

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 June 2006 (22.06.2006)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2006/065644 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
A61F 2/06 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2005/044594

(22) International Filing Date:

9 December 2005 (09.12.2005)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/637,334 17 December 2004 (17.12.2004) US

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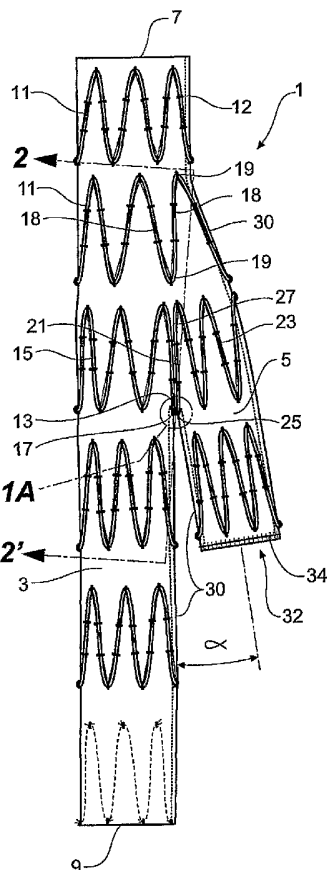
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN,
CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI,
GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE,
KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV,
LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NG, NI,
NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG,
SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US,
UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM,
ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM),
European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: STENTED SIDE BRANCH GRAFT



(57) Abstract: A stent graft (1) has a tubular body (3) defining a main lumen and a side tube (5) defining a side tube lumen and in fluid communication with the main lumen and defining a junction (13) between the tubular body and the side tube. The junction includes an acute angle of attachment (a). A first zig-zag stent (15) is wrapped around the tubular body such that a V portion of the first zig-zag stent is engaged about the acute angle of the junction and a second zig-zag stent (23) is wrapped around the side tube, such that a V portion of the second zig-zag stent is engaged about the acute angle of the junction, whereby the main lumen and the side tube are each kept open, independently, allowing fluid to flow freely therethrough.



FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, NL, PL, PT,
RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,
GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments*

Published:

— *with international search report*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

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STENTED SIDE BRANCH GRAFT

DescriptionTechnical Field

This invention relates to a stent graft used to restore the patency of a body lumen and in particular relates to a side branch or side arm stent graft.

Background of the Invention

5 Where damage has occurred to an internal vessel of the human or animal body such as a blood vessel either by disease or by trauma it is possible to introduce a stent graft to the blood vessel by endoluminal techniques which will restore patency of the blood vessel across the damaged region. Often such damaged regions include side branch vessels. To ensure the blood flow can go into
10 the side branch vessel side branch stent grafts are used.

 There can be a problem with such side branch stent grafts that in the region of the bifurcation or exit of a side branch from a main tube disruption to blood flow can occur. This may result in thrombosis occurring which could at least partially block the stent graft. Also, without suitable geometry, blood flowing
15 through such regions may not adequately flow into the side arm or side branch.

 It is desired to provide a branched or side arm stent graft which does not compromise blood flow in the main lumen of the stent graft and allows blood flow into the side arm.

 Throughout this specification the term distal with respect to a portion of
20 the vasculature, a deployment device or a prosthesis is the end of the vasculature, deployment device or prosthesis further away in the direction of blood flow away from the heart and the term proximal means the portion of the vasculature, deployment device or end of the prosthesis nearer to the heart. When applied to other vessels similar terms such as caudal and cranial should be understood.

25 Summary of the Invention

 In one form therefore the invention is said to reside in a stent graft comprising a tubular body defining a main lumen, at least one aperture in the tubular body of the main lumen and at least one side tube extending from the

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aperture defining a side tube lumen and in fluid communication with the main lumen, thereby defining a junction between the tubular body and the side tube, the junction including an acute angle of attachment, the tubular body and the side tube each including at least one self expanding zig-zag stent, each zig-zag stent comprising strut portions and bend portions, with a pair of struts and a bend between them defining a V portion, wherein a first zig-zag stent is around the tubular body such that a V portion of the first zig-zag stent is engaged about the acute angle of the junction between the main lumen and the side tube, and a second zig-zag stent is around the side tube, such that a V portion of the second zig-zag stent is engaged about the acute angle of the junction between the main lumen and the side tube, whereby the main lumen and the side tube are each kept open, independently, allowing fluid to flow freely therethrough.

