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(76) Inventors: **E. Marlowe Goble**, Alta, WY (US); **T. Wade Fallin**, Hyde Park, UT (US); **Robert W. Hoy**, Logan, UT (US)

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Correspondence Address:

Mark J. Pandiscio
Pandiscio & Pandiscio
470 Totten Pond Road
Waltham, MA 02154 (US)

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A prosthesis for the replacement of a diseased or traumatized facet of a mammalian vertebra includes a surface that articulates with another prosthetic facet or a natural facet, a portion that replaces at least a bony portion of the diseased or traumatized spine facet which is to be replaced, and an element to attach the prosthesis to the vertebra in a manner that does not require attachment to or abutment against the posterior arch. A method of installing the prosthesis includes the steps of resecting at least a portion of a facet and attaching the prosthesis in a manner that does not require attachment or abutment against the posterior arch.

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