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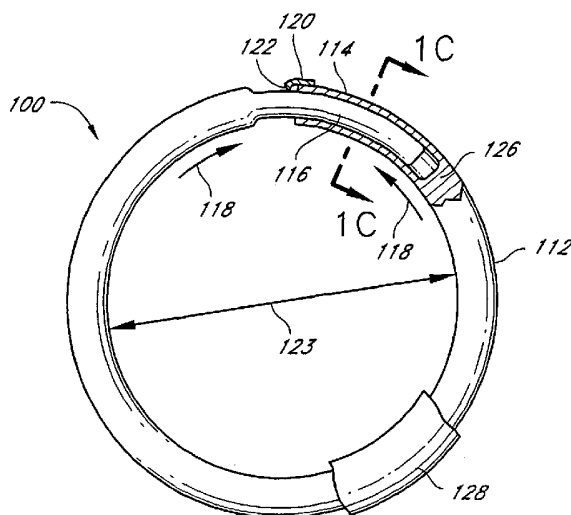
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ADJUSTABLE CARDIAC VALVE IMPLANT WITH COUPLING MECHANISM



(57) Abstract: Methods and devices are provided for support of a body structure. The devices can be adjusted within the body of a patient in a minimally invasive or non-invasive manner such as by applying energy percutaneously or external to the patient's body. The energy may include, for example, acoustic energy, radio frequency energy, light energy and magnetic energy. Thus, as the body structure changes size and/or shape, the size and/or shape of the devices can be adjusted to provide continued reinforcement. In one embodiment, an annuloplasty ring (100) includes a tubular member (112) configured to be attached to or near a cardiac valve annulus. The tubular member (112) includes a receptacle end (114) and an insert end (116) configured to couple with the receptacle end (114) of the tubular member (112) such that the tubular member (112) substantially forms a shape of a ring. The insert end (116) is configured to move with respect to the receptacle end (114) to change a circumference of the ring.



FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN,
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 623/2.37, 2.36

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 623/2.37, 2.36

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4,489,446 A (Reed) 25 December 1984 (25.12.1984), Abstract, figures 1 and 2, column 4, lines 6-68, column 5 and lines 1-40.	1-17
A	US 6,406,493 B1 (Tu et al.) 18 June 2002 (18.06.2002), Abstract, column 3, lines 12-67, column 4 and lines 1-33.	1-17

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

Methods and devices are provided for support of a body structure. The devices can be adjusted within the body of a patient in a minimally invasive or non-invasive manner such as by applying energy percutaneously or external to patient's body. The energy may include, for example, acoustic energy, radio frequency energy, light energy and magnetic energy. Thus, as the body structure changes size and/or shape, the size and/or shape of the device can adjusted to provide continued reinforcement. In one embodiment, an annuloplasty ring (100) includes a tubular member (112) configured to be attached to or near a cardiac valve annulus. The tubular member (112) includes a receptacle end (114) and an insert end (116) configured to couple with the receptacle end (114) of the tubular member (112) such that the tubular member (112) substantially forms a shape of a ring. The insert end (116) is configured to move with respect to the receptacle end (114) to change a circumference of the ring.