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18 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
19 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
20 (WESTERN DIVISION)

21 RAMA E. CHANDRAN, M.D., an
22 individual,

23 Plaintiff,

24 v.

25 WRIGHT MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY,
26 INC., a Delaware corporation,

27 Defendant.

Case No.: 2:15-cv-02852

**COMPLAINT FOR PATENT
INFRINGEMENT**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

COMPLAINT

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2 Plaintiff Rama E. Chandran, M.D. (“Dr. Chandran”) brings this Complaint for
3 patent infringement against Defendant Wright Medical Technology, Inc. (“Wright
4 Medical”) and alleges as follows:

5 **NATURE OF THE ACTION AND THIS COURT’S JURISDICTION**

6 1. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of
7 the United States, 35 U.S.C. §101 *et seq.*, and specifically §§271 and 281-285,
8 alleging Defendant’s infringement of U.S. Patent Number 6,579,293 (the “’293
9 Patent”), entitled “INTRAMEDULLARY ROD WITH INTERLOCKING OBLIQUE
10 SCREW FOR TIBIO-CALCANEAL ARTHRODESIS.” A copy of the ‘293 Patent is
11 attached as Exhibit 1.

12 2. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to
13 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

14 3. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Wright Medical because Wright
15 Medical has continuous and systematic business and commercial contacts with this
16 judicial district and sells, has sold, offers to sell, uses, and induces physicians and
17 their patients to use Wright Medical’s Valor® Hindfoot Fusion System (“Valor®
18 System”) in this judicial district. Dr. Chandran’s claims for relief arise out of Wright
19 Medical’s patent infringement in this district, among other parts of the United States.
20 Wright Medical has purposefully availed itself of the benefits and protections of
21 California’s laws such that it should reasonably anticipate being haled into court here.

22 4. Venue is proper in the Central District of California, Western Division,
23 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(d) and § 1400(b).

24 **PARTIES**

25 5. Plaintiff Rama E. Chandran, M.D. (“Dr. Chandran”), is a Board-certified
26 and licensed orthopedic surgeon who has practiced for over thirty years in the United
27 States and lives in Rolling Hills, California.

28 6. Wright Medical Technology, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with a

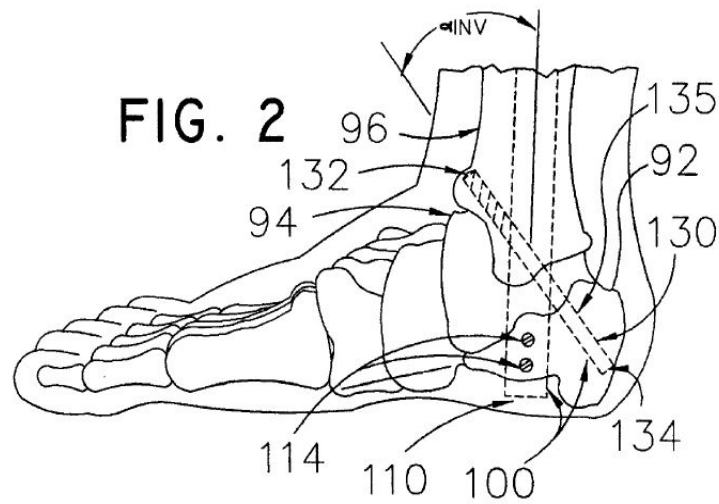
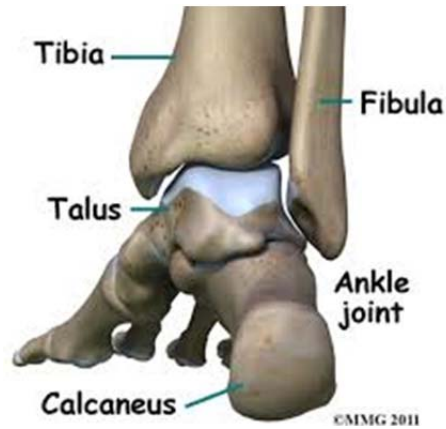
1 principal place of business in Memphis, Tennessee. It is a global orthopedic company
2 that provides solutions that enable clinicians to alleviate pain and restore their
3 patients' lifestyles. Wright Medical is a recognized leader of surgical solutions for the
4 foot and ankle market and markets its products in over 60 countries worldwide.
5 Wright Medical's business includes products that are used primarily in foot and ankle
6 repair, upper extremity products, and biologics products, which are used to replace
7 damaged or diseased bone, to stimulate bone growth and to provide other biological
8 solutions for surgeons and their patients. Wright Medical's extremity hardware
9 includes implants and other devices to replace or reconstruct injured or diseased joints
10 and bones of the foot, ankle, hand, wrist, elbow and shoulder, which it generally refers
11 to as either foot and ankle or upper extremity products. Wright Medical's extensive
12 foot and ankle product portfolio, its approximately 200 specialized foot and ankle
13 sales representatives, and its increasing level of training offered to foot and ankle
14 surgeons has resulted in Wright Medical being a recognized leader in the foot and
15 ankle market. Wright Medical manufactures, distributes and sells in and from the
16 United States an intramedullary nail and related products for ankle arthrodesis, under
17 the trademark Valor® Hindfoot Fusion System (collectively "Valor® System").

