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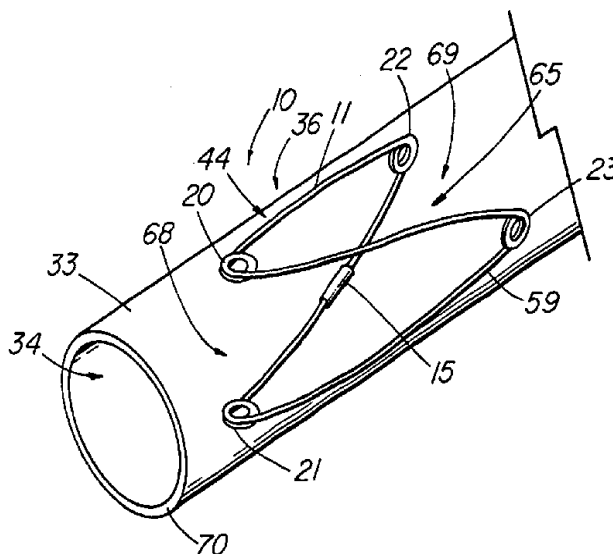
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(54) Title: MULTIPLE-SIDED INTRALUMINAL MEDICAL DEVICE

(57) Abstract

A multiple-sided medical device comprises a closed frame of a single piece of wire or other resilient material and having a series of bends and interconnecting sides. The device has both a flat configuration and a second, folded configuration that comprises a self-expanding stent. The stent is pushed from a delivery catheter into the lumen of a duct or vessel. One or more barbs are attached to the frame of the device for anchoring or to connect additional frames. A covering of fabric or other flexible material such as DACRON, PTFE, or collagen, is sutured or attached to the frame to form an occlusion device, a stent graft, or an artificial valve such as for correcting incompetent veins in the lower legs and feet. A partial, triangular-shaped covering over the lumen of the device allows the valve to open with normal blood flow and close to retrograde flow.



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MULTIPLE-SIDED INTRALUMINAL MEDICAL DEVICE

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DescriptionTechnical Field

This invention relates to medical devices, more particularly, to intraluminal devices.

Background of the Invention

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As minimally invasive techniques and instruments for placement of intraluminal devices have developed over recent years, the number and types of treatment devices have proliferated as well. Stents, stent grafts, occlusion devices, artificial valves, shunts, etc., have provided successful treatment for a number of conditions that heretofore required surgery or lacked an adequate solution altogether.

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Minimally invasive intravascular devices have especially become popular with the introduction of coronary stents to the U.S. market in the early 1990s. Coronary and peripheral stents have been proven to provide a superior means of maintaining vessel patency, however, they have subsequently been used in conjunction with grafts as a repair for abdominal aortic aneurysm, fibers or other materials as occlusion devices, and as an intraluminal support for artificial valves, among other uses.

20

A number of different stent designs are known, in which a wire framework defines a plurality of interconnected cells all forming a cylinder that is radially expandable to have a central lumen, where each cell has a closed circumference having a plurality of sides and with an aperture therethrough. Such designs are disclosed in, for example, EP-A-0 221 570, WO-A-95 29646 and EP-A-0 691 108, and in EP-A-0 221 570 there is also disclosed graft material secured to the wire framework so that the medical device is a stent graft.

25

Some of the chief goals in designing stents and related devices include providing sufficient radial strength to supply sufficient force to the vessel and prevent device migration. An additional concern in peripheral use, is having a stent that is resistant to external compression. Self-expanding stents are superior in this regard to balloon expandable stents which are more popular for coronary use. The challenge is designing a device that can be delivered to the target vessel in as small

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of a configuration as possible, while still being capable of adequate expansion. Self-expanding stents usually require larger struts than balloon expandable stents, thus increasing their profile. When used with fabric or other coverings that require being folded into a delivery catheter, the problem is compounded.

- 5 There exists a need to have a basic stent, including a fabric covering, that is capable of being delivered with a low profile, while still having a sufficient expansion ratio to permit implantation in larger vessels, if desired, while being stable, self-centering, and capable of conforming to the shape of the vessel.

10 Summary of the Invention

The foregoing problems are solved and a technical advance is achieved by a multiple-sided intraluminal medical device comprising a single frame having a closed circumference with an aperture therethrough, said closed circumference having a plurality of sides, adjacent sides of said plurality of sides being interconnected by at least one bend, said frame adapted to assume a
15 plurality of configurations, a first configuration of said plurality of configurations being in a generally flat plane.

The bends can be coils, fillets, or other configurations to reduce stress and fatigue. The
20 single piece of wire is preferably joined by an attachment mechanism, such as a piece of cannula and solder, to form a single frame defined by a closed circumference that bounds a single aperture. The device has a first configuration wherein the sides and bends generally lie within a single, flat plane. In an embodiment having four equal sides, the frame is folded into a second configuration where opposite bends are brought in closer proximity to one another toward one end of the device, while the other opposite ends are folded in closer proximity together toward the opposite end of the device. In the second configuration, the device becomes a self-expanding
25 stent. In a third configuration, the device is compressed into a delivery device, such as a catheter, such that the sides are generally beside one another. While the preferred embodiment is four-sided, other polygonal shapes can be used as well.

