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(54) **Title:** CARDIAC FUNCTION EVALUATION SYSTEM

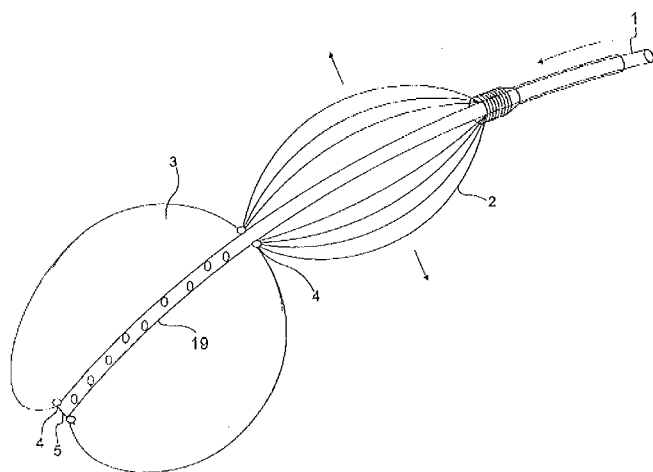


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** A device adapted for determining cardiac viability, wherein said device includes: a cannula having a hollow body and at least a distal end adapted for insertion into a heart and operator end for adapted for an operator to position the catheter in the ventricular apex and adapted for connection to a plumbing system; an inflatable balloon positioned near to the distal end in fluid communication with the hollow body to allow for selected inflation of the balloon, a controller adapted to calculate the viability of the heart from pressure data detected within cannula or balloon which is inflated to various degrees with an incompressible fluid.



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CARDIAC FUNCTION EVALUATION SYSTEM

TECHNICAL FIELD

[001] The present invention relates to a device or system that comprises a specialised catheter for insertion into the ventricles of a human donor heart. This device or system is adapted to aid surgeons, clinicians and others in regard to conducting heart transplant operations.

BACKGROUND

[002] There has been a long felt need for a system or device that is able to accurately assess the cardiac function of a donor heart and predict the likely post-transplant cardiac function of a donor heart. Preferably, the cardiac function of the donor heart may be measured after transport to the implanting operating room prior to implantation into a recipient patient. Such an evaluation could be performed in an ex vivo situation where the heart is artificially nourished outside the body in a technique commonly known as a Langendorff preparation (see Bell RM et al – J Mol Cell Cardiol 2011, June;50(6):940-50).

[003] The heart functions effectively as two pumps and either of these two pumps may suffer independent dysfunction. It is therefore desirable to be able to measure the function of each ventricle separately.

[004] Further there has also been a need when using such a device or system in a heart in which the ventricles are not fully filled with blood that prevents air being ejected from the ventricle through the aortic valve, the coronary ostia and thence the coronary arteries with resultant damage to the cardiac muscle.

[005] In addition, it has been necessary to surgically fix the measuring apparatus to the heart in order to prevent the measuring apparatus from being ejected from the ventricular cavity during contraction (see Eaton LW et al. Circulation. 1979;60:320-326 page 322). Such fixation is laborious and may result in transient or permanent damage to the heart tissues.

[006] The scientific paper Suga H, Sagawa S. Circ Res. 1974;35:117-126 describes a system for measuring cardiac efficiency in canines. This disclosure is of limited application and is not usable in cardiac transplantation under surgical conditions for humans.

[007] The scientific paper Goto et al, Am J Physiol Heart Circ. Physiol 1988;255:H394-H396 describes a system for measuring the cardiac efficiency of small animals such as rabbits. This disclosure has limited application and is not usable in cardiac transplantation under surgical conditions in humans. Further the analysis completed by this system is limited to volumetric analysis rather than pressure analysis.

[008] Cannulae or catheters have been previously used in cardiac surgery for various uses. US Published Patent Application 20120310333 describes a catheter device for installing a replacement mitral valve.

[009] European Patent 0425696 describes a catheter device with an inflatable balloon attached to the distal end and wherein the balloon is adapted to force open a fused and diseased valve.

[0010] European Patent 2376011 describes a catheter device for repairing the mitral valve. The catheter of this disclosure includes an inflatable balloon at a distal end for fixing the catheter in the correct position, the catheter then uses an ultrasonic emitter to the correct and repair the mitral valve.

