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PROSTHETIC VALVES FOR IMPLANTATION**BACKGROUND**Field

[0001] Certain embodiments disclosed herein relate generally to implants, including prosthetic valves for implantation. In particular, implants relate in some embodiments to prosthetic valves that may reduce the possibility of paravalvular leakage (PVL), among other features.

Background

[0002] Human heart valves, which include the aortic, pulmonary, mitral and tricuspid valves, function essentially as one-way valves operating in synchronization with the pumping heart. The valves allow blood to flow downstream, but block blood from flowing upstream. Diseased heart valves exhibit impairments such as narrowing of the valve or regurgitation, which inhibit the valves' ability to control blood flow. Such impairments reduce the heart's blood-pumping efficiency and can be a debilitating and life threatening condition. For example, valve insufficiency can lead to conditions such as heart hypertrophy and dilation of the ventricle. Thus, extensive efforts have been made to develop methods and apparatuses to repair or replace impaired heart valves.

[0003] Prostheses exist to correct problems associated with impaired heart valves. For example, mechanical and tissue-based heart valve prostheses can be used to replace impaired native heart valves. More recently, substantial effort has been dedicated to developing replacement heart valves, particularly tissue-based replacement heart valves that can be delivered with less trauma to the patient than through open heart surgery. Replacement valves are being designed to be delivered through minimally invasive procedures and even percutaneous procedures. Such replacement valves often include a tissue-based valve body that is connected to an expandable frame that is then delivered to the native valve's annulus.

[0004] These replacement valves are often intended to at least partially block blood flow. However, a problem occurs when blood flows around the valve on the outside of the prosthesis. For example, in the context of replacement heart valves, paravalvular leakage (PVL) has proven particularly challenging. An additional challenge relates to the ability of such prostheses to be secured relative to intraluminal tissue, e.g., tissue within any body lumen or cavity, in an atraumatic manner.

SUMMARY

[0005] Embodiments of prosthetic valves may include sealing bodies configured for an anchor to at least partially pass through. The ability of the anchor to pass through the sealing body may allow

the sealing body to seal to a portion of a patient's heart in the event of a missed capture of a leaflet by the anchor. As such, reduced possibility of paravalvular leakage (PVL) may result. The sealing body may comprise an adaptive sealing body configured to adapt locally to a missed capture of a leaflet by the anchor.

[0006] Embodiments herein may further include modular valve systems. Such modular valve systems may enhance the variability of the configuration of a prosthetic valve and improve the ability to fabricate such prosthetic valves.

[0007] Embodiments herein may further include prosthetic valves including anchors for coupling to chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures of a patient's heart.

[0008] Embodiments herein may further include prosthetic valves including anchors for engaging calcification of the native valve to anchor the prosthetic valve to the native valve.

[0009] Embodiments herein may include other features of prosthetic valves.

[0010] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve. The prosthetic valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. One or more anchors may be coupled to the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets and each configured to anchor to a portion of a patient's heart. A sealing body may be positioned radially outward of the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets and configured to abut a portion of the patient's heart to reduce fluid flow, the sealing body configured for the one or more anchors to at least partially pass through in a radially inward direction.

[0011] A method may include deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body. The prosthetic valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. One or more anchors may be coupled to the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets and each configured to anchor to a portion of a patient's heart. A sealing body may be positioned radially outward of the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets and configured to abut a portion of the patient's heart to reduce fluid flow, the sealing body configured for the one or more anchors to at least partially pass through in a radially inward direction.

[0012] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a modular prosthetic valve system. The system may comprise a plurality of different configurations of distal anchors. The system may comprise a plurality of different configurations of proximal anchors. The system may comprise a valve body including a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets and configured to be coupled to one of the configurations of distal anchors selected from the plurality of different configurations of distal

anchors, and configured to be coupled to one of the configurations of proximal anchors selected from the plurality of different configurations of proximal anchors.

[0013] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a method of forming a prosthetic valve. The method may include selecting a configuration of distal anchors from a plurality of different configurations of distal anchors. The method may include selecting a configuration of proximal anchors from a plurality of different configurations of proximal anchors. The method may include coupling the selected configuration of distal anchors and the selected configuration of proximal anchors to a valve body including a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets.

[0014] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve. The valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include a frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include one or more anchors coupled to the frame and including ensnaring features configured to couple to one or more of chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures to anchor the prosthetic valve within the native valve.

[0015] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a method comprising deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body. The valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include a frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include one or more anchors coupled to the frame and including ensnaring features configured to couple to one or more of chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures to anchor the prosthetic valve within the native valve. The method may include coupling the ensnaring features to one or more of the chordae or trabeculae.

[0016] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve. The valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include a frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include one or more anchors coupled to the frame and configured to engage calcification of the native valve to anchor the prosthetic valve to the native valve.

[0017] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a method comprising deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body. The valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include a frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include one or more anchors coupled to the frame and configured to engage calcification of the native valve to anchor the prosthetic valve to the native valve. The method may include engaging the calcification with the one or more anchors.

[0018] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve. The valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include a frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include one or more anchors coupled to the frame and each having a tip and configured to extend radially outward from the frame, each of the one or more anchors having a portion with a thickness tapering downward in a direction towards the tip of the anchor.

[0019] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a method comprising deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body. The valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include a frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include one or more anchors coupled to the frame and each having a tip and configured to extend radially outward from the frame, each of the one or more anchors having a portion with a thickness tapering downward in a direction towards the tip of the anchor.

[0020] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve. The valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include an inner frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets and including a proximal portion and a distal portion. The valve may include a sealing body positioned radially outward of the inner frame and including an outer frame having a proximal portion coupled to the proximal portion of the inner frame and a distal portion including a plurality of strut cells forming a ring about the inner frame, the outer frame including a plurality of elongate strut arms extending from the proximal portion of the outer frame to the plurality of strut cells and at least one of the elongate strut arms including a deflection feature configured to allow the plurality of strut cells to deflect relative to the proximal portion of the outer frame.

[0021] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a method comprising deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body. The valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include an inner frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets and including a proximal portion and a distal portion. The valve may include a sealing body positioned radially outward of the inner frame and including an outer frame having a proximal portion coupled to the proximal portion of the inner frame and a distal portion including a plurality of strut cells forming a ring about the inner frame, the outer frame including a plurality of elongate strut arms extending from the proximal portion of the outer frame to the plurality of strut cells and at least one of the elongate strut arms including a deflection feature configured to allow the plurality of strut cells to deflect relative to the proximal portion of the outer frame.

[0022] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve. The valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include an inner frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets and including a proximal portion and a distal portion. The valve may include an outer frame positioned radially outward of the inner frame and including a plurality of struts, at least one of the plurality of struts having an undulation or an opening configured to increase a flexibility of the outer frame.

[0023] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a method comprising deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body. The valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include an inner frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets and including a proximal portion and a distal portion. The valve may include an outer frame positioned radially outward of the inner frame and including a plurality of struts, at least one of the plurality of struts having an undulation or an opening configured to increase a flexibility of the outer frame.

[0024] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve. The valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include a frame coupled to the prosthetic valve leaflets, the frame including a proximal end and a distal end and a plurality of struts joined at junctures, at least one of the plurality of struts extending in a direction from the proximal end towards the distal end and including a first segment extending along a first axis, a second segment, and a third segment extending along a second axis, and a first kink joining the first segment to the second segment at an angle, and a second kink joining the second segment to the third segment at an angle, with the second axis being offset from the first axis.

[0025] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a method comprising deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body. The valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include a frame coupled to the prosthetic valve leaflets, the frame including a proximal end and a distal end and a plurality of struts joined at junctures, at least one of the plurality of struts extending in a direction from the proximal end towards the distal end and including a first segment extending along a first axis, a second segment, and a third segment extending along a second axis, and a first kink joining the first segment to the second segment at an angle, and a second kink joining the second segment to the third segment at an angle, with the second axis being offset from the first axis.

[0026] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve. The valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include an inner frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include a sealing body positioned radially outward of the inner frame and including an outer frame having a proximal

portion extending radially outward from the inner frame and a distal portion curving axially from the proximal portion and extending axially to a distal end of the outer frame. The valve may include a plurality of anchors extending radially outward from the distal portion of the outer frame and configured to impede distal movement of the outer frame.

[0027] Embodiments as disclosed herein may include a method comprising deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body. The valve may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include an inner frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets. The valve may include a sealing body positioned radially outward of the inner frame and including an outer frame having a proximal portion extending radially outward from the inner frame and a distal portion curving axially from the proximal portion and extending axially to a distal end of the outer frame. The valve may include a plurality of anchors extending radially outward from the distal portion of the outer frame and configured to impede distal movement of the outer frame.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0028] Features and advantages of the systems, apparatuses, and methods as disclosed herein will become appreciated as the same become better understood with reference to the specification, claims, and appended drawings wherein:

[0029] FIG. 1 illustrates a side perspective view of a prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0030] FIG. 2 illustrates a bottom view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 1 with the leaflets excluded from view.

[0031] FIG. 3 illustrates a cross sectional schematic view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 1.

[0032] FIG. 4 illustrates a schematic view of a prosthetic valve implanted within a native heart valve.

[0033] FIG. 5 illustrates a schematic view of a prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0034] FIG. 6 illustrates a cross sectional schematic view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 1 implanted within a native heart valve.

- [0035] FIG. 7 illustrates a bottom side perspective view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 1.
- [0036] FIG. 8 illustrates a bottom perspective view of the sealing body shown in FIG. 1, with the valve body removed from view.
- [0037] FIG. 9 illustrates a plan view of the frame of the sealing body shown in FIG. 1 and a relative position of anchor tips.
- [0038] FIG. 10 illustrates a plan view of a frame of a sealing body and a relative position of anchor tips, according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- [0039] FIG. 11 illustrates a plan view of a segment of a sealing body shown in FIG. 1.
- [0040] FIG. 12 illustrates a plurality of segments of the sealing body shown in FIG. 1 coupled together.
- [0041] FIG. 13 illustrates a top view of a sealing body according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- [0042] FIG. 14 illustrates a top cross sectional schematic view of an anchor within the sealing body shown in FIG. 13.
- [0043] FIG. 15 illustrates a side perspective view of an anchor within the sealing body shown in FIG. 13.
- [0044] FIG. 16 illustrates a side schematic view of a prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- [0045] FIG. 17 illustrates a close up perspective view of a slit of a sealing body shown in FIG. 16.
- [0046] FIG. 18 illustrates a top cross sectional schematic view of an anchor positioned radially outward of a sealing body shown in FIG. 16.
- [0047] FIG. 19 illustrates a top cross sectional schematic view of the anchor shown in FIG. 18 positioned within the sealing body shown in FIG. 18.
- [0048] FIG. 20 illustrates a side perspective view of a prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- [0049] FIG. 21 illustrates a side view of a portion of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 20.
- [0050] FIG. 22 illustrates a side cross sectional schematic view of a portion of a prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0051] FIG. 23 illustrates a side cross sectional schematic view of a portion of a prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0052] FIG. 24 illustrates a schematic view of a delivery apparatus extending within a patient's body.

[0053] FIG. 25 illustrates a side schematic view of a prosthetic valve being deployed according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0054] FIG. 26 illustrates a side schematic view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 25 being deployed.

[0055] FIG. 27 illustrates a side schematic view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 25 being deployed.

[0056] FIG. 28 illustrates a side schematic view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 25 being deployed.

[0057] FIG. 29 illustrates a cross sectional schematic view of a modular prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0058] FIG. 30 illustrates a perspective view of a proximal anchor coupled to a distal anchor according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0059] FIG. 31 illustrates a close up view of a portion of the coupling between the proximal anchor and the distal anchor according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0060] FIG. 32 illustrates a side schematic view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 29 in a linearized configuration.

[0061] FIG. 33 illustrates a side cross sectional perspective view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 29 including a skirt coupled thereto.

[0062] FIG. 34 illustrates a side schematic view of a prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0063] FIG. 35 illustrates a side schematic view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 34 being deployed.

[0064] FIG. 36 illustrates a side schematic view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 34 deployed.

[0065] FIG. 37 illustrates a side schematic view of a prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0066] FIG. 38 illustrates a side schematic view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 37 being deployed.

[0067] FIG. 39 illustrates a side schematic view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 37 deployed.

[0068] FIG. 40 illustrates a side schematic view of a prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0069] FIG. 41 illustrates a side schematic view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 40 being deployed.

[0070] FIG. 42 illustrates a side schematic view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 40 deployed.

[0071] FIG. 43 illustrates a cross sectional schematic view of a prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0072] FIG. 44 illustrates a plan view of distal or ventricular anchors shown in FIG. 43.

[0073] FIG. 45 illustrates a top schematic view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 43.

[0074] FIG. 46 illustrates a schematic view of a delivery apparatus extending to a patient's native valve.

[0075] FIG. 47 illustrates a cross sectional schematic view of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 43 implanted within a patient's native valve.

[0076] FIG. 48 illustrates a side schematic view of an anchor including a barb.

[0077] FIG. 49 illustrates a cross sectional schematic view of a prosthetic valve implanted within a patient's native valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0078] FIG. 50 illustrates a side schematic view of a valve frame including a barb.

[0079] FIG. 51 illustrates a cross sectional schematic view of a prosthetic valve implanted within a patient's native valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0080] FIG. 52 illustrates a cross sectional schematic view of a prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0081] FIG. 53A illustrates a side view of a portion of a prosthetic valve.

- [0082] FIG. 53B illustrates a top view of an anchor shown in FIG. 53A.
- [0083] FIG. 53C illustrates a side view of the anchor shown in FIG. 53A.
- [0084] FIG. 54A illustrates a side view of a portion of a prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- [0085] FIG. 54B illustrates a top view of an anchor shown in FIG. 54A.
- [0086] FIG. 54C illustrates a side view of the anchor shown in FIG. 54A.
- [0087] FIG. 55A illustrates a side view of a portion of a prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- [0088] FIG. 55B illustrates a top view of an anchor shown in FIG. 55A.
- [0089] FIG. 55C illustrates a side view of the anchor shown in FIG. 55A.
- [0090] FIG. 56 illustrates a side cross sectional view of a portion of a prosthetic valve according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- [0091] FIG. 57 illustrates a plan view of a frame of the prosthetic valve shown in FIG. 56 according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- [0092] FIG. 58 illustrates a plan view of a frame according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- [0093] FIG. 59 illustrates a plan view of a frame according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- [0094] FIG. 60 illustrates a plan view of a frame according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- [0095] FIG. 61 illustrates a plan view of a frame according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.
- [0096] FIG. 62A illustrates a side view of a frame in an undeployed configuration.
- [0097] FIG. 62B illustrates a side view of a portion of the frame shown in FIG. 62A in an expanded configuration.
- [0098] FIG. 62C illustrates a side view of the frame shown in FIG. 62A in a compressed configuration.

[0099] FIG. 63A illustrates a plan view of a portion of a frame according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0100] FIG. 63B illustrates a view of a portion of the frame marked by 63B in FIG. 63A.

[0101] FIG. 64 illustrates a side view of a strut of FIG. 63A adjacent to a strut of FIG. 62A.

[0102] FIG. 65A illustrates a side view of a frame including struts as shown in FIG. 63A.

[0103] FIG. 65B illustrates a side view of a portion of a frame as shown in FIG. 65A expanded.

[0104] FIG. 65C illustrates a side view of the frame shown in FIG. 65A compressed.

[0105] FIG. 66 illustrates a plan view of a frame according to an embodiment of the present disclosure.

[0106] FIG. 67 illustrates a side view of a portion of the frame shown in FIG. 66.

[0107] FIG. 68 illustrates a cross sectional schematic view of a prosthetic valve utilizing the frame shown in FIG. 66.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0108] FIG. 1 illustrates a perspective view of a prosthetic valve 10 in the form of a replacement heart valve. The prosthetic valve 10 may be configured to be deployed within a portion of a patient's body. The prosthetic valve 10, for example, may be deployed within a native heart valve annulus, which may comprise a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve. In embodiments other implantation locations may be utilized such as within an aortic or pulmonary valve, or in other valve or locations within a patient's body as desired.

[0109] The prosthetic valve 10 may include a proximal end 12 and a distal end 14 (marked in FIG. 2), and a length therebetween. The prosthetic valve 10 may further include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets 16 configured to surround a flow channel for controlling flow through the valve 10. The prosthetic valve leaflets 16 may be configured to move between opened and closed states to mimic and replace the operation of native valve leaflets.

[0110] In embodiments, the prosthetic valve leaflets 16 may be coupled to a valve frame 18 as shown in a cross sectional view in FIG. 3 and as shown in the bottom view of FIG. 2. As marked in FIG. 3, the valve frame 18 may include a proximal portion including a proximal end 19 and a distal portion including a distal end 21. The valve frame 18 may have a curved configuration, comprising a curved

body that curves radially outward between the proximal end 19 and the distal end 21, or may have another configuration in embodiments as desired.

[0111] The proximal portion of the valve frame 18 may be coupled to a proximal portion of the prosthetic valve leaflets 16. The prosthetic valve leaflets 16 may be coupled to the valve frame 18 and may extend radially inward from the valve frame 18. The prosthetic valve leaflets 16 may couple to the valve frame 18 via an intermediate body 23 that may support the prosthetic valve leaflets 16 and may couple the leaflets 16 to the valve frame 18 via sutures or another method as desired.

[0112] The prosthetic valve leaflets 16 may surround a flow channel 25 as marked in FIG. 3 and may move between open and closed states to control flow through the flow channel 25. As shown in FIG. 3, the proximal end of the prosthetic valve 10 may comprise an inflow end of the valve 10, and the distal end of the prosthetic valve 10 may comprise an outflow end, although other configurations may be utilized as desired.

[0113] FIG. 2 illustrates a bottom view of the valve 10. The leaflets are excluded from view in FIG. 2. As shown in the bottom view of FIG. 2, the valve frame 18 may include a plurality of struts spaced from each other with spaces. Such a configuration may allow the valve frame 18 to move between an undeployed, unexpanded, or linearized configuration to a deployed or expanded configuration. For example, the valve frame 18 may expand radially outward to move to the deployed or expanded configuration, with the length of the valve frame 18 decreasing due to the increased diameter of the valve frame 18. Other configurations of valve frames 18 may be utilized as desired.

[0114] Referring to FIG. 1, the valve 10 may include one or more anchors 17 that may be coupled to the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets 16 and each may be configured to anchor to a portion of a patient's heart. The anchors 17 may particularly be configured to anchor to the native valve leaflets of the patient's heart. The anchors 17 may extend around the leaflets to anchor to the native valve leaflets. The anchors 17 may comprise distal anchors positioned at the distal end 14 of the valve 10, or in embodiments may be positioned in another position as desired.

[0115] The anchors 17 may each extend radially outward from the flow channel 25 and radially outward from the prosthetic valve leaflets 16 of the valve 10. FIG. 3, for example, illustrates that the anchors 17 may be coupled to the valve frame 18 comprising an interior frame of the valve 10. The anchors 17 may be coupled to the distal portion of the valve frame 18. The anchors 17 may each include a proximal portion 27 and a distal portion 29, with the proximal portion 27 coupled to the valve frame 18 and the distal portion 29 comprising a tip of the respective anchor 17.

[0116] FIG. 3 illustrates a cross sectional schematic view of the valve 10. As shown in FIG. 3, each anchor 17 is configured to extend distally and then curve in a proximal direction to the tip of the respective one of the anchors 17. Such a configuration may allow the anchor 17 to extend around a native leaflet and hook around the distal portion of the leaflet. The anchor 17 may thus resist a force applied in the proximal direction to the valve 10 and may anchor the valve 10 within the native valve annulus. Other configurations of anchors 17 may be utilized in embodiments as desired.

[0117] The anchors 17 are shown in FIGS. 1–3 in a deployed or expanded configuration, in which the tips of the anchors 17 extend proximally. In embodiments, the anchors may be configured to be in undeployed, unexpanded, or linearized configuration in which the tips of the anchors 17 extend distally. Upon deployment, the anchors 17 may be configured to move from the undeployed configuration radially outward to the deployed configuration, with the tips flipped towards the proximal direction. Such an operation may allow the anchors 17 to flip over the native valve leaflets to anchor to the native valve leaflets during deployment. Other deployment methods for the anchors 17 may be utilized in embodiments as desired.

[0118] Referring to FIG. 1, the valve 10 may include a sealing body 20. The sealing body 20 may be positioned radially outward from the leaflets 16 and may comprise the outer surface of the valve 10. The sealing body 20 may define the outer diameter of the valve 10 and may comprise the outer periphery of the valve 10. The sealing body 20 may include a proximal portion having a proximal end 31 and may include a distal portion having a distal end 33 (marked in FIG. 2).

[0119] The sealing body 20 may include a frame 22 and a skirt 24 as shown in FIG. 1, or in embodiments may comprise only a frame or only a skirt as desired. The frame 22 may comprise an outer frame that is positioned radially outward from the valve frame 18. The skirt 24 may be coupled to the frame 22.

[0120] Referring to FIG. 3, the frame 22 may have a proximal portion 35 that couples to the proximal end 19 of the valve frame 18. The proximal portion 35 may extend radially outward from the proximal end 19 of the valve frame 18 and from the prosthetic valve leaflets 16. A distal portion 37 of the frame 22 may be spaced from the prosthetic valve leaflets 16 and the valve frame 18 with a gap 39. The gap may be positioned between the frame 22 of the sealing body 20 and a distal portion of the valve frame 18. The valve frame 18 accordingly may comprise an inner frame and the frame of the sealing body 20 may comprise an outer frame surrounding the inner frame. The sealing body 20 may surround the inner valve frame 18 and the prosthetic valve leaflets 16.

[0121] As shown in FIG. 3, the frame 22 of the sealing body 20 may have a length that extends distally to a lesser distance than the distal end of the valve frame 18. As such, the frame 22 of the sealing body 20 may be shorter than the valve frame 18. The frame 22 of the sealing body 20 may further have a curved configuration that curves outward from the valve frame 18, with a greatest diameter of the frame 22 being at the distal portion of the frame 22.

[0122] Referring to FIG. 1, the frame 22 of the sealing body 20 may include a plurality of struts 46 forming the frame 22, with the struts separated by spaces. Such a configuration may allow the frame 22 to move between an undeployed, unexpanded, or linearized configuration to a deployed or expanded configuration as shown in FIG. 1, in which the frame 22 and sealing body 20 have a curved bulbous shape. As with the valve frame 18, the length of the frame 22 of the sealing body 20 may decrease as the diameter of the frame 22 of the sealing body 20 increases during deployment. The diameter of the frame 22 of the sealing body 20 may radially expand outward from the inner valve frame 18 simultaneously, or at a different time or rate of expansion as the inner valve frame 18 in embodiments.

[0123] The sealing body 20 may include a skirt 24 that may extend around the inner valve frame 18 and the prosthetic valve leaflets 16. The skirt 24 may be coupled to the frame 22 of the sealing body or may be free from the frame 22 in embodiments. The skirt 24 may have a proximal portion 41 that is coupled to the proximal portion of the frame 22 of the sealing body 20 and may be coupled to the proximal portion of the valve frame 18. The skirt 24 may have a distal portion 43 (marked in FIG. 2) that may be coupled to the distal end of the inner valve frame 18 and may be coupled to one or more of the anchors 17. The distal portion 43 may include a portion for coupling to the inner valve frame 18 and may include a portion for coupling to one or more of the anchors 17 that may alternate in position circumferentially about the valve frame 18. The portions may comprise tabs as shown in FIG. 12 or may have another configuration as desired.

[0124] Referring to FIG. 3, the skirt 24 may extend along the frame 22 of the sealing body 20. The skirt 24 may include multiple portions that may be coupled together. For example, a first proximal portion 26 of the skirt 24 may be positioned radially inward of the frame 22 of the sealing body 20, and may be coupled to a second distal portion 28 of the skirt 24 that is positioned at least partially radially outward of the distal end of the frame 22, and then extends radially inward of the frame 22 to the distal portion 43 of the skirt 24. The second distal portion 28 may comprise the portion that couples to the anchors 17 and to the inner valve frame 18. The first proximal portion 26 and the second distal portion 28 of the skirt 24 may be coupled together via sutures or another form of coupling as desired to form a continuous surface in embodiments.

[0125] The second distal portion 28 of the skirt may extend further distal than the tips of the anchors 17 and may couple to the anchors 17 and the valve frame 18 at a position that is distal of the tips of the anchors 17. As shown in FIG. 3, the anchors 17 may be configured to extend radially outward from the inner valve frame 18 and across the gap 39 to the tip of the respective anchor 17.

[0126] The skirt 24, and particularly the second distal portion 28 of the skirt 24, may be configured to be flexible to allow the skirt 24 to move as desired, and particularly to move to conform to the position of the anchors 17. The skirt 24 may be made of a material that resists fluid flow therethrough, such as a cloth material, woven material, or other material such as a polymer or other material that resists fluid flow therethrough. A variety of materials may be utilized for the skirt 24 as desired.

[0127] The sealing body 20 may be configured to abut a portion of the patient's heart to reduce fluid flow. For example, the sealing body 20 may abut a surface of a patient's native valve leaflet to reduce fluid flow between the sealing body 20 and the native leaflet. The sealing body 20 may be configured to abut other portions of the patient's heart to reduce fluid flow as desired.

[0128] The second distal portion 28 of the skirt 24 may extend radially inward to allow the anchors 17 to pass through the sealing body 20 at least partially in a radially inward direction. The sealing body 20 may be configured for the anchors 17 to at least partially pass through in a radially inward direction, as shown in FIG. 3 for example. The anchors 17 may each at least partially pass through the sealing body 20 such that the outer diameter of the sealing body 20 is at or greater than the diameter of the anchors 17. As such, the outer periphery of the sealing body 20 may be positioned at or greater than the outer periphery of the anchors 17. In embodiments, a portion of an anchor 17 may protrude from the sealing body 20, such as a tip of the anchor 17, yet at least partially pass through the sealing body 20.

[0129] In embodiments, the sealing body 20 may be biased to extend radially outward. For example, the sealing body 20 may be shape set to extend radially outward further than the outer diameter of the anchors 17 in embodiments. Such a configuration may allow the sealing body 20 to extend radially outward at or further than the outer diameter of the anchors 17. The sealing body 20 may be configured to be deflected to move radially inward to allow one or more of the anchors 17 to properly capture a native leaflet in embodiments. In embodiments, a flexibility of the sealing body 20 may be tuned to allow the sealing body 20 to be moved during capture of a leaflet. In embodiments, the movement of the sealing body 20, including the frame 22 of the sealing body 20, may be imaged during a deployment procedure. The imaging may be fluoroscopy or other forms of imaging such as echocardiography. The movement of the sealing body may be imaged to determine if one or more of

the anchors 17 have properly captured a native leaflet. For example, an inward deflection of the frame 22 may be imaged to determine if one or more of the anchors 17 have properly captured a native leaflet. In embodiments, fluoroscopy may be utilized to image a deflection of the frame 22 upon capture of one or more native valve leaflets.

[0130] The sealing body 20 may be configured to move relative to the anchors 17 to allow the one or more anchors 17 to at least partially pass through the sealing body 20 in a radially inward direction if there is a miscapture of a native leaflet. The relative movement of the sealing body 20 may be radially outward relative to the anchors 17. A relative movement of the anchors 17 may thus be radially inward relative to the sealing body 20.

[0131] In various embodiments, one or more of the anchors 17 may be biased to deflect or move radially inwardly relative to the sealing body 20. As such, if there is a miscapture (or missed capture) of a native leaflet, the anchor that missed capture of the native leaflet may deflect or otherwise move radially inwardly to at least partially “pass through” the sealing body 20. As such, the anchor’s final position is located radially inwardly of the sealing body after implantation and during use. The entire anchor may be located radially inwardly of the sealing body or only a portion of the anchor. In various embodiments, a combination of a sealing body 20 biased to extend radially outwardly, and one or more anchors 17 configured to deflect or otherwise move radially inwardly relative to the sealing body 20 may be utilized to allow the anchors 17 to pass at least partially through the sealing body 20. These features advantageously provide a means for creating an improved seal to prevent regurgitation in the event of an anchor (or multiple anchors) failing to capture a native leaflet during deployment of the prosthetic valve in the heart.

[0132] The sealing body 20 may provide a function to reduce fluid flow outside of the sealing body 20 at the position of an anchor 17 that misses capture of a leaflet. Such a feature of the sealing body is reflected by example in FIG. 4, in which a sealing body is not configured for an anchor to pass at least partially through. FIG. 4 illustrates a prosthetic valve 30 that has been deployed with an anchor 32 missing capture of the leaflet 34. The anchor 32 in such a situation may remain positioned between the native valve leaflet and the remainder of the valve 30. The anchor 32 remains intra-annular and thus props open the space between the valve 30 and the leaflet 34. As such, no fluid seal is formed at the position of the anchor 32 by the sealing skirt 47. Paravalvular leakage (as marked by flow line 36) between the anchor 32 and the leaflet 34 may result, which may reduce the functionality of the valve 30.

[0133] A valve 10 according to embodiments herein, however, may be configured to address a missed capture of a leaflet. FIG. 5, for example, illustrates that the sealing body 20 of the valve 10

may be configured to move relative to the anchor 17 such that the sealing body 20 may be positioned with an outer diameter radially inward of the anchor 17 in a circumstance of capture of the native leaflet. Such a configuration is marked in dashed lines in FIG. 5 by reference number 20'. The sealing body 20' may be configured to overcome a bias to move radially inward during capture of a leaflet and/or the anchor 17 may be held radially outward from the sealing body 20'. In such a configuration of a captured leaflet, the native leaflet may be positioned between the anchor 17 and the sealing body 20', with the sealing body 20' abutting the native leaflet to reduce fluid flow at that position. The sealing body 20' may be flexible such that damage to the native leaflet does not occur.

[0134] The sealing body 20, as marked in solid lines in FIG. 5, however, may be configured to allow an anchor 17 that fails to capture the leaflet to pass through at least a portion of the sealing body 20. The sealing body 20 may have an outer diameter as shown in FIG. 5 that is greater than the outer radial extent of the anchor 17 or may be the same as the outer radial extent of the anchor 17. As such, the sealing body 20 may be positioned to continue to abut the native leaflet to reduce fluid flow, unlike the situation shown in FIG. 4 with the anchor 32.

[0135] FIG. 6, for example, illustrates a configuration of a captured native leaflet 38 shown on the left side of FIG. 6, with the native leaflet 38 positioned between the anchor 17 and the sealing body 20 at that leaflet 38. The sealing body 20 abuts the native leaflet 38 to reduce fluid flow between the sealing body 20 and the native leaflet 38.

[0136] The right side of FIG. 6, however, illustrates a miscaptured native leaflet 40, in which the anchor 17 at that leaflet 40 failed to extend around the leaflet 40 at deployment. The anchor 17 at that leaflet 40, however, at least partially passes through the sealing body 20 to allow the sealing body 20 to abut and seal against the miscaptured native leaflet 40 at that position. As such, reduced paravalvular leakage (PVL) and improved operation of the valve 10 may result.

[0137] The sealing body 20, and particularly the skirt 24 of the sealing body 20 may be configured to surround an anchor 17 that has failed to capture a native leaflet. These portions of the sealing body 20 may press against the native leaflet to reduce fluid flow at the position of the anchor 17 that missed capture of the native leaflet.

[0138] FIG. 7, for example, illustrates a side perspective view of the valve 10, illustrating the anchors 17 at least partially passing through the sealing body 20. Portions of the sealing body 20 are positioned at or radially outward from the anchor 17, for contact with a local surface of the patient's body. The tips of the anchors 17 may at least partially pass through the sealing body 20 in a radially inward direction, with a part of the tips being positioned radially outward of the sealing body 20.

[0139] FIG. 8 illustrates a bottom perspective view of the sealing body 20 separate from the remainder of the valve 10. The frame 22 is shown to include a plurality of struts separated by spaces. Certain struts may be configured for the anchors 17 to at least partially pass through the spaces between the struts. For example, distal struts 42 at a distal end of the frame 22 may have a space 44 between the struts 42 that allows the anchors 17 to pass through. FIG. 9, for example, illustrates the distal struts 42 having spaces 44 therebetween, to allow the anchors 17 to pass through. The portions of the distal struts 42 on either side of the anchors 17 may provide additional support for the sealing body 20 around the anchors 17 when the anchors at least partially pass through the sealing body 20.