In another aspect of the present invention, one or more barbs can be attached to the
30 frame for anchoring the device in the lumen of a vessel. The barbs can be extensions of the single piece of wire or other material comprising the frame, or they can represent a second piece of material that is separately attached to the frame by a separate attachment mechanism. An elongated barb can be used to _____



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connect additional devices with the second and subsequent frames attached to the barb in a similar manner.

- 5 In still another aspect of the present invention, a covering, such as DACRON (trademark of E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Co.), PTFE, collagen, or other flexible material, can be attached to the device with sutures or other means to partially, completely, or selectively restrict fluid flow.

- 10 When the covering extends over the entire aperture of the frame, the frame formed into the second configuration functions as a vascular occlusion device that once



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deployed, is capable of almost immediately occluding an artery. A artificial valve, such as that used in the lower legs and feet to correct incompetent veins, can be made by covering half of the frame aperture with a triangular piece of material. The artificial vein traps retrograde blood flow and seals the lumen, while normal blood flow is permitted to travel through the device. In related embodiments, the device can be used to form a stent graft for repairing damaged or diseased vessels. In a first stent graft embodiment, a pair of covered frames or stent adaptors are used to secure a tubular graft prosthesis at either end and seal the vessel. Each stent adaptor has an opening through which the graft prosthesis is placed and an elongated barb is attached to both frames. In another stent graft embodiment, one or more frames in the second configuration are used inside a sleeve to secure the device to a vessel wall.

Brief Description of the Drawing

- 15 FIG. 1 depicts a top view of one exemplary embodiment of the present invention;
- FIG. 2 depicts a pictorial view of the embodiment of FIG. 1;
- FIG. 3 depicts a top view and enlarged, partial cross-sectional views of a second exemplary embodiment of the present invention;
- 20 FIG. 4 depicts a side view of the embodiment of FIG. 3 deployed in a vessel;
- FIG. 5 depicts a enlarged partial view of the embodiment of FIG. 1;
- FIG. 6 depicts a partially-sectioned side view of the embodiment of FIG. 1 inside a delivery system;
- 25 FIG. 7 depicts a top view of a third embodiment of the present invention;
- FIG. 8 depicts a side view of the embodiment of FIG. 7 deployed in a vessel;
- FIGs. 9-11 depict enlarged partial views of other embodiments of the present invention;
- 30 FIG. 12 depicts a top view of a fourth embodiment of the present invention;

FIGs. 13-14 depicts side views of the embodiment of FIG. 12;

FIG. 15 depicts a top view of a fifth embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 16 depicts a side view of the embodiment of FIG. 15;

FIG. 17 depicts a side view of a sixth embodiment of the present
5 invention;

FIG. 18 depicts an enlarged pictorial view of a seventh embodiment of the
present invention; and

FIG 19 depicts a top view of an eighth embodiment of the present
invention.

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Detailed Description

The invention is further illustrated by the following (preceding) pictorial
embodiments, which in no way should be construed as further limiting. The present
invention specifically contemplates other embodiments not illustrated but intended
15 to included in the appended claims.

FIG. 1 depicts a top view of one embodiment of the medical device 10 of
the present invention comprising a frame 11 of resilient material, preferably metal
wire made of stainless steel or a superelastic material (e.g., nitinol). While round
wired is depicted in each of the embodiments shown herein, other types, e.g., flat,
20 square, or triangular, may be used to form the frame. In the illustrative embodiment,
the frame comprises a closed circumference 62 of a single piece 59 of material that
is formed into a device 10 having a plurality of sides 13 interconnected by a series
of bends 12. The depicted embodiment includes four sides 13 of approximately
equal length. Alternative embodiment include forming a frame into any polygonal
25 shape, for example a pentagon, hexagon, octagon, etc. One alternative embodiment
is shown in FIG. 19 that includes a four-sided frame 11 having the general shape of
a kite with two adjacent longer sides 66 and two adjacent shorter sides 67. In the
embodiment of FIG. 1, the bends 12 interconnecting the sides 13 comprise a coil 14
of approximately one and a quarter turns. The coil bend produces superior bending
30 fatigue characteristics than that of a simple bend 40, as shown in FIG. 9, when the
frame is formed from stainless steel and most other standard materials. The

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embodiment of FIG. 9 may be more appropriate, however, if the frame is formed from nitinol (NiTi) or other superelastic alloys, as forming certain type of bends, such as coil
14, may actually decrease fatigue life of a device of superelastic materials. Therefore,
5 the bend 12 should be of a structure that minimizes bending fatigue. Alternative bend
12 embodiments include a outward-projecting fillet 41 as shown in FIG. 10, and an
inward-projecting fillet 42 comprising a series of curves 63, as shown in FIG. 11. Fillets
are well known in the stent art as a means to reduce stresses in bends. By having the
10 the fillet extend inward as depicted in FIG. 11, there is less potential trauma to the vessel
wall.

