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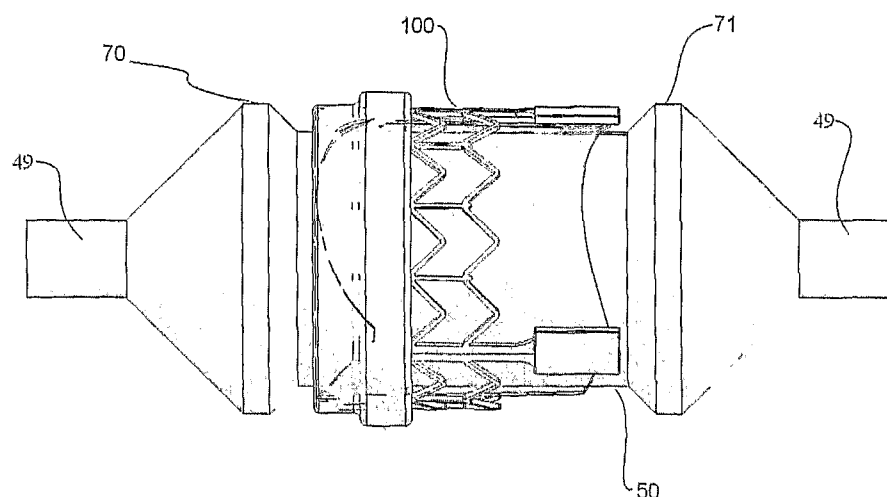
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(54) Title: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR CARDIAC VALVE DELIVERY



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides systems and methods for the repair, removal, and/or replacement of heart valves. The methods comprise introducing a delivery system into the heart, wherein a prosthesis is disposed on the delivery member attached to the delivery system, advancing the prosthesis to the target site, and disengaging the prosthesis from the delivery member at the target site for implantation. The present invention also provides implant systems for delivering a prosthesis to a target site in or near the heart. In one embodiment of the present invention, the implant system comprises a delivery system, an access system, and a prosthesis.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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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)

USPTO WEST System (US, USPG-PUB)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2004/0210304 A1 (SEGUIN et al) 21 October 2004 (21.10.2004) entire document	19-20
Y		1-18, 21-52
Y	US 2005/0137696 A1 (SALAHIEH et al) 23 June 2005 (23.06.2005) entire document	21-24
Y	US 2004/0199195 A1 (DUMONTELLE) 07 October 2004 (07.10.2004) entire document	1-18, 25-52
A	US 2005/0137690 A1 (SALAHIEH et al) 23 June 2005 (23.06.2005) entire document	1-52
A	US 2005/0049696 A1 (SIESS et al) 03 March 2005 (03.03.2005) entire document	1-52
A	US 2005/0015112 A1 (COHN et al) 20 January 2005 (01.20.2005) entire document	1-52
A	US 2004/0236418 A1 (STEVENS) 25 November 2004 (25.11.2004) entire document	1-52
A	US 5,984,959 A (ROBERTSON et al) 16 November 1999 (16.11.1999) entire document	1-52

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