[0140] The struts as shown in FIG. 9 may include proximal struts 46 that each couple to a securing device 50 for securing to a delivery apparatus for the valve 10, and for securing to the skirt 24 of the sealing body 20. An alternative configuration is shown in FIG. 10, in which proximal struts 48 may couple to a securing device 52 or may terminate at the proximal portion of the frame. The configuration shown in FIG. 10 may include spaces 54 between distal struts 56 of the frame for the anchors 17 to pass through.

[0141] Referring back to FIG. 8, the skirt 24 may be coupled to the frame 22 via sutures or other form of coupling. The skirt 24 may include the proximal portion 41 and the distal portion 43. The proximal portion 41 may be positioned radially interior of the frame 22, and the distal portion 43 may be at least partially positioned radially outward of the frame 22. The skirt 24 may be made of a material that has low or no permeability to fluid, particularly blood, to allow the skirt 24 to seal against a portion of a patient's heart and reduce fluid flow.

[0142] The distal portion 43 may include a plurality of segments 62 that may be coupled together to form an annular shaped distal portion 43. The plurality of segments 62 may be coupled together at seams 64, with the seams 64 configured to receive a respective anchor 17. Each seam 64 may correspond to a receiving portion for receiving one of the anchors 17. Each segment 62 may include a coupling tab 66 for coupling the skirt 24 to the valve frame 18 and may include a coupling tab 68 for coupling the skirt 24 to an anchor 17.

[0143] FIG. 11, for example, illustrates a segment 62 showing side seam portions 70, 72 for coupling to an adjacent segment. FIG. 12 illustrates the segments 62 coupled to each other to form the distal portion 43 of the skirt 24.

[0144] Referring back to FIG. 7, the distal portion 43 of the skirt 24 may be configured to receive the anchors 17 and at least partially envelope the anchors 17 to reduce fluid flow around an anchor 17 that miscaptures a native valve leaflet.

[0145] Other configurations of skirts may be utilized.

[0146] FIG. 13, for example, illustrates a top view of an embodiment of a skirt 74 including a receiving portion in the form of pockets 76 formed in the skirt 74 for receiving an anchor 17. FIG. 14, for example, illustrates the operation of such a skirt 74, with the anchor 17 within the formed pocket 76 of the skirt 74, and the material of the skirt 74 enveloping the anchor 17 such that the skirt 74 forms the outer surface of the valve 10 at the position of the anchor 17. The pockets 76 may be contoured to the shape of the anchor 17. The shape of the contour may be formed via stitching used to form the material comprising the pockets 76.

[0147] FIG. 15 illustrates a side perspective view of the anchor 17 positioned within the formed pocket 76 of the skirt 74.

[0148] FIG. 16 illustrates another embodiment of a valve 78, including a skirt 80 having receiving portions in the form of slits 82 that serve as openings for the anchors 17 to at least partially pass through. In embodiments, the anchors 17 may pass through the slits 82 with no skirt material forming a pocket for the anchor 17, or, in embodiments a pocket may be formed for the anchor 17. FIG. 17, for example, illustrates an embodiment including a pocket 84, which may comprise skirt material that is folded over itself to form one or more pleats 86. The anchor 17 may be configured to at least partially pass through the skirt 80 to be positioned within the pocket 84.

[0149] FIG. 18 illustrates the anchor 17 positioned outside of the pocket 84, and FIG. 19 illustrates the anchor 17 positioned within the pocket 84.

[0150] FIG. 20 illustrates an embodiment in which the skirt 87 may include a receiving portion in the form of an aperture 88 for an anchor 17 to at least partially pass through. The skirt 87 may lack material positioned radially inward of the anchor 17. The anchor 17 as such may be passed through the aperture 88 without being positioned within a pocket. FIG. 21 illustrates a front view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 20 with a cloth material of the skirt shown surrounding the anchor 17.

[0151] In embodiments, the anchors may be configured to deflect radially inward to pass at least partially through the sealing body. FIG. 22, for example, illustrates an embodiment in which the anchor 90 is made of a flexible material and is biased to flex to deflect radially inward towards the sealing body 92. The anchors 90, for example, may be made of a shape memory material such as Nitinol that biases the anchor 90 to deflect radially inward toward the sealing body 92 and pass at least partially through the sealing body 92. The anchors 90, for example, may be coupled to an anchor frame that is formed separate from the valve frame, and may be made of a material that is more flexible than the valve frame to allow for flex inward towards the sealing body 92.

[0152] FIG. 23 illustrates an embodiment in which an anchor 94 may include a hinge 96 for the anchor 94 to deflect about in the radially inward direction. The anchor 94 may deflect radially inward to pass at least partially through the sealing body 98. The anchor 94 may be biased to deflect radially inward via a shape memory material such as Nitinol, or via another method.

[0153] A combination of a sealing body 20 that is configured to extend radially outward, and one or more anchors configured to deflect radially inward, may be utilized in embodiments.

[0154] FIGS. 24–28 illustrate an exemplary method of deploying a valve that includes a sealing body as disclosed herein. In embodiments, the method may be modified as desired, including removing steps, adding steps, or utilizing steps, systems, or apparatuses from various other embodiments as desired.

[0155] The method may include deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body. Referring to FIG. 24, a delivery apparatus 100 may be passed percutaneously into a patient's body in a minimally invasive manner. In other embodiments, more invasive means may be utilized as desired.

[0156] The delivery apparatus 100 may be utilized for transcatheter delivery of the valve. The delivery apparatus 100 may pass transvenous through the femoral artery 102 or another portion of the patient's vasculature. For example, transjugular entry or other methods of entry may be utilized as desired. The delivery apparatus 100 may pass to the patient's heart 105.

[0157] The delivery apparatus 100 may be used to deliver the valve to the tricuspid valve, and as such, may be positioned within the right atrium 104 of the patient's heart for delivery to the tricuspid valve. In an embodiment in which delivery is to the mitral valve, the delivery apparatus 100 may pass transseptal to the left atrium 106 for delivery to the mitral valve. The delivery apparatus 100 may advance towards the left ventricle 108 of the patient's heart for mitral delivery.

[0158] FIG. 25 illustrates that the valve, for example valve 10 shown in FIG. 1, may be passed out of a capsule 110 of the delivery apparatus 100 to be deployed to a native valve such as a native mitral valve 112. The anchors 17 of the prosthetic valve 10 may deploy and extend radially outward for capture of native valve leaflets 38, 40. The sealing body 20 may be partially or fully restrained from radially expanding outward by the constrictive force of the capsule 110.

[0159] FIG. 26 illustrates the valve 10 continuing to be deployed, with an anchor 17 capturing a leaflet 38 and an anchor 17 missing capture of the leaflet 40. The anchor 17 that captures the leaflet 38 may extend around the leaflet 38. The anchor 17 missing capture of the leaflet 40 may be positioned between the sealing body 20 and the missed leaflet 40 in this configuration.

[0160] As shown in FIG. 26, the sealing body 20 may yet be partially or fully restrained from radially expanding outward by the constrictive force of the capsule 110. As such, the sealing body 20 has not yet expanded outward to allow the anchor 17 that missed capture of the leaflet 40 to pass through the sealing body 20, and has not yet expanded outward to abut against and seal against the leaflet 38 that has been captured by the anchor 17.

[0161] FIG. 27 illustrates the continued expansion of the sealing body 20. The expansion may allow the sealing body 20 to abut against and seal against the captured leaflet 38. FIG. 28 illustrates the continued expansion of the sealing body 20 as the valve 10 is released from the capsule 110. The anchor 17 at the miscaptured leaflet 40 at least partially passes through the sealing body 20 in a radially inward direction to allow the sealing body 20 to seal against the leaflet 40 around the anchor 17 and reduce fluid flow therethrough. The sealing body 20 at the anchor that missed capture of the leaflet 40 may envelop the anchor 17 and may abut the leaflet 40.

[0162] In embodiments, the anchor 17 that missed capture of the leaflet may be configured to deflect inward to pass at least partially through the sealing body 20.

[0163] One or more of the anchors 17 may miscapture a leaflet to allow the valve 10 to remain anchored within the native valve. The sealing body 20 may be configured to allow one or more of the anchors that miscaptures a leaflet to at least partially pass through.

[0164] Variations in the method of FIGS. 24–28 may be provided as desired and other configurations of components may be utilized as desired. The configurations of the sealing body 20 and the prosthetic valve 10 may be varied in embodiments, and may be utilized separately from each other, or in combination with other components disclosed herein.

[0165] FIG. 29 illustrates an embodiment of a prosthetic valve 120 that is modular, in which components may be separately formed and coupled to each other. For example, as shown in FIG. 29, the valve 120 may include a valve body 122 having a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets 124, and may have a proximal anchor 126 and a distal anchor 128. The valve body 122 may include a frame that supports the leaflets 124. The valve body 122 may be sized such that the leaflets 124 engage in proper coaptation with each other.

[0166] The proximal anchor 126 and/or the distal anchor 128 may be formed separately from the valve body 122 and may be coupled to the valve body 122 and to each other in embodiments. The prosthetic valve 120 may be formed of a modular system, in which components may be selected based on a desired configuration of the respective component, and then coupled to form the valve 120.

[0167] For example, the configurations of proximal anchors 126 and distal anchors 128 may each be selected from a plurality of different configurations of proximal anchors and distal anchors, respectively. The different configurations may correspond to different sizes of the valve 120, or may include other features. For example, different stiffness or method of anchoring may be selected. Different wall thickness tubing may be utilized. Each proximal anchor 126 selected may have a different configuration than other proximal anchors that are not selected, and each distal anchor 128 may have a different configuration than other distal anchors that are not selected.

[0168] The proximal anchors 126 may be selected from an inventory including each of the different configurations of proximal anchors, and the distal anchors 128 may be selected from an inventory including each of the different configurations of distal anchors. As such, during formation of the valve 120, a user such as a manufacturer, technician, or medical professional, may select the desired configuration of proximal anchor 126 from a plurality of different configuration of proximal anchors, and may select the desired configuration of distal anchor 128 from a plurality of different configurations of distal anchors. The selection may be based on the desired configuration of the anchors 126, 128. For example, the different configurations of proximal anchors and distal anchors may each be for anchoring to a different size native valve. The selection may be based on the size of the native valve that the anchor is configured to couple to, among other features.

[0169] FIG. 29 shows that the anchors 126, 128 may be selected from other configurations of anchors shown in dashed lines in FIG. 29. A proximal anchor 126' shown in dashed lines for example, may be configured to couple to a native valve having a larger size than the anchor 126 is configured to couple to. Similarly, a proximal anchor 126'' may be configured to couple to a native valve having an even larger size. The respective distances that the anchors 126, 126', 126'' extend from the valve body 122 may be at a different extent than each other, as marked in FIG. 29. The lengths of each of the proximal anchors 126, 126', 126'' may vary from each other.

[0170] Similarly, a distal anchor 128' shown in dashed lines for example, may be configured to couple to a native valve having a larger size than the distal anchor 128 is configured to couple to. Similarly, a distal anchor 128'' may be configured to couple to a native valve having an even larger size. The respective distances that the anchors 128, 128', 128'' extend from the valve body 122 may be at a different extent than each other, as marked in FIG. 29. The lengths and radii of curvature of each of the distal anchors 128, 128', 128'' may vary from each other.

[0171] As such, a user may determine a size of a native valve that the prosthetic valve 120 is to be implanted to, and may select a configuration of proximal anchor and distal anchor that corresponds to that size. The user may then assemble the prosthetic valve 120 accordingly and may couple the

selected configuration of distal anchors (e.g., anchors 128) and the selected configuration of proximal anchors (e.g., anchors 126) to the valve body 122. The valve body 122 may be configured to be coupled to one of the configurations of distal anchors 128 selected from a plurality of different configurations of distal anchors (e.g., 128, 128', and 128''), and the valve body 122 may be configured to couple to one of the configurations of proximal anchors 126 selected from a plurality of different configurations of proximal anchors (e.g., 126, 126', and 126''). The valve body 122 may remain a single size or configuration. As such, improvements in the manufacture of the prosthetic valve 120 may result, as a single configuration of valve body 122 may be utilized to couple to a variety of sizes of native valves by selecting a desired configuration of proximal anchor and distal anchor. A single valve frame for the valve body 122 may be utilized that is configured to be coupled to the plurality of different configurations of distal anchors 128, 128', 128'' and the different configurations of the proximal anchors 126, 126', 126''.

[0172] In embodiments, the configuration of the valve body 122 may be selected from a variety of different configurations of valve bodies as well.

[0173] In embodiments, the proximal anchors may comprise atrial anchors configured to be positioned on an atrial side of a native valve, and the distal anchors may comprise ventricular anchors configured to extend around a native valve leaflet. Other configurations of anchors may be utilized as desired. The prosthetic valve may be configured to be implanted in a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve, although the prosthetic valve and modular system for the valve may be utilized for other locations of implantation as desired.

[0174] FIG. 30 illustrates a manner of coupling the proximal anchor 126 to the distal anchor 128. A distal end of the proximal anchor 126 may couple to a proximal end of the distal anchor 128 and may couple to the valve body 122. The coupling may include a pin that may extend through an aperture 137 in the proximal anchor 126. The distal anchor 128 may couple to the valve body 122 in a similar manner, via an aperture 139 in the distal anchor 128. The anchors 126, 128 may each couple to an outer surface of the valve frame of the valve body 122 via a pin extending through a respective aperture, or in another manner.

[0175] The anchors 126, 128 may each curve radially outward from the valve body 122, with the distal anchor 128 having a single curve positioning a tip 127 of the anchor 128 proximally. The proximal anchor 126 may have an initial curve 129 extending radially outward and may lead to a curve 135 extending the tip of the anchor 126 proximally. The anchor 126 may be shaped to support a skirt on an intermediate portion 133 between the curves 129, 135 according to embodiments. The anchor 126 may hold the skirt taut.

[0176] Notably, as shown in FIG. 31, a lock 130 may be provided that may couple the proximal anchor 126 to the distal anchor 128. The lock 130 may be configured to prevent rotation of the proximal anchor 126 relative to the distal anchor 128 when the anchors 126, 128 are coupled to the valve body 122. A user may lock the end of the anchors to each other to prevent rotation of the selected configuration of anchors. The lock 130, for example, may comprise an insert entering a recess, which may be positioned on the proximal end of the distal anchor 128 as shown in FIG. 31 or in embodiments may be positioned on the distal end of the proximal anchor 126. The presence of the lock 130 may reduce the number of pins and apertures required to secure the anchors 126, 128 to each other and to the valve body 122.

[0177] The proximal anchors and distal anchors may be coupled to each other and to the valve body 122 such that the anchors 126, 128 and the valve body 122 only form two circumferential layers while in a linearized configuration. Such a configuration is shown in FIG. 32. The reduced number of circumferential layers may reduce the overall profile of the valve when in a linearized configuration for deployment.

[0178] FIG. 33 illustrates a side perspective cross sectional view of the valve 120. A skirt 131 including an upper portion 132 and a side portion 134 may be provided to form a seal against a portion of the patient's body when the prosthetic valve 120 is implanted.

[0179] In embodiments, the skirt 131 may be held at a desired diameter by the proximal anchors 126, or "inflow anchors," and thus may achieve an expanded diameter that may operate in a similar manner as the sealing bodies as disclosed herein. The skirt 131 may be tensioned upward at an angle via the proximal anchors 126, which may make the tension in the skirt 131 provided by the proximal anchors 126 the primary sealing mechanism. The lower end of the skirt 131 proximate the distal anchors 128 or "outflow anchors" may be an open end in embodiments.

[0180] The skirt 131 may be configured to be positioned radially outward of the valve body 122 and coupled to one or more of the distal anchors, proximal anchors, and/or valve body. The configuration of the skirt 131 may be configured to be selected from a plurality of different configurations of skirts each configured to be positioned radially outward of the valve body 122. The configuration of the skirt 131 may be selected in a similar manner as the selection of the anchors, namely based on a size or other desired property of the skirt 131.

[0181] Similarly, a sealing body, for example, as disclosed herein may be utilized with the prosthetic valve. The configuration of the sealing body may be selected from a plurality of different configurations of sealing bodies, including properties such as size or another configuration of the

sealing body. The sealing body may be positioned radially outward of the prosthetic valve leaflets of the valve body 122. The sealing bodies may operate in a similar manner as disclosed herein, and may seal fluid flow due to a missed capture of a leaflet by the anchors, for example, the distal anchors 128.

[0182] Variations in the prosthetic valve 120 and the modular prosthetic valve system may be provided as desired. The prosthetic valve 120 and the modular prosthetic valve system may be utilized in combination with other embodiments disclosed herein or solely. The prosthetic valve 120 may be implanted using similar methods as with the prosthetic valve 10 discussed herein, although other methods may be utilized as desired.

[0183] FIGS. 34–42 illustrate embodiments of prosthetic valves in which the distal anchors or ventricular anchors are configured with ensnaring features that are configured to couple to the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures of the patient's heart to anchor the prosthetic valve within the native valve.

[0184] In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 34–36, the prosthetic valve 140 may include ensnaring features that may comprise wires 142 that may be spaced from each other in an array. The wires 142 may be configured to extend between and entangle within the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures of the patient's heart. The wires 142 may be configured to be in a undeployed or linearized configuration prior to deployment, and then may deploy to couple to the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures.

[0185] FIG. 35, for example, illustrates the prosthetic valve 140 being deployed from a capsule of a delivery apparatus, with the wires 142 in a linearized configuration. Upon deployment, as shown in FIG. 36, the wires 142 may extend outward and extend between and entangle with the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures of the patient's heart. The wires 142 may serve to anchor the valve 140 within the patient's native valve. The anchors accordingly may not anchor to the leaflets, but rather to the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures of the patient's heart.

[0186] In embodiments, the wires 142 may be made of a shape memory material, such as Nitinol or another form of shape memory material, and are biased to move to the deployed configuration shown in FIG. 36 from an undeployed configuration. The wires 142 may be biased to the configuration in which the ensnaring features couple to the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures.

[0187] In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 37–39, the ensnaring features may comprise wires 150 that may comprise coils configured to wrap around and entangle within the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures of the patient's heart. The wires 150 may be configured to be in a undeployed or

linearized configuration prior to deployment, and then may deploy to couple to the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures by forming a spiral.

[0188] FIG. 38, for example, illustrates the prosthetic valve 151 being deployed from a capsule of a delivery apparatus, with the wires 150 in a linearized configuration. Upon deployment, as shown in FIG. 39, the wires 150 may then wrap around and entangle within the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures of the patient's heart. The wires 150 may serve to anchor the valve within the patient's native valve. The anchors accordingly may not anchor to the leaflets, but rather to the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures of the patient's heart.

[0189] In embodiments, the wires 150 may be made of a shape memory material, such as Nitinol or another form of shape memory material, to move to the configuration shown in FIG. 39 upon deployment. The wires 150 for example, may be straightened in an undeployed or linearized configuration and may then move to the deployed or coiled configuration shown in FIG. 39 upon deployment.

[0190] In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 40–42, the ensnaring features may comprise one or more clamps 152 that may be configured to couple to the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures of the patient's heart. The clamps 152 may be configured to be in a undeployed or linearized configuration prior to deployment, and then may deploy to couple to the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures.

[0191] FIG. 41, for example, illustrates the prosthetic valve 153 being deployed from a capsule of a delivery apparatus, with the clamps 152 in a linearized configuration. Upon deployment, as shown in FIG. 42, the clamps 152 may then extend to press against and clamp the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures of the patient's heart to couple to the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures. The clamps 152 may serve to anchor the valve within the patient's native valve. The anchors accordingly may not anchor to the leaflets, but rather to the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures of the patient's heart.

[0192] In embodiments, the clamps 152 may be made of a shape memory material, such as Nitinol or another form of shape memory material, to move to the deployed configuration shown in FIG. 42 upon deployment. The clamps 152 for example, may be straightened in the undeployed or linearized configuration and may then move to the deployed or clamped configuration shown in FIG. 42 upon deployment. In embodiments, a separate mechanism may be utilized to deploy and clamp the clamps 152. The force of the clamps 152 upon the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures accordingly may be controlled by the mechanism.

[0193] The prosthetic valves may be utilized for deployment with mitral or tricuspid valves, or in embodiments may be utilized in other implantation locations as desired. The features of the ensnaring features may be utilized with other embodiments herein, or may be utilized solely. The prosthetic valves may be implanted with similar methods as with the prosthetic valve 10 discussed herein, although other methods may be utilized as desired.

[0194] FIGS. 43–51 illustrate embodiments of prosthetic valves in which one or more anchors are configured to engage calcification of a native valve to anchor a prosthetic valve to a native valve.

[0195] FIG. 43, for example, illustrates an embodiment of a prosthetic valve 160 including anchors 162 that are configured to engage calcification of a native valve to anchor the prosthetic valve 160 to a native valve. The prosthetic valve 160, as shown in FIG. 43, may be configured to be deployed to a native valve and may include a valve frame 164, having a proximal portion 166 including a proximal end of the valve frame 164 and a distal portion 168 including a distal end of the valve frame 164. The valve frame 164 may have a shape from the proximal portion 166 to the distal portion 168 that bows inward in embodiments. In other embodiments, other shapes of valve frames 164 may be utilized as desired.

[0196] The valve frame 164 may be coupled to an intermediate body 170 that may be configured similarly as the intermediate body 23 shown in FIG. 3. The intermediate body 170 may couple to a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets 172 that may be configured similarly as the prosthetic valve leaflets 16 shown in FIG. 1. The valve frame 164 may be configured to support the prosthetic valve leaflets 172 within the patient's native valve when the prosthetic valve 160 is implanted.

[0197] The prosthetic valve 160 and the prosthetic valve leaflets 172 may be configured to extend around a central axis 174 of the prosthetic valve 160. The central axis 174 may extend through a flow channel 176 of the prosthetic valve 160 that is similar to the flow channel 25 shown in FIG. 3.

[0198] The valve frame 164 may have a variety of forms, and may include a plurality of struts that join at junctures to form the valve frame 164. The configuration of the valve frame 164 may be similar to the configurations of other embodiments of valve frames disclosed herein, as desired.

[0199] The prosthetic valve 160 may include atrial or proximal anchors 188 that may extend radially outward from the valve frame 164. The atrial or proximal anchors 188 may be positioned at the proximal portion 166 of the valve frame 164 in embodiments, and may extend radially outward from the proximal portion 166 to anchor to the atrial side of the native valve, and particularly the atrial side of the native valve annulus. The atrial or proximal anchors 188 may be configured as arms

that extend radially outward from the valve frame 164, or may have another configuration in embodiments as desired.

[0200] A sealing body 204 may be coupled to the valve frame 164 and may be positioned radially outward from the valve frame 164. The sealing body 204 may comprise a skirt, and may have a proximal portion 206 that may be positioned at the proximal portion 166 of the valve frame 190 and may have a distal portion 207 that may be coupled to the distal anchors 162. In embodiments, the coupling point of the distal portion 207 of the sealing body 204 may vary, and may be coupled to the distal portion 168 of the valve frame 164 as shown in dashed lines in FIG. 43. Other coupling points may be utilized in embodiments as desired.

[0201] The sealing body 204 may be positioned radially outward of the atrial or proximal anchors 188 as shown in FIG. 43, or in embodiments may be positioned radially inward of the atrial or proximal anchors 188. The sealing body 204 may extend around the entirety of the valve frame 164 and in embodiments may be configured to press against the interior surface of the native valve to seal at the interior surface of the native valve.

[0202] The anchors 162 may comprise distal anchors and may be positioned at a distal portion of the prosthetic valve 160 and the distal portion 168 of the valve frame 164. The anchors 162 may be configured to extend radially outward from the valve frame 164 and may be in the form of arms or other forms of anchors that extend radially outward from the valve frame 164. The anchors 162 may each include a proximal portion 208 and a distal portion 211. The proximal portion 208 of the anchors 162 may be coupled to the valve frame 164 and the distal portion 211 of the anchors 162 may extend radially outward from the valve frame 164.

[0203] FIG. 44, for example, illustrates a plan view of a pattern of the anchors 162. The anchors 162 may be coupled to a frame 210, and may be positioned at a distal portion of the frame 210. The plan view is a representation of a flattened pattern of the anchors 162 and the frame 210, with the frame 210 in use being wrapped around the valve frame 164 to have a cylindrical shape, with the anchors 162 bent radially outward and extending radially outward from the frame 210. The frame 210 may include a proximal portion 209 that extends around the valve frame 164 and couples to the valve frame 164. The anchors 162 may extend radially outward from the frame 210. Each anchor may be configured as an elongate arm as shown in FIG. 44, or may have another configuration as desired.

[0204] FIG. 45, for example, illustrates the radial extension of the anchors 162 relative to the valve frame 164. The proximal anchors 188 are further marked in dashed lines within the sealing body 186. The anchors 162, 188 may comprise nine anchors as shown in FIG. 45, or a greater or lesser

number may be utilized as desired. The spacing of the distal anchors 162 may be equal to each other, or may differ in embodiments. The spacing of the proximal anchors 188 may be equal to each other, or may differ in embodiments. The proximal anchors 188 and distal anchors 162 may be aligned at the same circumferential position as shown in FIG. 45 or may have a different position relative to each other as desired.

[0205] Referring back to FIG. 44, a distal tip 212 of each anchor 162 may be flexible in embodiments. The tip 212, for example, may include an undulating feature 213 such as a rachis feature that may provide flexibility for the distal tips 212. In embodiments, other configurations of the tips 212 may provide flexibility as desired. For example, the tips 212 may be made of a flexible material or may have another structure that provides flexibility. In embodiments, the tips 212 may be covered with a material that provides flexibility for the tip of the respective anchor 162.

[0206] In embodiments, the tips 212 may be wider than the proximal portions 208 of the anchors 162. Such a feature may enhance the surface area of the tips 212 to reduce the possibility of the distal tips 212 puncturing a portion of the patient's heart wall undesirably in embodiments.

[0207] Referring to FIG. 43, the anchors 162 may be bent radially outward from the frame 164 such that the anchors 162 extend horizontally relative to the central axis 174 to a tip 212 of the respective anchor 162. Such a configuration may differ from a configuration as shown in FIG. 3 for example, in which the distal anchors 17 extend vertically with respect to a central axis of the prosthetic valve 10 to hook around the native leaflets as shown in the leftmost side of FIG. 6. The horizontal extension of the anchors 162 as shown in FIG. 43 may account for the presence of calcification positioned radially outward of the native valve leaflets, which may block the hooking of the leaflet shown on the leftmost side of FIG. 6. In embodiments, the anchors 162 may be configured to extend perpendicular with respect to the central axis 174, or may extend at another angle as desired. The anchors 162 may be straight or may have a curvature as shown in FIG. 43. The curvature may be configured to contour to a shape of the calcification in embodiments.

[0208] The anchors 162 may be configured to extend over a distal tip of a native leaflet and horizontally from the distal tip of the native leaflet to the tip 212 of the respective distal anchor 162. Such a configuration may allow the anchors 162 to engage the calcification to anchor the prosthetic valve 160 to the native valve.

[0209] FIGS. 46 and 47, for example, illustrate a deployment of the prosthetic valve 160 to a native valve 214. The native valve 214 may include native valve leaflets 216 positioned between an atrial side 218 of the native valve 214 and a ventricular side 220 of the native valve 214. The native

valve 214 may have calcification 222, which may be positioned radially outward of one or more of the native valve leaflets 216 of the native valve 214 on the ventricular side 220 of the native valve 214. As shown, the position and size of the calcification 222 may impede the ability of vertically extending distal anchors to properly engage the native valve leaflets 216. Such a feature may result in a miscapture of one or more of the leaflets 216 by distal anchors. The calcification 222 may comprise annular calcification, such as mitral annular calcification, or other forms of calcification in embodiments.

[0210] FIG. 46 illustrates a capsule 110 of a delivery apparatus 100, similar to the capsule and delivery apparatus shown in FIG. 25, positioned proximate the native valve leaflets 216 and in position to deploy the prosthetic valve 160. FIG. 47 illustrates the prosthetic valve 160 having been deployed by the delivery apparatus 100, with the calcification 222 have been engaged with the one or more anchors 162. Certain features of the prosthetic valve 160 such as the prosthetic valve leaflets 172 have been excluded from view in FIG. 47. The anchors 162 extend horizontally from the valve frame 164 and relative to the central axis 174 such that the anchors 162 engage the calcification 222 to anchor the prosthetic valve 160 to the native valve 214. The one or more anchors 162 are positioned distal of the calcification 222 and extend radially outward from the valve frame 164. The one or more anchors 162 extend over a distal tip of a native valve leaflet 216 and horizontally from the distal tip of the native valve leaflet 216 to the tip 212 of the respective anchor 162. Additional anchors such as the atrial or proximal anchors 188 may be utilized for further anchoring to the native valve 214.

[0211] Each anchor 162 may include a proximal surface 224 that may be configured to engage the calcification 222. The proximal surface 224 may abut the calcification 222 to engage the calcification 222, as shown in FIG. 47 for example. The proximal surface 224 may comprise an engagement surface for abutting against the calcification 222 in embodiments. Such anchoring may replace the anchoring provided by distal anchors hooking around the native valve leaflets and abutting the outward facing surface of the native leaflets as shown in the leftmost side of FIG. 6 for example.

[0212] In embodiments, one or more of the anchors 162 may include one or more barbs 226 that may be configured to engage the calcification 222. FIG. 48 illustrates the one or more barbs 226, for example, may be positioned on the anchors 162, such as on a proximal surface 224 of the anchors 162. The one or more barbs 226 may extend proximally from the proximal surface 224 of the anchors 162. The barbs 226 may be positioned at the tips 212 of the anchors 162 to form a penetrating tip for the one or more of the anchors 162. Other positions may be utilized as desired.

[0213] FIG. 49, for example, illustrates the prosthetic valve 160 deployed to the native valve 214, with the barbs 226 engaging the calcification 222 to anchor the prosthetic valve 160 to the native

valve 214. The barbs 226 engage the calcification 222 by penetrating the calcification 222 with the anchors including the barbs 226.

[0214] In embodiments, one or more barbs configured to engage the calcification may extend from the frame of the prosthetic valve 160, for example, from the valve frame 164. FIG. 50 illustrates a side cross sectional view of a portion of the valve frame 164, including a barb 228. The barb 228 may extend radially outward from the valve frame 164 and may extend outward from an outer surface of a prosthetic valve that is configured to be positioned radially inward of the native valve leaflets of the native valve 214.

[0215] FIG. 51 illustrates an example of such a configuration. The prosthetic valve 230 is deployed to the native valve 214 and the barbs 228 extend radially outward from the valve frame 164 and outward from an outer surface 232 of a prosthetic valve 230 that is configured to be positioned radially inward of the native valve leaflets 216 of the native valve 214. The outer surface 232 is positioned radially inward of the native valve leaflets 216 of the native valve 214.

[0216] The barbs 228 may be configured to pass through one or more of the native valve leaflets 216 of the native valve 214 to engage the calcification 222. The barbs 228 may have a length sufficient to pass through the native valve leaflets 216 and engage the calcification 222. The barbs 228 engage the calcification 222 by penetrating the calcification 222 with the anchors in the form of barbs 228.

[0217] In a configuration in which the barbs 228 are utilized as anchors, the distal anchors 162 may be excluded from such an embodiment. As such, the prosthetic valve 230 shown in FIG. 51 may exclude use of the distal anchors 162. In embodiments, a combination of the barbs 228, and the distal anchors 162 may be utilized, as well as other anchors as desired. Various combinations of anchors may be utilized as desired.

[0218] The prosthetic valves may be utilized for deployment with mitral or tricuspid valves, or in embodiments may be utilized in other implantation locations as desired. The prosthetic valves may utilize annular calcification such as mitral annular calcification for anchoring in embodiments, or other forms of calcification. The features of the anchors configured to engage calcification of the native valve to anchor the prosthetic valve to the native valve may be utilized with other embodiments herein, or may be utilized solely. The prosthetic valves may be implanted with similar methods as with the prosthetic valve 10 discussed herein, although other methods may be utilized as desired.

[0219] Various modifications of the embodiments disclosed herein may be provided. Combinations of features across embodiments may be provided as desired.