When using stainless steel wire, the size of the wire depends on the size of
device and the application. An occlusion device, for example, preferably uses .010"
(0.254 mm) wire for a 10 mm square frame, while .014" and .016" (0.370 and 0.421
15 mm) wire would be used for 20 mm and 30 mm frames, respectively. Wire that is too
stiff can damage the vessel, not conform well to the vessel wall, and increase the profile
of the device.

Returning to FIG. 1, the single piece 59 of material comprising the frame 11
is formed into the closed circumference by securing the first and second ends 60,61
20 with an attachment mechanism 15 such as a piece of metal cannula. The ends 60,61
of the single piece 59 are then inserted into the cannula 15 and secured with solder 25,
a weld, adhesive, or crimping to form the closed frame 11. The ends 60,61 of the
single piece 59 can be joined directly without addition of a cannula 15, such as by
soldering, welding, or other methods to join ends 60 and 61. Besides, joining the wire,
25 the frame could be fabricated as a single piece of material 59, by stamping or cutting
the frame 11 from another sheet (e.g., with a laser), fabricating from a mold, or some
similar method of producing a unitary frame.

The device 10 depicted in FIG. 1 is shown in its first configuration 35
whereby all four bends 20,21,22,23 and each of the sides 13 generally lie within a
30 single flat plane. To resiliently reshape the device 10 into a second configuration 36,
shown in FIG. 2, the frame 11 of FIG. 1 is folded twice, first along a diagonal axis 24
with opposite bends 20 and 21 being brought into closer proximity, followed by



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opposite bends 22 and 23 being folded together and brought into closer proximity in the opposite direction. The second configuration 36, depicted in FIG. 2, has two opposite
5 bends 20,21 oriented at the first end 68 of the device 10, while the other opposite bends 22,23 are oriented at the second end 69 of the device 10 and rotated approximately 180° with respect to bends 20 and 21 when viewed in cross-section. The medical device in the second configuration 36 can be used as a stent 44 to maintain an open lumen 34 in a vessel 33, such as a vein, artery, or duct. The bending
10 stresses introduced to the frame 11 by the first and second folds required to form the device 10 into the second configuration 36, apply radial force against the vessel wall 70 to hold the device 10 in place and prevent vessel closure. Absent any significant plastic deformation occurring during folding and deployment, the device in the second configuration 36 when removed from the vessel or other constraining means, will at
15 least partially return to the first configuration 35. It is possible to plastically form the device 10 into the second configuration 36, such that it does not unfold when restraint is removed. This might be particularly desired if the device is made from nitinol or a superelastic alloy.

The standard method of deploying the medical device 10 in a vessel 33, depicted in FIG. 6, involves resiliently forming the frame 11 into a third configuration 37
20 to load into a delivery device 26, such as a catheter. In the third configuration 37 the adjacent sides 13 are generally beside each other in close proximity. To advance and deploy the device from the distal end 28 of the delivery catheter 26, a pusher 27 is placed into the catheter lumen 29. When the device 10 is fully deployed, it assumes the second configuration 36 within the vessel as depicted in FIG. 2. The sides 13 of
25 the frame, being made of resilient material, conform to the shape of the vessel wall 70 such that when viewed on end, the device 10 has a circular appearance when deployed in a round vessel.

A second embodiment of the present invention is depicted in FIG. 3 wherein one or more barbs 16 are included to anchor the device 10 following
30 deployment. As understood, a barb can be a wire, hook, or any structure attached to the frame and so configured as to be able to anchor the device 10 within a lumen. The illustrative embodiment includes a first barb 17 with up to three other barbs 18,71,72, indicated in dashed lines, representing alternative embodiments. As depicted in detail

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view A, the barb combination 38 that comprises barbs 17 and 18, each barb is an extension of the single piece 59 of material of the frame 11 beyond the closed circumference 59. The attachment cannula 15 secures and closes the single piece 59 of material into the frame 11 as previously described, while the first and second ends 60,61 thereof, extend from the cannula 15, running generally parallel with the side 13 of the frame 11 from which they extend, each preferably terminating around or slightly beyond respective bends 20,23. To facilitate anchoring, the distal end 19 of the barb 17 in the illustrative embodiment contains a bend or hook.

Optionally, the tip of the distal end 19 can be ground to a sharpened point for better tissue penetration. To add a third and fourth barb as shown, a double ended barb 39 comprising barbs 71 and 72 is attached to the opposite side 13 as defined by bends 21 and 22. Unlike barb combination 38, the double barb 39, as shown in detail view B, comprises a piece of wire, usually the length of barb combination 38, that is separate from the single piece 59 comprising the main frame 11. It is secured to the frame by attachment mechanism 15 using the methods described for FIG. 1. FIG. 4 depicts barb 17 (and 18) engaging the vessel wall 70 while the device 10 is in the second, deployed configuration 36. While this embodiment describes up to a four barb system, more than four can be used.