In an alternative form the invention provides a stent graft comprising a tubular body defining a main lumen, at least one side tube extending from the tubular body defining a side tube lumen and in fluid communication with the main lumen, thereby defining a junction between the tubular body and the side tube, the junction including an acute angle of attachment, the stent graft further comprising a plurality of self expanding zig-zag stents, each zig-zag stent comprising strut portions and bend portions, with a pair of struts and a bend between them defining a V portion, wherein a first zig-zag stent is around the tubular body such that a V portion of the first zig-zag stent is engaged about the acute angle of attachment of the junction between the main lumen and the side tube, and a second zig-zag stent is around the side tube, such that a V portion of the second zig-zag stent is engaged about the acute angle of the junction between the main lumen and the side tube, whereby the main lumen and the side tube are each independently kept open, allowing fluid to flow freely therethrough.

In a further alternative form the invention provides a stent graft including main tube and a side tube with an acute angled bifurcation therebetween and zig-zag stents fitted onto both the main tube and the side tube at the bifurcation with the bifurcation extending down into V portions of the respective zig-zag stents.

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The acute angle of attachment of the side tube to the main tube may be in the range of from 10 to 60 degrees and preferably 15 to 45 degrees.

The zig-zag stents may comprise from 8 to 16 struts with 4 to 8 each proximal and distal bends between them. The length of the zig-zag stents may range from 10
5 mm to 16 mm.

The zig-zag stents are preferably stitched to the outside of the tubular body and the side arm respectively.

The stents may be formed from stainless steel or nitinol.

The tubular body and the side arm may be formed from a biocompatible
10 graft material.

The graft material is preferably non-porous so that it does not leak or sweat under physiologic forces. The graft material is preferably made of woven or knitted polyester (Vascutek Ltd., Renfrewshire, Scotland, UK). Other biocompatible fabrics, non-woven materials and porous sheets may be used as the graft material.

15 Examples of biocompatible polymers from which porous sheets can be formed include polyesters, such as poly(ethylene terephthalate), polylactide, polyglycolide and copolymers thereof; fluorinated polymers, such as PTFE, expanded PTFE and poly(vinylidene fluoride); polysiloxanes, including polydimethyl siloxane; and
20 polyurethanes, including polyetherurethanes, polyurethane ureas, polyetherurethane ureas, polyurethanes containing carbonate linkages and polyurethanes containing siloxane segments. In addition, materials that are not inherently biocompatible may be subjected to surface modifications in order to render the materials biocompatible. Examples of surface modifications include graft
25 polymerization of biocompatible polymers from the material surface, coating of the surface with a crosslinked biocompatible polymer, chemical modification with biocompatible functional groups, and immobilization of a compatibilizing agent such as heparin or other substances. Thus, any polymer that may be formed into a porous sheet can be used to make a graft material, provided the final porous material is biocompatible. Polymers that can be formed into a porous sheet include
30 polyolefins, polyacrylonitrile, nylons, polyaramids and polysulfones, in addition to polyesters, fluorinated polymers, polysiloxanes and polyurethanes as listed above.