18 19 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

20 7. The United States Patent Office duly and lawfully issued the '293 Patent
21 to Dr. Chandran in 2003. Dr. Chandran is the inventor of and owns all right, title and
22 interest in the '293 Patent.

23 8. The '293 Patent is directed to and claims both a novel method and
24 intramedullary nail devices for achieving tibio-calcaneal arthrodesis, the fusion of the
25 tibia bone and the calcaneus bone, with or without an intermediate talus bone, to
26 immobilize the ankle joint. Nail devices use an intramedullary rod that, with respect
27 to ankle arthrodesis, is inserted through the hindfoot (calcaneus bone) into the tibia, as
28 illustrated by the vertical dotted cylinder (**110**) in Figure 2 below:

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Also in Figure 2, **92** is the calcaneal or calcaneus bone; **94** is the talus bone; and **96** is the tibia bone.

9. The '293 Patent generally discloses and claims the use of a surgical assembly (**100** in Fig. 2 above) comprising an intramedullary ankle nail (**110**) with an oblique screw (**130**) inserted through the hindfoot at an angle, extending from the

1 calcaneus through the talus region, and extending into and secured within a part of the
2 tibia. The novel invention of the ‘293 Patent thereby provides improved stability and
3 improved compression and fusion of the ankle and/or subtalar joints.

4 10. Tibio-calcaneal arthrodesis is a “salvage” procedure—a medical
5 operation of last resort—for patients with severe disease, trauma or damage of or to
6 the ankle and subtalar joints. A number of etiologies or conditions—including
7 avascular necrosis, post-traumatic osteoarthritis, severe rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic
8 arthropathy, primary osteoarthritis, failed ankle replacement, failed ankle arthrodesis,
9 pilon fractures, and alcohol and diabetic-induced Charcot neuroarthropathy, among
10 others—indicate tibio-calcaneal arthrodesis. Each indication is characterized by a
11 talus bone that is lacking sufficient integrity, height and presence to permit less
12 invasive methods of arthrodesis.

13 11. A person that makes, sells or offers to sell the Valor® System with its
14 oblique screw to establish ankle arthrodesis by compressing the tibia bone directly or
15 indirectly against the calcaneal bone directly infringes at least claims 1 and 6 of the
16 ‘293 Patent.

17 12. A physician who uses the Valor® System and its oblique screw to
18 establish ankle arthrodesis by compressing the tibia bone against the calcaneal bone
19 directly infringes at least claim 1, 6 and 10 of the ‘293 Patent.

20 13. A patient who receives and uses the Valor® System and its oblique screw
21 to establish ankle arthrodesis by compressing the tibia bone against the calcaneal bone
22 directly infringes at least claims 1 and 6 of the ‘293 Patent.

23 14. Dr. Chandran notified Wright Medical in January 2015 of the ‘293
24 Patent.

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COUNT I – INFRINGEMENT
OF UNITED STATES PATENT NO. 6,579,293
AGAINST DEFENDANT WRIGHT MEDICAL

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4 15. Dr. Chandran re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations of
5 paragraphs 1-14 as if fully set forth herein.