[0220] FIG. 52 illustrates a schematic cross sectional view of an embodiment of a prosthetic valve 240 configured to be deployed to a native valve. The prosthetic valve 240 may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets 242, and may include a frame 244 supporting the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets 242. In embodiments, the frame 244 may include a proximal portion 246 and a distal portion 248, and may surround a central channel 245 for fluid flow through the prosthetic valve 240. The proximal portion 246 in embodiments may comprise an inflow portion of the prosthetic valve 240 and the distal portion 248 may comprise an outflow portion of the prosthetic valve 240 in embodiments.

[0221] The prosthetic valve 240 may include a sealing body 250 that may include an outer frame 252 and a skirt 254. In embodiments, the configuration of the prosthetic valve 240 may be varied from the configuration shown in FIG. 52.

[0222] The prosthetic valve 240 may include one or more anchors 256 that may be utilized for anchoring the prosthetic valve to a desired implantation site. As shown in FIG. 52, the anchors 256 may be coupled to the distal portion 248 of the frame 244 and may extend radially outward from the frame 244. In embodiments, the anchors 256 may be coupled to another portion of the frame 244.

[0223] Each of the anchors 256 may include a proximal portion with a proximal end 260 that may couple to the distal portion 248 of the frame 244. The proximal portion may extend distally as shown in FIG. 52. In embodiments, the anchors 256 may include a bend portion 262 that may be adjacent to the proximal portion. The bend portion 262 may be configured to direct the respective anchor 256 proximally. The bend portion 262 may comprise a curve configured to direct a tip 264 of the anchor 256 proximally. The bend portion 262 may comprise a loop that extends radially inward in embodiments, as shown in FIG. 52, or may have another configuration as desired. The bend portion 262 may direct the anchor 256 to extend in an opposite direction. For example, as shown in FIG. 52, the bend portion 262 may direct the anchor 256 to extend at about 180 degrees from the proximal portion of the anchor 256.

[0224] In embodiments, the bend portion 262 may form a recess 265 for receiving a portion of a heart such as a native leaflet of a heart.

[0225] The anchors 256 may include an extension portion 266 that extends radially outward from the bend portion 262 and may extend radially outward to the tip 264 of the respective anchor 256.

[0226] In embodiments, the anchors 256 may comprise distal anchors positioned at a distal portion of the prosthetic valve 240. The anchors 256 may comprise ventricular anchors and may be configured to extend over a tip of a native leaflet of a native valve. For example, the anchors 256 may

hook around the tip of the native leaflet with the native leaflet positioned within the recess 265 and the tip 264 of the anchor 256 positioned radially outward from the native leaflet.

[0227] In embodiments, the anchors 256 may be configured to deflect from an undeployed configuration to a deployed configuration. For example, in an undeployed configuration the anchors 256 may be elongated and may have a straightened configuration. In a deployed configuration the anchors 256 may deflect about the bend portion 262 to form the configuration shown in FIG. 52.

[0228] FIG. 53A illustrates a side view of the anchor 256. The anchor 256 may include a thickness 268 that is uniform along a length of the anchor 256. FIG. 53B illustrates a top view of the anchor 256 in an undeployed or straightened configuration. FIG. 56C illustrates a side view of the anchor 256 in the undeployed or straightened configuration, with the thickness 268 of the anchor 256 shown to be uniform along the length and extent of the anchor 256.

[0229] In embodiments, one or more of the anchors may have a thickness that tapers downward in a direction towards the tip of the anchor. FIG. 54A, for example, illustrates a side view of an anchor 270 having a portion 272 with a thickness 274 that tapers downward in a direction towards the tip 276 of the anchor 270. The anchor 270 may otherwise be configured similarly as the anchor 256 shown in FIGS. 53A–C, including a proximal portion with a proximal end 278, a bend portion 280, and an extension portion 282 that may be otherwise configured similarly as the respective portions shown in FIG. 53A.

[0230] The anchor 270 may include a transition point 284 on the extension portion 282 at which the tapered thickness starts in a direction towards the tip 276. The thickness of the extension portion 282 accordingly may taper downward towards the tip 276 of the anchor 270, and may extend downward to the tip 276 of the anchor 270 as shown in FIG. 54A. FIG. 54C, for example, illustrates a side view of the elongated anchor 270 with the transition point 284 marked and the downward tapering of the thickness to the tip 276 shown. FIG. 54B illustrates a top view of the anchor 270 shown in FIG. 54C. A width of the anchor 270 may be uniform or may vary as desired.

[0231] In embodiments, the size of the portion of the anchor with the tapering thickness may vary. FIG. 55A, for example, illustrates an embodiment in which a bend portion 285 of the anchor 286 includes a thickness that tapers downward in a direction towards the tip 288 of the anchor 286. The transition point 290, for example, may be positioned at a proximal end of the bend portion 285, and the tapering may start proximal of the bend portion 285 and may continue through a loop formed by the bend portion 285. In embodiments, the tapered thickness may extend through the extension portion 292 and may extend to the tip 288 of the anchor 286. FIG. 55C, for example, illustrates a side

view of the elongated anchor 286 with the transition point 290 marked and the downward tapering of the thickness to the tip 288 shown. FIG. 55B illustrates a top view of the anchor 286 shown in FIG. 55C. A width of the anchor 286 may be uniform or may vary as desired.

[0232] In embodiments, the portion of the anchor may have a thickness tapering downward in a direction towards the tip of the anchor to provide a dampening feature for the anchor. For example, as shown in FIG. 53A, the anchor 256 may be stiff along its length due to the uniform thickness 268 of the anchor 256. A tapered thickness, as shown in FIGS. 54A and 55A may allow for an increased flexibility of the respective anchor and a dampening of a force applied to the anchor. The tapering accordingly may produce fatigue resistance for the anchor and the prosthetic valve upon loads (which may be radial load or side loads) being applied to the anchor or the prosthetic valve. The loads may be produced by ventricular wall motion or other forces applied to the anchor or the prosthetic valve. The tapering may allow for fatigue strains to dissipate along a length of the anchor.

[0233] In embodiments, the amount of tapering may vary. For example, a variation in thickness of the anchor may be between 20% and 95% in embodiments, although other ranges may be provided. A variation in thickness may be 50% in embodiments.

[0234] The tapering may be a linear reduction in thickness, as shown in FIGS. 54C and 55C for example, or may be a nonlinear reduction. In embodiments, a reduction in thickness may comprise an undulation in the anchor, such as a rachis feature. In embodiments, only a portion of the anchor may be tapered as desired, or an entirety of an anchor may have a reduced thickness.

[0235] In embodiments, the prosthetic valve 240 may comprise a valve configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or native tricuspid valve, among other implantation sites as desired. In an embodiment in which the prosthetic valve is deployed to a native mitral valve or tricuspid valve, the anchors may have a tapered thickness to dampen ventricular forces.

[0236] The features of the prosthetic valve 240, and the anchors of the prosthetic valve may be utilized solely or in combination with any other embodiment disclosed herein. The prosthetic valve 240 may be deployed to the implantation site utilizing deployment methods disclosed herein.

[0237] FIG. 56 illustrates a cross sectional schematic view of a half of a prosthetic valve 300 (the other half may comprise a mirror image thereof). The prosthetic valve 300 may be configured to be deployed to a native valve. The prosthetic valve 300 may include a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets (not shown) and an inner frame 302 that may support the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The inner frame 302 may include a proximal portion 304 and a distal portion 306. The inner frame 302 may be configured similarly as the frame 244 shown in FIG. 52 for example. The inner frame 302 for

example, may surround a flow channel 308 for the prosthetic valve 300. The prosthetic valve 300 may include distal anchors 310 that may be configured similarly as the anchors 256 shown in FIG. 52, or may have another configuration as desired. The prosthetic valve 300 may extend around a central axis 315.

[0238] The prosthetic valve 300 may include a sealing body 312 that may be positioned radially outward of the inner frame 302. The sealing body 312 may include an outer frame 314 that may be positioned radially outward of the inner frame 302. In embodiments, the sealing body 312 may include a skirt (not shown) that may be configured similarly as skirts disclosed herein.

[0239] FIG. 57 illustrates a plan view of the outer frame 314 shown in FIG. 56, with the outer frame 314 shown flattened in FIG. 57. Referring to FIGS. 56 and 57, the outer frame 314 may include a proximal portion 316 that may be coupled to the proximal portion 304 of the inner frame 302. The proximal portion 316 for example, may be configured to be joined to the proximal portion 304 of the inner frame 302 via welding or sutures or another method as desired. The proximal portion 316 may include coupling bodies 318 that may be configured to couple to a portion of a delivery apparatus during a deployment procedure if desired.

[0240] In embodiments, a plurality of elongate strut arms 320 may extend from the proximal portion 316 of the outer frame 314 radially outward. The elongate strut arms 320 are shown in FIG. 57 for example, and may have a straightened shape. Referring to FIG. 56, the elongate strut arms 320 may extend radially outward from the central axis 315, and may extend radially outward in a plane of the central axis 315 as shown in FIG. 56. The plane of the central axis 315 may extend vertically and may extend outward from the central axis 315 similar to spokes extending radially outward from a central axis.

[0241] A distal portion of the elongate strut arms 320 may curve to extend axially and distally. For example, as shown in FIG. 56, a curved portion 322 may be formed that may curve distally. The curved portion 322 may orient a distal portion 324 of the outer frame 314 to extend axially distal.

[0242] Referring to FIG. 57, the distal portion 324 of the outer frame 314 may include a plurality of struts 326. The struts 326 may form a plurality of strut cells 328. The strut cells 328 may form a ring around the inner frame 302, with the strut cell 328a coupled to the strut cell 328b with the distal portion 324 wrapped around the inner frame 302 from the flattened configuration shown in FIG. 57.

[0243] The plurality of strut cells 328 may be joined to each other to form the ring about the inner frame 302, or may have another configuration as desired. Each strut cell 328 may include four sides bounding an opening 329 (as shown with strut cell 328b, for example), or may have another

configuration as desired. Each strut cell 328, for example, may have a diamond shape as shown in FIG. 57, or may have another shape as desired.

[0244] The elongate strut arms 320 may each extend from the proximal portion 316 of the outer frame 314 to the plurality of strut cells 328 at the distal portion 324 of the outer frame 314. The plurality of strut cells 328 may include a proximal portion 330 that couples to a distal portion of the elongate strut arms 320 and the plurality of strut cells 328 may extend to a distal end 332 of the outer frame 314.

[0245] In embodiments, the outer frame 314 may include one or more deflection features 334 that may be configured to allow the plurality of strut cells 328 to deflect relative to the proximal portion 316 of the outer frame 314. The deflection feature 334 may be positioned as desired on the outer frame 314 and may have a variety of configurations. For example, as shown in FIG. 57, in embodiments, a deflection feature 334 may be positioned on each of the elongate strut arms 320. The deflection feature 334 may be positioned at a distal portion of the elongate strut arms and may be positioned at a coupling point between the elongate strut arm 320 and the proximal portion 330 of the strut cells 328.

[0246] The deflection feature 334 may be positioned to allow the portion of the outer frame 314 distal of line 335 shown in FIGS. 56 and 57 to deflect as desired. In embodiments, the deflection feature 334 may have another position as desired.

[0247] The deflection feature may comprise a portion of the elongate strut arms 320 that is more flexible than other portions of the elongate strut arms 320. The deflection feature accordingly may comprise a reduced strength portion of the elongate strut arms 320 that allows for deflection at the position of the deflection feature. In embodiments, the deflection feature may be included upon the elongate strut arms 320, or may be positioned on at least one of the plurality of struts of the outer frame 314 as desired. In embodiments, a deflection feature, for example, may be positioned on the struts of the strut cells 328. In embodiments, a deflection feature may be positioned on a combination of elongate strut arms 320 and the struts of the strut cells 328.

[0248] The deflection feature may comprise an undulation in one or more of the elongate strut arms 320. Referring to FIG. 57, for example, the undulation may extend circumferentially and the number of cycles of the undulation may be one or more cycles as desired. The undulation may comprise a rachis feature of the struts of the outer frame 314.

[0249] The length of the undulations may be set as desired, with FIG. 57 illustrating a relatively short length of the undulations. The length of the undulations may be set to determine an amount of

flexibility provided by the deflection feature, with a shorter length corresponding to less flexibility and a longer length corresponding to greater flexibility. Various other configurations may be utilized as desired.

[0250] The deflection feature may allow the strut cells 328 to deflect to provide a non-circular shape of the ring formed by the strut cells 328. The deflection may have a variety of forms. For example, referring to FIG. 56, the strut cells 328 may be configured to deflect radially inward as represented by the dashed lines shown in FIG. 56. In embodiments, the strut cells 328 may be configured to deflect to form an oval shape or a “D” shape due to the deflection allowed by the deflection feature. Various other shapes of the ring formed by the strut cells 328 may be provided.

[0251] The deflection feature may allow the strut cells 328 to deflect to contour to a shape of an annulus of the native valve. For example, if the native valve has an oval shape or a “D” shape then the strut cells 328 may deflect to contour to such a shape. If the native valve annulus has calcification then the strut cells 328 may deflect to contour to such a shape produced by the calcification. The deflection feature may reduce the possibility of an LVOT obstruction in embodiments, and may enhance the sealing allowed by the outer frame 314 with the implantation site upon deployment.

[0252] The deflection feature may allow the strut cells 328 to deflect to reduce the possibility of paravalvular leakage between the sealing body 312 and the heart valve annulus in embodiments.

[0253] The configuration of the deflection feature may vary in embodiments. FIG. 58, for example, illustrates an embodiment in which the deflection feature 336 includes undulations having a greater length than shown in FIG. 57, and having greater spacing between the lengths of the undulations. Such a feature may provide for increased flexibility than provided by the deflection feature 334 shown in FIG. 57.

[0254] FIG. 59 illustrates an embodiment in which a deflection feature 336 with undulations extending circumferentially and a deflection feature 338 with undulations extending radially may be provided. The undulations that extend radially may have lengths that extend longer than the undulations of the deflection feature 336, and accordingly may have a greater flexibility than the undulations of the deflection feature 336. In embodiments, an elongate strut arm, or other strut of the outer frame 314, may include a combination of a first undulation extending circumferentially and a second undulation extending radially, among other combinations as desired. Further, combinations of undulations having varied lengths may be provided as desired.

[0255] In embodiments, the deflection feature may include one or more openings in an elongate strut arm. FIG. 60, for example, illustrates an elongate strut arm 340 including a plurality of openings

342. The openings 342 may remove material from the elongate strut arm 340 to accordingly increase a flexibility of the elongate strut arm 340. The openings 342 may have an elongate shape that may extend along a length of the elongate strut arm 340 in embodiments, as shown in FIG. 60, or may have another configuration as desired.

[0256] FIG. 61 illustrates an elongate strut arm 344 having a single opening 346, with an elongate shape that extends along a length of the elongate strut arm 344.

[0257] In embodiments, combinations of deflection features may be provided. For example, combinations of undulations and openings, among other forms of deflection features may be provided as desired. In embodiments, at least one strut of the outer frame 314 may have an undulation or an opening configured to increase a flexibility of the frame, as well as combinations of an undulation and an opening, among other forms of deflection features.

[0258] The outer frame 314 in embodiments may be configured for sealing with a portion of the native valve, or may have another configuration in embodiments as desired. In embodiments, a skirt may be provided on the outer frame 314 for forming a seal with a portion of the native valve.

[0259] In embodiments, the prosthetic valve 300 may comprise a valve configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or native tricuspid valve, among other implantation sites as desired. The features of the prosthetic valve 300 may be utilized solely or in combination with any other embodiment disclosed herein. The prosthetic valve 300 may be deployed to the implantation site utilizing deployment methods disclosed herein.

[0260] FIG. 62A illustrates a frame of a prosthetic valve including a plurality of struts 350. Each strut 350 may be straight and may extend from a first end 352 coupled to a juncture 354 to a second end 356 coupled to a juncture 358. The struts 350 may surround an opening 360 and may bound the opening 360 to form a strut cell. FIG. 62B illustrates the frame in an expanded or deployed configuration, with the struts 350 being pulled away from each other and a size of the opening 360 having increased.

[0261] FIG. 62C illustrates the frame in a crimped configuration or undeployed configuration, with the struts 350 having been drawn towards each other and compressed together. With each strut 350 being straight, a strain may be provided at the ends 352, 356 of each strut 350. For example, with a radial compression applied to the struts 350 in the configuration shown in FIG. 62A to reach the crimped configuration or undeployed configuration shown in FIG. 62C, the ends 352, 356 of the struts 350 may bend and experience strain.

[0262] FIG. 63A illustrates a plan view of a portion of a frame 362 with struts that may reduce the adverse results of a straight strut as shown in FIG. 62A for example. FIG. 63A illustrates an embodiment of the frame 362 including a plurality of struts 364 joined at junctures 366. The frame 362 may include a proximal end 368 and a distal end 370, and the struts 364 may extend in a direction from the proximal end 368 towards the distal end 370.

[0263] FIG. 63B illustrates a close up view of a portion of the frame 362 (as marked by area 63B in FIG. 63A). The plurality of struts 364 may include a strut 364a that may include a plurality of segments 372a, 372b, and 372c. The segments may comprise a first segment 372a, a second segment 372b, and a third segment 372c. The first segment 372a may extend along a first axis 375a. The second segment 372b may extend along a second axis 375b. The strut 364a may include a first kink 374a that may join the first segment 372a to the second segment 372b at an angle. The strut 364a may include a second kink 374b that may join the second segment 372b to the third segment 364c at an angle. The first axis 375a may be offset from the second axis 375b.

[0264] The second segment 372b may extend at an angle relative to the first segment 372a that causes the second segment 372b to extend diagonally with respect to the first segment 372a. An angle between the first segment 372a and the second segment 372b may be an obtuse angle. The obtuse angle may cause the second segment 372b to extend both circumferentially and axially with respect to the first segment 372a. The circumferential extent of the second segment 372b may offset the third segment 372c circumferentially from the first segment 372a.

[0265] The third segment 372c may extend at an angle relative to the second segment 372b. The angle between the third segment 372c and the second segment 372b may be an obtuse angle and may be in an opposite direction as the angle between the first segment 372a and the second segment 372b. The obtuse angle may allow the third segment 372c to extend axially, similar to the first segment 372a, yet with the second axis 375b offset from the first axis 375a.

[0266] The first kink 374a and the second kink 374b accordingly may displace the length of the first segment 372a from the length of the second segment 372b and the displacement may be circumferential as shown in FIG. 63B. As such, a radial compression applied to the strut 364a in the configuration shown in FIG. 63B to reach a crimped configuration or undeployed configuration may result in less strain for the strut 364a than with a straight strut as shown in FIG. 62A for example. A comparison of a shape of a strut having the first kink 374a and the second kink 374b as compared with a straight strut 350 is shown in FIG. 64 for example.

[0267] Referring to FIG. 63B, in embodiments, the first segment 372a of the strut may comprise a first end segment of the strut that may couple to a first juncture 366a of the frame 362. The third segment 372c of the strut may comprise a second end segment that may couple to a second juncture 366b of the frame 362. The remainder of the strut between the ends may be unconnected to any other portion of the frame 362.

[0268] In embodiments, the first axis 375a may extend parallel with the second axis 375b. In embodiments, the second axis 375b may extend at an angle relative to the first axis 375a yet remain offset from the first axis 375a. The second segment 372b may extend along an axis that extends at an angle with respect to the first axis 375a and the second axis 375b.

[0269] In embodiments, the prosthetic valve utilizing the frame 362 may extend around a central axis (similar to the central axis 315 shown in FIG. 56). The first axis 375a and the second axis 375b may both extend parallel with the central axis 315 in embodiments. The second segment 372b may extend at an angle with respect to the central axis.

[0270] The frame 362 may include other struts configured similarly as the strut 364a in embodiments. For example, as shown in FIG. 63B, the frame 362 may include a strut 364b positioned adjacent to the strut 364a and including a first segment 376a, a second segment 376b, and a third segment 376c. The first segment 376a may extend along a third axis and the third segment 376c may extend along a fourth axis. A first kink 378a may join the first segment 376a to the second segment 376b at an angle such that the second segment 376b extends towards the strut 364a. The second kink 378b may join the second segment 376b to the third segment 376c at an angle. The fourth axis may be offset from the third axis.

[0271] In embodiments, the strut 364b may comprise an inversion of the strut 364a positioned circumferentially adjacent to the strut 364a. The third segment 372c of the strut 364a may be joined to the third segment 376c of the strut 364b at the juncture 366b.

[0272] In embodiments, the frame 362 may include a repeating pattern of the first strut 364a adjacent to the second strut 364b that repeats circumferentially about the frame 362. For example, as shown in FIG. 65A, the pattern may repeat circumferentially to form a cylindrical frame 362 that may extend around a central axis of the prosthetic valve. As such, referring back to FIG. 63B, a third strut 364c that may be a repetition of the second strut 364b may be positioned circumferentially adjacent to the first strut 364a. The third strut 364c may be positioned on the other side of the first strut 364a than the second strut 364b.

[0273] The third strut 364c, being a repetition of the second strut 364b, may include a first segment 381a, a second segment 381b, and a third segment 381c. The first segment 381a may extend along a fifth axis and the third segment 381c may extend along a sixth axis. A first kink may join the first segment 381a to the second segment 381b at an angle such that the second segment 381b extends away from the strut 364a. The second kink may join the second segment 381b to the third segment 381c at an angle. The fifth axis may be offset from the sixth axis. The first segment 381a of the third strut 364c may couple to the first segment 372a of the first strut 364a at the juncture 366a.

[0274] Referring to FIG. 65A, in embodiments, the frame 362 may include a proximal portion 380 and a distal portion 382. The distal portion 382 may include the circumferentially repeating pattern of the first strut 364a and the second strut 364b. The proximal portion 380, in embodiments, may include struts configured similarly as the first strut 364a or the second strut 364b. In embodiments, the proximal portion 380 may include struts comprising inversions of the first struts 364a and the second strut 364b. The struts together may form strut cells bounding openings 384.

[0275] The frame 362 may be configured as a cylindrical body in embodiments and may surround a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The prosthetic valve leaflets may be configured similarly as embodiments of prosthetic valve leaflets disclosed herein. The frame 362 in embodiments may have a different shape than a cylindrical shape as desired.

[0276] The frame 362 may comprise an inner frame configured to support a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets, or in embodiments, may comprise an outer frame configured to surround an inner frame supporting a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. In embodiments, both an inner frame and an outer frame may include one or more struts configured similarly as the strut 364a, or may include a pattern of the struts 364a, 364b. In embodiments, the frame 362 may comprise a single frame that is utilized with the prosthetic valve.

[0277] The configuration of the struts 364a, 364b may allow for improved radial compression of the frame 362 and reduced strain applied to the struts 364a, 364b. FIG. 65A, for example, illustrates the frame 362 in an uncompressed configuration. FIG. 65B illustrates a portion of the frame 362 in an expanded configuration. The frame 362 may be radially expanded and the struts 364a, 364b may be moved circumferentially away from each other. The size of the opening 384 has increased.

[0278] FIG. 65C illustrates the frame 362 in a compressed state. The frame 362 has been radially compressed inward. The strut 364a is drawn to the strut 364b upon the radial compression of the frame 362. Strain in the ends of the struts 364a, 364b may be reduced from a configuration of struts as shown in FIG. 62C for example. In embodiments, portions of the struts 364a, 364b may contact

each other. The respective adjacent kinks (e.g., the second kink 374b of the first strut 364a, and the second kink 378b of the second strut 364b) of the struts may contact each other upon radial compression of the frame 362 to further relieve strain upon the struts 364a, 364b. The degree of strain provided may be reduced due to the contact between the kinks. Further, the width of the struts may be reduced from an embodiment as shown in FIG. 62A for example.

[0279] Further, upon expansion, the angles between adjacent struts (for example, the angle between struts 364a, 364b at the junction 366b) may remain smaller than in an embodiment as shown in FIG. 62A for example. Such a feature may further reduce strain upon the struts.

[0280] In embodiments, the prosthetic valve utilizing the frame and the struts may comprise a valve configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or native tricuspid valve, among other implantation sites as desired. The features of the prosthetic valve may be utilized solely or in combination with any other embodiment disclosed herein. The prosthetic valve may be deployed to the implantation site utilizing deployment methods disclosed herein.

[0281] FIG. 66 illustrates a plan view of a flattened outer frame 390 that may be utilized with a prosthetic valve 389 (marked in FIG. 68). FIG. 67 illustrates a side view of a portion of the outer frame 390. FIG. 68 illustrates a schematic cross sectional view of the prosthetic valve 389. Referring to FIGS. 66–68, the prosthetic valve 389 may include an inner frame 393 that may be configured to support a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets. The prosthetic valve leaflets may be configured similarly as other prosthetic valve leaflets disclosed herein. The inner frame 393 may be configured similarly as other inner frames disclosed herein, including a plurality of struts connected at junctures. The inner frame 393 may include a proximal portion 405 and a distal portion 407.

[0282] The outer frame 390 may comprise a portion of a sealing body 391 that may be utilized to form a seal with a portion of a heart valve. The sealing body 391 may be positioned radially outward of the inner frame 393. The sealing body 391 may include a skirt coupled to the outer frame 390 or in embodiments a skirt may be excluded. The sealing body 391 and outer frame 390 may extend around the inner frame 393 in embodiments.

[0283] The outer frame 390 may include a plurality of struts 392 connected at junctures 394 and may include openings 396 between struts 392. In embodiments, the struts 392 may form strut cells, which may be configured similarly as other configurations of strut cells disclosed herein.

[0284] The outer frame 390 may include a proximal portion 398 and a distal portion 400. Referring to FIG. 67, the outer frame 390 may be configured such that the proximal portion 398 extends radially outward from the inner frame 393. The proximal portion 398 of the outer frame 390

may be configured to couple to a proximal portion 405 of an inner frame 393, as shown in FIG. 68 for example.

[0285] As shown in FIG. 67, the distal portion 400 of the outer frame 390 may curve axially from the proximal portion 398 and may extend axially to a distal end 402 of the outer frame 390. In embodiments, the distal portion 400 may include a curved portion 404 that may curve axially from the proximal portion 398. The curved portion 404 may be configured to curve radially inward to form a shoulder 406 as shown in FIG. 67, for example. The shoulder 406 may comprise a protruding portion of the outer frame 390 that may be configured to impede distal movement of the outer frame 390 and the prosthetic valve 389. The shoulder 406 may be configured to contact a portion of a heart valve annulus on a side of the annulus to impede distal movement of the outer frame 390 and the prosthetic valve 389. The shoulder 406 may be positioned on an atrial side of a heart valve for example.

[0286] In embodiments, a plurality of anchors 410 may extend radially outward from the distal portion 400 of the outer frame 390 and may be configured to impede distal movement of the outer frame 390. Referring to FIG. 66, the anchors 410 may be coupled to the junctures 394 of the outer frame 390, and in particular may be coupled to junctures 394 between the distalmost struts 392a, b and the distalmost strut cells 397a, b. The anchors 410 may be positioned between the struts 392a, b and may be positioned within the opening 396a between the distalmost struts 392a, b. The anchors 410 may be integral with the outer frame 390 in embodiments or may be otherwise coupled to the outer frame 390. Each anchor 410 may comprise an arm extending from the outer frame 390 to a tip of the arm.

[0287] Referring to FIG. 67, the anchors 410 may be deflected radially outward from the outer frame 390. The anchors 410 may extend radially outward from the outer frame 390 and particularly may extend radially outward from the curved portion 404 of the outer frame 390. The anchors 410 may be positioned at the shoulder 406 of the outer frame 390 and distal of the largest radial extent of the shoulder 406. The anchors 410 in embodiments may protrude from the outer frame 390 at an angle with respect to a central axis 411 of the prosthetic valve 389 marked in FIG. 68. The angle may be in a distal direction in embodiments.

[0288] The anchors 410 may be spaced from each other circumferentially, with equal spacing or with other spacing in embodiments as desired.

[0289] Referring to FIG. 68, the anchors 410 may impede distal movement of the outer frame 390 by contacting a portion of a heart. The portion may comprise a portion of a heart valve annulus

and may comprise an atrial portion of a heart valve annulus in embodiments. The portion may comprise a portion of heart valve leaflets in embodiments. The anchors 410 may provide an axial force that reduces the possibility of distal movement. Such force may be distinguished from a radial force that may be applied, although in embodiments an axial and a radial force may be applied by the anchors 410. In embodiments, the anchoring by the anchors 410 may be independent of a radial force. The anchors 410 may serve to reduce the possibility of distal migration of the prosthetic valve 389, which may be ventricular migration in embodiments. The position of the anchors 410 may be supra annular or intra annular in embodiments.

[0290] In embodiments, the prosthetic valve 389 may include additional anchors. For example, in embodiments, the anchors 410 may comprise proximal anchors and distal anchors 412 may be utilized. The distal anchors 412 may be configured similarly as other embodiments of distal anchors 412 disclosed herein, and may be configured to extend over a tip of a native leaflet of a native valve in embodiments. In embodiments, other forms of distal anchors and/or additional proximal anchors may be utilized as desired. In embodiments, the anchors 410 may comprise atrial anchors configured to be positioned on an atrial side of a native valve and the distal anchors 412 may comprise ventricular anchors. Other configurations of anchors may be utilized in embodiments as desired.

[0291] Various modifications of the anchors and frames disclosed herein may be utilized as desired. In embodiments, the configuration of anchors may be utilized with a single frame that supports the prosthetic valve leaflets. Other configurations may be utilized as desired.

[0292] In embodiments, the prosthetic valve 389 may comprise a valve configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or native tricuspid valve, among other implantation sites as desired. The features of the prosthetic valve may be utilized solely or in combination with any other embodiment disclosed herein. The prosthetic valve may be deployed to the implantation site utilizing deployment methods disclosed herein.

[0293] The implants disclosed herein may include prosthetic heart valves or other forms of implants, such as stents or filters, or diagnostic devices, among others. The implants may be expandable implants configured to move from a compressed or undeployed state to an expanded or deployed state. The implants may be compressible implants configured to be compressed inward to have a reduced outer profile and to move the implant to the compressed or undeployed state.

[0294] Various forms of delivery apparatuses may be utilized with the embodiments disclosed herein. The delivery apparatuses as disclosed herein may be utilized for aortic, mitral, tricuspid, and pulmonary replacement and repair as well. The delivery apparatuses may comprise delivery

apparatuses for delivery of other forms of implants, such as stents or filters, or diagnostic devices, among others.

[0295] The implants and the systems disclosed herein may be used in transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) or replacement of other native heart valves (e.g., mitral, tricuspid, or pulmonary). The delivery apparatuses and the systems disclosed herein may be utilized for transarterial access, including transfemoral access, to a patient's heart. The delivery apparatuses and systems may be utilized in transcatheter percutaneous procedures, including transarterial procedures, which may be transfemoral or transjugular. Transapical procedures, among others, may also be utilized. Other procedures may be utilized as desired.

[0296] Features of embodiments may be modified, substituted, excluded, or combined across embodiments as desired.

[0297] In addition, the methods herein are not limited to the methods specifically described, and may include methods of utilizing the systems and apparatuses disclosed herein. The steps of the methods may be modified, excluded, or added to, with systems, apparatuses, and methods disclosed herein.

[0298] In closing, it is to be understood that although aspects of the present specification are highlighted by referring to specific embodiments, one skilled in the art will readily appreciate that these disclosed embodiments are only illustrative of the principles of the subject matter disclosed herein. Therefore, it should be understood that the disclosed subject matter is in no way limited to a particular methodology, protocol, and/or reagent, etc., described herein. As such, various modifications or changes to or alternative configurations of the disclosed subject matter can be made in accordance with the teachings herein without departing from the spirit of the present specification. Lastly, the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only, and is not intended to limit the scope of systems, apparatuses, and methods as disclosed herein, which is defined solely by the claims. Accordingly, the systems, apparatuses, and methods are not limited to that precisely as shown and described.

[0299] Certain embodiments of systems, apparatuses, and methods are described herein, including the best mode known to the inventors for carrying out the same. Of course, variations on these described embodiments will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art upon reading the foregoing description. The inventor expects skilled artisans to employ such variations as appropriate, and the inventors intend for the systems, apparatuses, and methods to be practiced otherwise than specifically described herein. Accordingly, the systems, apparatuses, and methods

include all modifications and equivalents of the subject matter recited in the claims appended hereto as permitted by applicable law. Moreover, any combination of the above-described embodiments in all possible variations thereof is encompassed by the systems, apparatuses, and methods unless otherwise indicated herein or otherwise clearly contradicted by context.