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Preferably the porous sheet is made of one or more polymers that do not require treatment or modification to be biocompatible. The graft material may include a biocompatible polyurethane. Examples of biocompatible polyurethanes include THORALON[®] (Thoratec, Pleasanton, CA), BIOSPAN[®], BIONATE[®], ELASTHANE[™], PURSIL[™] and CARBOSIL[™] (Polymer Technology Group, Berkeley, CA). As described in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0065552 A1, incorporated herein by reference, THORALON[®] is a polyetherurethane urea blended with a siloxane-containing surface modifying additive. Specifically, the polymer is a mixture of base polymer BPS-215 and an additive SMA-300. The graft material may also include extracellular matrix materials. The "extracellular matrix" is a collagen-rich substance that is found in between cells in animal tissue and serves as a structural element in tissues. It is typically a complex mixture of polysaccharides and proteins secreted by cells. The extracellular matrix can be isolated and treated in a variety of ways. Following isolation and treatment, it is referred to as an "extracellular matrix material," or ECMM. ECMMs may be isolated from submucosa (including small intestine submucosa), stomach submucosa, urinary bladder submucosa, tissue mucosa, renal capsule, dura mater, liver basement membrane, pericardium or other tissues. Purified tela submucosa, a preferred type of ECMM, has been previously described in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,206,931, 6,358,284 and 6,666,892 as a bio-compatible, non-thrombogenic material that enhances the repair of damaged or diseased host tissues. U.S. Patent Nos. 6,206,931, 6,358,284 and 6,666,892 are incorporated herein by reference. Purified submucosa extracted from the small intestine ("small intestine submucosa" or "SIS") is a more preferred type of ECMM for use in this invention. Another type of ECMM, isolated from liver basement membrane, is described in U.S. Patent No. 6,379,710, which is incorporated herein by reference. ECMM may also be isolated from pericardium, as described in U.S. Patent No. 4,502,159, which is also incorporated herein by reference. Irrespective of the origin of the graft material, the graft material can be made thicker by making multi-laminate constructs, for example SIS constructs as described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,968,096; 5,955,110; 5,885,619; and 5,711,969. All of these references are incorporated herein by reference.

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The stent graft according to the present invention may be used for deployment into the common iliac artery with the side arm extending towards the internal iliac so that a leg extension may be deployed through the side arm into the internal iliac artery. The leg extension may be a balloon expandable stent graft or a self expanding stent graft.

The side arm may include at its distal end, the end further away from the bifurcation, a reinforcing ring of a resilient material such as a resilient ring. In an alternative form the invention comprises a stent graft comprising a main tube and a side tube extending from a bifurcation in the main tube and first zigzag stent fastened to and maintaining patency of the main tube at the bifurcation and a second zigzag stent fastened to and maintaining patency of the side tube at the bifurcation, the first zigzag stent and the second zigzag stent being laterally adjacent at the bifurcation.

Preferably the main tube has a diameter of from 10 to 12 mm, the side tube has a diameter of 6 to 8 mm and the side tube is joined to the main tube at the bifurcation to form an acute angle of attachment the range of from 10 to 60 degrees and preferably 15 to 45 degrees.

A stent graft according to the present invention for deployment into the common iliac artery may have the following dimensions:

- Total length: 98 mm (42 mm proximal of the bifurcation and 56 mm distal of the bifurcation)
- Diameter of tubular body proximal of bifurcation : 12 mm
- Diameter of tubular body distal of bifurcation : 10 mm
- Diameter of side arm: 8 mm
- Length of side arm 14 mm
- 6 stents on tubular body with distal most being internal (gaps of 2 mm proximal of the bifurcation and 5 mm distal of the bifurcation between the stents)
- 2 stents on side arm (gap of 2 mm between stents)

Brief Description of the Drawing

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This then generally describes the invention but to assist with understanding reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings which show various embodiments of the invention.

In the drawings:

5 Figure 1 shows a first embodiment of a side branch stent graft incorporating the stent configuration of the present invention;

 Figure 1A shows detail of the bifurcation area between the main tube and the side arm of Figure 1;

10 Figure 2 shows a part section view of the side branch stent graft of Figure 1 along the line 2 - 2';

 Figure 3 shows an alternative embodiment of a side branch stent graft incorporating the stent configuration of the present invention; and

 Figure 4 shows schematically a portion of a stent graft incorporating the stent configuration of the present invention.

15 Detailed Description

20 Now looking at the first embodiment shown in Figures 1, 1A and 2 it will be seen that a branch stent graft 1 comprises a main tube 3 and a side arm 5. The stent graft has a proximal end 7 and a distal end 9. In the deployed configuration as shown in Figure 1 a plurality of self expanding zigzag stents 11 hold open the graft material tube to allow blood flow therethrough. Stitching 12 is used to stitch the stents 11 to the main tube 3.

 Each of the stents 11 are formed with a plurality of struts 18 with bends 19 between them.

25 The side arm 5 is joined to the main tube at junction 6 (see Figure 2) so that its lumen is in fluid communication with the lumen of the main tube and extends from the main tube 3 at an angle α . The angle α may be in the range of 10 to 60° and in this embodiment is approximately 15°. The junction of the side arm 5 to the main tube 3 defines a bifurcation 13.

30 To maintain the patentency of both the main tube 3 and the side arm 5 at their junction the particular stent configuration of the present invention is provided. On the main tube 3 a zigzag stent 15 has one of its bends 17 abutted up to the

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bifurcation 13 and its struts 21 and 22 each side of the bend 17 extend up the junction between the main tube 3 and the side arm 5. The struts 21 and 22 each side of the junction are stitched to the graft material of the main tube 3.

5 Similarly on the side arm 5 a zigzag Z stent 23 has one of its bends 25 abutted up to the bifurcation 13 and its struts 27 either side of the bend 25 extending along the side of the junction between the main tube 3 and side arm 5. The struts 27 each side of the junction are stitched to the graft material of the side arm 5.

10 By this arrangement the junction between the main tube and the side arm is held open and each of the side arm and main tube are independently held open when the stent graft is in a deployed configuration.

The distal end 32 of the side arm can optionally include a resilient circumferential ring 34 stitched around the distal end to provide reinforcement and sealing when a further self expanding or balloon expandable stent is deployed through the side arm.

15 In Figures 1, 1A and 2 the graft material is formed into the main tube by joining a flat blank, which has been cut to the required shape, along one side by stitching, heat welding or the like 30.

20 Figure 3 shows a side arm stent graft or prosthesis of the type adapted for deployment into the iliac arteries, for instance, such that a bridging stent can extend from the side arm into the internal iliac or hypogastric artery and incorporating the stent configuration of the present invention.

25 The stent graft 70 has a main tubular body 72 and a side arm 74 with a bifurcation 73 between them. Both the main tubular body and the side arm are formed from a seamless tube of a biocompatible graft material such as Dacron. A triangular aperture is formed in the main tube and a bevel cut into the inner end of the side arm and the side arm stitched into the triangular aperture with stitching 78.

30 The stent graft 70 has a plurality of self expanding Z stents along the main tubular body 72. At the bifurcation 73 between the main tube 72 and the side arm 74 a self expanding Z stent 75 is placed around the main tube 72 so that a bend 76 of the stent fits against the bifurcation and its struts either side of the bend extend up the line of stitching 78 between the main tube 72 and side arm 74. Similarly at

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the bifurcation 73 between the main tube 72 and the side arm 74 a self expanding Z stent 77 is placed around the side arm 74 so that a bend 78 of the stent fits against the bifurcation and its struts either side of the bend extend up the line of stitching 79 between the main tube 72 and side arm 74.

5 The side arm 74 has a connection socket arrangement 80 at its distal end 82. The connection socket arrangement 80 comprises a first ring 84 stitched to its terminal or distal end 82 and a second ring 86 spaced apart from the first ring 84. Each ring 84 and 86 is formed from at least two turns and preferably three turns of nitinol wire and the ends of the nitinol wire terminate in loops 88. The use of the
10 loops 88 prevent sharp ends from the nitinol wire from digging into the vasculature into which the stent graft is deployed and also provide a point to stitch the ring of wire to the graft material to prevent the ring from expanding when a balloon expanded stent is expanded within it. Between the first ring 84 and the second ring 86 is a stent 90 formed from a resilient material. The resilient stent 90 is formed
15 from nitinol wire, for instance, and is made to be of a size which is at rest slightly smaller than the diameter of the side arm 74 and hence when sewn on to the outside of the side arm 74 it provides a diameter reducing effect on the side arm 74.

When a bridging stent such as a balloon expandable stent is placed into the socket 80 and expanded the rings 84 and 86 provide firm locking for the balloon
20 expanded stent and the resilient stent 82 which is expanded by the balloon expanded stent while it is being balloon expanded provides a compressive effect to keep tension on the balloon expanded stent. By this means a firm connection can be obtained between the side arm and a bridging stent. A similar gripping effect can be obtained with the use of a bridging stent in the form of a self-expanding
25 stent, a composite stent or other form of leg extension.

Figure 4 shows detail of the bifurcation area of the side branch stent graft of the type shown in Figures 1 and 2. The same reference numerals are used in Figure 4 as those in Figures 1 and 2 for corresponding items. The main tube 3 and side arm 5 are shown in dotted. The main body has zigzag stents 11 along its length and
30 at the bifurcation 13 between the main tube 3 and the side arm 5 the stents 15 on the main tube and 23 on the side arm are fitted together so that their struts either

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side of the bifurcation extend parallel to each other such as the struts 21 on the stent graft 15 and 27 on the stent graft 23. By this arrangement the junction between the main tube and the side arm is held open and each of the side arm and main tube are independently held open when in a deployed configuration.

- 5 Throughout this specification various indications have been given as to the scope of the invention but the invention is not limited to one of these may reside in two or more of these combined together. The examples are given for illustration only and not for limitation.

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Claims

1. A stent graft comprising a tubular body defining a main lumen, at least one side tube extending from the tubular body defining a side tube lumen and in fluid communication with the main lumen, thereby defining a junction between the tubular body and the side tube, the junction including an acute angle of attachment, the stent graft further comprising a plurality of self expanding zig-zag stents, each zig-zag stent comprising strut portions and bend portions, with a pair of struts and a bend between them defining a V portion, wherein a first zig-zag stent is around the tubular body such that a V portion of the first zig-zag stent is engaged about the acute angle of attachment of the junction between the main lumen and the side tube, and a second zig-zag stent is around the side tube, such that a V portion of the second zig-zag stent is engaged about the acute angle of the junction between the main lumen and the side tube, whereby the main lumen and the side tube are each independently kept open, allowing fluid to flow freely therethrough.
2. A stent graft as in Claim 1 wherein the acute angle is in the range of from 10 to 60 degrees.
3. A stent graft as in Claim 1 wherein the acute angle is in the range of from 15 to 45 degrees.
4. A stent graft as in Claim 1 wherein each of the zig-zag stents comprises from 8 to 16 struts with 4 to 8 each proximal and distal bends between them.
5. A stent graft as in Claim 1 wherein the length of the zig-zag stents is in range from 10 mm to 16 mm.
6. A stent graft as in Claim 1 wherein the zig-zag stents are stitched to the outside of the tubular body and the side arm respectively.
7. A stent graft as in Claim 1 wherein the zig-zag stents are formed from stainless steel or nitinol.
8. A stent graft as in Claim 1 wherein the tubular body and the side arm are formed from a biocompatible graft material.
9. A stent graft as in Claim 8 wherein the graft material is selected from the group comprising woven or knitted polyester; fluorinated polymers, such as PTFE, expanded PTFE and poly(vinylidene fluoride); polysiloxanes, including

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polydimethyl siloxane; and polyurethanes, including polyetherurethanes, polyurethane ureas, polyetherurethane ureas, polyurethanes containing carbonate linkages and polyurethanes containing siloxane segments.

5 10. A stent graft as in Claim 8 wherein the graft material includes extracellular matrix materials.

11. A stent graft as in Claim 1 wherein the side arm includes at its distal end, the end further away from the bifurcation, a reinforcing ring of a resilient material such as a resilient ring.

