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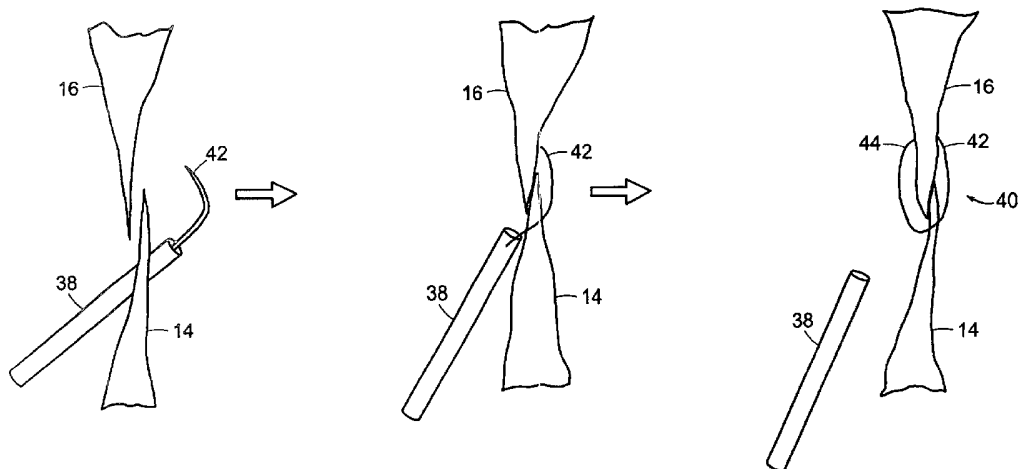
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(54) Title: PATENT FORAMEN OVALE (PFO) CLOSURE METHOD AND DEVICE



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides methods and devices for closing two overlapping layers of tissue in a mammalian heart, for example a patent foramen ovale (PFO). The closure devices (40) may take a number of different forms and may be retrievable. In some embodiments, the closure devices may be delivered with a catheter (38) capable of puncturing mammalian tissue.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(7) : A61B 17/08  
US CL : 606/215

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

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
U.S. : 606/213, 215-217, 151; 128/898

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

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

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ✓	U.S. 6,165,183 A (KUEHN et al.) 26 December 2000, Column 11, lines 36-54; Column 12, lines 14-26; Figures 35 and 36.	30-33, 35-39, 41-48,
X ✓	U.S. 5,192,301 A (KAMIYA et al.) 09 March 1993, Fig. 14(b).	30-34
X, P ✓	US 2002/0077555 A1 (SCHWARTZ) 20 June 2002, paragraphs [0021], [0047], [0071], [0102] - [0109]; Figures 10 and 11.	1-3, 8-12, 14, 20
Y ✓	US 2001/0049492 A1 (FRAZIER et al.) 06 December 2001, Paragraphs [0043] - [0049]; Figures 2 and 4.	1
A ✓	US 6,132,438 A (FLEISCHMAN et al.) 17 October 2000, Column 5, line 65 - Column 6, line 25.	
X, P ✓	US 2002/0183786 A1 (GIRTON) 05 December, 2002, Figures 6A and 6B.	30-32

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
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