[0300] Groupings of alternative embodiments, elements, or steps of the systems, apparatuses, and methods are not to be construed as limitations. Each group member may be referred to and claimed individually or in any combination with other group members disclosed herein. It is anticipated that one or more members of a group may be included in, or deleted from, a group for reasons of convenience and/or patentability. When any such inclusion or deletion occurs, the specification is deemed to contain the group as modified thus fulfilling the written description of all Markush groups used in the appended claims.

[0301] Unless otherwise indicated, all numbers expressing a characteristic, item, quantity, parameter, property, term, and so forth used in the present specification and claims are to be understood as being modified in all instances by the term “about.” As used herein, the term “about” means that the characteristic, item, quantity, parameter, property, or term so qualified encompasses an approximation that may vary, yet is capable of performing the desired operation or process discussed herein.

[0302] The terms “a,” “an,” “the” and similar referents used in the context of describing the systems, apparatuses, and methods (especially in the context of the following claims) are to be construed to cover both the singular and the plural, unless otherwise indicated herein or clearly contradicted by context. All methods described herein can be performed in any suitable order unless otherwise indicated herein or otherwise clearly contradicted by context. The use of any and all examples, or exemplary language (e.g., “such as”) provided herein is intended merely to better illuminate the systems, apparatuses, and methods and does not pose a limitation on the scope of the systems, apparatuses, and methods otherwise claimed. No language in the present specification should be construed as indicating any non-claimed element essential to the practice of the systems, apparatuses, and methods.

[0303] All patents, patent publications, and other publications referenced and identified in the present specification are individually and expressly incorporated herein by reference in their entirety for the purpose of describing and disclosing, for example, the compositions and methodologies described in such publications that might be used in connection with the systems, apparatuses, and methods. These publications are provided solely for their disclosure prior to the filing date of the present application. Nothing in this regard should be construed as an admission that the inventors

are not entitled to antedate such disclosure by virtue of prior invention or for any other reason. All statements as to the date or representation as to the contents of these documents is based on the information available to the applicants and does not constitute any admission as to the correctness of the dates or contents of these documents.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve, the prosthetic valve comprising:
 - a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets;
 - one or more anchors coupled to the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets and each configured to anchor to a portion of a patient's heart; and
 - a sealing body positioned radially outward of the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets and configured to abut a portion of the patient's heart to reduce fluid flow, the sealing body configured for the one or more anchors to at least partially pass through in a radially inward direction.
2. The prosthetic valve of claim 1, wherein the sealing body comprises an outer surface of the prosthetic valve.
3. The prosthetic valve of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the sealing body includes a frame.
4. The prosthetic valve of claim 3, wherein the frame includes a plurality of struts separated by spaces, and the sealing body is configured for at least one of the one or more anchors to at least partially pass through one of the spaces.
5. The prosthetic valve of claim 4, wherein the one of the spaces is positioned at a distal end of the frame.
6. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 3–5, wherein the frame includes a proximal portion and a distal portion, with the proximal portion extending radially outward from the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets and the distal portion being spaced from the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets with a gap.

7. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 3–6, wherein the frame is an outer frame and the prosthetic valve further comprises an inner frame surrounded by the outer frame.
8. The prosthetic valve of claim 7, wherein the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets are coupled to the inner frame and extend radially inward from the inner frame.
9. The prosthetic valve of claim 7 or claim 8, wherein the inner frame includes a proximal portion coupled to the outer frame and a distal portion coupled to the one or more anchors and spaced from the outer frame with a gap.
10. The prosthetic valve of claim 9, wherein each of the one or more anchors is configured to extend radially outward from the inner frame and across the gap between the distal portion of the inner frame and the outer frame.
11. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 1–10, wherein each of the one or more anchors is configured to extend distally and then curve in a proximal direction to a tip of the respective one of the one or more anchors.
12. The prosthetic valve of claim 11, wherein the tip is configured to at least partially pass through the sealing body in a radially inward direction.
13. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 1–12, wherein the sealing body includes a skirt.
14. The prosthetic valve of claim 13, wherein the skirt includes one or more receiving portions configured for the one or more anchors to at least partially pass through in a radially inward direction.
15. The prosthetic valve of claim 14, wherein the one or more receiving portions include one or more of pockets or apertures.

16. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 13–15, wherein the skirt includes a proximal portion and a distal portion, and the distal portion is configured for the one or more anchors to at least partially pass through in the radially inward direction.

17. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 1–16, wherein each of one or more anchors is configured to move from an undeployed configuration radially outward to a deployed configuration, and is configured to deflect radially inward in the deployed configuration.

18. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 1–17, wherein the sealing body is configured to envelop the one or more anchors.

19. The prosthetic valve of any claims 1–18, wherein each of one or more anchors includes a hinge for the one or more anchors to deflect about in the radially inward direction.

20. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 1–19, wherein the sealing body is configured to have an outer diameter that is at or greater than an outer diameter of the one or more anchors.

21. A method comprising:

deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body, the prosthetic valve including:

a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets,

one or more anchors coupled to the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets and each configured to anchor to a portion of the patient's heart, and

a sealing body positioned radially outward of the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets and configured to abut a portion of the patient's heart to reduce fluid flow, the sealing body configured for the one or more anchors to at least partially pass through in a radially inward direction.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising extending the one or more anchors around one or more native valve leaflets.
23. The method of claim 21 or claim 22, further comprising missing capture of one or more native valve leaflets with at least one of the one or more anchors.
24. The method of claim 23, further comprising passing the at least one anchor that missed capture at least partially through the sealing body in the radially inward direction.
25. The method of claim 23 or claim 24, further comprising sealing around the at least one anchor that missed capture with the sealing body.
26. The method of any of claims 23–25, further comprising abutting the sealing body to the one or more native valve leaflets.
27. The method of any of claims 23–26, further comprising enveloping the at least one anchor that missed capture within the sealing body.
28. The method of any of claims 23–27, further comprising moving the at least one anchor that missed capture radially inward relative to the sealing body.
29. The method of claim 28, further comprising deflecting the at least one anchor that missed capture radially inward to at least partially pass through the sealing body.
30. The method of any of claims 21–29, wherein the native valve is a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve.

31. The method of any of claims 21–30, wherein the sealing body includes a frame.
32. The method of claim 31, further comprising utilizing fluoroscopy to image a deflection of the frame upon capture of one or more native valve leaflets.
33. The method of claim 31 or claim 32, wherein the frame includes a plurality of struts separated by spaces, and the sealing body is configured for at least one of the one or more anchors to at least partially pass through one of the spaces.
34. The method of any of claims 31–33, wherein the frame is an outer frame and the prosthetic valve further comprises an inner frame surrounded by the outer frame.
35. The method of claim 34, wherein the one or more anchors are coupled to a distal portion of the inner frame.
36. A modular prosthetic valve system comprising:
- a plurality of different configurations of distal anchors;
 - a plurality of different configurations of proximal anchors; and
 - a valve body including a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets and configured to be coupled to one of the configurations of distal anchors selected from the plurality of different configurations of distal anchors, and configured to be coupled to one of the configurations of proximal anchors selected from the plurality of different configurations of proximal anchors.
37. The system of claim 36, wherein the distal anchors are ventricular anchors configured to extend around a native valve leaflet.

38. The system of claim 36 or claim 37, wherein the proximal anchors are atrial anchors configured to be positioned on an atrial side of a native valve.

39. The system of any of claims 36–38, wherein each of the different configurations of distal anchors are configured to extend radially outward from the valve body to a different extent than each other.

40. The system of any of claims 36–39, wherein each of the different configurations of distal anchors have a different radius of curvature than each other.

41. The system of any of claims 36–40, wherein each of the different configurations of proximal anchors are configured to extend radially outward from the valve body to a different extent than each other.

42. The system of any of claims 36–41, wherein each of the different configurations of distal anchors have a different length than each other.

43. The system of any of claims 36–42, wherein each of the proximal anchors have a proximal end and a distal end, and each of the distal anchors have a proximal end and a distal end, and the distal end of the proximal anchor is configured to couple to the proximal end of the distal anchor.

44. The system of claim 43, wherein a lock prevents the proximal anchor from rotating relative to the distal anchor when the proximal anchor and distal anchor are coupled to the valve body.

45. The system of claim 44, wherein the lock includes an insert configured to insert into a recess on the distal end of the proximal anchor or the proximal end of the distal anchor.

46. The system of any of claims 36–45, wherein the valve body includes a valve frame that is configured to be coupled to the plurality of different configurations of distal anchors, and is configured to be coupled to the plurality of different configurations of proximal anchors.

47. The system of claim 46, wherein each of the plurality of different configurations of distal anchors are configured to couple to an outer surface of the valve frame, and each of the plurality of different configurations of proximal anchors is configured to couple to an outer surface of the valve frame.

48. The system of any of claims 36–47, further comprising a skirt configured to be positioned radially outward of the valve body.

49. The system of any of claims 36–48, further comprising a plurality of different configurations of skirts each configured to be positioned radially outward of the valve body.

50. The system of any of claims 36–49, further comprising a plurality of different configurations of sealing bodies each configured to be positioned radially outward of the valve body and configured to abut a portion of a patient's heart to reduce fluid flow and configured for the plurality of different configurations of proximal anchors to at least partially pass through in a radially inward direction.

51. A method of forming a prosthetic valve, the method comprising:

selecting a configuration of distal anchors from a plurality of different configurations of distal anchors;

selecting a configuration of proximal anchors from a plurality of different configurations of proximal anchors; and

coupling the selected configuration of distal anchors and the selected configuration of proximal anchors to a valve body including a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein the different configurations of distal anchors are each for anchoring to a different size native valve, and the different configurations of proximal anchors are each for anchoring to a different size native valve.

53. The method of claim 51 or claim 52, further comprising coupling a skirt to one or more of the selected configuration of distal anchors, the selected configuration of proximal anchors, or the valve body.

54. The method of claim 53, further comprising selecting a configuration of the skirt from a plurality of different configurations of skirts.

55. The method of any of claims 51–54, further comprising:

selecting a configuration of a sealing body from a plurality of different configurations of sealing bodies, each configuration of sealing body configured to be positioned radially outward of the valve body and configured to abut a portion of a patient's heart to reduce fluid flow and configured for the plurality of different configurations of proximal anchors to at least partially pass through in a radially inward direction; and

positioning the selected configuration of sealing body radially outward of the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets.

56. The method of any of claims 51–55, further comprising selecting the configuration of distal anchors from an inventory including each of the different configurations of distal anchors, and selecting the configuration of proximal anchors from an inventory including each of the different configurations of proximal anchors.

57. The method of any of claims 51–56, wherein the valve body includes a frame, and further comprising coupling a distal end of the selected configuration of distal anchors to the frame and coupling a proximal end of the selected configuration of proximal anchors to the frame.

58. The method of claim 57, further comprising coupling the distal end of the selected configuration of distal anchors to the proximal end of the selected configuration of proximal anchors.

59. The method of claim 58, further comprising locking the distal end of the selected configuration of distal anchors to the proximal end of the selected configuration of proximal anchors to prevent rotation of the selected configuration of distal anchors relative to the selected configuration of proximal anchors.

60. The method of any of claims 51–59, wherein:

the distal anchors are ventricular anchors configured to extend around a native valve leaflet;

the proximal anchors are atrial anchors configured to be positioned on an atrial side of a native valve; and

the prosthetic valve is configured to be implanted in a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve.

61. A prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve, the prosthetic valve comprising:

a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets;

a frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets; and

one or more anchors coupled to the frame and including ensnaring features configured to couple to one or more of chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures to anchor the prosthetic valve within the native valve.

62. The prosthetic valve of claim 61, wherein the ensnaring features comprise wires.

63. The prosthetic valve of claim 62, wherein each anchor includes a plurality of the wires that are configured to entangle within the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures.

64. The prosthetic valve of claim 62, wherein the wires are configured to wrap around the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures.

65. The prosthetic valve of claim 64, wherein each wire is configured to form a spiral around the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures.

66. The prosthetic valve of claim 61, wherein the ensnaring features include one or more clamps.

67. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 61–66, wherein the one or more anchors are configured to move from an undeployed configuration to a deployed configuration.

68. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 61–67, wherein the ensnaring features have a shape memory and are biased to a configuration in which the ensnaring features couple to the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures.

69. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 61–68, wherein the one or more anchors are not configured to anchor to native valve leaflets.

70. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 61–69, wherein the prosthetic valve is configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve.

71. A method comprising:

deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body, the prosthetic valve including:

a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets,

a frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets, and

one or more anchors coupled to the frame and including ensnaring features configured to couple to one or more of chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures to anchor the prosthetic valve within the native valve; and

coupling the ensnaring features to one or more of the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures.

72. The method of claim 71, wherein the ensnaring features comprise wires.

73. The method of claim 72, wherein each anchor includes a plurality of the wires that are configured to entangle within the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures.

74. The method of claim 72, wherein the wires are configured to wrap around the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures.

75. The method of claim 74, wherein each wire is configured to form a spiral around the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures.

76. The method of any of claims 71–75, wherein the ensnaring features include one or more clamps.

77. The method of any of claims 71–76, wherein the ensnaring features have a shape memory and are biased to a configuration in which the ensnaring features couple to the chordae, trabeculae, or papillary structures.

78. The method of any of claims 71–77, further comprising not anchoring the one or more anchors to native valve leaflets.

79. The method of any of claims 71–78, wherein the prosthetic valve is deployed to a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve.

80. The method of any of claims 71–79, further comprising extending the ensnaring features into a ventricle of the patient's heart.

81. A prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve, the prosthetic valve comprising:

a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets;

a frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets; and

one or more anchors coupled to the frame and configured to engage calcification of the native valve to anchor the prosthetic valve to the native valve.

82. The prosthetic valve of claim 81, wherein the prosthetic valve extends around a central axis and the one or more anchors comprise one or more distal anchors configured to extend horizontally relative to the central axis to a tip of the respective distal anchor.

83. The prosthetic valve of claim 82, wherein the one or more distal anchors are configured to extend over a distal tip of a native valve leaflet and horizontally from the distal tip of the native valve leaflet to the tip of the respective distal anchor.

84. The prosthetic valve of claim 82 or claim 83, wherein the one or more distal anchors are configured to extend perpendicular with respect to the central axis.

85. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 82–84, wherein the one or more distal anchors each include a proximal surface configured to engage the calcification.

86. The prosthetic valve of claim 85, wherein the one or more distal anchors include one or more barbs configured to engage the calcification and extending proximally from the respective proximal surface of the one or more anchors.

87. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 82–86, wherein the tip of the respective distal anchor is configured to be flexible.

88. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 81–87, wherein the one or more anchors include one or more barbs configured to engage the calcification and extending from an outer surface of the prosthetic valve that is configured to be positioned radially inward of native valve leaflets of the native valve.

89. The prosthetic valve of claim 88, wherein the one or more barbs are configured to pass through one or more of the native valve leaflets.

90. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 81–89, wherein the prosthetic valve is configured to be deployed to a mitral valve or a tricuspid valve.

91. A method comprising:

deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body, the prosthetic valve including:

a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets,

a frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets, and

one or more anchors coupled to the frame and configured to engage calcification of the native valve to anchor the prosthetic valve to the native valve; and

engaging the calcification with the one or more anchors.

92. The method of claim 91, further comprising positioning the one or more anchors distal of the calcification.

93. The method of claim 91 or claim 92, wherein the one or more anchors extend radially outward from the frame.

94. The method of any of claims 91–93, wherein the calcification is positioned radially outward of one or more native valve leaflets of the native valve.

95. The method of any of claims 91–94, wherein the prosthetic valve extends around a central axis and the one or more anchors comprise one or more distal anchors extending horizontally relative to the central axis to a tip of the respective distal anchor.

96. The method of claim 95, wherein the one or more distal anchors extend over a distal tip of a native valve leaflet and horizontally from the distal tip of the native valve leaflet to the tip of the respective distal anchor.

97. The method of any of claims 91–96, further comprising engaging the calcification by penetrating the calcification with the one or more anchors.

98. The method of claim 97, wherein the one or more anchors include one or more barbs, and the method includes penetrating the calcification with the one or more barbs.

99. The method of claim 98, wherein the one or more barbs extend from an outer surface of the prosthetic valve that is positioned radially inward of native valve leaflets of the native valve.

100. The method of any of claims 91–99, wherein the native valve is a mitral valve or a tricuspid valve.

101. A prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve, the prosthetic valve comprising:
a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets;
a frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets; and

one or more anchors coupled to the frame and each having a tip and configured to extend radially outward from the frame, each of the one or more anchors having a portion with a thickness tapering downward in a direction towards the tip of the anchor.

102. The prosthetic valve of claim 101, wherein the thickness tapers downward to the tip of the anchor.

103. The prosthetic valve of claim 101 or claim 102, wherein each of the one or more anchors includes a bend portion and an extension portion extending radially outward from the bend portion, and the thickness of the extension portion tapers downward towards the tip of the anchor.

104. The prosthetic valve of claim 103, wherein the thickness of the extension portion tapers downward to the tip of the anchor.

105. The prosthetic valve of claim 103 or claim 104, wherein a thickness of the bend portion tapers downward towards the tip of the anchor.

106. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 103–105, wherein each of the one or more anchors includes a proximal portion coupled to the frame and extending distally, and the bend portion comprises a curve configured to direct the tip proximally.

107. The prosthetic valve of claim 106, wherein the bend portion comprises a loop extending radially inward.

108. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 101–107, wherein the frame includes a proximal portion and a distal portion, and the one or more anchors are coupled to the distal portion of the frame.

109. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 101–108, wherein the one or more anchors are ventricular anchors configured to extend over a tip of a native leaflet of the native valve.

110. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 101–109, wherein the prosthetic valve is configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve.

111. A method comprising:

deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body, the prosthetic valve including:

a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets,

a frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets, and

one or more anchors coupled to the frame and each having a tip and configured to extend radially outward from the frame, each of the one or more anchors having a portion with a thickness tapering downward in a direction towards the tip of the anchor.

112. The method of claim 111, wherein the thickness tapers downward to the tip of the anchor.

113. The method of claim 111 or claim 112, wherein each of the one or more anchors includes a bend portion and an extension portion extending radially outward from the bend portion, and the thickness of the extension portion tapers downward towards the tip of the anchor.

114. The method of claim 113, wherein the thickness of the extension portion tapers downward to the tip of the anchor.

115. The method of claim 113 or claim 114, wherein a thickness of the bend portion tapers downward towards the tip of the anchor.

116. The method of any of claims 113–115, wherein each of the one or more anchors includes a proximal portion coupled to the frame and extending distally, and the bend portion comprises a curve configured to direct the tip proximally.

117. The method of claim 116, wherein the bend portion comprises a loop extending radially inward.

118. The method of any of claims 111–117, wherein the frame includes a proximal portion and a distal portion, and the one or more anchors are coupled to the distal portion of the frame.

119. The method of any of claims 111–118, wherein the one or more anchors are ventricular anchors configured to extend over a tip of a native leaflet of the native valve.

120. The method of any of claims 111–119, wherein the prosthetic valve is configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve.

121. A prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve, the prosthetic valve comprising:

a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets;

an inner frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets and including a proximal portion and a distal portion; and

a sealing body positioned radially outward of the inner frame and including an outer frame having a proximal portion coupled to the proximal portion of the inner frame and a distal portion including a plurality of strut cells forming a ring about the inner frame, the outer frame including a plurality of elongate strut arms extending from the proximal portion of the outer frame to the plurality of strut cells and at least one of the elongate strut arms including a deflection feature configured to allow the plurality of strut cells to deflect relative to the proximal portion of the outer frame.

122. The prosthetic valve of claim 121, wherein the prosthetic valve extends around a central axis and each of the elongate strut arms extends radially outward from the proximal portion of the outer frame in a plane of the central axis.

123. The prosthetic valve of claim 121 or claim 122, wherein the plurality of strut cells are joined to each other to form the ring about the inner frame.

124. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 121–123, wherein each of the plurality of strut cells includes four sides bounding an opening.

125. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 121–124, wherein the deflection feature includes an undulation in the elongate strut arm.

126. The prosthetic valve of claim 125, wherein the undulation extends circumferentially.

127. The prosthetic valve of claim 125, wherein the undulation extends radially.

128. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 125–127, wherein the deflection feature includes a first undulation and a second undulation in the elongate strut arm, with the first undulation extending circumferentially and the second undulation extending radially.

129. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 125–128, wherein the deflection feature includes a first undulation and a second undulation in the elongate strut arm, with a length of the first undulation being greater than the second undulation.

130. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 121–129, wherein the deflection feature includes one or more openings in the elongate strut arm.

131. The prosthetic valve of claim 130, wherein the one or more openings have an elongate shape extending along a length of the elongate strut arm.

132. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 121–131, wherein the deflection feature is configured to allow the plurality of strut cells to deflect to form a non-circular shape of the ring.

133. The prosthetic valve of claim 132, wherein the non-circular shape is an oval shape or a “D” shape.

134. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 121–133, wherein the deflection feature is configured to allow the plurality of strut cells to deflect to contour to a shape of an annulus of the native valve.

135. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 121–134, wherein the prosthetic valve is configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve.

136. A method comprising:

deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient’s body, the prosthetic valve including:

a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets,

an inner frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets and including a proximal portion and a distal portion, and

a sealing body positioned radially outward of the inner frame and including an outer frame having a proximal portion coupled to the proximal portion of the inner frame and a distal portion including a plurality of strut cells forming a ring about the inner frame, the outer frame including a plurality of elongate strut arms extending from the proximal portion of the outer frame to the plurality of strut cells and at least one of the elongate strut arms including a deflection feature configured to allow the plurality of strut cells to deflect relative to the proximal portion of the outer frame.

137. The method of claim 136, wherein the prosthetic valve extends around a central axis and each of the elongate strut arms extends radially outward from the proximal portion of the outer frame in a plane of the central axis.

138. The method of claim 136 or claim 137, wherein the deflection feature includes an undulation in the elongate strut arm.

139. The method of claim 138, wherein the undulation extends circumferentially or extends radially.

140. The method of claims 138 or claim 139, wherein the deflection feature includes a first undulation and a second undulation in the elongate strut arm, with the first undulation extending circumferentially and the second undulation extending radially.

141. The method of any of claims 138–140, wherein the deflection feature includes a first undulation and a second undulation in the elongate strut arm, with a length of the first undulation being greater than the second undulation.

142. The method of any of claims 136–141, wherein the deflection feature includes one or more openings in the elongate strut arm.

143. The method of any of claims 136–142, wherein the deflection feature allows the plurality of strut cells to deflect to form a non-circular shape of the ring.

144. The method of any of claims 136–143, wherein the deflection feature allows the plurality of strut cells to deflect to contour to a shape of an annulus of the native valve.

145. The method of any of claims 136–144, wherein the prosthetic valve is configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve.

146. A prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve, the prosthetic valve comprising:

a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets;

an inner frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets and including a proximal portion and a distal portion; and

an outer frame positioned radially outward of the inner frame and including a plurality of struts, at least one of the plurality of struts having an undulation or an opening configured to increase a flexibility of the outer frame.

147. The prosthetic valve of claim 146, wherein the outer frame is configured for sealing with a portion of the native valve.

148. The prosthetic valve of claim 146 or claim 147, further comprising a skirt coupled to the outer frame for forming a seal with a portion of the native valve.

149. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 146–148, wherein the undulation extends circumferentially or extends radially.

150. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 146–149, wherein the at least one of the plurality of struts includes a first undulation and a second undulation, with a length of the first undulation being greater than the second undulation.

151. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 146–150, wherein the opening has an elongate shape extending along a length of the at least one of the plurality of struts.

152. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 146–151, wherein the outer frame has a proximal portion and a distal portion including a plurality of strut cells forming a ring about the inner frame, and the at least one of the plurality of struts comprises an elongate strut arm extending from the proximal portion of the outer frame to the plurality of strut cells.

153. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 146–152, wherein the undulation or the opening is configured to allow the outer frame to deflect to form a non-circular shape.

154. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 146–153, wherein the undulation or the opening is configured to allow the outer frame to deflect to contour to a shape of an annulus of the native valve.

155. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 146–154, wherein the prosthetic valve is configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve.

156. A method comprising:

deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body, the prosthetic valve including:

a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets,

an inner frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets and including a proximal portion and a distal portion, and

an outer frame positioned radially outward of the inner frame and including a plurality of struts, at least one of the plurality of struts having an undulation or an opening configured to increase a flexibility of the outer frame.

157. The method of claim 156, wherein the outer frame is configured for sealing with a portion of the native valve.

158. The method of claim 156 or claim 157, further comprising a skirt coupled to the outer frame for forming a seal with a portion of the native valve.

159. The method of any of claims 156–158, wherein the undulation extends circumferentially or extends radially.

160. The method of any of claims 156–159, wherein the at least one of the plurality of struts includes a first undulation and a second undulation, with a length of the first undulation being greater than the second undulation.

161. The method of any of claims 156–160, wherein the opening has an elongate shape extending along a length of the at least one of the plurality of struts.

162. The method of any of claims 156–161, wherein the outer frame has a proximal portion and a distal portion including a plurality of strut cells forming a ring about the inner frame, and the at least one of the plurality of struts comprises an elongate strut arm extending from the proximal portion of the outer frame to the plurality of strut cells.

163. The method of any of claims 156–162, wherein the undulation or the opening is configured to allow the outer frame to deflect to form a non-circular shape.

164. The method of any of claims 156–163, wherein the undulation or the opening is configured to allow the outer frame to deflect to contour to a shape of an annulus of the native valve.

165. The method of any of claims 156–164, wherein the prosthetic valve is configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve.

166. A prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve, the prosthetic valve comprising:

a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets; and

a frame coupled to the prosthetic valve leaflets, the frame including a proximal end and a distal end and a plurality of struts joined at junctures, at least one of the plurality of struts extending in a direction from the proximal end towards the distal end and including a first segment extending along a first axis, a second segment, and a third segment extending along a second axis, and a first kink joining the first segment to the second segment at an angle, and a second kink joining the second segment to the third segment at an angle, with the second axis being offset from the first axis.

167. The prosthetic valve of claim 166, wherein the first segment is an end segment coupled to a first juncture of the frame, and the third segment is an end segment coupled to a second juncture of the frame.

168. The prosthetic valve of claim 166 or claim 167, wherein the first axis extends parallel with the second axis.

169. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 166–168, wherein the prosthetic valve extends around a central axis and the first axis and the second axis both extend parallel with the central axis.

170. The prosthetic valve of claim 169, wherein the second segment extends at an angle with respect to the central axis.

171. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 166–170, wherein the at least one of the plurality of struts is a first strut, and the frame includes a second strut positioned adjacent to the first strut and including a first segment extending along a third axis, a second segment, and a third segment extending along a fourth axis, and a first kink joining the first segment to the second segment at an angle such that the second segment extends towards the first strut, and a second kink joining the second segment to the third segment at an angle, with the fourth axis being offset from the third axis.

172. The prosthetic valve of claim 171, wherein the third segment of the first strut joins to the third segment of the second strut at a juncture.

173. The prosthetic valve of claim 171 or claim 172, wherein the frame includes a pattern of the first strut adjacent to the second strut, the pattern repeating circumferentially about the frame.

174. The prosthetic valve of claim 173, wherein the frame includes a proximal portion and a distal portion, the distal portion including the first strut and the second strut, and the proximal portion including a plurality of struts comprising inversions of the first strut and the second strut.

175. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 171–174, wherein the first segment of the first strut joins to a third strut at a juncture, the third strut positioned adjacent to the first strut and including a first segment extending along a fifth axis, a second segment, and a third segment extending along a sixth axis, and a first kink joining the first segment to the second segment at an angle such that the second segment extends away from the first strut, and a second kink joining the second segment to the third segment at an angle, with the fifth axis being offset from the sixth axis.

176. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 171–175, wherein the first strut is configured to be drawn to the second strut upon radial compression of the frame.

177. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 171–176, wherein the second kink of the first strut is configured to contact the second kink of the second strut upon radial compression of the frame.

178. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 166–177, wherein the frame has a cylindrical shape and surrounds the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets.

179. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 166–178, wherein the frame is an outer frame configured to surround an inner frame supporting the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets.

180. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 166–179, wherein the prosthetic valve is configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve.

181. A method comprising:

deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body, the prosthetic valve including:

a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets, and

a frame coupled to the prosthetic valve leaflets, the frame including a proximal end and a distal end and a plurality of struts joined at junctures, at least one of the plurality of struts extending in a direction from the proximal end towards the distal end and including a first segment extending along a first axis, a second segment, and a third segment extending along a second axis, and a first kink joining the first segment to the second segment at an angle, and a second kink joining the second segment to the third segment at an angle, with the second axis being offset from the first axis.

182. The method of claim 181, wherein the first segment is an end segment coupled to a first juncture of the frame, and the third segment is an end segment coupled to a second juncture of the frame.

183. The method of claim 181 or claim 182, wherein the first axis extends parallel with the second axis.

184. The method of any of claims 181–183, wherein the prosthetic valve extends around a central axis and the first axis and the second axis both extend parallel with the central axis.

185. The method of any of claims 181–184, wherein the at least one of the plurality of struts is a first strut, and the frame includes a second strut positioned adjacent to the first strut and including a first segment extending along a third axis, a second segment, and a third segment extending along a fourth axis, and a first kink joining the first segment to the second segment at an angle such that the second segment extends towards the first strut, and a second kink joining the second segment to the third segment at an angle, with the fourth axis being offset from the third axis.

186. The method of claim 185, wherein the frame includes a pattern of the first strut adjacent to the second strut, the pattern repeating circumferentially about the frame.

187. The method of claim 185 or claim 186, wherein the frame includes a proximal portion and a distal portion, the distal portion including the first strut and the second strut, and the proximal portion including a plurality of struts comprising inversions of the first strut and the second strut.

188. The method of claim any of claims 185–187, wherein the second kink of the first strut is configured to contact the second kink of the second strut upon radial compression of the frame.

189. The method of any of claims 181–188, wherein the frame has a cylindrical shape and surrounds the plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets.

190. The method of any of claims 181–189, wherein the prosthetic valve is configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve.

191. A prosthetic valve configured to be deployed to a native valve, the prosthetic valve comprising:

a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets;

an inner frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets;

a sealing body positioned radially outward of the inner frame and including an outer frame having a proximal portion extending radially outward from the inner frame and a distal portion curving axially from the proximal portion and extending axially to a distal end of the outer frame; and

a plurality of anchors extending radially outward from the distal portion of the outer frame and configured to impede distal movement of the outer frame.

192. The prosthetic valve of claim 191, wherein a curved portion of the distal portion of the outer frame curves axially from the proximal portion, and the plurality of anchors extend radially outward from the curved portion.

193. The prosthetic valve of claim 192, wherein the curved portion curves radially inward to form a shoulder of the outer frame.

194. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 191–193, wherein the inner frame includes a proximal portion and a distal portion, and the proximal portion of the outer frame couples to the proximal portion of the inner frame.

195. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 191–194, wherein the plurality of anchors are integral with the outer frame.

196. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 191–195, wherein the outer frame includes a plurality of struts joined at junctures, and the plurality of anchors are coupled to the junctures.

197. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 191–196, wherein each of the plurality of anchors comprise an arm deflected radially outward from the outer frame.

198. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 191–197, further comprising distal anchors coupled to the inner frame and configured to extend over a tip of a native leaflet of the native valve.

199. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 191–198, wherein the prosthetic valve is configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve.

200. The prosthetic valve of any of claims 191–199, wherein the plurality of anchors comprise atrial anchors configured to be positioned on an atrial side of a native valve.

201. A method comprising:

deploying a prosthetic valve to a native valve of a patient's body, the prosthetic valve including:

a plurality of prosthetic valve leaflets,

an inner frame supporting the prosthetic valve leaflets,

a sealing body positioned radially outward of the inner frame and including an outer frame having a proximal portion extending radially outward from the inner frame and a distal portion curving axially from the proximal portion and extending axially to a distal end of the outer frame, and

a plurality of anchors extending radially outward from the distal portion of the outer frame and configured to impede distal movement of the outer frame.

202. The method of claim 201, wherein a curved portion of the distal portion of the outer frame curves axially from the proximal portion, and the plurality of anchors extend radially outward from the curved portion.