FIG. 7 depicts a top view of a third embodiment of the present invention in the first configuration 35 that includes a plurality of frames 11 attached in series. In the illustrative embodiment, a first frame 30 and second frame 31 are attached by a barb 16 that is secured to each frame by their respective attachment mechanisms 15. The barb 16 can be a double-ended barb 39 as shown in FIG. 3 (and detail view B) that is separate from the single pieces 59 comprising frames 30 and 31, or the barb may represent a long extended end of the one of the single pieces 59 as shown in detail view A of FIG. 3. Further frames, such as third frame 32 shown in dashed lines, can be added by merely extending the length of the barb 16. FIG. 8 depicts a side view of the embodiment of FIG. 7 in the second configuration 36 as deployed in a vessel 33.

FIGs. 12-18 depict embodiments of the present invention in which a covering 45 comprising a sheet of fabric, collagen (such as small intestinal sutures



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submucosa), or other flexible material is attached to the frame 11 by means of sutures 50, adhesive, heat sealing, "weaving" together, crosslinking, or other known means. FIG. 12

5 depicts a top view of a fourth embodiment of the present invention while in the first configuration 35, in which the covering 45 is a partial covering 58, triangular in shape, that extends over approximately half of the aperture 56 of the frame 11. When formed into the second configuration 36 as shown in FIGs. 13-14, the device 10 can act as an artificial valve 43 such as the type used to correct valvular incompetence. FIG. 13 depicts the valve 43 in the open configuration 48. In this
10 state, the partial covering 58 has been displaced toward the vessel wall 70 due to positive fluid pressure, e.g., normal venous blood flow 46, thereby opening a passageway 65 through the frame 11 and the lumen 34 of the vessel 33. As the muscles relax, producing retrograde blood flow 47, as shown in FIG. 14, the partial
15 covering 58 acts as a normal valve by catching the backward flowing blood and closing the lumen 34 of the vessel. In the case of the artificial valve 43, the partial covering 58 is forced against the vessel wall to seal off the passageway 65, unlike a normal venous valve which has two leaflets, which are forced together during retrograde flow. Both the artificial valve 43 of the illustrative embodiment and the
20 normal venous valve, have a curved structure that facilitates the capture of the blood and subsequent closure. In addition to the triangular covering, other possible configurations of the partial covering 58 that result in the cupping or trapping fluid in one direction can be used.

Selecting the correct size of valve for the vessel ensures that the partial covering 58 properly seals against the vessel wall 70. If the lumen 34 of the vessel
25 is too large for the device 10, there will be retrograde leakage around the partial covering 58.

FIG. 15 depicts a top view of a fifth embodiment of the present invention in the first configuration 35, whereby there is a full covering 57 that generally covers the entire aperture 56 of the frame 11. When the device 10 is formed into the
30 second configuration 36, as depicted in FIG. 16, it becomes useful as an occlusion device 51 to occlude a duct or vessel, close a shunt, repair a defect, or other

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device, studies in swine have shown occlusion to occur almost immediately when deployed in an artery or the aorta with autopsy specimens showed thrombus and fibrin had filled the space around the device. The design of the present invention permits it to be used successfully in large vessels such as the aorta. Generally, the occlusion device should have side 13 lengths that are at least around 50% or larger than the vessel diameter in which they are to be implanted.

FIGs. 17-18 depict two embodiments of the present invention in which the device 10 functions as a stent graft 75 to repair a damaged or diseased vessel, such as due to formation of an aneurysm. FIG. 17 shown a stent graft 75 having tubular graft prosthesis 54 that is held in place by a pair of frames 11 that function as stent adaptors 52,53. Each stent adaptor 52,53 has a covering attached to each of the frame sides 13 which includes a central opening 55 through which the graft prosthesis 54 is placed and held in place from friction or attachment to prevent migration. One methods of preventing migration is placement of a smaller device of the present invention at each end and suturing it to the covering. The stent adaptors 52,53 provide a means to seal blood flow while centering the graft prosthesis in the vessel. A long double ended barb 39 connects to each stent adaptor 52,53 and assists to further anchor the stent graft 75. In the embodiment depicted in FIG. 18, the covering 45 comprises a outer sleeve 64 that is held in place by a first and second 30,31 frames that function as stents 44 to hold and seal the sleeve 64 against a vessel wall and maintain an open passageway 65. In the illustrative embodiment, the stents 44 are secured to the graft sleeve 64 by sutures 50 that are optionally anchored to the coils 14 of the bends 12. If the embodiment of FIG. 18 is used in smaller vessels, a single frame 11 can be used at each end of the stent graft 75.