[0011] European Patent 471029 describes a balloon catheter which may be inserted into the left ventricle of the heart. The catheter includes an inflatable balloon positioned at the distal end of the catheter as well as a series of inlet holes. The inlet holes are positioned so as to provide an inlet for a left ventricle assist device (LVAD) or pump when connected and in use. The balloon aids in positioning and anchoring of the catheter as well as preventing collapse of the left ventricle when low pressures are experienced due to the pumping action of the attached LVAD.

[0012] US Published Patent Application 20120226340 describes balloon catheter adapted for placing and positioning a micro axial blood pump in the aorta. The distal end of the catheter includes a balloon which when inflated expands a stenting mesh to engage the inner wall of the blood vessel and anchor the blood pump in place in the blood vessel.

[0013] US Published Patent Application US20030036707 describes a method of measuring ventricular function using a unspecialisedunspecialized balloon and a series of valves. This disclosure fails to detail in sufficient detail the functioning and features of balloon cannula. In essence, it is a repeat of the above described Langendorff method or technique, which is of limited application for small animal experimental usage and is not usable in cardiac transplantation under surgical conditions for humans.

SUMMARY

[0014] PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED

[0015] It is an object of the present invention to overcome or ameliorate at least one of the disadvantages of the prior art, or to provide a useful alternative.

[0016] Any discussion of the prior art throughout the specification should in no way be considered as an admission that such prior art is widely known or forms part of common general knowledge in the field.

[0017] MEANS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM

[0018] A first aspect of the present invention relates to a device adapted for determining cardiac viability, wherein said device includes: a cannula having a hollow body and at least a distal end adapted for insertion into a heart and operator end for adapted for holding the catheter and positioning the tip within the ventricle; the operator end is adapted for connecting to a plumbing system and pressure transducer; an inflatable balloon positioned near to the distal end in fluid communication with the hollow body to allow for selected inflation of the balloon, a controller adapted to calculate the viability of the heart from pressure data detected within cannula or balloon. The preferred distal end

is joined to a pigtail or a blunt bulb shaped arrangement to prevent injury to heart during insertion.

[0019] Preferably, the distal end is adapted to be inserted within a ventricle of the heart. The preferred pressure data is calculated from the difference of internal pressure applied to body and balloon by an operator via a syringe or other means of altering the fluid volume and the pressure applied by the interior pressure of the heart acting on the balloon in use and further preferably the pressure data is detected by a pressure sensor in communication with the interior of the balloon.

[0020] The balloon may include an expansion limitation to prevent or limit over expansion of the balloon, in use. Preferably, the balloon is attached to the body by tethering in an annulus around the catheter at a position proximal to the distal point. Such an arrangement limits the extent to which the inflated balloon can move relative to the catheter shaft.

[0021] The balloon can be made intentionally smaller than the smallest ventricular cavity in which it is used. With the catheter tip positioned at the ventricular apex, this means that the tethered balloon cannot herniate into the atrial cavity when fully inflated.

[0022] An expandable cage may be joined to the body in a position adapted to engage the mitral or tricuspid valve when in use and to render it incompetent and thus prevent ventricular fluid contents (including air) being ejected during ventricular contraction through the outlet valve (either aortic valve in the case of the left ventricle or the pulmonary valve in the case of the right ventricle).

[0023] Preferably, the hollow body includes a first and second tubes which are integrally joined and parallel. The second tube may include a number of vent holes, the more distal of which will lie in the ventricular cavity and the more proximal will lie in the atrial cavity. The effect of these holes is to render mitral or tricuspid valve ineffective and thus prevent ventricular fluid contents (including air) being ejected during ventricular

contraction through the outlet valve (either aortic valve in the case of the left ventricle or the pulmonary valve in the case of the right ventricle).

[0024] A second aspect of the present invention may relate to a system adapted for determining cardiac viability, wherein said device includes: a cannula having a hollow body and at least a distal end adapted for insertion into a heart and operator end for adapted for a surgeon or an operator; an inflatable balloon positioned near to the distal end in fluid communication with the hollow body to allow for selected inflation of the balloon, a controller adapted to calculate the viability of the heart from pressure data detected within cannula or balloon and the associated volume data from inflating the balloon.

[0025] The preferred distal end is adapted to be inserted within a left or right ventricle of the heart. The preferred pressure data is calculated from the difference of internal pressure applied to body and balloon by a surgeon and the pressure applied by the interior pressure of the heart acting on the exterior surface of the balloon in use.

[0026] The pressure data may be detected by a pressure sensor in communication with the interior of the body or balloon.

