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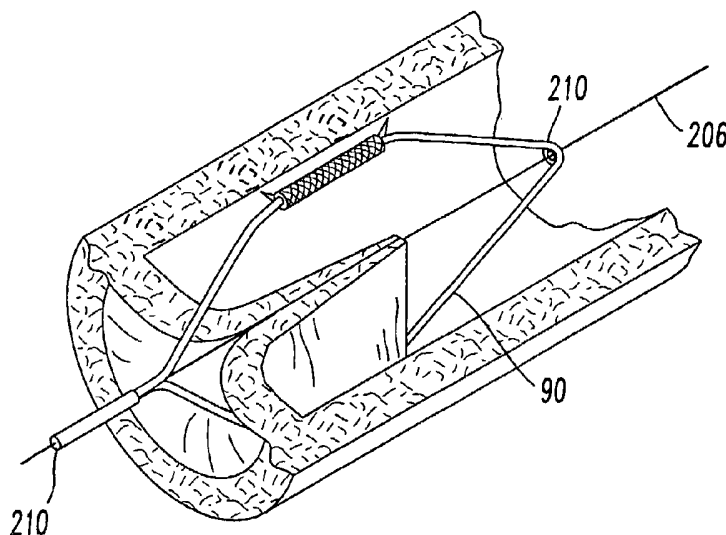
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: TISSUE DISTENTION DEVICE AND RELATED METHODS FOR THERAPEUTIC INTERVENTION



(57) Abstract: A device positionable in an opening in a flexible membrane or in the lumen of a vessel having a flexible sidewall. The device distends or biases opposite portions defining the opening or forming the vessel sidewall outwardly in the plane of the device. The outward biasing draws opposing portions of the opening or sidewall inwardly in a direction perpendicular to the plane of the device and into apposition or contact.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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US CL : 606/108,151,153; 623/1.11,1.15

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. : 606/108,151,153; 623/1.11,1.15

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 --- Y	US 5,334,217 A (Das) 2 August 1994 (02.08.1994), entire document	1-4,8-11,13-19,21-26 ----- 5-7,20,27,28,30,32-50
X --- Y	US 6,200,336 B1 (Pavcnik et al.) 13 March 2001 (13.03.2001), entire document	1,2,12,-14,21-23 ----- 28,30,32-50
X	US 6,168,616 B1 (Brown, III) 02 January 2001 (02.01.2001), entire document	28 and 29
Y	US 6,273,901 A (Whitcher et al.) 14 August 2001 (14.08.2001), Figure 9, columns 4 and 5	5-7,20,27,33-35,49

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

☐ See patent family annex.

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"&" document member of the same patent family

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