203. The method of claim 202, wherein the curved portion curves radially inward to form a shoulder of the outer frame.

204. The method of any of claims 201–203, wherein the inner frame includes a proximal portion and a distal portion, and the proximal portion of the outer frame couples to the proximal portion of the inner frame.

205. The method of any of claims 201–204, wherein the plurality of anchors are integral with the outer frame.

206. The method of any of claims 201–205, wherein the outer frame includes a plurality of struts joined at junctures, and the plurality of anchors are coupled to the junctures.

207. The method of any of claims 201–206, wherein each of the plurality of anchors comprise an arm deflected radially outward from the outer frame.

208. The method of any of claims 201–207, further comprising distal anchors coupled to the inner frame and configured to extend over a tip of a native leaflet of the native valve.

209. The method of any of claims 201–208, wherein the prosthetic valve is configured to be deployed to a native mitral valve or a native tricuspid valve.

210. The method of any of claims 201–209, wherein the plurality of anchors comprise atrial anchors positioned on an atrial side of a native valve.

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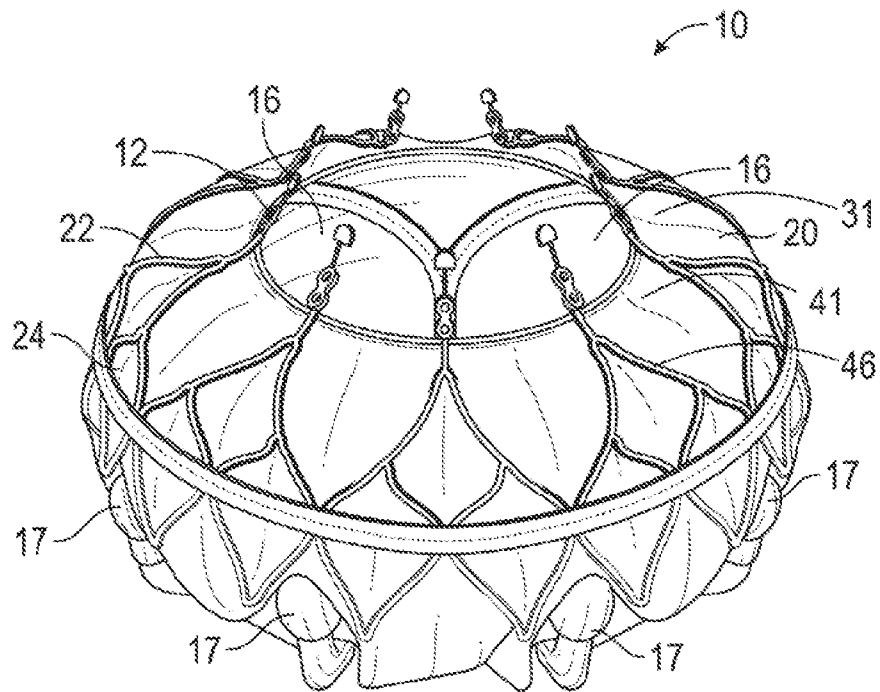


FIG. 1

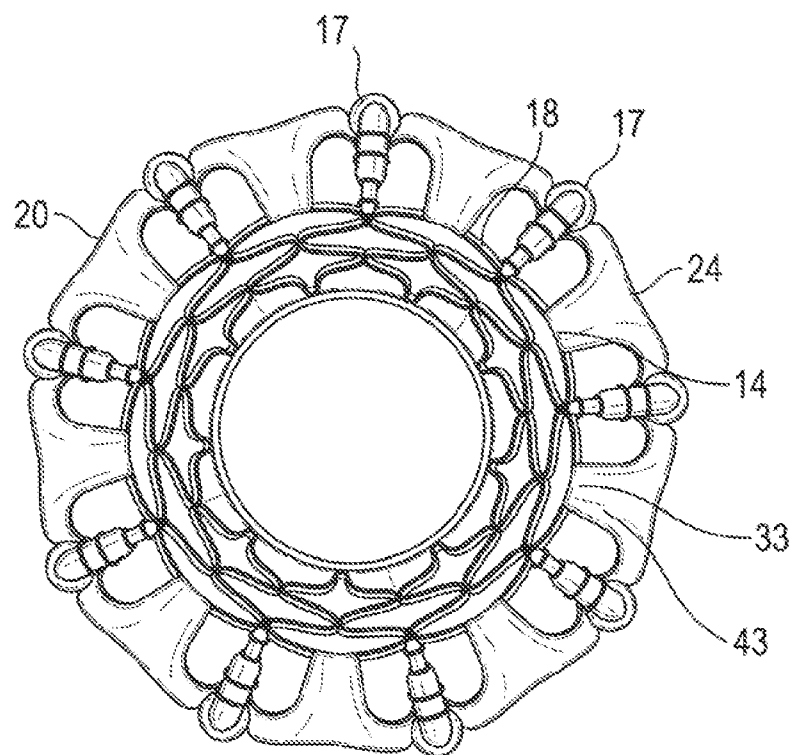


FIG. 2

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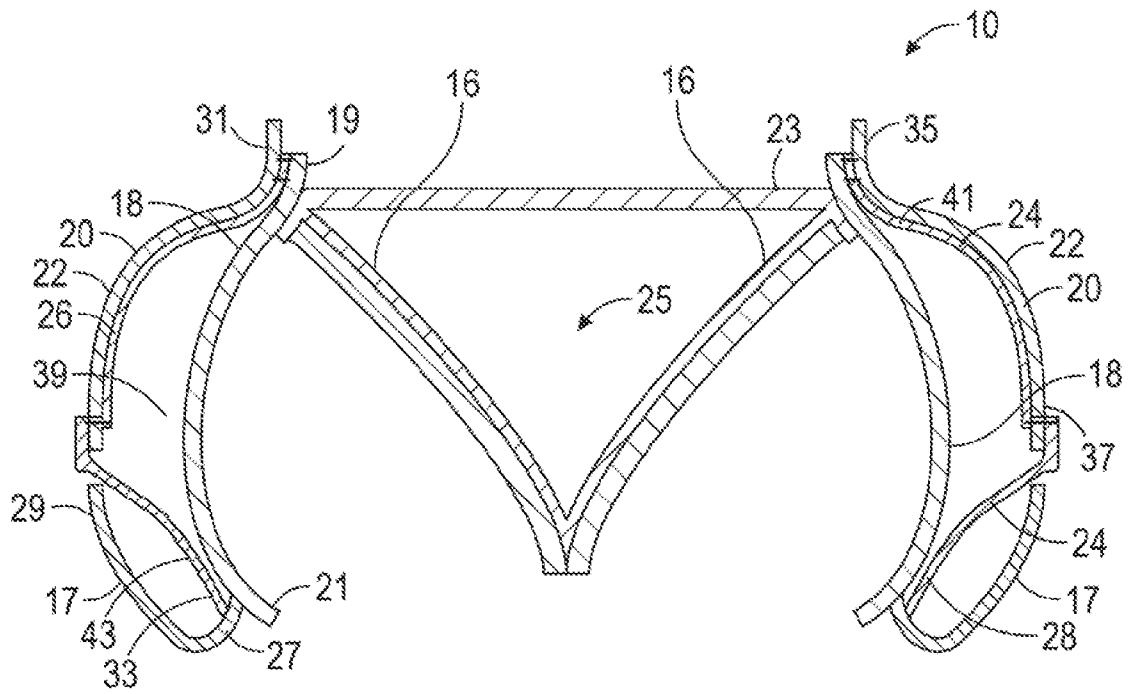


FIG. 3

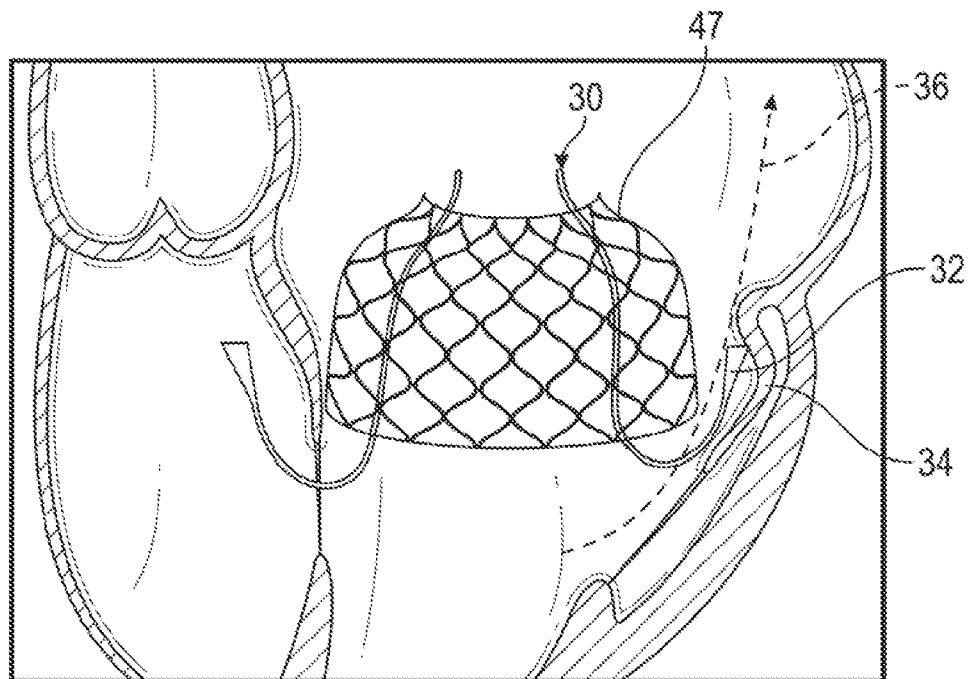


FIG. 4

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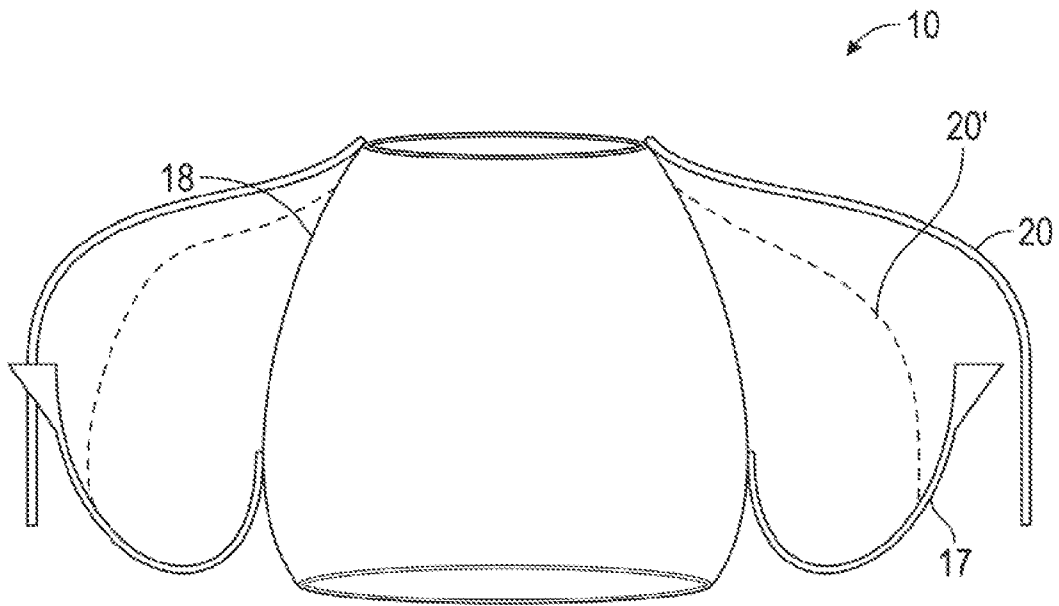


FIG. 5

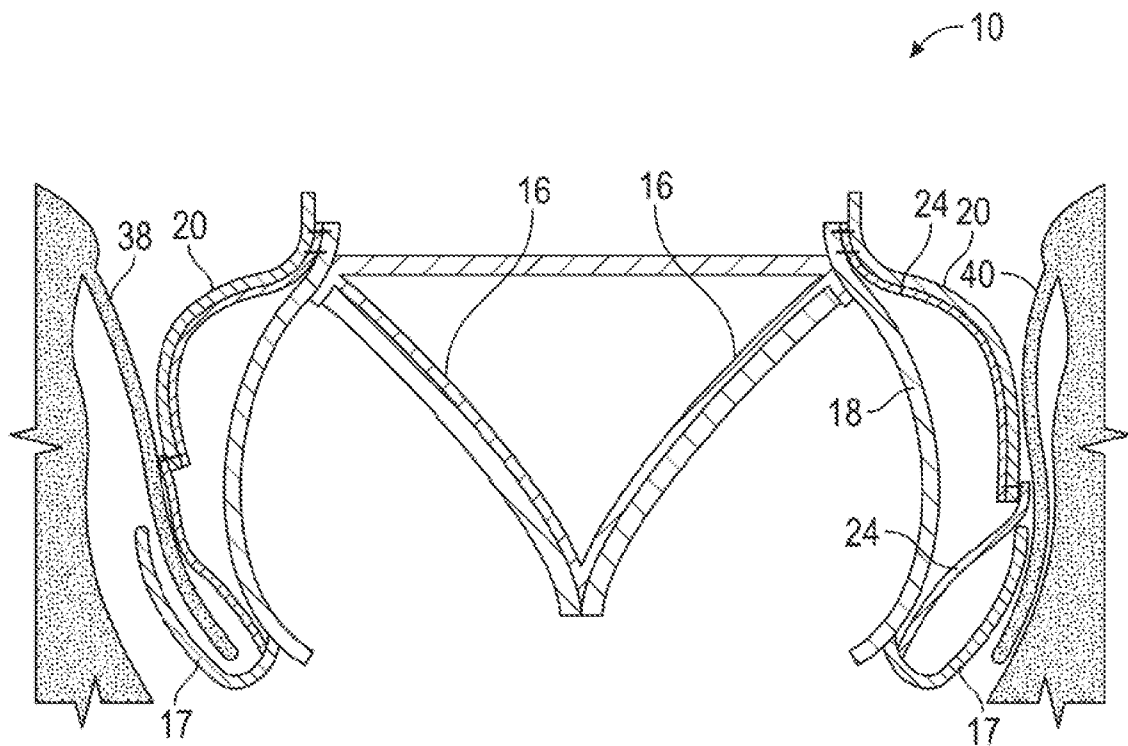


FIG. 6

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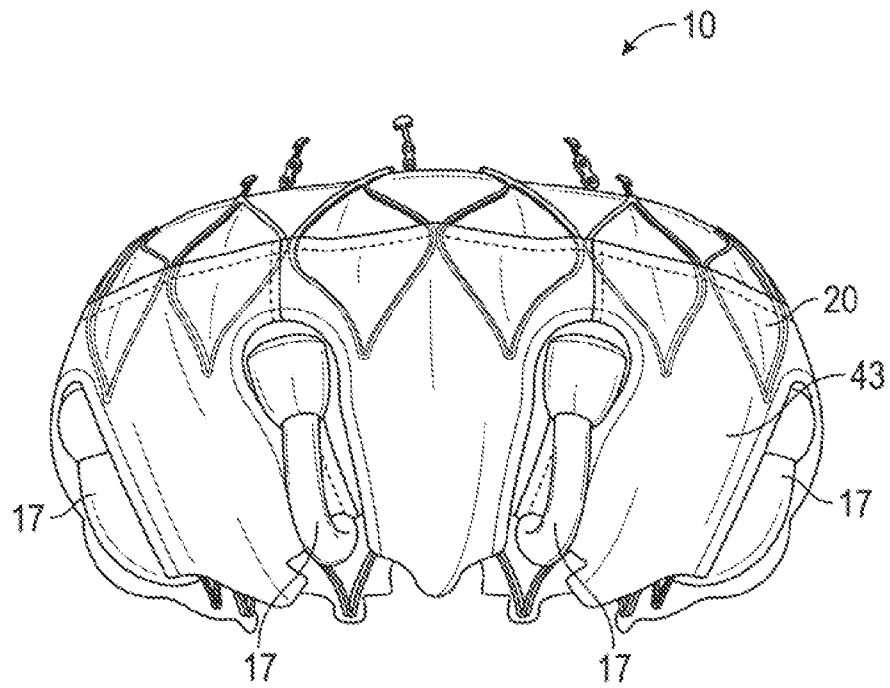


FIG. 7

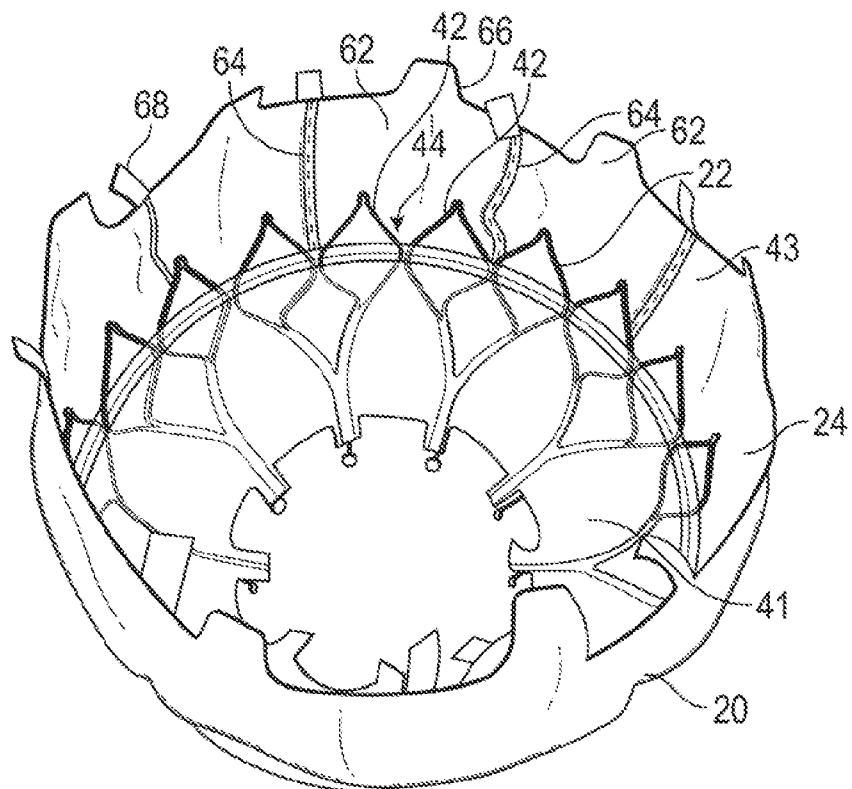


FIG. 8

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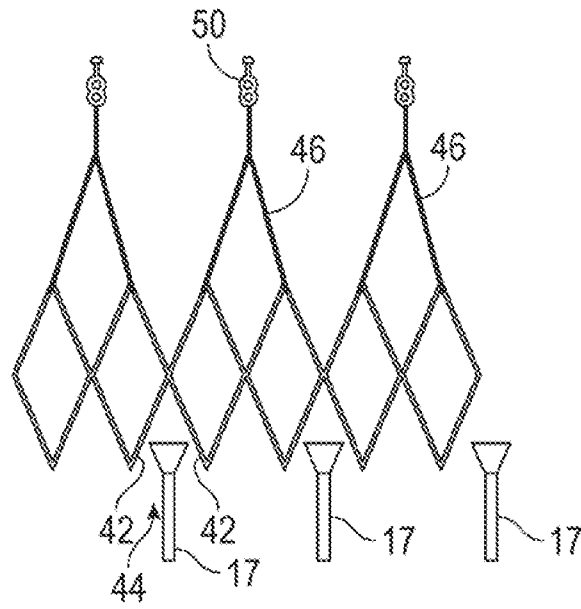


FIG. 9

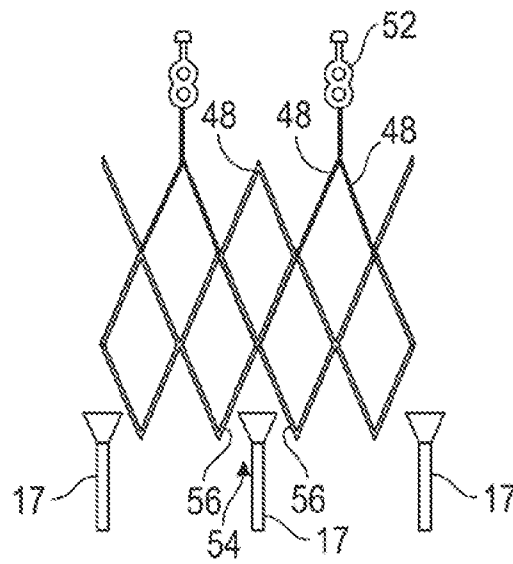


FIG. 10

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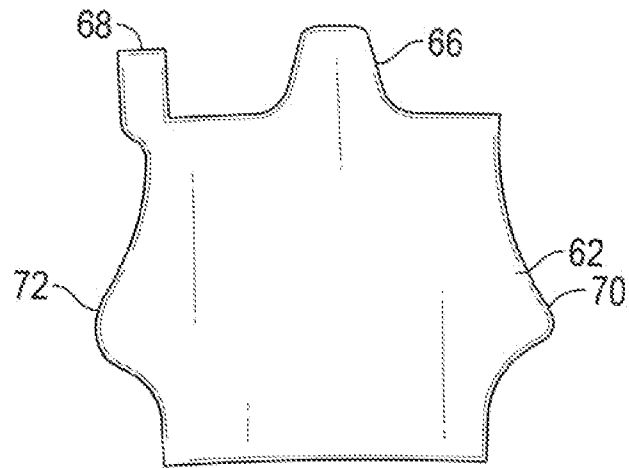


FIG. 11

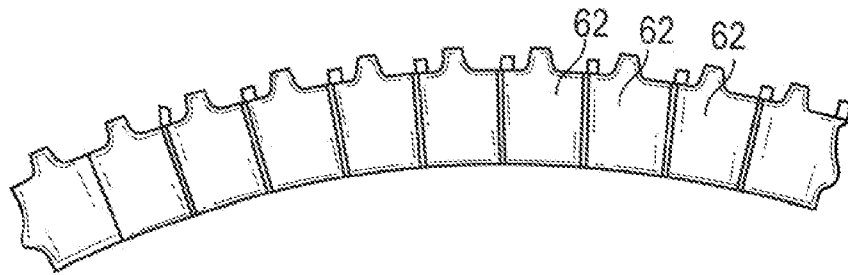


FIG. 12

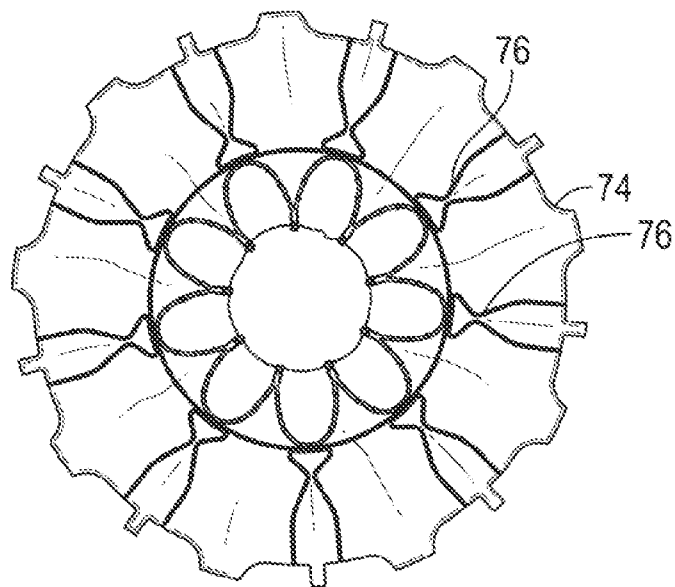


FIG. 13

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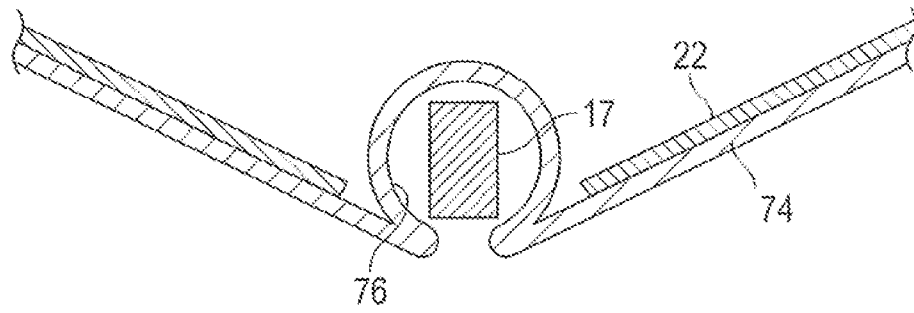


FIG. 14

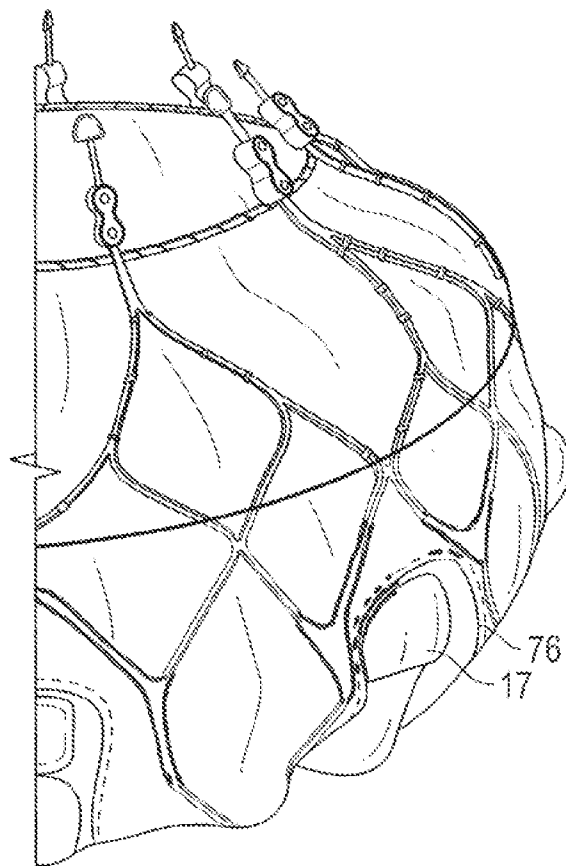


FIG. 15

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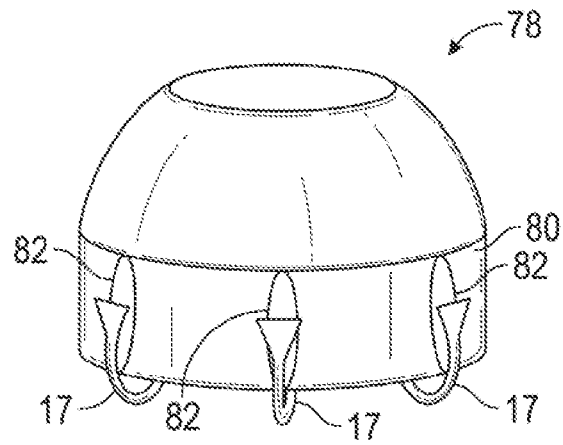


FIG. 16

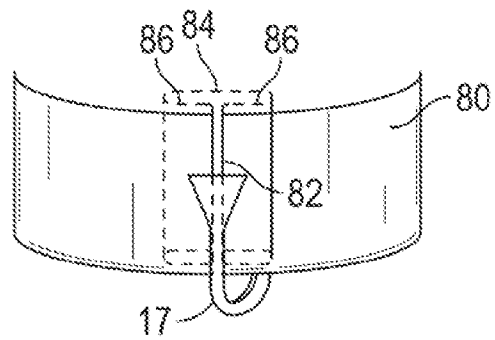


FIG. 17

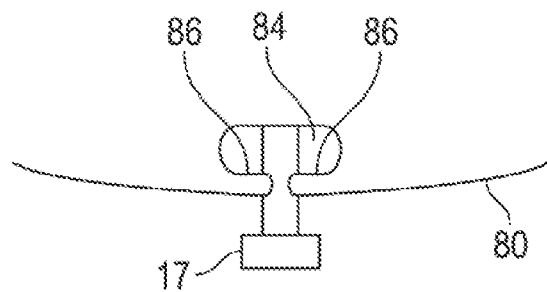


FIG. 18

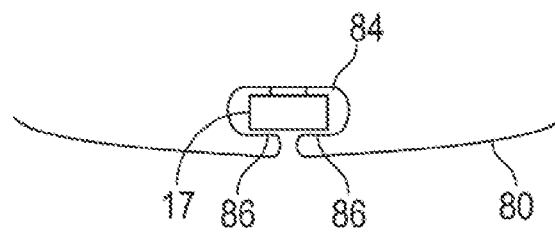


FIG. 19

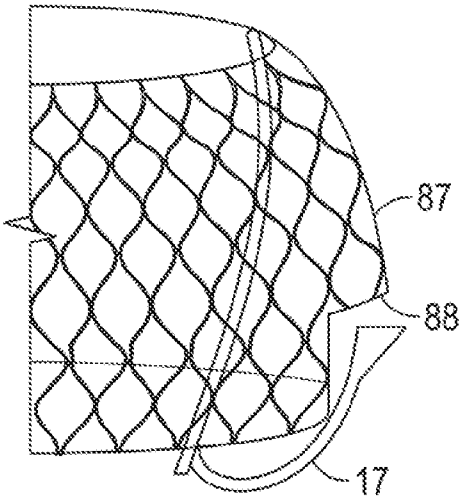


FIG. 20

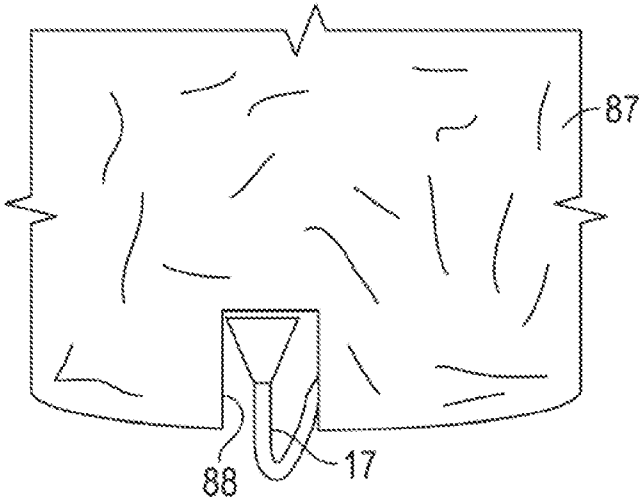


FIG. 21

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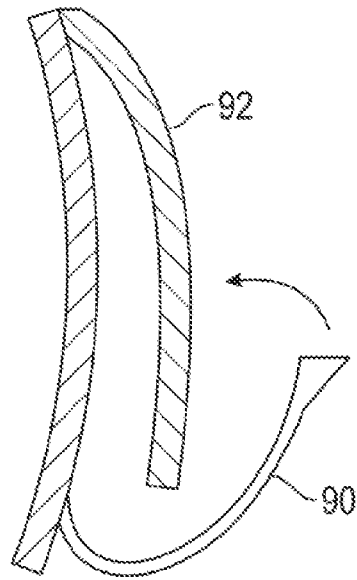


