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(54) **MODULAR SEGMENTED DISC NUCLEUS IMPLANT**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A segmented disc nucleus replacement prosthesis and system for its implantation wherein the segments are made of a compliant, homogeneous material throughout. The prosthesis comprises a plurality of modular segments that mate together in a rail-and-slot arrangement. The rails and slots are configured to interlock and hold together under load despite being formed of compliant materials. In one embodiment, insertion tools and stabilizers are utilized for manipulation of the modular segments, the insertion tools and stabilizers being designed to accommodate for handling the compliant modular segments.

10 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets