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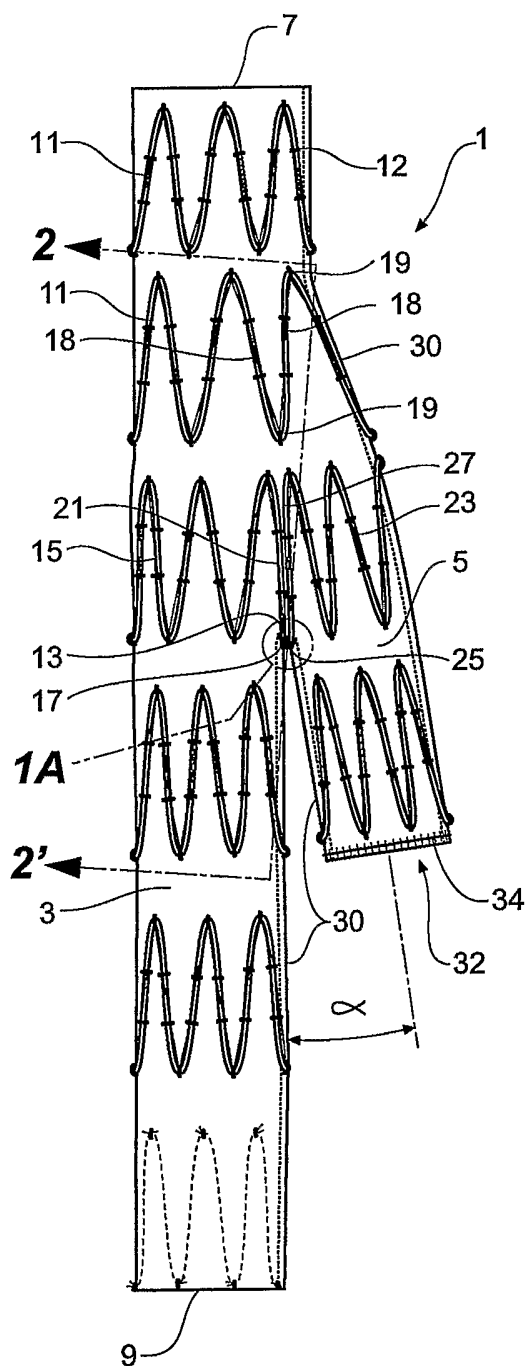


Fig 1

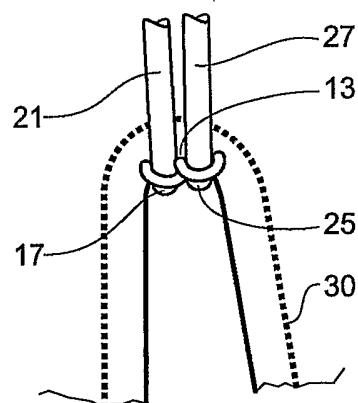


Fig 1A

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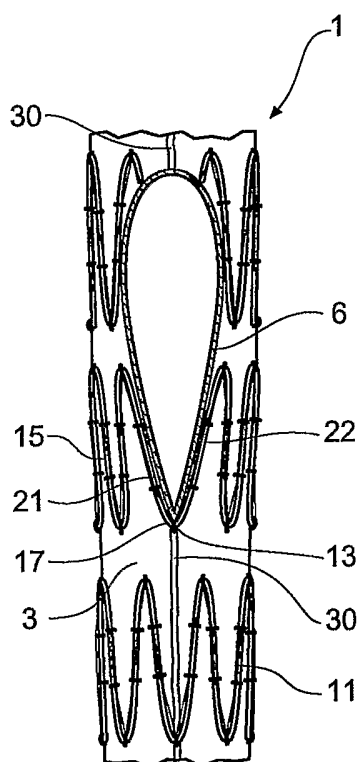