6 16. Wright Medical directly infringes at least claims 1 and 6 the ‘293 Patent,
7 literally and under the doctrine of equivalents, by its past and present manufacture,
8 sale and offers to sell the Valor® System, in violation of 35 U.S.C. §§ 271.

9 17. Dr. Chandran has not licensed or otherwise authorized Wright Medical to
10 make, use, import, sell, or offer to sell any product for use in establishing ankle
11 arthrodesis covered by the ‘293 Patent and Wright Medical’s conduct is, in every
12 instance, without Dr. Chandran’s consent. Since Wright Medical’s first actual
13 knowledge of the ‘293 Patent, every act of infringement has been willful and without
14 regard to Dr. Chandran’s rights.

15 18. Dr. Chandran is entitled to recover from Wright Medical the damages he
16 has sustained as a result of Wright Medical’s wrongful acts in an amount subject to
17 proof at trial, and in any event not less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest
18 and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

19 19. Wright Medical’s infringement of the ‘293 Patent will continue to cause
20 Dr. Chandran irreparable injury and damage for which there is no adequate remedy at
21 law unless and until Wright Medical is enjoined from infringing the ‘293 Patent.

22 20. This is an exceptional case under 35 U.S.C. § 285, and Dr. Chandran is
23 entitled to enhanced damages, attorneys’ fees and litigation expenses incurred.

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COUNT II – CONTRIBUTORY INFRINGEMENT
OF UNITED STATES PATENT NO. 6,579,293
AGAINST DEFENDANT WRIGHT MEDICAL

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4 21. Dr. Chandran re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations of
5 paragraphs 1-20.

6 22. Wright Medical has committed contributory infringement in violation of
7 35 U.S.C. §271(c) by making, selling, exporting from, and using the Valor® Hindfoot
8 Fusion System in the United States. Each of said acts has indirectly infringed at least
9 claims 1, 6, and 10 of the ‘293 Patent.

10 23. The Valor® System is a material component of the inventions of claims 1
11 and 6 of the ‘293 Patent and an apparatus for use in practicing the method of claim 10
12 of the ‘293 Patent. The Valor® System, as sold, and as intended for use and as
13 marketed by Wright Medical has no substantial use or application that does not
14 infringe the ‘293 Patent.

15 24. Upon information and belief, Wright Medical knew of the ‘293 Patent at
16 or prior to the first manufacture, marketing, and sale of the Valor® System. Wright
17 Medical had actual knowledge of the ‘293 Patent and its alleged coverage over the
18 Valor® System before this suit was commenced.

19 25. Wright Medical knows that the Valor® System is specially designed and
20 adapted to infringe the ‘293 Patent. It markets the Valor® System with literature and
21 instructions to physicians directing the use of the Valor® System Nail to achieve
22 tibio-calcaneal arthrodesis for indicated patient conditions, including one or more of
23 those conditions identified in paragraph 10, above. Each of these conditions is
24 characterized by a talus bone lacking sufficient integrity, height or even presence to
25 support arthrodesis by fixation of the oblique screw into the talus alone. For such
26 patients, tibio-calcaneal arthrodesis using the Valor® System Nail with its oblique
27 screw requires capturing the tibia by penetration with the oblique screw and thereby
28 infringing the ‘293 Patent. For patients having a normal talus (one with sufficient

1 height, integrity, and presence of the talus bone to support arthrodesis) and requiring
2 arthrodesis of only the ankle or the subtalar joint, the use of an intramedullary nail is
3 contraindicated and is not used in good medical practice. For the rare (if any) patients
4 having a normal talus and requiring tibio-calcaneal arthrodesis, the oblique screw of
5 the Valor® System Nail is unnecessary to secure distal fixation. For at least these
6 reasons, the Valor® System has no substantial non-infringing use consistent with
7 good medical practice. Wright Medical is a sophisticated merchant of ankle
8 arthrodesis remedies and devices and knows or should know each of the facts alleged
9 in this paragraph.

