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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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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.

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 10/421,078, filed on Apr. 23, 2003, which is a continuation of application No. 09/726,169, filed on Nov. 29, 2000, now Pat. No. 6,579,319.