FIG. 22

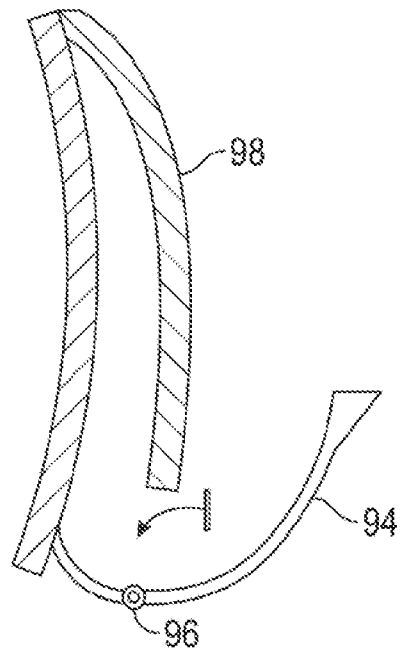


FIG. 23

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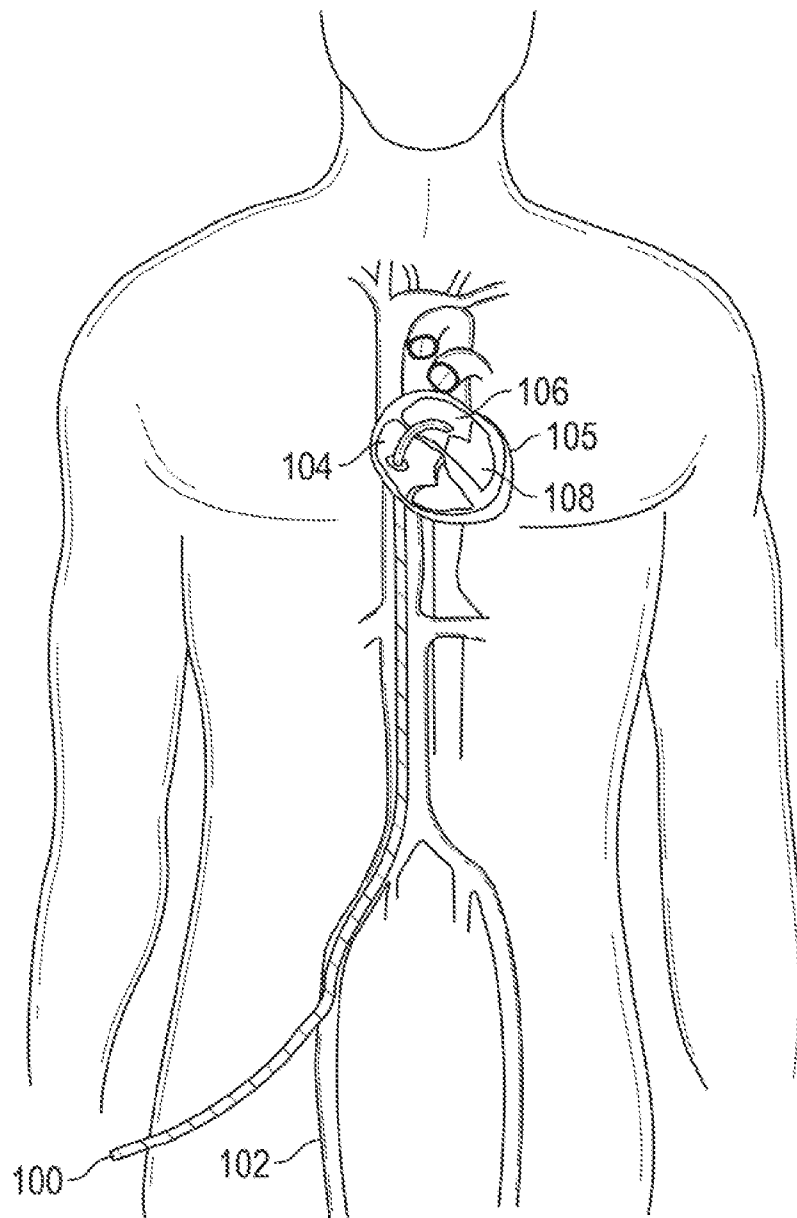


FIG. 24

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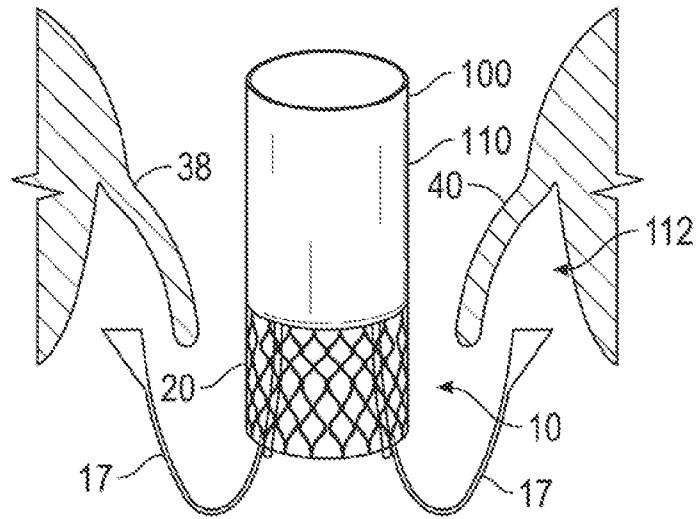


FIG. 25

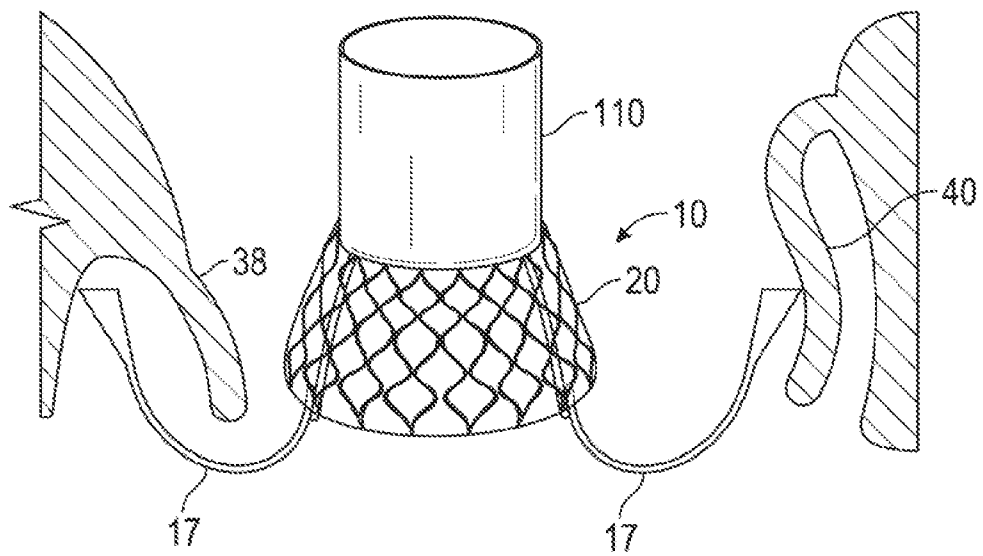


FIG. 26

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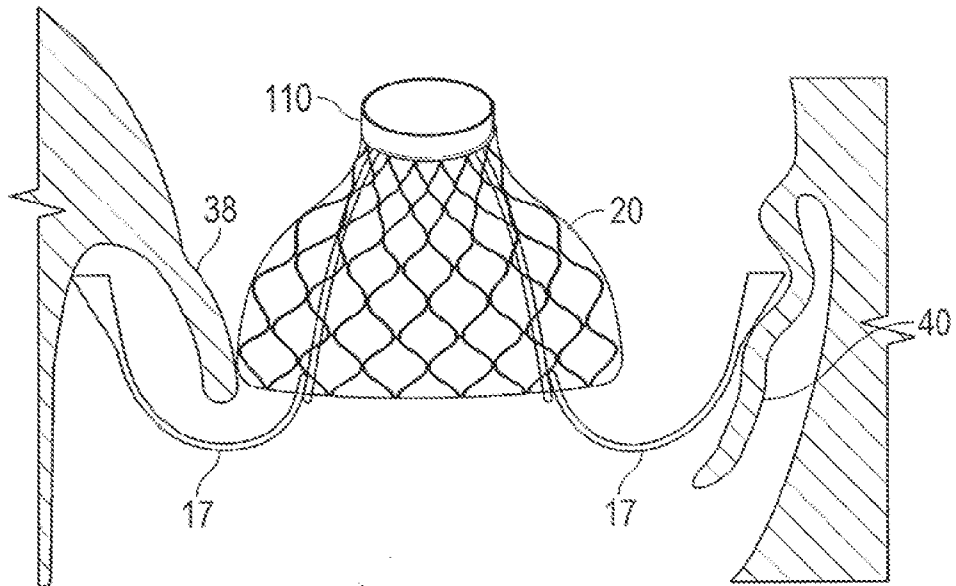


FIG. 27

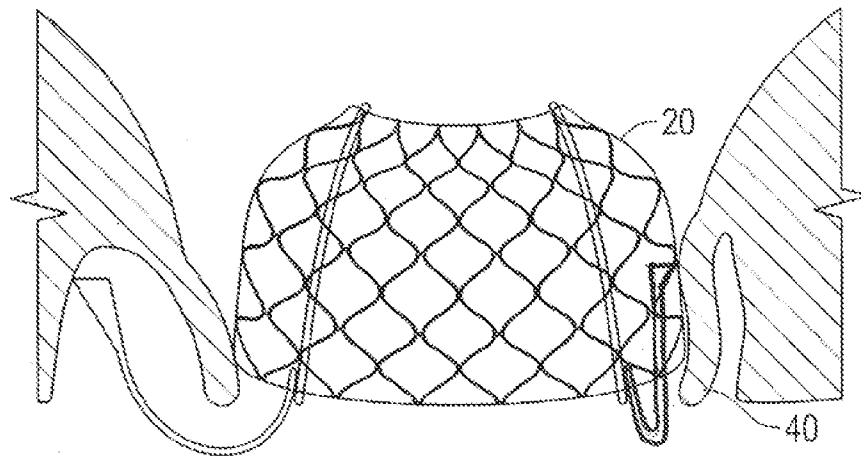


FIG. 28

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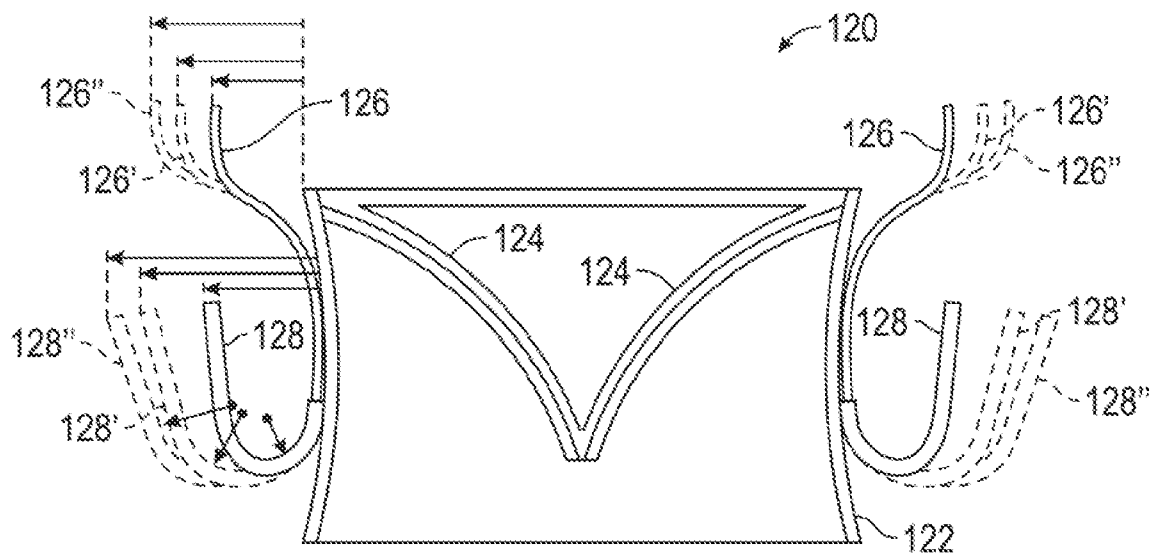


FIG. 29

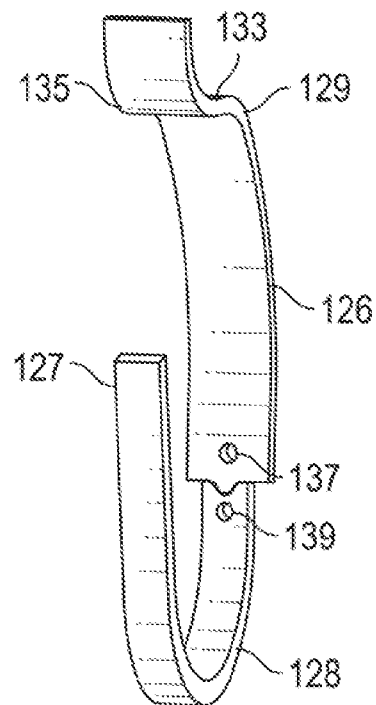


FIG. 30

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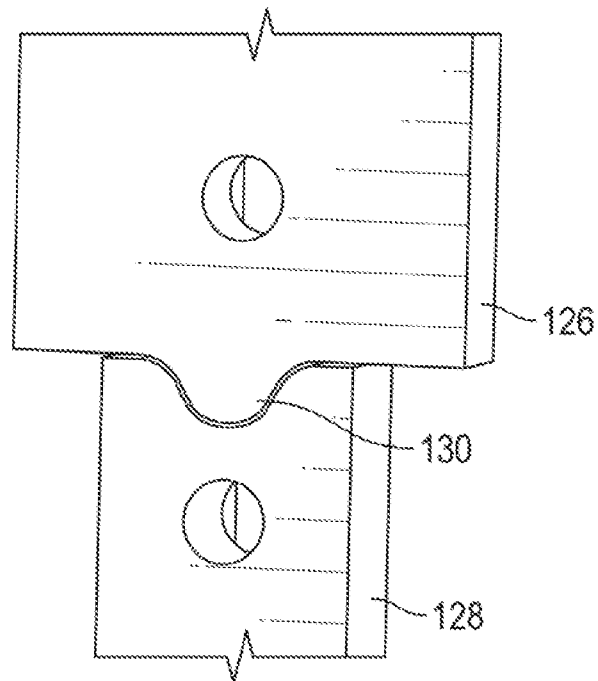


FIG. 31

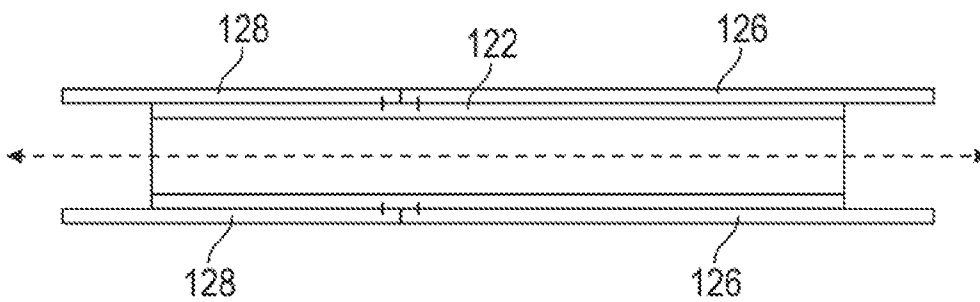


FIG. 32

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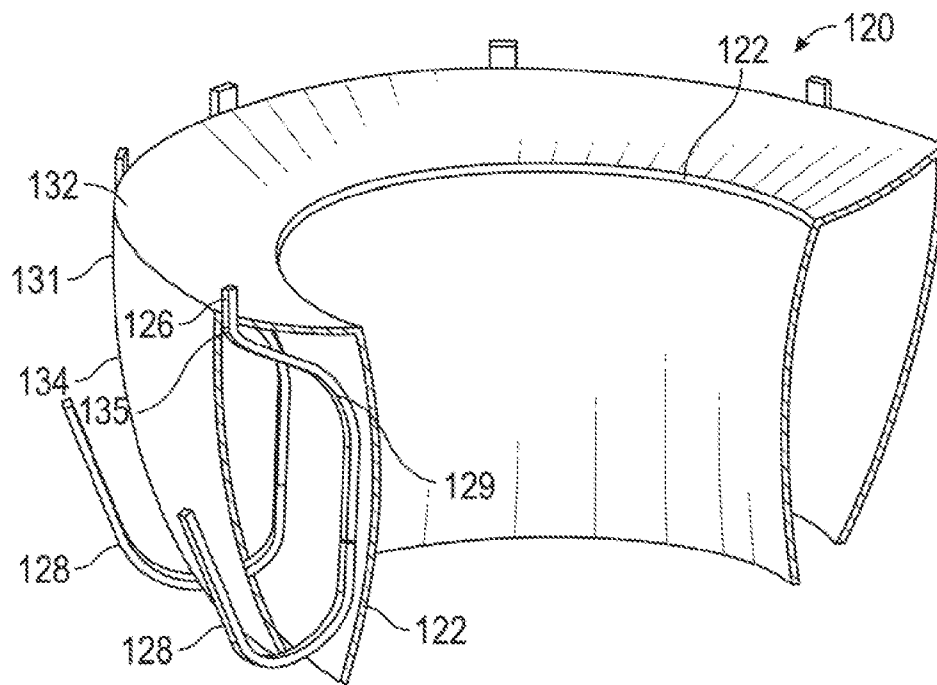


FIG. 33

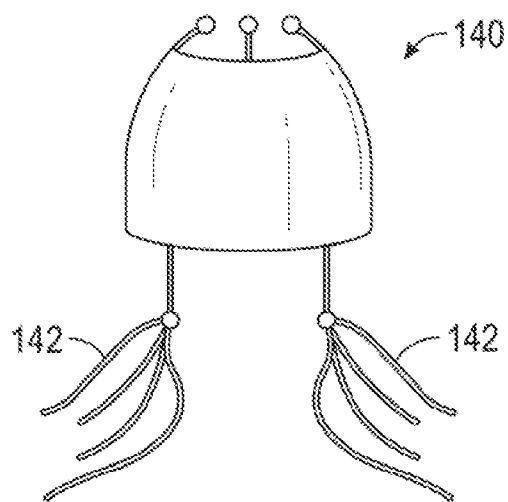


FIG. 34

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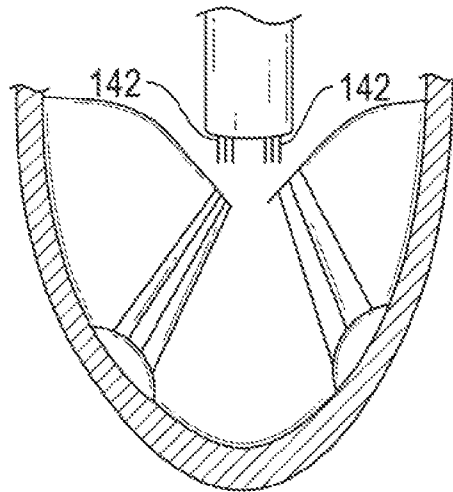


FIG. 35

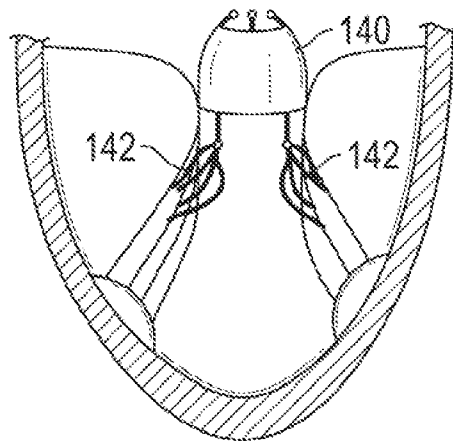


FIG. 36

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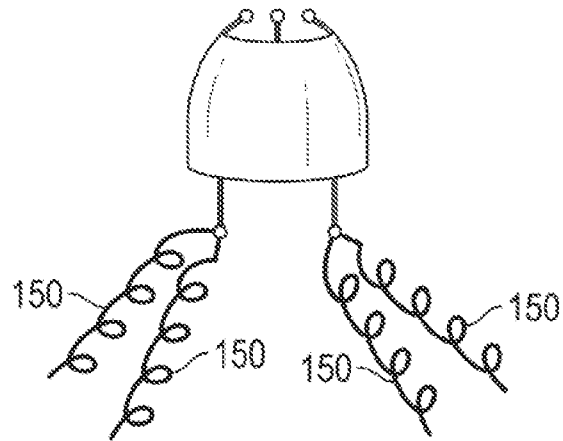


FIG. 37

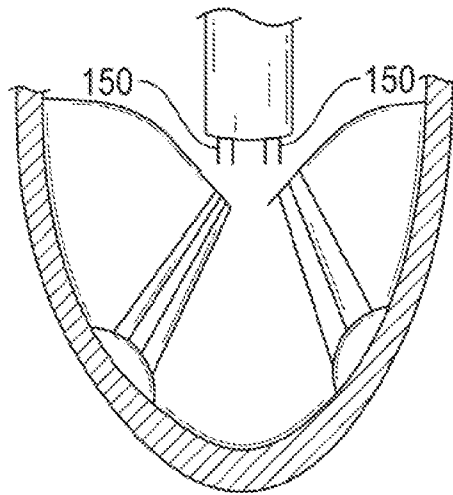


FIG. 38

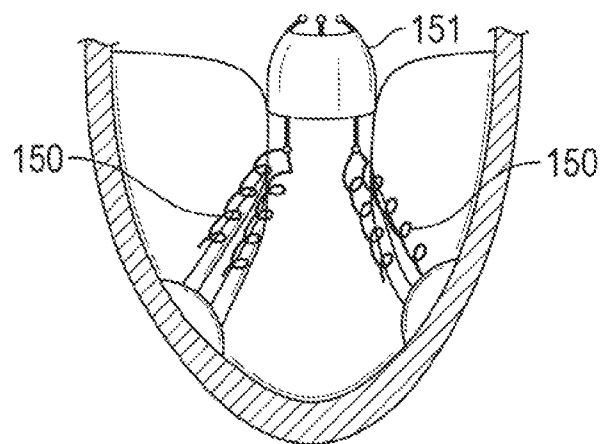


FIG. 39

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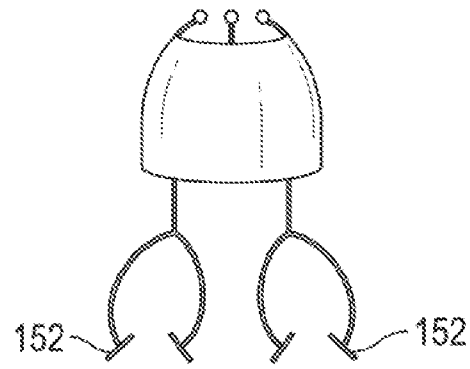


FIG. 40

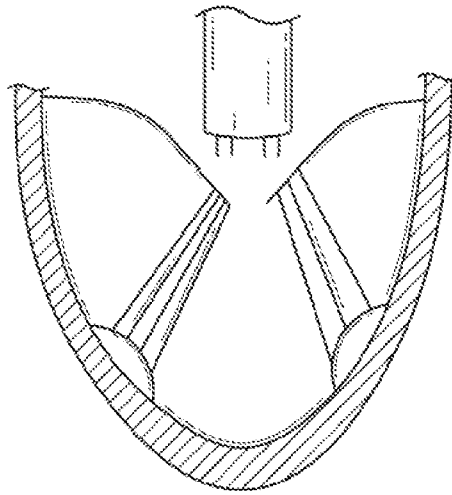


FIG. 41

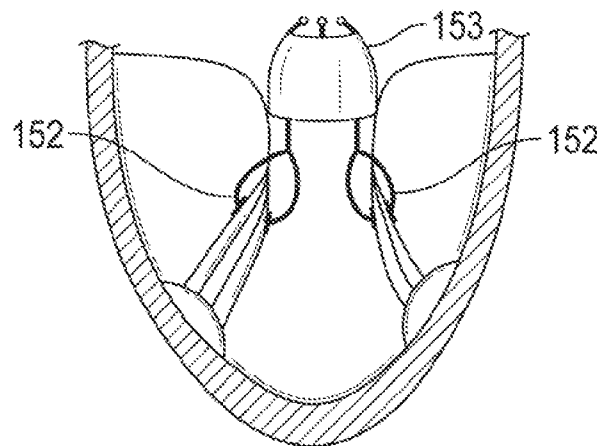


FIG. 42

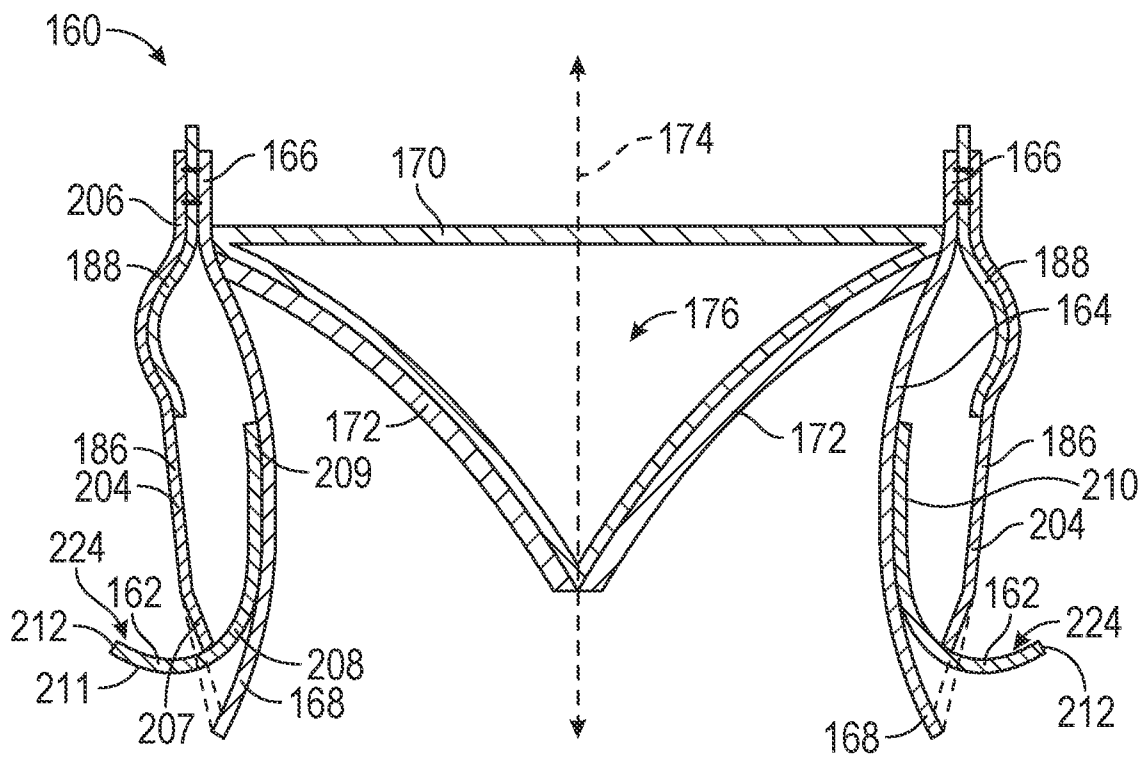


FIG. 43

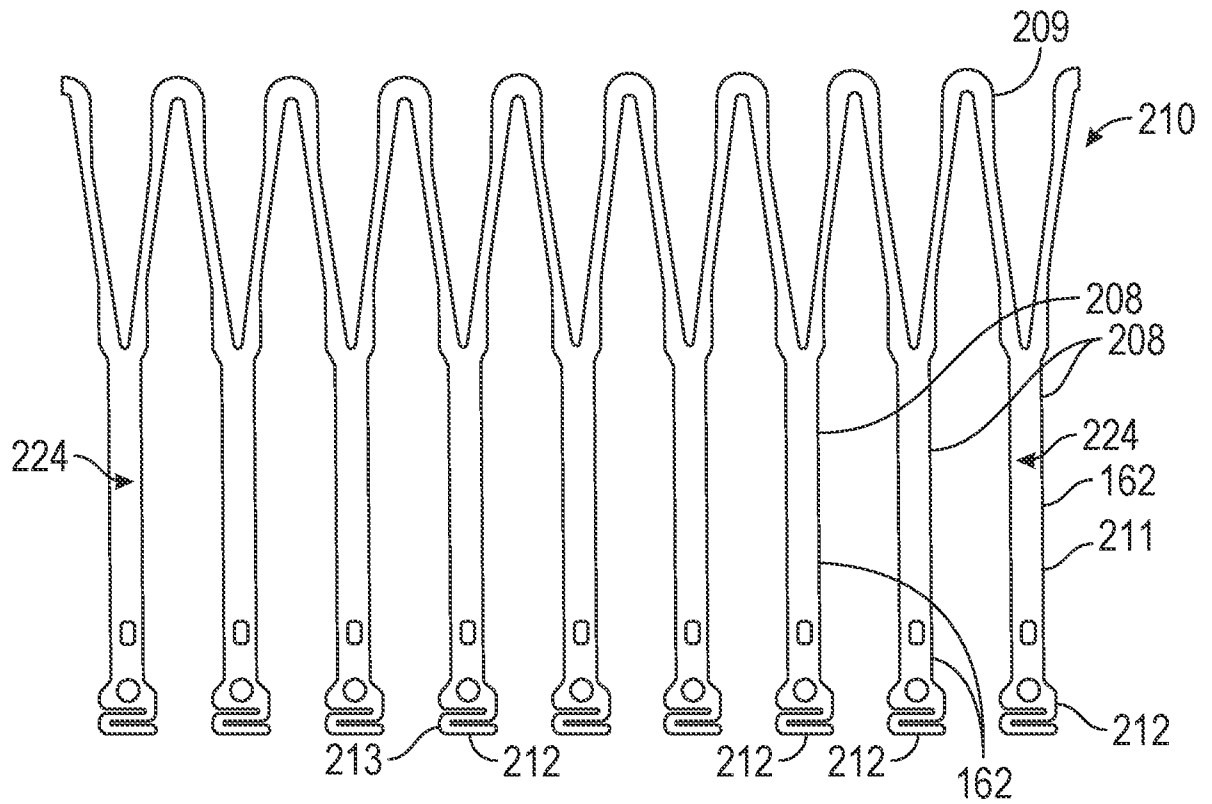


FIG. 44

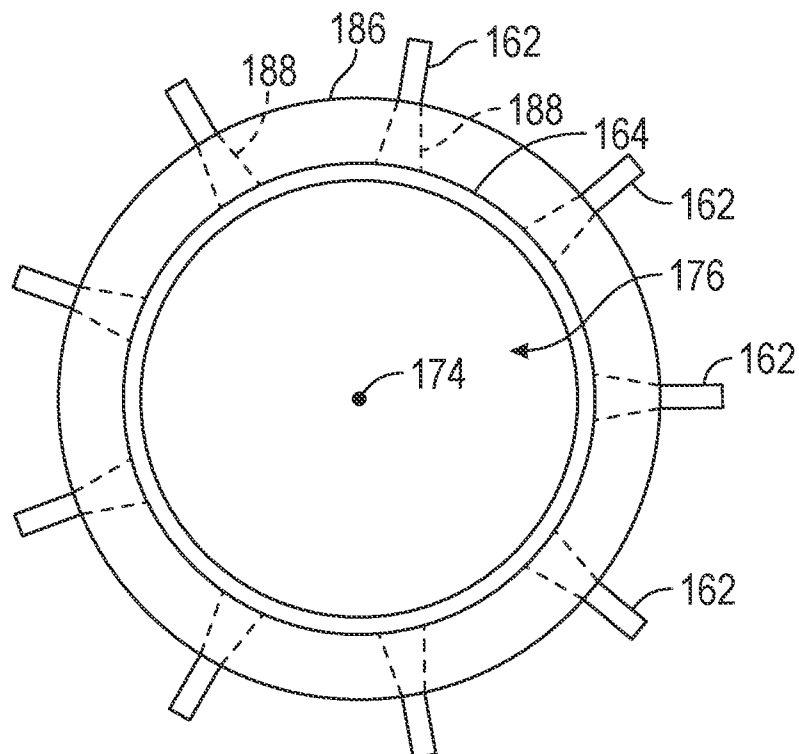


FIG. 45

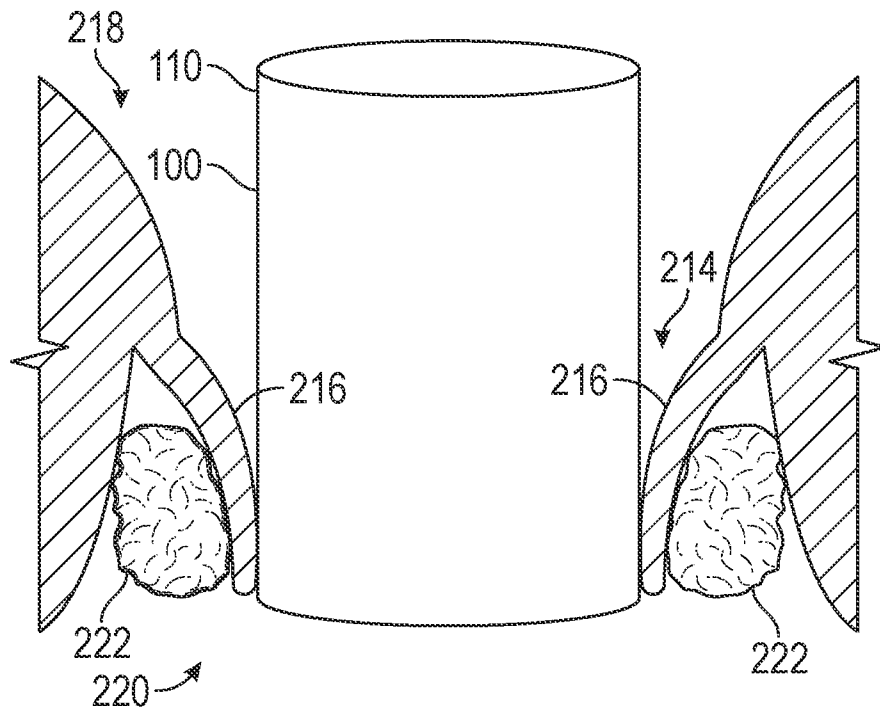


FIG. 46

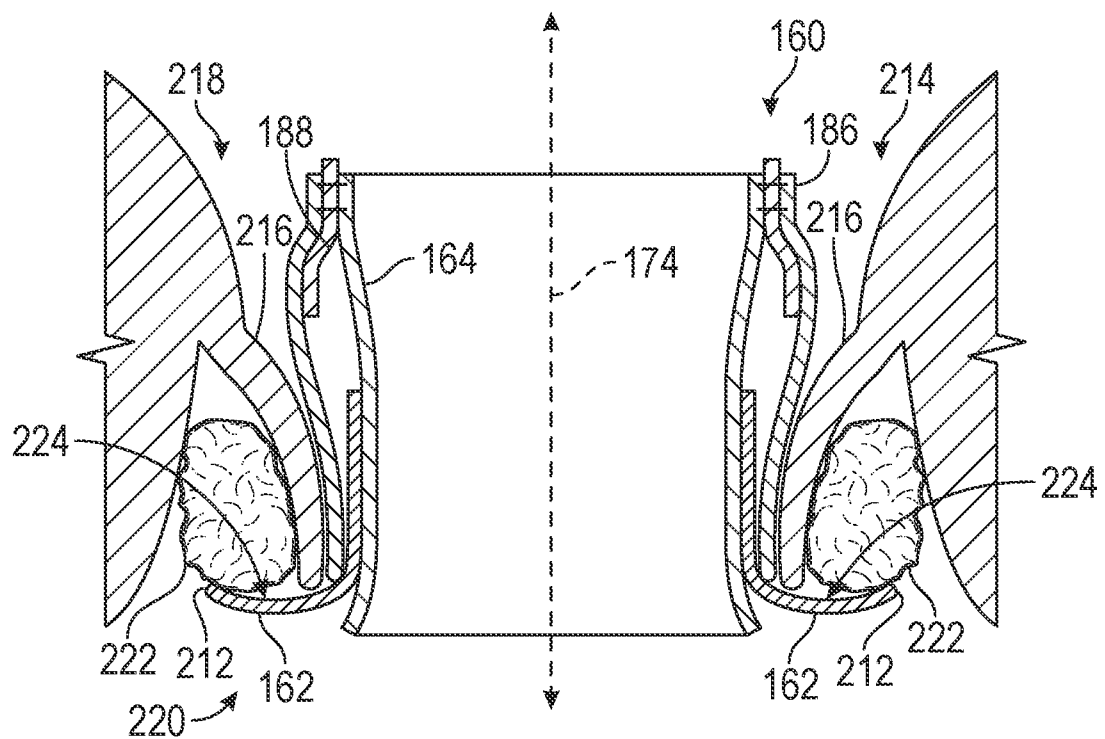


FIG. 47

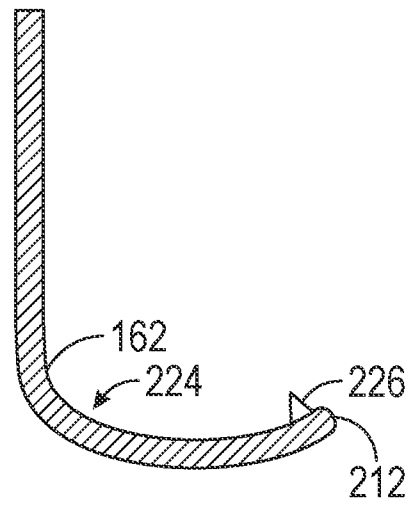


FIG. 48

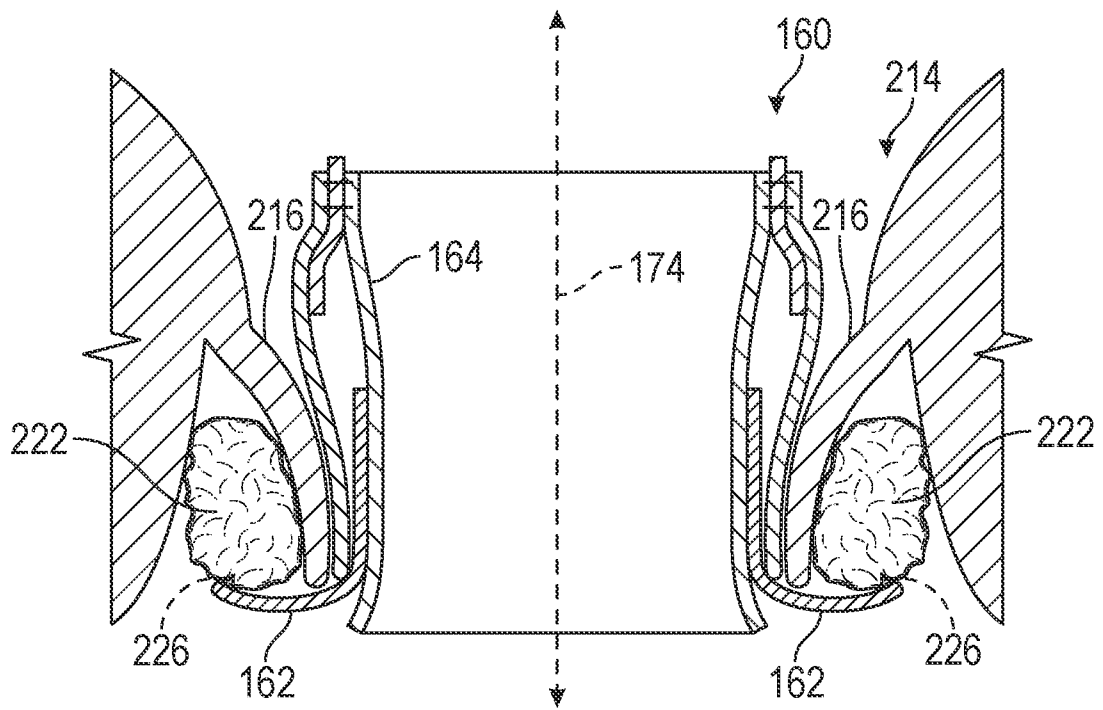


FIG. 49

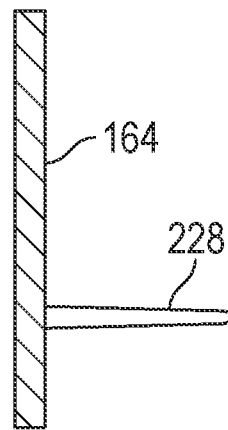


FIG. 50

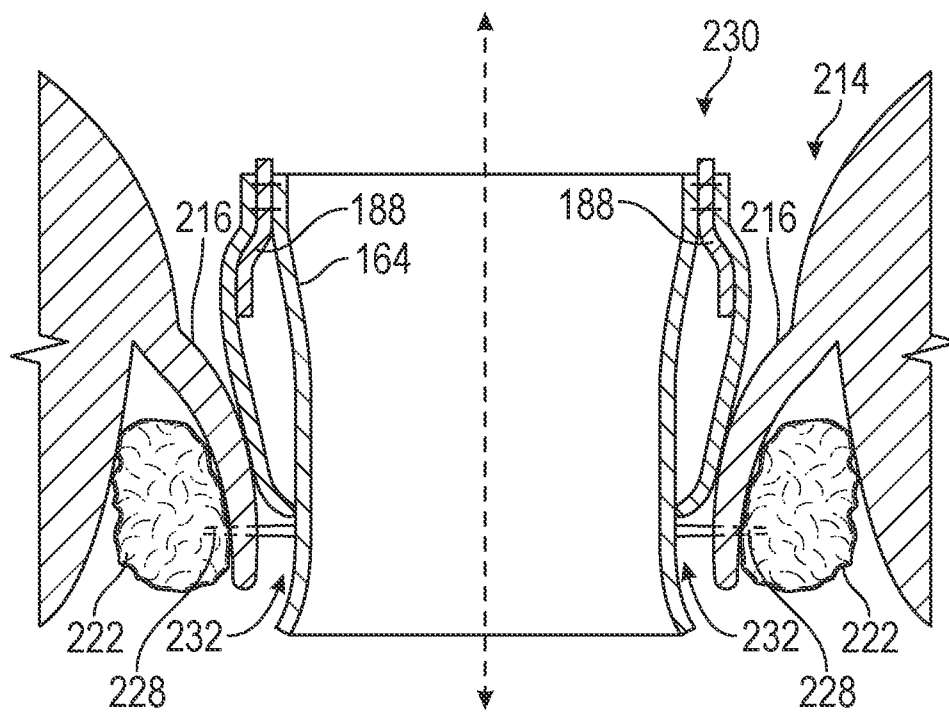


FIG. 51

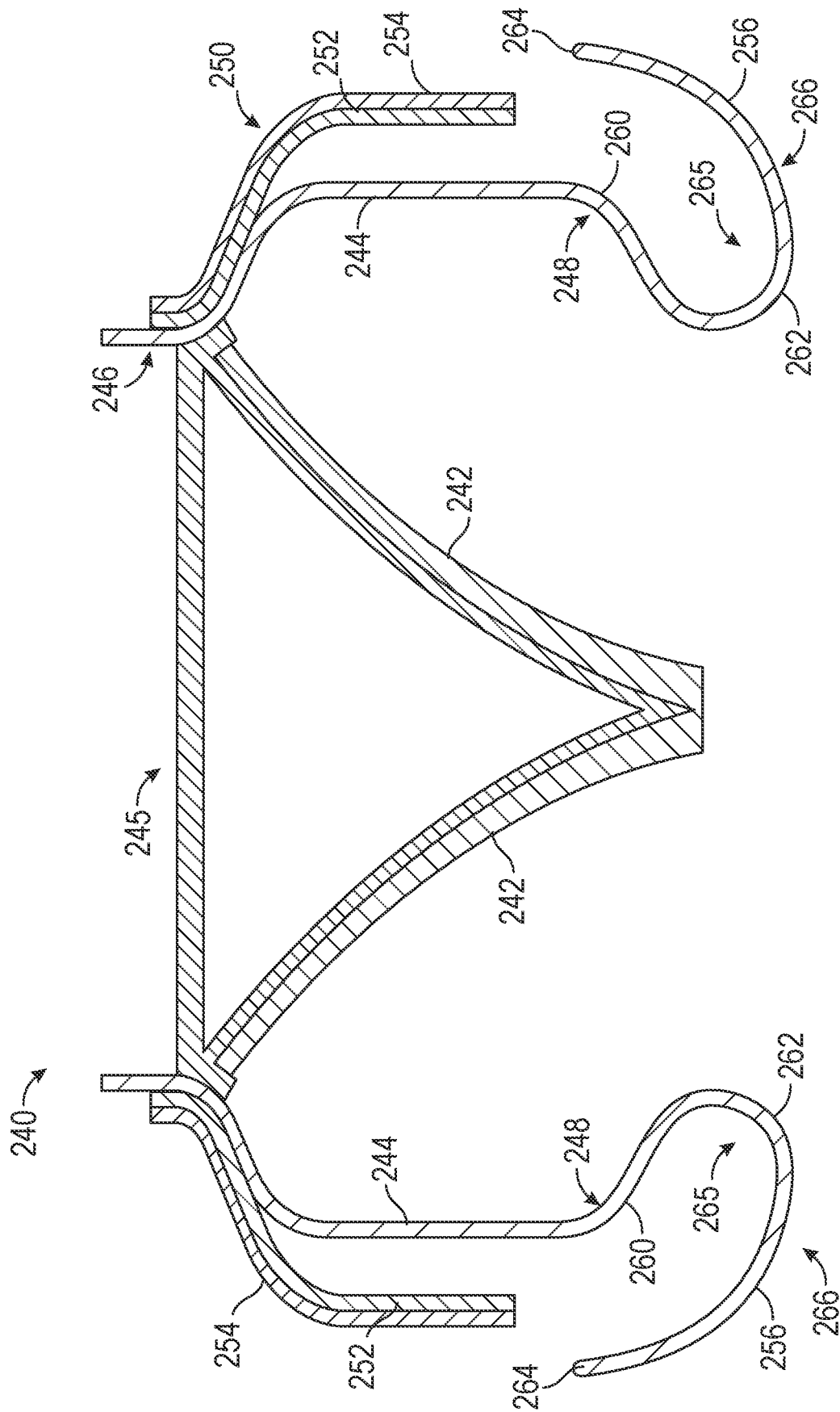


FIG. 52

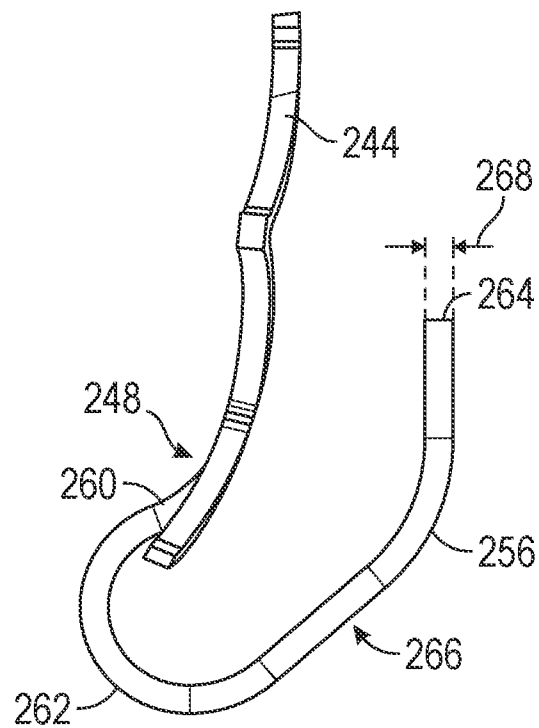


FIG. 53A

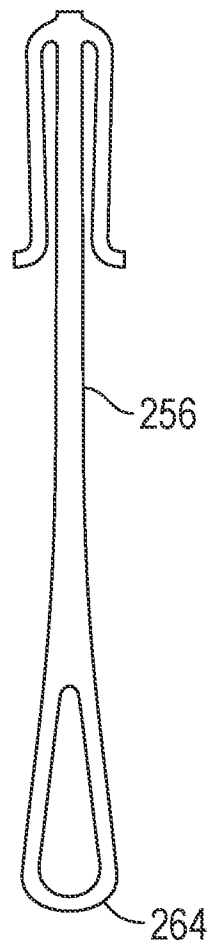


FIG. 53B

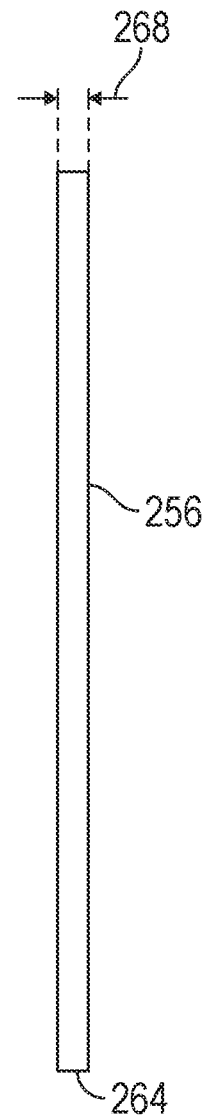


FIG. 53C

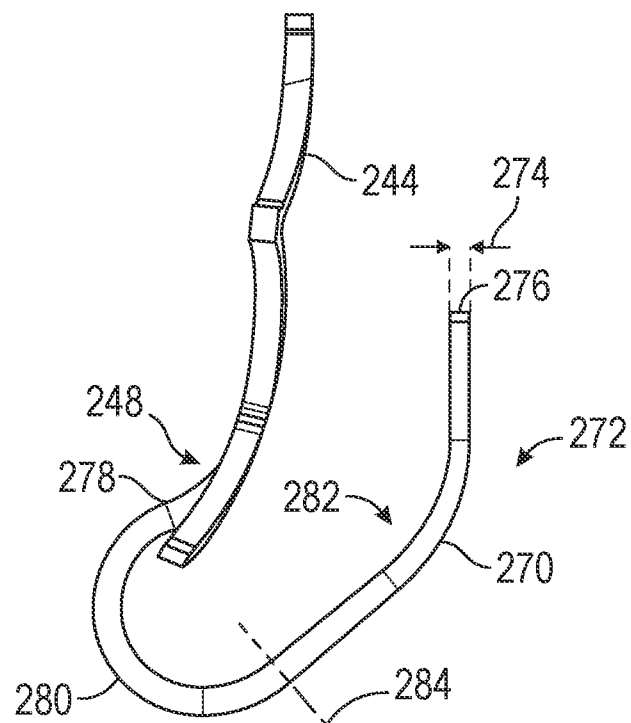


FIG. 54A

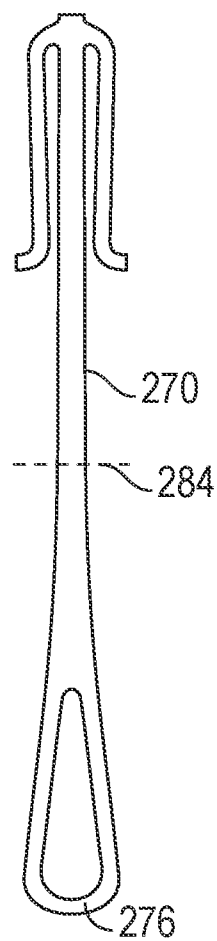


FIG. 54B

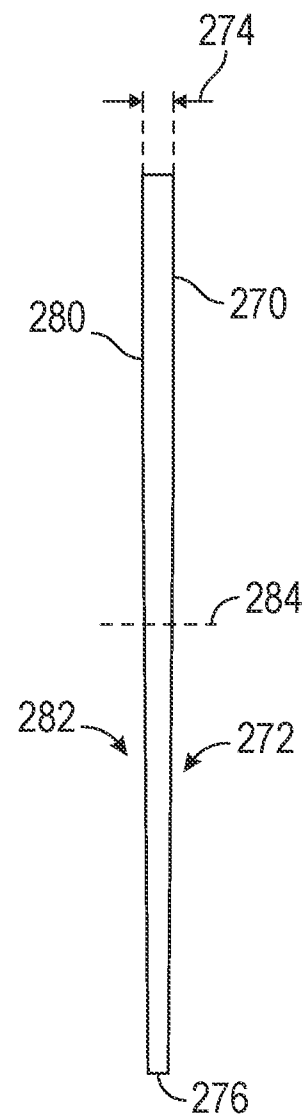


FIG. 54C

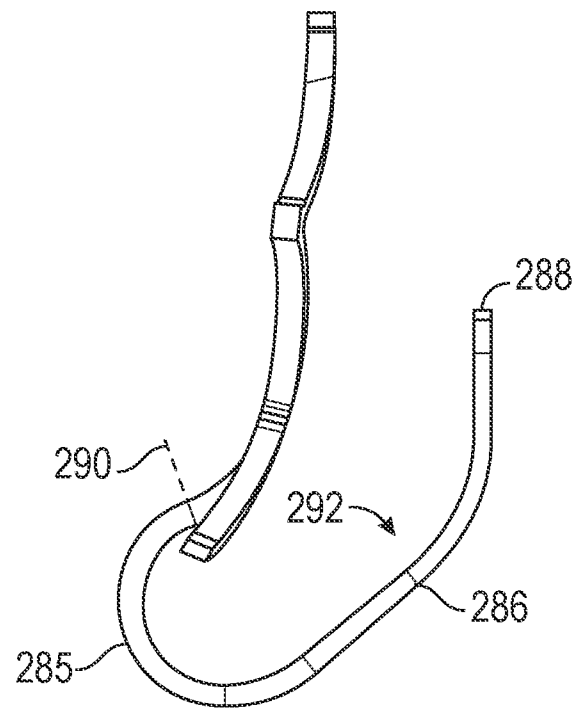


FIG. 55A

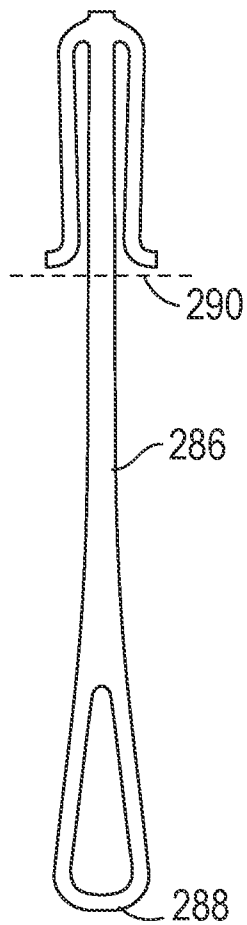


FIG. 55B

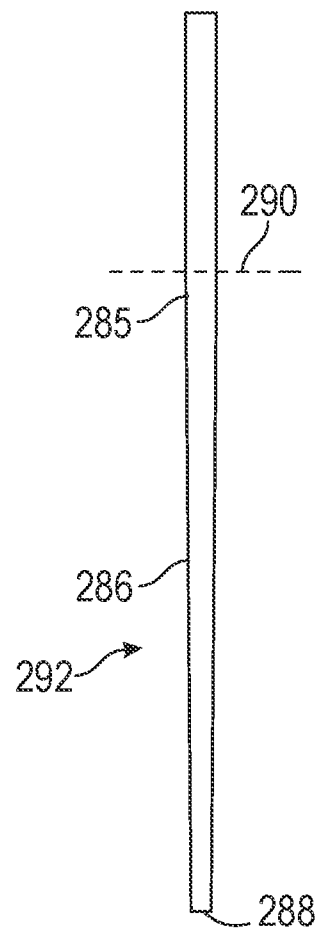


FIG. 55C

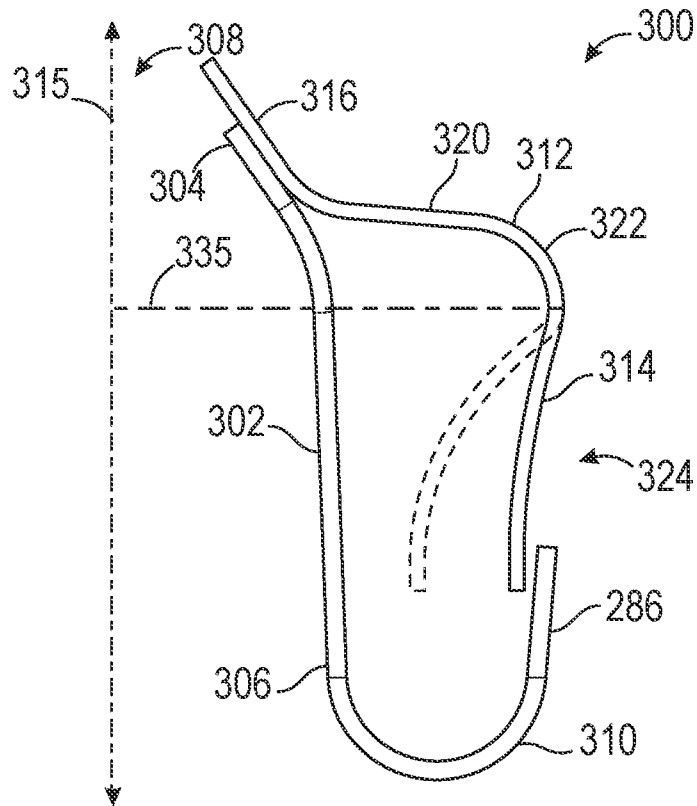


FIG. 56

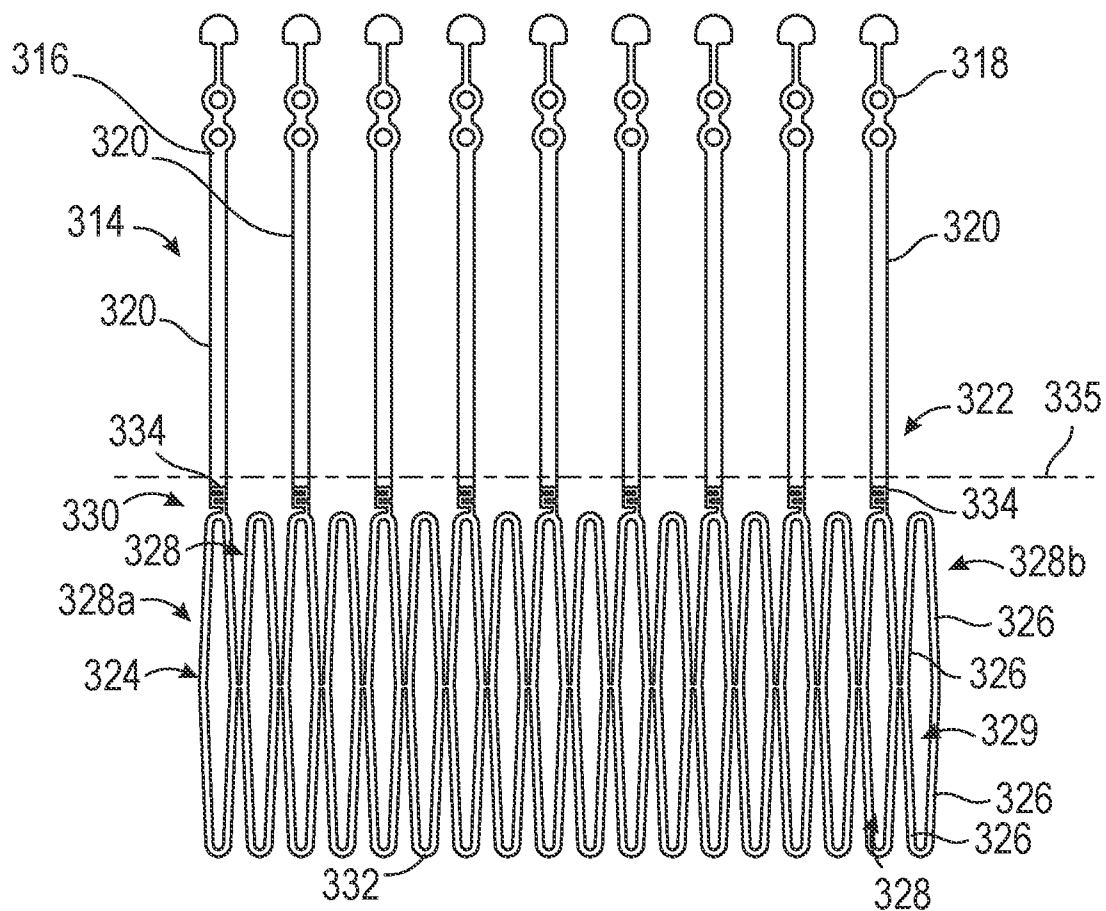


FIG. 57

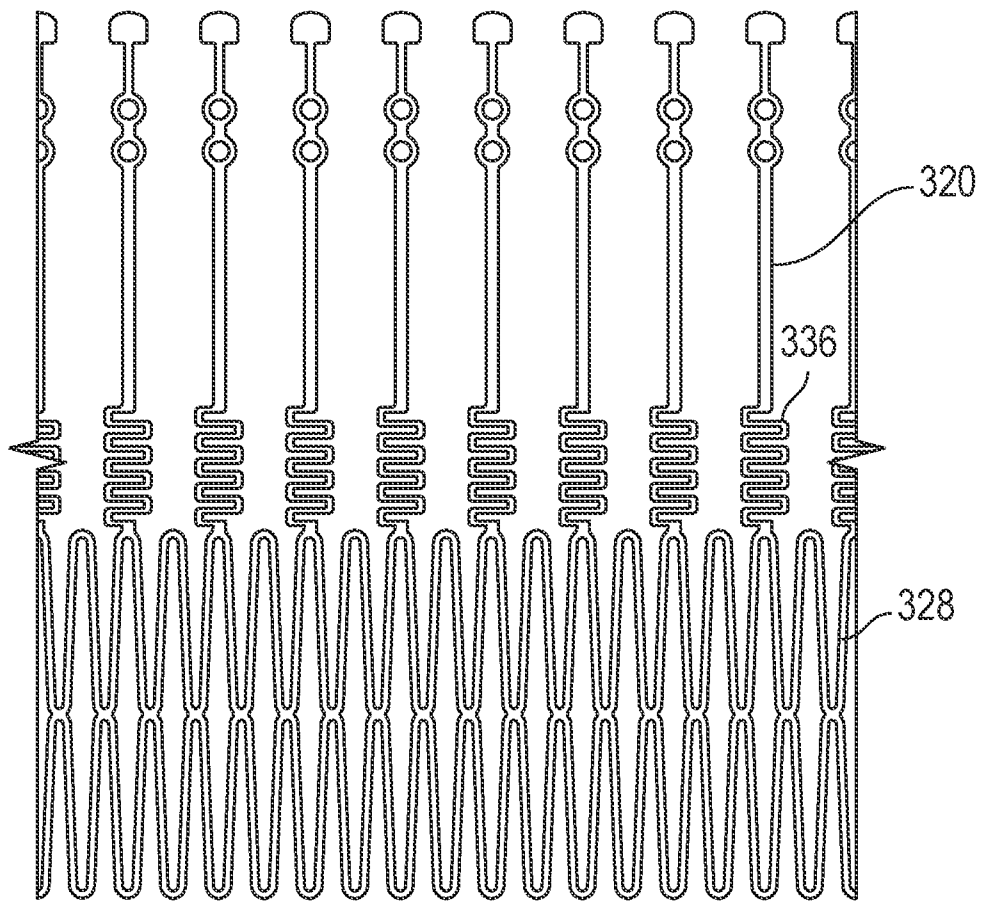


FIG. 58

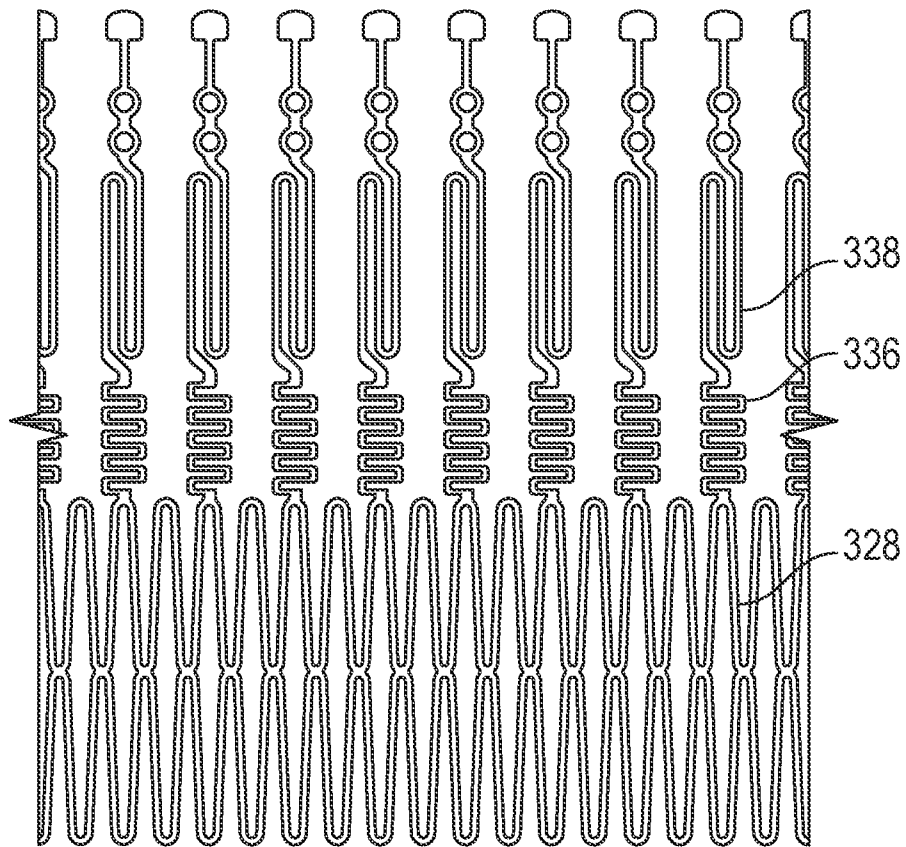


FIG. 59

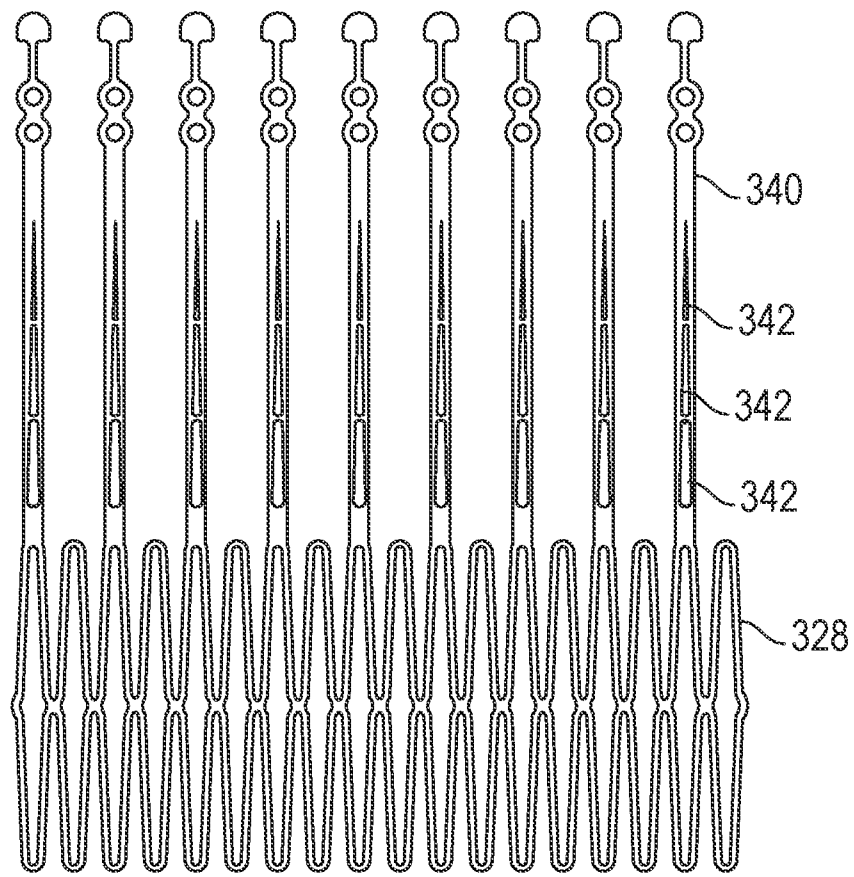


FIG. 60

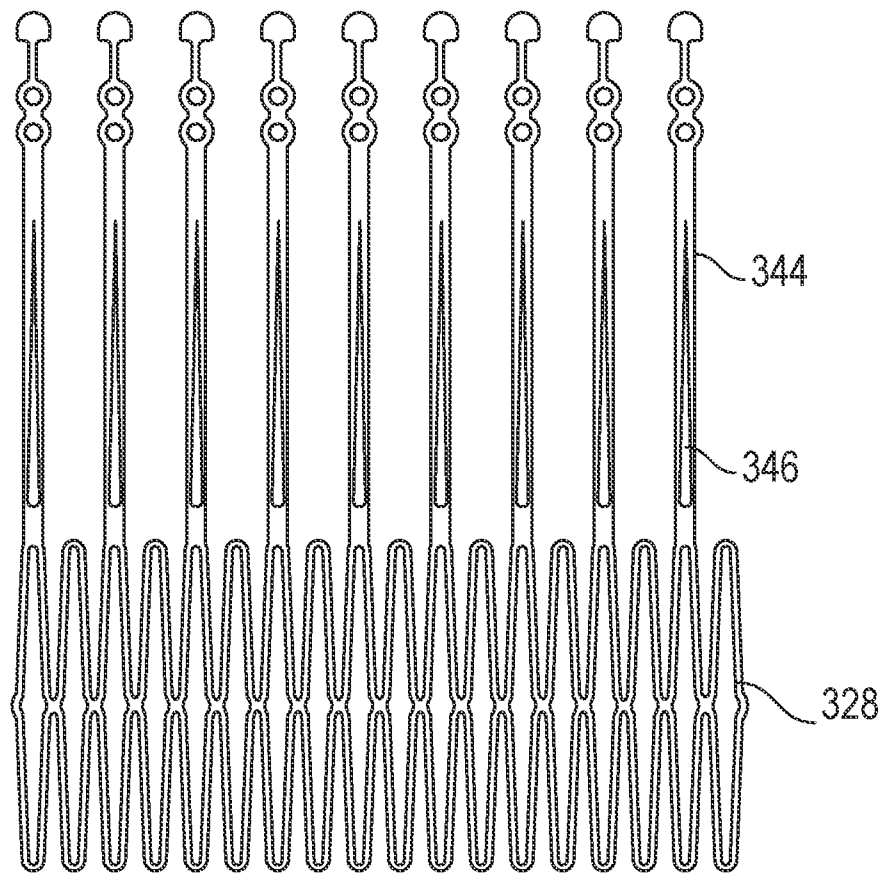


FIG. 61

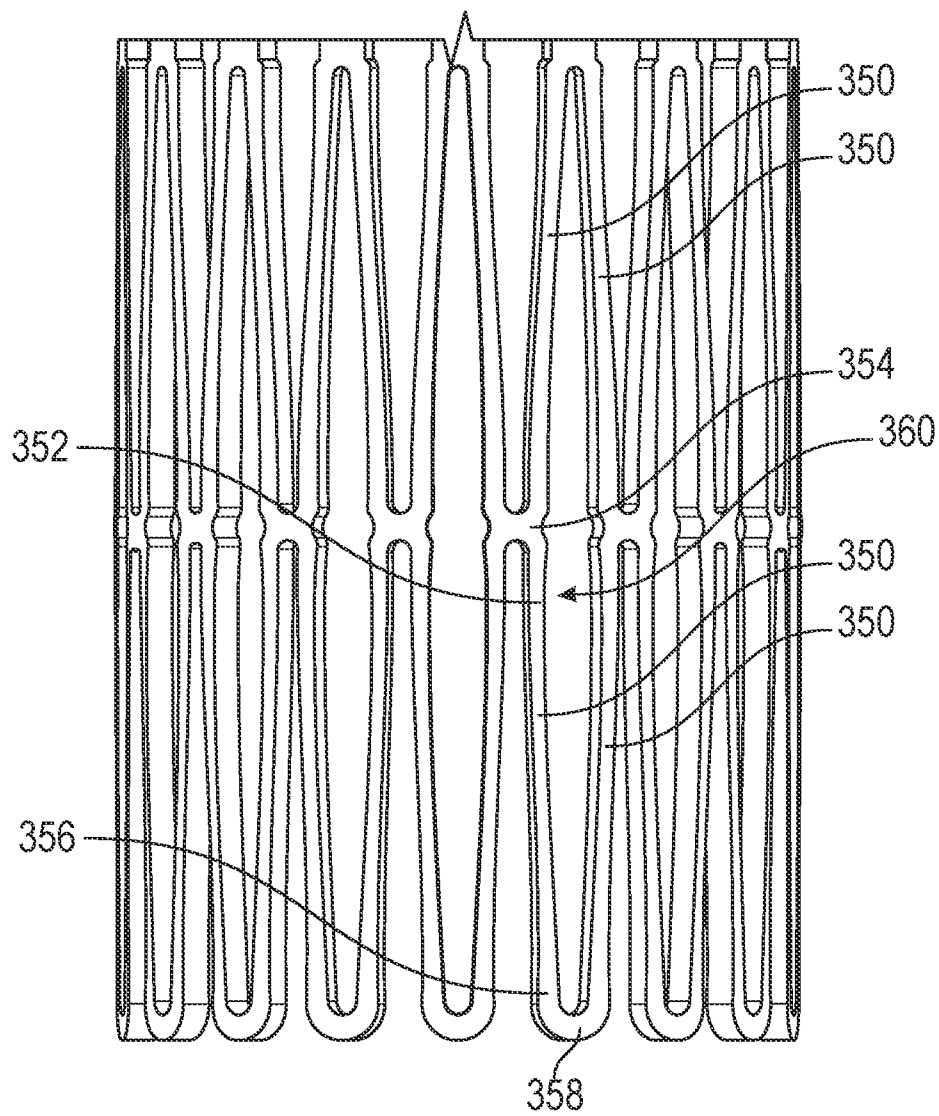


FIG. 62A

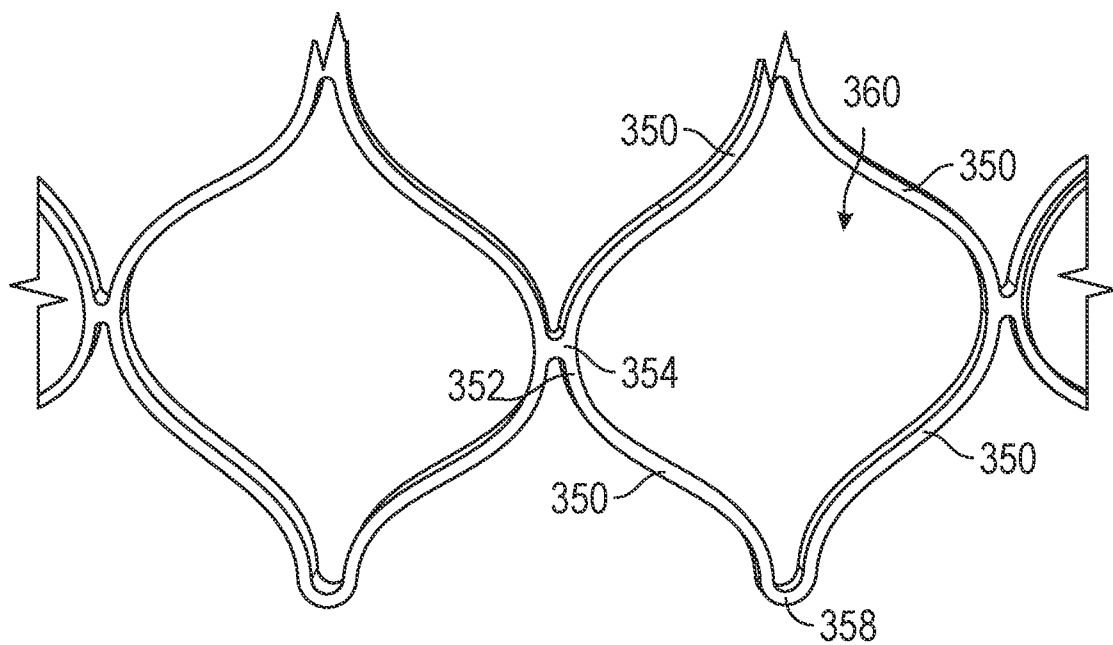


FIG. 62B

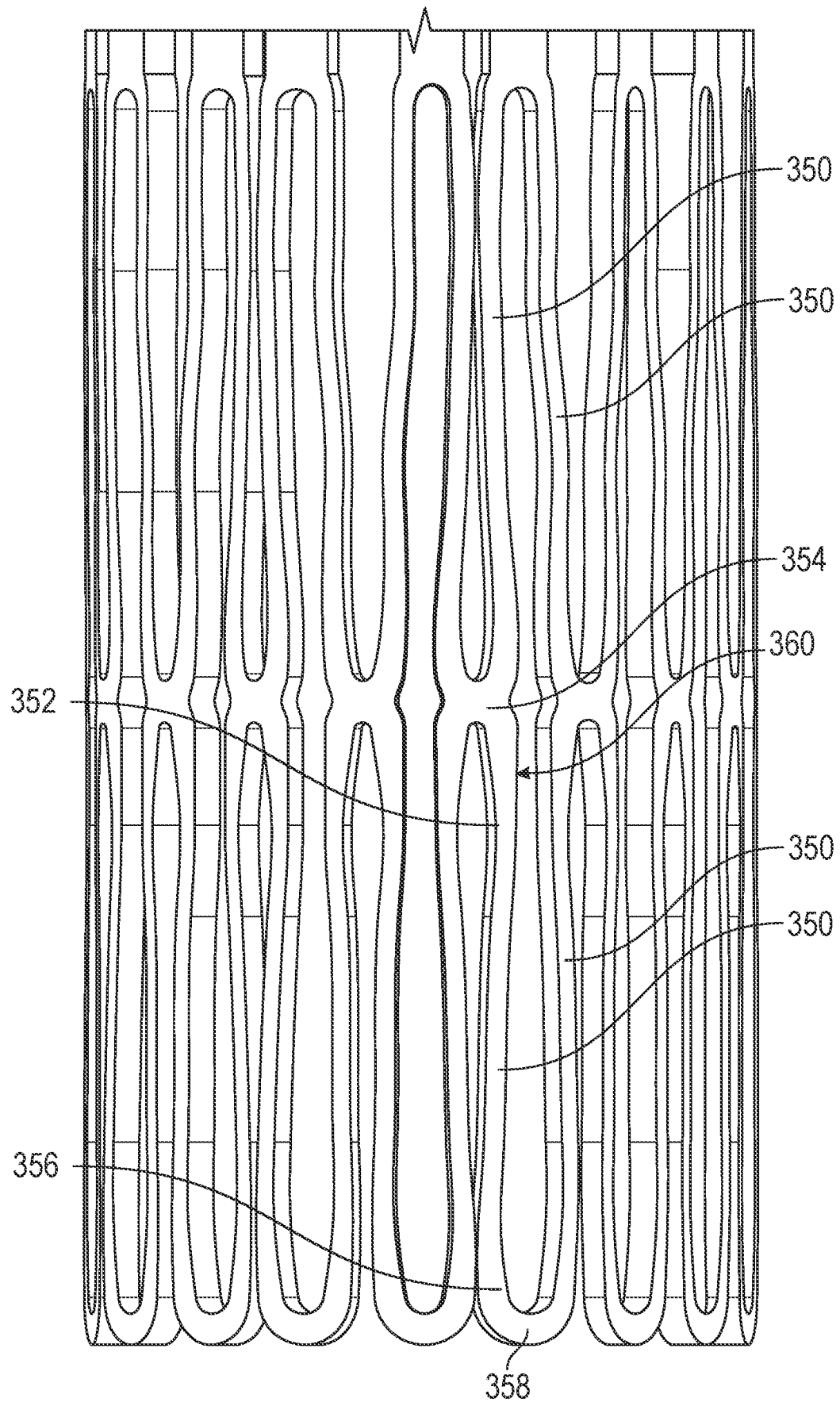
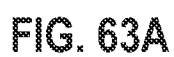
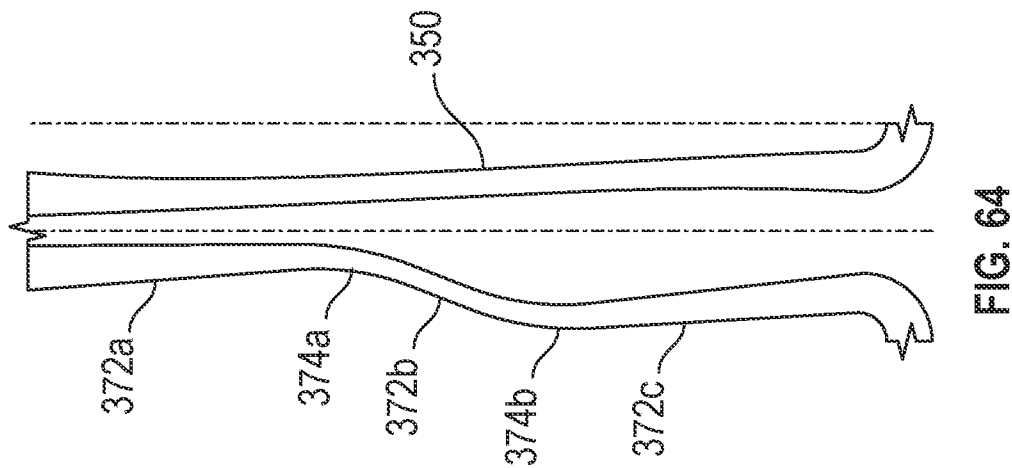
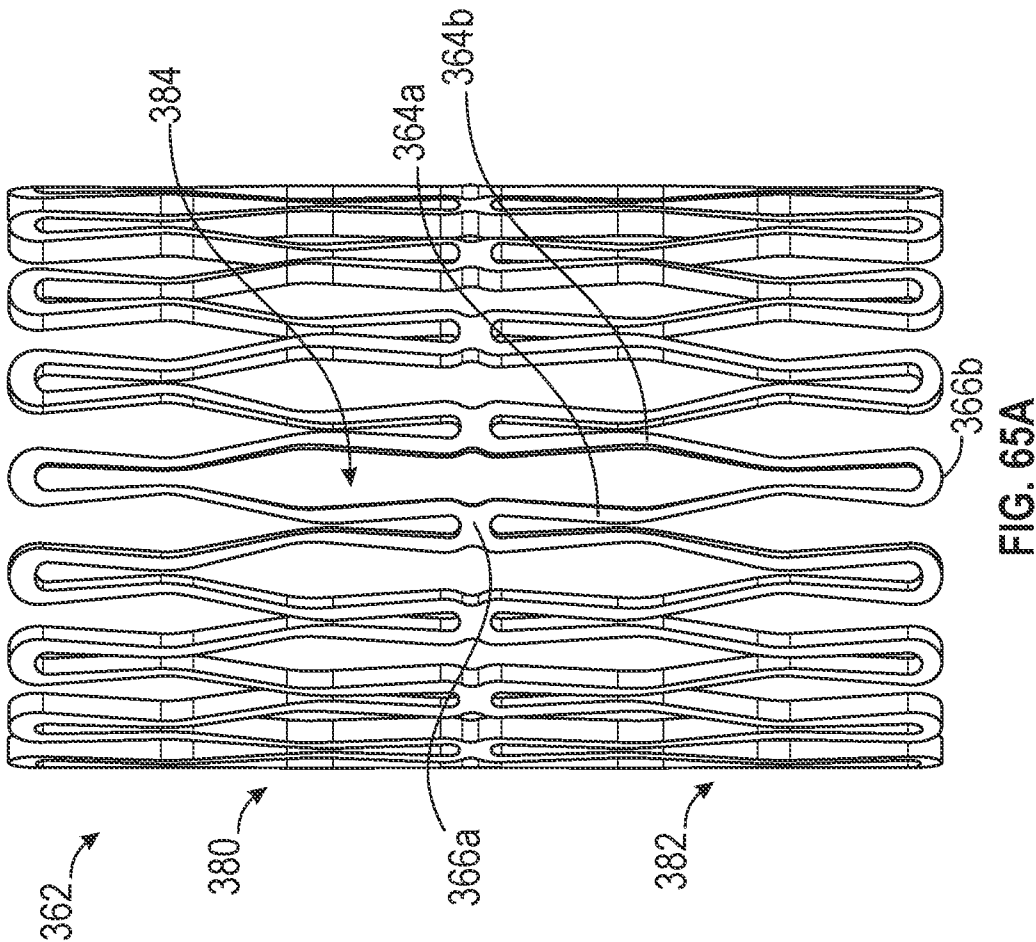


FIG. 62C





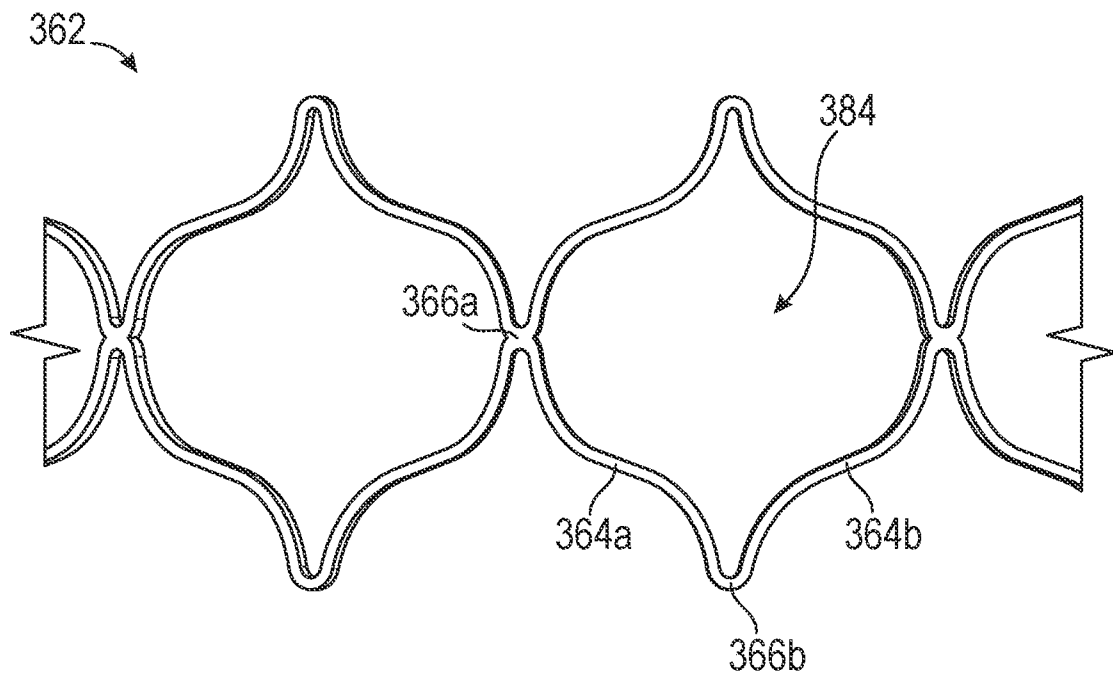


FIG. 65B

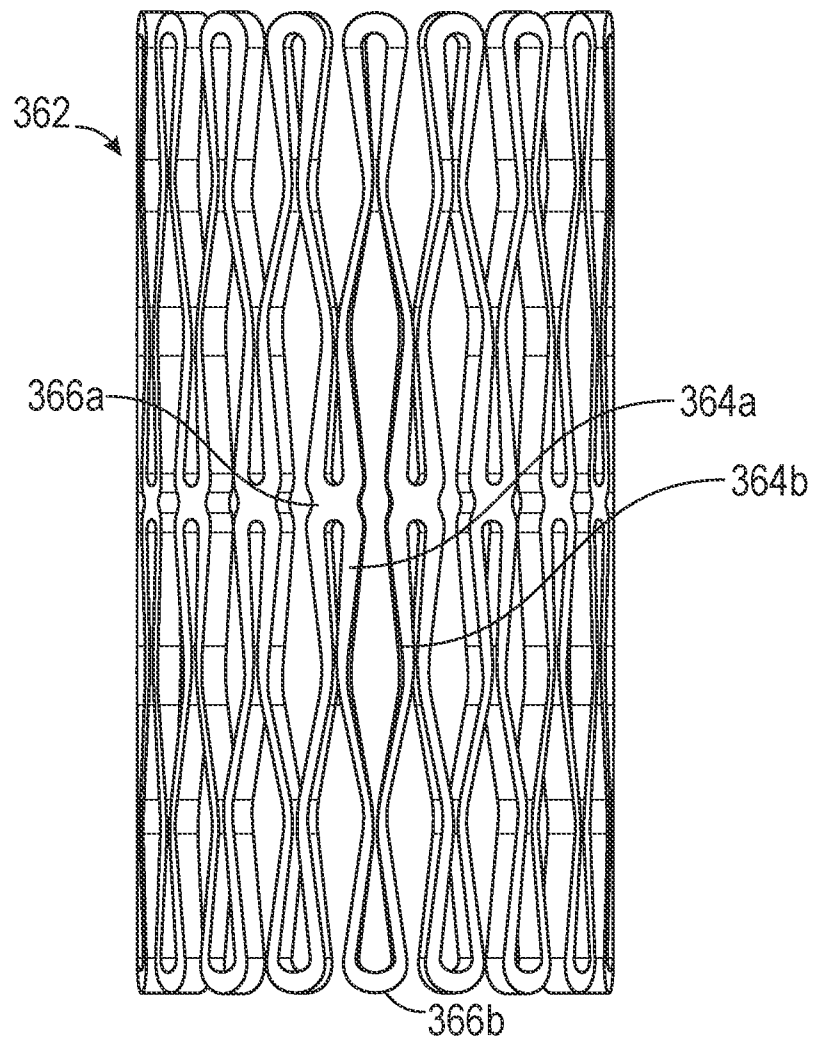


FIG. 65C



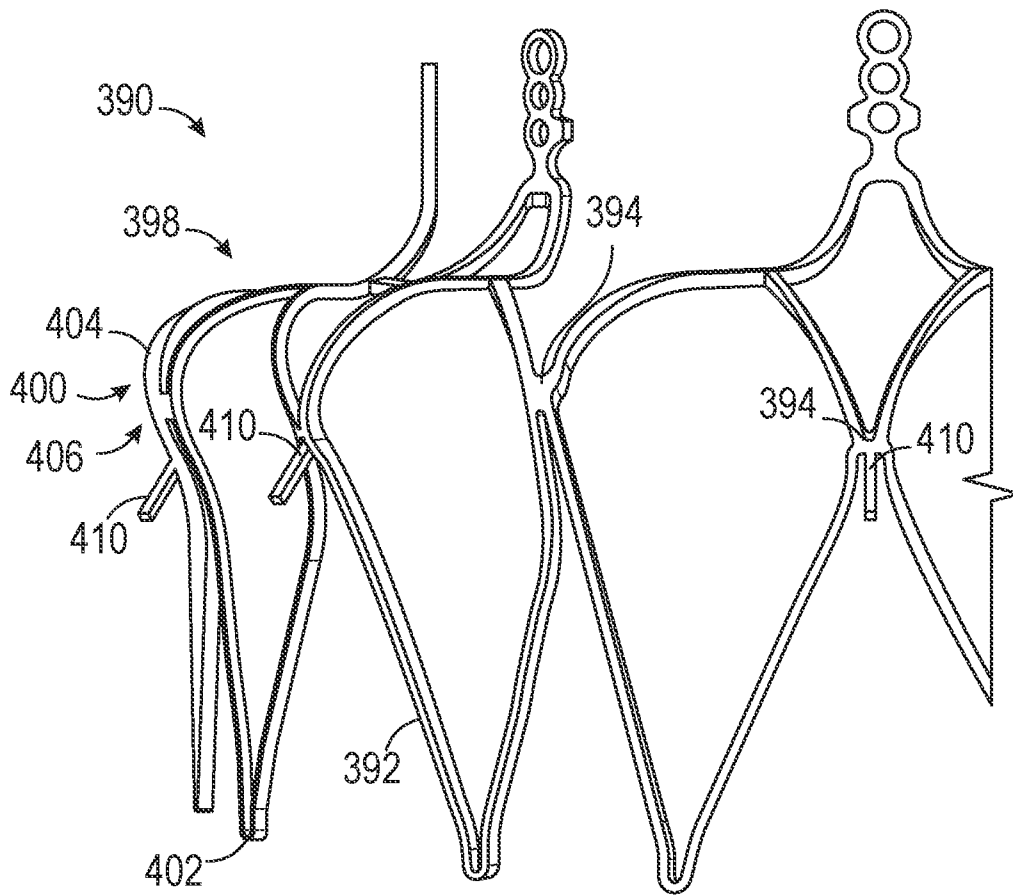


FIG. 67

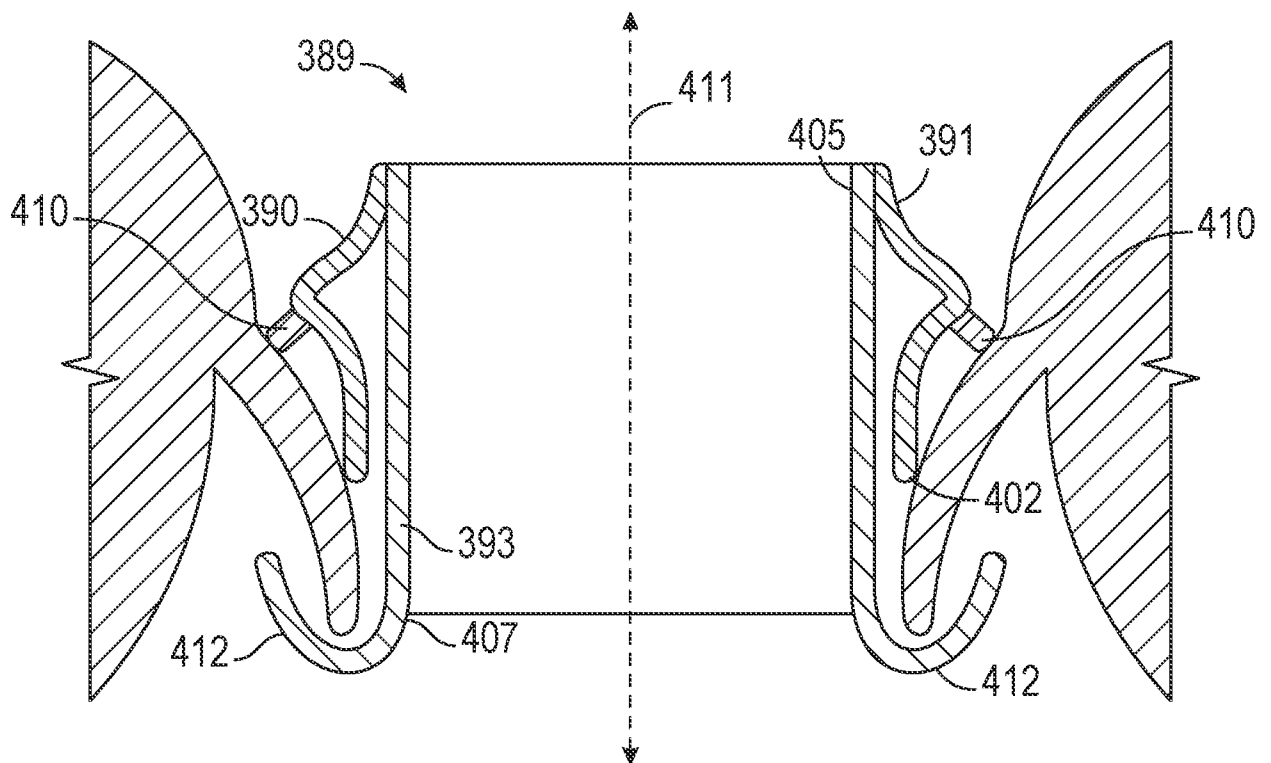


FIG. 68

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2021/047000

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61F2/24

ADD.

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)

A61F

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)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2018/147061 A1 (DRASLER WILLIAM JOSEPH [US] ET AL) 31 May 2018 (2018-05-31) paragraphs [0107] - [0113], [0141]; figures 3a-3d, 12a-12d -----	1-20