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THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A multiple-sided intraluminal medical device comprising:
a single frame (11) having a closed circumference (62) with an aperture (56)
5 therethrough, said closed circumference having a plurality of sides (13), adjacent sides of said plurality of sides being interconnected by at least one bend (12), said frame adapted to assume a plurality of configurations, a first configuration (35) of said plurality of configurations being in a generally flat plane.
- 10 2. The device of claim 1 wherein at least one of said sides and said bends includes a flexible material and wherein a second configuration (36) of said plurality of configurations includes at least one pair of non-adjacent bends being closer together than in said first configuration.
- 15 3. The device of claim 2 wherein a third configuration (37) of said frame includes at least selected ones of said sides generally beside each other.
4. The device of claim 1 wherein said plurality of sides is four sides.
- 20 5. The device of claim 1 wherein said plurality of sides includes four sides of substantially equal length.
6. The device of claim 1 wherein said plurality of sides includes at least a first pair of adjacent sides, each side of said first pair having a length that is substantially equal to a first
25 length, and a second pair of adjacent sides, each side of said second pair having a length that is substantially equal to a second length, said second length being substantially
different from said first length.
7. The device of claim 1 further including at least one barb (16) extending from said
30 frame.



8. A multiple-sided intraluminal medical device comprising:
a single frame (11) having a closed circumference (62) with an aperture (56)
therethrough, said closed circumference having a plurality of sides (13), adjacent sides of
5 said plurality of sides being interconnected by at least one bend (12), said frame adapted to
assume a plurality of configurations, a first configuration (35) of said plurality of
configurations being in a generally flat plane, wherein said frame includes at least a second
frame (31) linearly connected to said first frame.

10 9. The device of claim 1 wherein at least one of said bends comprises a coil (14).

10. The device of claim 1 wherein at least one of said bends comprises a fillet (41).

11. The device of claim 1 wherein at least one of said bends having a plurality of curves
15 (63).

12. The device of claim 1 further comprising a covering (45) attached to at least two of
said plurality of sides and partially covering said aperture.

13. A multiple-sided medical device consisting of:
a single frame (11) having a closed circumference (62) with an aperture (56)
therethrough, said closed circumference having a plurality of sides (13), wherein adjacent
sides of said plurality of sides being interconnected by at least one bend (12), said frame
having a plurality of configurations including a first configuration (35) of said frame being
25 in a generally flat plane and second configuration (36) having at least one pair of non-
adjacent bends being closer together than in said first configuration, and
a covering (45) attached to at least two of said plurality of sides.

14. The device of claim 13 wherein said covering generally covers said aperture (56).

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The device of claim 14 wherein said covering further includes an opening (55)

therethrough.

16. The device of claim 15 further comprising a tubular member disposed within said opening.

5

17. The device of claim 13 wherein said covering comprises a partial covering (58), said partial covering partially extending across said aperture when said frame is in said first configuration.

10 18. The device of claim 17 wherein said plurality of sides includes four sides and said partial covering is generally triangular in shape, said partial covering extending over nearly half of aperture or greater.

15 19. The device of claim 13 wherein said covering comprises a sleeve (64) attached to at least one said frame such that said frame in said second configuration has an open lumen (65) therethrough.



20. The device of claim 1 further including at least one barb (16) extending from said frame.



21. The device of claim 20 further including a plurality of barbs (16).



22. The device of claim 21 wherein said frame comprises a single piece (59) of material having a first (60) and a second end (61), at least one of said barbs (16) comprising at least one of said first and said second ends.



23. A multiple sided medical device comprising:
a frame (11) having a closed circumference (62) with an aperture (56) therethrough, said closed circumference having a plurality of sides (13), wherein said plurality of sides includes four sides of substantially equal length, adjacent sides of said plurality of sides being interconnected by at least one bend (12) comprising a coil (14), said frame adapted to



assume a plurality of configurations, a first configuration (35) of said plurality of configurations being in a generally flat plane, wherein a second configuration (36) of said frame includes at least one pair of non-adjacent bends being closer together than in said first configuration, wherein a third configuration (37) of said plurality of configurations

5 includes at least selected ones of said sides generally beside each other;

a plurality of barbs (16) extending from said frame wherein said frame comprises a single piece (59) of material having a first (60) and a second end (61), at least one of said barbs (16) comprising at least one of said first and said second ends; and

a covering (45) wherein said covering comprises a partial covering (58), said partial
10 covering partially extending across said aperture when said frame is in said first configuration, said partial covering is generally triangular and extending over at least nearly half of said aperture.

24. An intraluminal medical device consisting of:

15 a single frame (11) consisting of a closed circumference (59), said closed circumference having a plurality of sides (13) bounding only a single aperture (56) therethrough, adjacent ones of said plurality of sides being interconnected by at least one bend (12).



