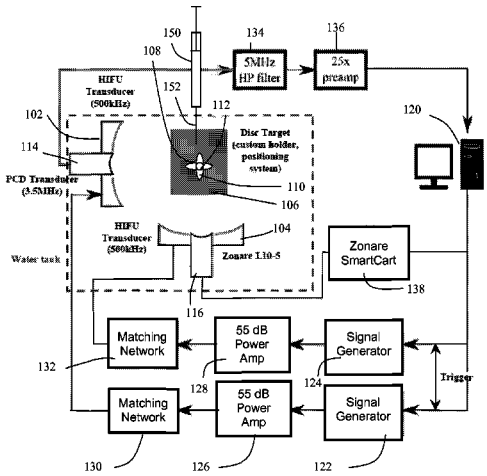
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of at least partially removing the nucleus pulposus of an intervertebral disc comprising the nucleus and an annulus surrounding the nucleus is described. The method comprises the steps of: insonating the nucleus with ultrasound thereby to cause at least partial fragmentation of the nucleus; and extracting at least part of the fragmented nucleus. A system for performing the method is also described.

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