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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES CORPORATION** [US/US];
One Edwards Way, Irvine, CA 92614 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **ZARBATANY, David** [US/US]; 17 Springbrook Road, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677 (US). **TIEU, Tai** [US/US]; 15976 Mount Mat-tarhorn Street, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 (US). **PUNG,**

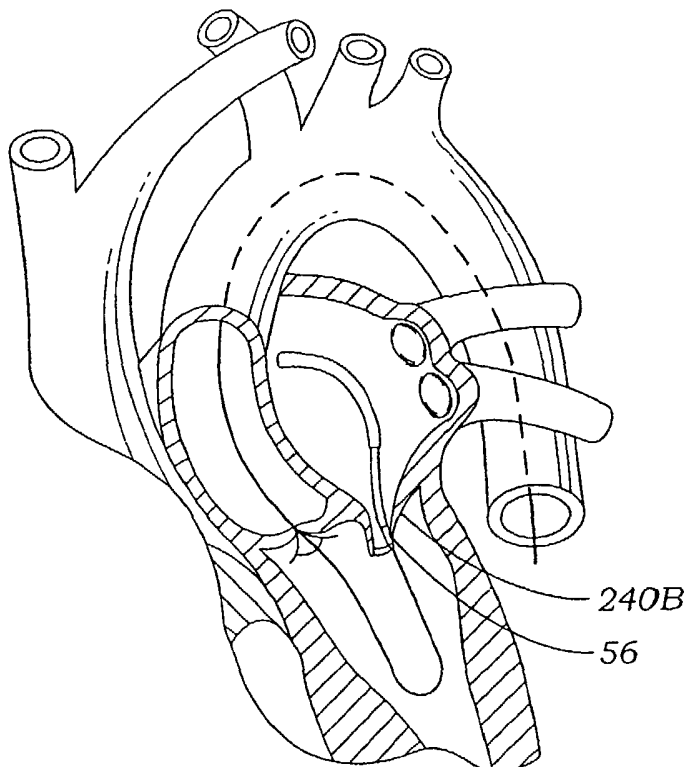
Ponaka [US/US]; 1400 East Hellman Street, Long Beach, CA 90813 (US). **VIDELL, Joseph** [US/US]; 2466 Amelia Court, Signal Hill, CA 90755 (US). **PERRY, Kenneth, E.** [US/US]; 579 Azalea Avenue, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 (US). **KRUMME, John** [US/US]; 4124 Verbier Road, P.O. Box 625, Tahoe City, CA 96145 (US). **BUCH-BINDER, Maurice** [US/US]; 9834 Genessee Avenue, Suite 310, La Jolla, CA 92037 (US).

(74) Agents: **JAMES, John, Christopher** et al.; Edwards Life-sciences LLC, One Edwards Way, Irvine, CA 92614 (US).

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MITRAL VALVE REPAIR SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A mitral valve repair comprises a guide catheter having a proximal end, a distal end, and at least one internal lumen formed therein, a therapy catheter capable of applying a suture to the tissue, and a fastener catheter capable of attaching a fastener to the suture. The therapy catheter and the fastener catheter are capable of traversing the internal lumen of the guide catheter. A therapy catheter is advanced through the guide catheter, stabilizing a first leaflet with the therapy catheter, deploying a first suture into the stabilized first leaflet, disengaging the first leaflet from the therapy catheter while leaving the first suture attached thereto, stabilizing a second leaflet with the therapy catheter, deploying a second suture into the second leaflet, disengaging the second leaflet from the therapy catheter while leaving the second suture attached thereto, and joining the first and second leaflets by reducing the distance between the first and second sutures.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US2004/007383

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 A61B17/068 A61B17/064 A61B17/04

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)
 IPC 7 A61B

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.
X	US 2002/107531 A1 (ADAMS LELAND R ET AL) 8 August 2002 (2002-08-08)	1-14, 16-19
Y	paragraph [0038] - paragraph [0091]; figures 1-16	15
Y	----- WO 01/28432 A (EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES CORP) 26 April 2001 (2001-04-26)	15
A	page 9, line 17 - page 27, line 30	1-14, 16-19
X	----- WO 03/001893 A (EVALVE INC) 9 January 2003 (2003-01-09) page 17, line 24 - page 39, line 15; figures 10-54 ----- -/--	1-3,16

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in 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 document but published on or after the international filing date
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- "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

3 September 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

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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

PASCAL, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte al Application No
PCT/US2004/007383

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 02/34167 A (ST JUDE MEDICAL) 2 May 2002 (2002-05-02) page 7, line 19 - page 22, line 10; figures 1-33 -----	1-19
P,X	----- US 2004/044365 A1 (BACHMAN ALAN B) 4 March 2004 (2004-03-04) the whole document -----	1-19

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2004/007383

Box 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.: 22-23
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2. Claims Nos.:
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:
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 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:

see additional sheet

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 fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
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.:

1-19

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-19

A system for repairing tissue within the heart of a patient

2. claims: 20-21

A suture fastener attachable to suture material

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/US2004/007383

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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