20 25. The device of claim 24 wherein said frame initially has a generally planar shape and assumes a non-planar shape when diagonally opposed one of said bends are urged toward each other against spring bias to comprise associated pairs of said bends spaced from each other by distances essentially equal to the inner diameter of a catheter into which said frame is insertable for delivery to a vessel treatment site of a patient, with said associated
25 pairs of bends being moved out of said generally planar shape in opposed directions from each other, and upon release from said catheter, said pair of associated bends of said frame move apart such that said frame self expands, tending to reassume said generally planar shape until said bends press against walls of said vessel at said treatment site.



30 26. The device of claim 25 wherein said frame has four sides, with opposing ones of sides being substantially equal in length.



27. The device of claim 26 wherein all of said sides are substantially of equal length.
28. The device of claim 20, further including a covering comprising a flexible material
5 affixed to said frame.
29. The device of claim 28, wherein said covering covers said aperture.
30. The device of claim 28, wherein said covering comprises at least one partial covering
10 (58), said at least one partial covering leaving a portion of said aperture is uncovered.
31. The device of claim 30, wherein said at least one partial covering (58) has a generally triangular shape.
- 15 32. The device of claim 28, wherein said covering comprises a material derived from collagen.
33. The device of claim 32, wherein said covering comprises a material derived from small intestinal submucosa.

DATED this 9th day of September, 2002.

COOK INCORPORATED
By its Patent Attorneys
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All Shenas