X	US 2020/038180 A1 (OBA TRAVIS ZENYO [US] ET AL) 6 February 2020 (2020-02-06) paragraph [0103]; figures 9-12 -----	1, 2, 13



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

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"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

"X" document of particular relevance;; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance;; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

20 December 2021

Date of mailing of the international search report

05/01/2022

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2

NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk

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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Porta, Marcello

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2021/047000

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: **36-70, 81-90, 101-110, 121-135, 146-155, 166-180, 191-200**
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims;; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 21-35, 71-80, 91-100, 111-120, 136-145, 156-165, 181-190, 201-210

Claims 21, 71, 91, 111, 136, 156, 181, 201 are considered a method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery (Rule 39.1(iv) PCT) as they involve the insertion and implantation of an implant to an implantation site in the heart.

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 36-70, 81-90, 101-110, 121-135, 146-155, 166-180, 191-200

In reply to a clarification request about which claims had to be search, the applicant did not provide any answer. Therefore claims 1-20 only have been searched.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guidelines C-IV, 7.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) PCT declaration be overcome.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2021/047000

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2018147061 A1	31-05-2018	CN 109475411 A	15-03-2019
		EP 3454789 A1	20-03-2019
		US 2018147061 A1	31-05-2018
		US 2019125535 A1	02-05-2019
		US 2021022865 A1	28-01-2021
		WO 2017196511 A1	16-11-2017

US 2020038180 A1	06-02-2020	CA 2982604 A1	27-10-2016
		CN 107787209 A	09-03-2018
		EP 3285690 A1	28-02-2018
		EP 3797737 A1	31-03-2021
		US 2016310268 A1	27-10-2016
		US 2020038180 A1	06-02-2020
WO 2016172349 A1	27-10-2016		