10 26. Sales representatives of Wright Medical, whether independent
11 contractors or employees, participate with the orthopedic surgeon in operations for
12 implantation of the Valor® System to assist the surgeon and to provide expertise on
13 the selection and application of screws and other components of the Valor® System,
14 including components used only if and when arthrodesis is achieved by compression
15 of the tibia and calcaneal bones through the use of an oblique screw. Sales
16 representatives for medical device manufacturers of orthopedic implants typically
17 report the results of each such component selection and use to the manufacturer.
18 Upon information and belief, Wright Medical sales representatives report
19 corresponding information for Valor® System Nail implants to Wright Medical.
20 Wright Medical accordingly has actual knowledge that physicians and hospitals
21 implant the Valor® System Nail with its oblique screw so as to infringe the '293
22 Patent.

23 27. Wright Medical is not licensed or otherwise authorized by Dr. Chandran
24 to make, use, import, sell, or offer to sell any product or component that is claimed by
25 or is necessarily used in the method of the '293 Patent and its conduct is in every
26 respect without Dr. Chandran's consent.

27 28. Dr. Chandran has suffered, is suffering, and will continue to suffer
28 irreparable injury and damage for which he has no adequate remedy at law. Among

1 other injuries, Wright Medical's infringement dissuades others from licensing the '293
2 Patent. Dr. Chandran is entitled to a permanent injunction enjoining Wright Medical
3 and those persons in active concert or participation with them from any continuing or
4 further infringement of the '293 Patent.

5 29. As a consequence of Wright Medical's infringement, Dr. Chandran is
6 entitled to recover damages, including prejudgment interest, adequate to compensate
7 for Wright Medical's infringement in an amount subject to proof at trial but in no
8 event less than a reasonable royalty.

9 30. Wright Medical's infringement is willful and knowing, entitling Dr.
10 Chandran to recover enhanced damages, attorneys' fees, and litigation costs pursuant
11 to 35 U.S.C. §§ 284 and 285.

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13 **COUNT III – INDUCEMENT TO INFRINGE**
14 **UNITED STATES PATENT NO. 6,579,293**
15 **AGAINST DEFENDANT WRIGHT MEDICAL**

16 31. Dr. Chandran re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations of
17 paragraphs 1-20 and 22-30.

18 32. Wright Medical has actively induced infringement of at least claims 1, 6,
19 and 10 of the '293 Patent.

20 33. Wright Medical markets, through at least its published medical brochures
21 and other sales literature, the Valor® System for the achievement of tibio-calcaneal
22 arthrodesis for multiple medical indications for which Wright Medical knows that the
23 orthopedic surgeon implanting the Valor® System will be required by sound medical
24 practice to use the oblique screw of the Valor® System to penetrate the tibia bone in
25 order to achieve a successful ankle arthrodesis and intends that result. Wright Medical
26 sales representatives knowingly assist the operating room surgeon to achieve ankle
27 arthrodesis and thereby Wright Medical has actual knowledge of each infringement of
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1 the '293 Patent.

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3 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

4 WHEREFORE, Dr. Chandran respectfully requests that the Court enter
5 judgment in his favor against Wright Medical Technology, Inc., granting the
6 following relief.

7 a. A judgment that Wright Medical has willfully infringed,
8 contributorily infringed, and/or induced infringement of the '293 Patent literally
9 and/or under the doctrine of equivalents;

10 b. A judgment and decree pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 283, permanently
11 enjoining Wright Medical and its agents, servants, officers, directors,
12 employees, affiliated entities, and all persons in active concert or participation
13 with it from further acts of infringement of the '293 Patent;

14 c. A judgment awarding to Dr. Chandran damages adequate to
15 compensate Dr. Chandran for Wright Medical's acts of infringement of the '293
16 Patent and in no event less than a reasonable royalty for Wright Medical's acts
17 of infringement, including all pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the
18 maximum rate permitted by law and enhanced damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §
19 284;

20 d. A judgment that this is an exceptional case and an award to Dr.
21 Chandran of his costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in this action
22 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285;

23 e. A post-verdict and post-judgment accounting for any infringement
24 of the '293 Patent not otherwise covered by a damages award and the requested
25 injunctive relief; and

26 f. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and
27 proper under the circumstances.

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1 Dated: April 17, 2015

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22 M.D.

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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Dr. Chandran respectfully requests a trial by jury of any and all issues on which a trial by jury is available under applicable law.

Dated: April 17, 2015

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