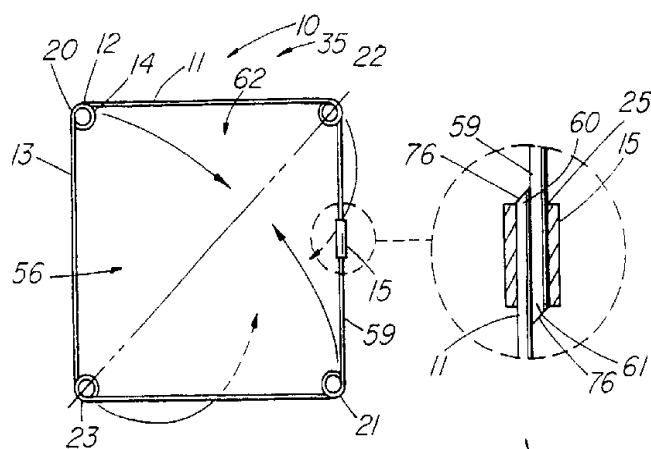


FIG. 1

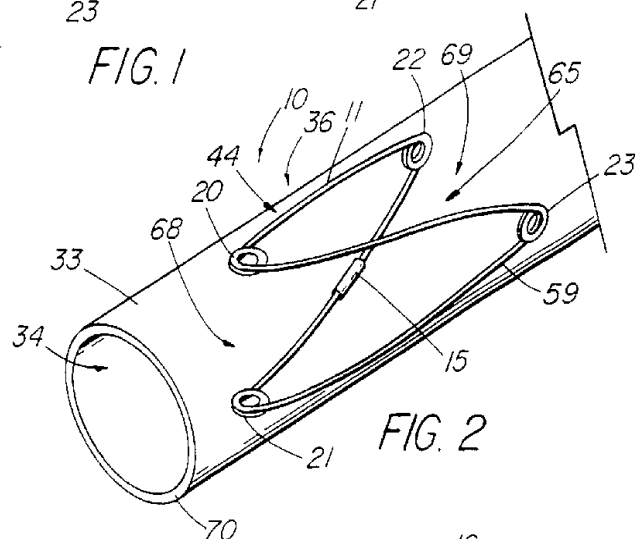


FIG. 2

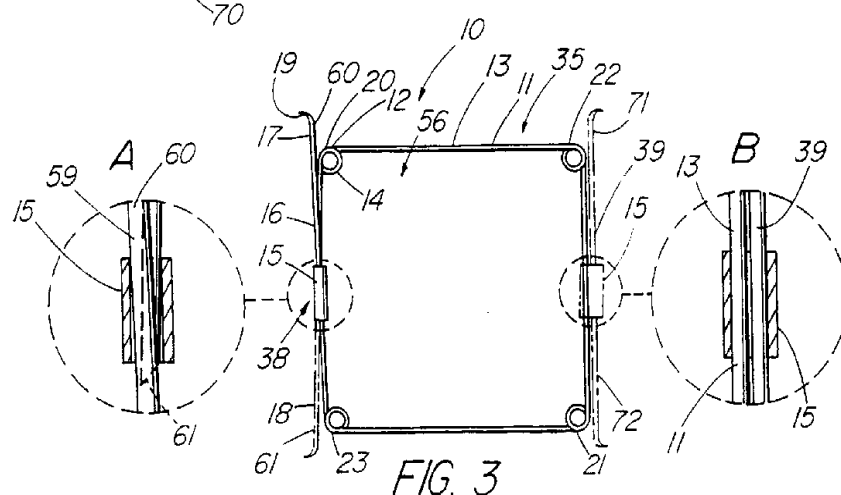


FIG. 3

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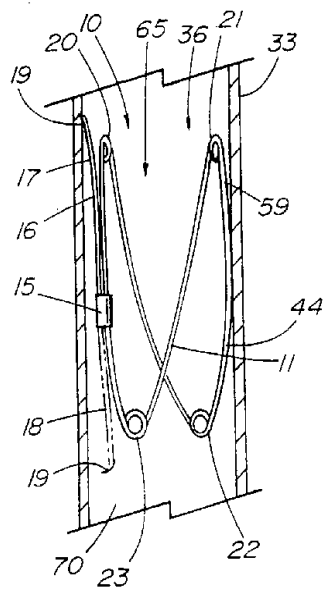


FIG. 4

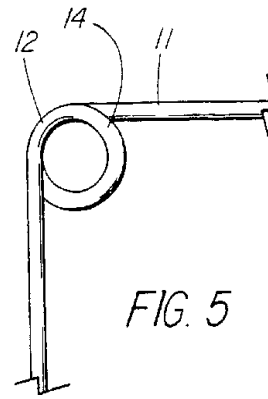


FIG. 5

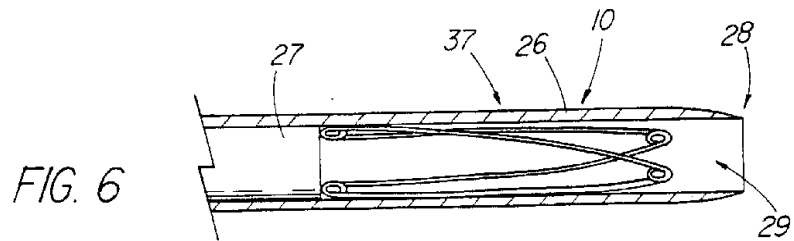


FIG. 6

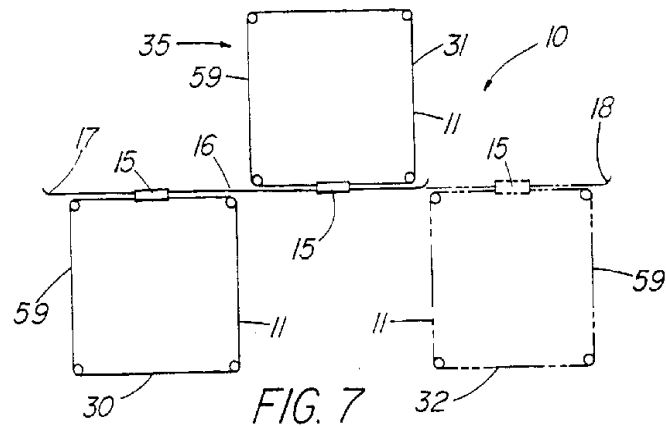
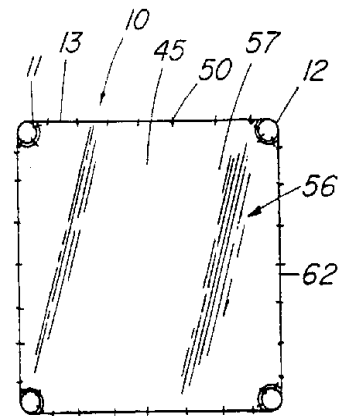
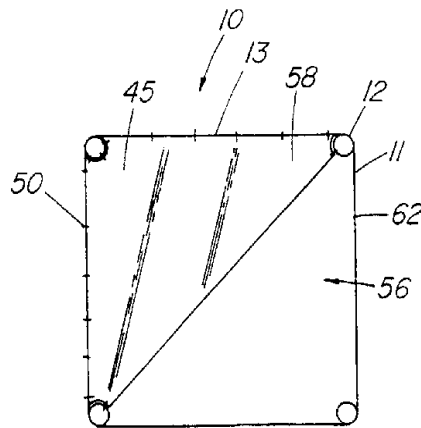
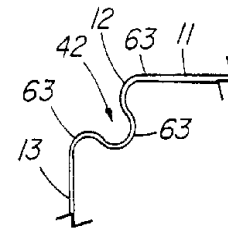
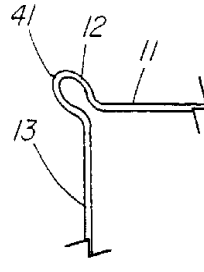
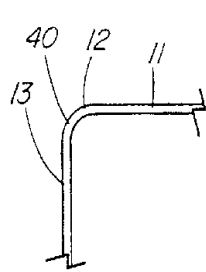
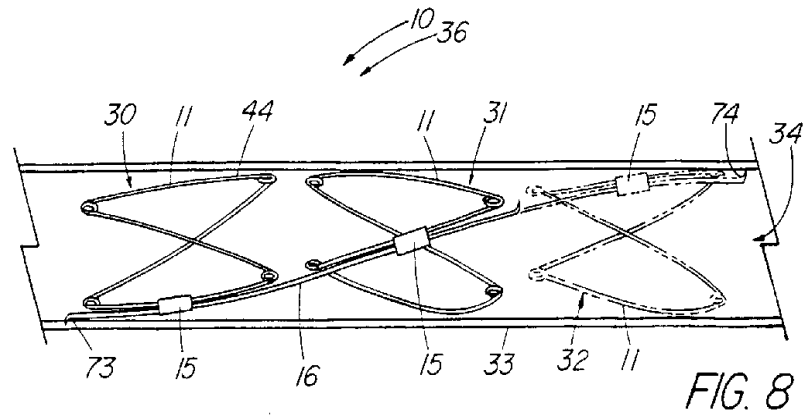


