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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: STENTS FOR PROSTHETIC HEART VALVES

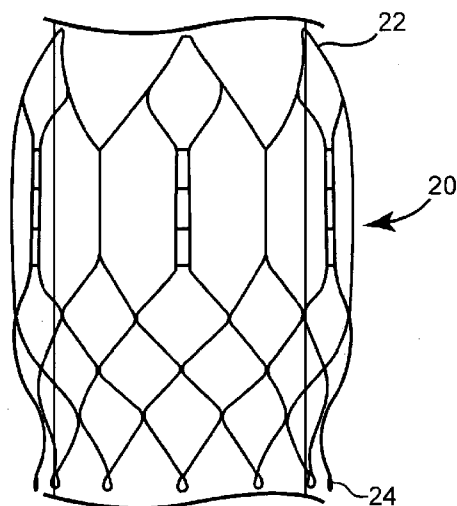


Fig. 2

(57) Abstract: A stented valve including a stent structure including a generally tubular body portion that has a first end and a second end, wherein an area adjacent the first end has a first stiffness, an area adjacent the second end has a second stiffness, and a central region between the areas at the first and second ends has a third stiffness that is less than the stiffness adjacent the first and second ends, wherein the stent structure can be reconfigured in its central area to match a curved patient anatomical region. The stented valve further includes a valve structure attached within the generally tubular portion.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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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.
X	EP 1 690 515 A (SORIN BIOMEDICA CARDIO S R L [IT]) 16 August 2006 (2006-08-16) paragraphs [0043] - [0057], [0067], [0080]; figures 1,2,6,8-10	1-3
X	WO 2007/130537 A (CHILDRENS MEDICAL CENTER [US]; LOCK JAMES E [US]; MCELHINNEY DOFF B [U]) 15 November 2007 (2007-11-15) paragraphs [0045], [0070], [0072], [0078]; figures 1B,11,13-15	1-3
A	US 2007/208550 A1 (CAO HENGCHU [US] ET AL) 6 September 2007 (2007-09-06) the whole document	
A	US 2006/195184 A1 (LANE ERNEST [US] ET AL) 31 August 2006 (2006-08-31) the whole document	
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 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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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 02/100297 A (REX MEDICAL LP. [US]) 19 December 2002 (2002-12-19) the whole document -----	

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

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

1. claims: 1-3

A stented valve, where the stent has longitudinal wires comprising commissure wires attached to the valve leaflets with structural wires in between them, where the commissure wires are nearer to the central longitudinal axis than the structural wires.

2. claims: 4-7

A stented valve with a bulbous stent.

3. claims: 8-11

A stented valve where the stent is stiffer at its ends than in its middle.

4. claims: 12-15

A stented valve where the stent structure has at least two wings.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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