Fig 2

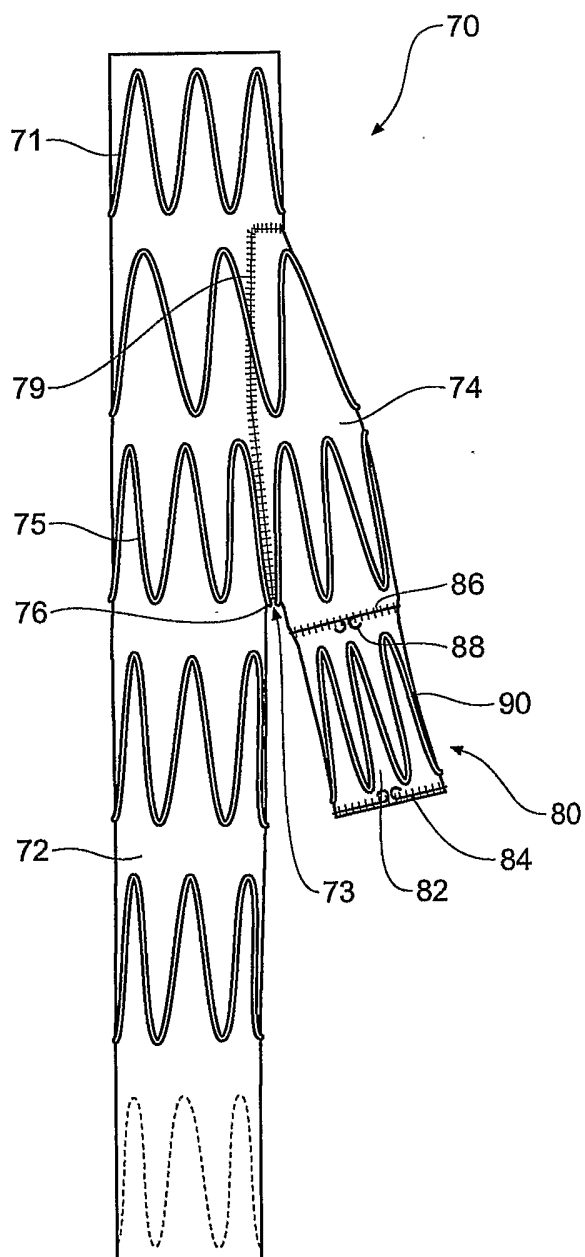
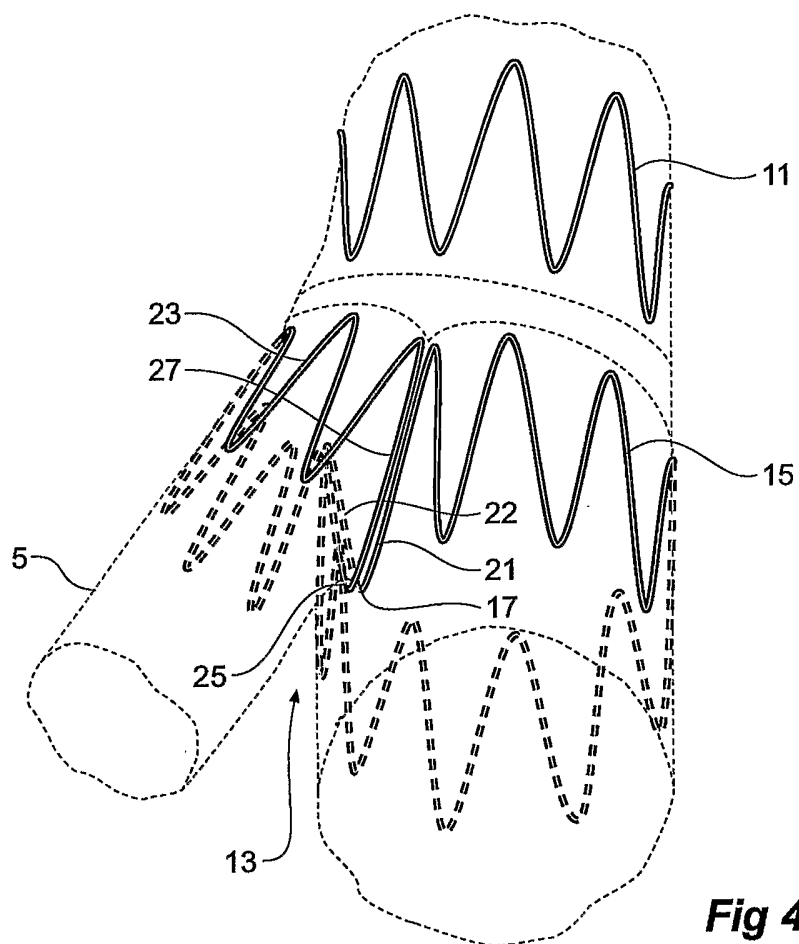


Fig 3

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**Fig 4**

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter application No
PCT/JP2005/044594

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. A61F2/06		
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 practical, 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.
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A	WO 98/53761 A (WILLIAM A. COOK AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD; HARTLEY, DAVID; LAWRENCE-BROWN, MI) 3 December 1998 (1998-12-03) figures 13b, 13c	1-11
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☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☒ See patent family annex.		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 19 April 2006		Date of mailing of the international search report 28/04/2006
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Steiner, B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT 2005/044594

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