FIG. 7

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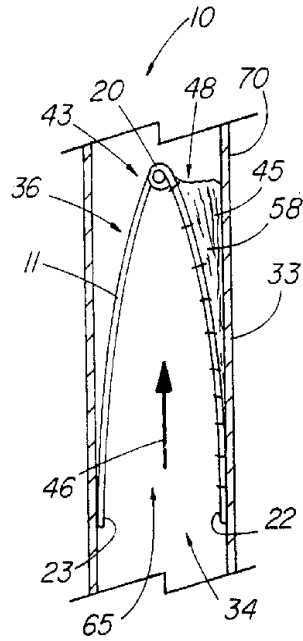


FIG. 13

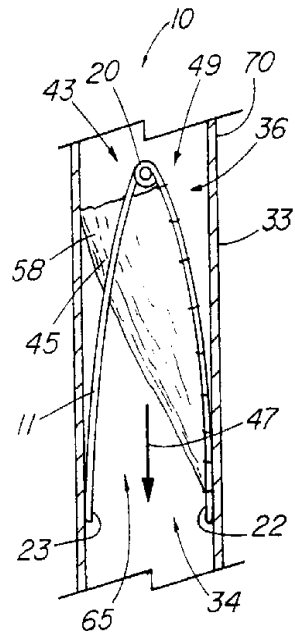


FIG. 14

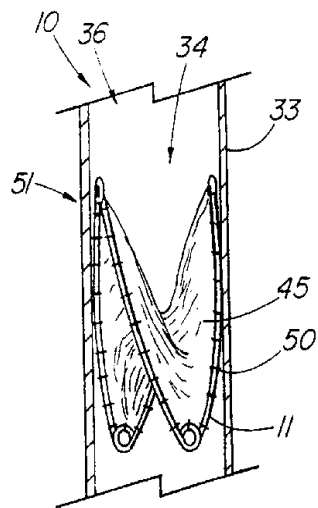


FIG. 16

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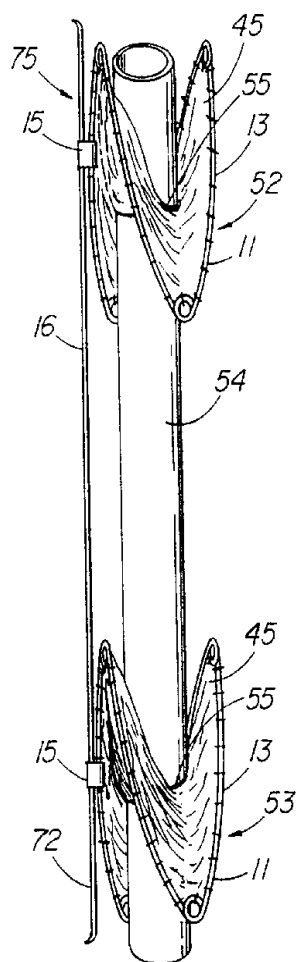


FIG. 17

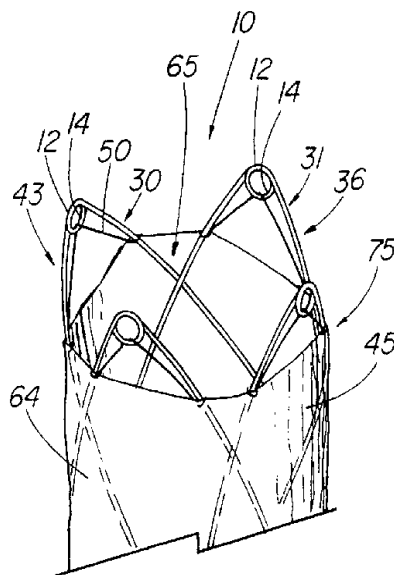


FIG. 18

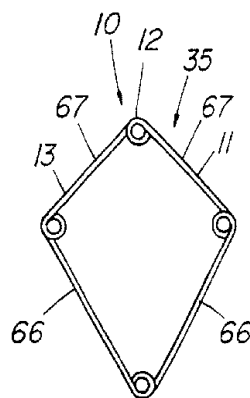


FIG. 19