[0027] Preferably, the balloon may include an expansion limitation to prevent or limit over expansion of the balloon, in use. The preferred balloon is attached to the body by tethering at two points in an annulus around the catheter.

[0028] An expandable cage may be joined to the body in a position adapted to disable or hinder the actions of the mitral or tricuspid valve when in use. Preferably, the distal end is joined to a pig tail shaped arrangement to prevent injury to heart during insertion.

[0029] The hollow body may include a first and second tubes which are integrally joined and parallel. The second tube may include a number of vent holes, the more distal of which will lie in the ventricular cavity and the more proximal will lie in the atrial cavity.

[0030] In the context of the present invention, the words “comprise”, “comprising” and the like are to be construed in their inclusive, as opposed to their exclusive, sense, that is in the sense of “including, but not limited to”.

[0031]

[0032] The invention is to be interpreted with reference to the at least one of the technical problems described or affiliated with the background art. The present aims to solve or ameliorate at least one of the technical problems and this may result in one or more advantageous effects as defined by this specification and described in detail with reference to the preferred embodiments of the present invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

[0033] Figure 1 depicts a cross sectional side view of a first preferred embodiment of the present invention;

[0034] Figure 2 depicts a cross sectional side view of embodiment shown in Figure 1 wherein the device or device is positioned within a donor heart;

[0035] Figure 3 depicts a cross-sectional side view of a second preferred embodiment of the present invention;

[0036] Figure 4 depicts a cross-sectional side view of a further preferred embodiment of the present invention;

[0037] Figure 5 depicts a cross-sectional side view of a further preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

[0038] Figure 6 depicts a cross-sectional side view of a further preferred embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0039] Preferred embodiments of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings and non-limiting examples.

[0040] In a first preferred embodiment of the present invention, the embodiment includes a device and/or system as depicted in Figures 1 & 2. The following description makes reference to Figures 1 & 2.

[0041] The device and/or system may include a catheter or cannula 1 having at least two ends being a operator end (not shown) and a distal end 5. The operator end is adapted for connection to other devices or machines or may be manipulated by surgeons or operators during use. The distal end 5 is adapted for entry in the ventricle 12. In this specification, the term “operators” or “operator” means any person or persons skilled in the art of cardiac surgery and capable of operating said device or system.

[0042] Figure 1 shows part of the first preferred embodiment of the present invention, in particular the region near to the distal end 5.

[0043] Preferably, the first preferred embodiment is a device adapted to be received or inserted into a donor heart between explantation and implantation of the transplantation procedure. It is a preferred advantage of the current system or device that it should be adapted to for cardiac evaluation of the donor heart prior to implantation.

[0044] The device may be adapted to not or not significantly damage the heart within which it is inserted.

[0045] In this embodiment, the body 1 of the cannula is integrally joined to the distal end 5. The body 1 is preferably hollow and allows for the connection of a pressurising device at the proximal end (not shown). The hollow body allows for fluid to be pumped out of the distal end 5, into the balloon. The body 1 may be constructed of a semi rigid material

that includes enough flexibility to allow the cannula to bend around corners during insertion either through the vena cava (to right ventricle) or left atrium (to left ventricle). The cannula is rigid enough to allow for cannula not to collapse or buckle when lateral force is being applied by a surgeon at the proximal end during insertion.

[0046] The distal end 5 preferably includes an end wherein the balloon is configured so as to extend past the tip when the balloon is inflated. Preferably, the balloon may be adapted to inflate or extend past the furthest point of the distal end of the cannula and thereby effectively positioning the balloon between the distal end and the heart to act as a cushion in a beating heart. This may prevent the distal end from damaging the interior of the heart or blood vessels. Preferably, the balloon would only be required to be partially inflated to effect this feature, or there would be another, smaller balloon for this cushioning purpose, with its own lumen up the cannula 1.

[0047] Alternately, a pig tail arrangement may be attached to the distal end 5. The pig tail arrangement is a curved extension integrally moulded to the distal end 5, which is shaped similar to a pig's curled tail. The advantage of the pig tail arrangement is it may prevent laceration or tearing or other injury to heart or blood vessels during insertion as it spreads the force at the distal end 5 if the said end contacts a blood vessel wall or heart wall during insertion. Additionally, the pig tail arrangement is configured to be more flexible than the body 1 and therefore it will collapse and bend over before the body 1 punctures a blood vessel or before the body collapses or crimps, preventing its function.

[0048] The device includes an inflatable balloon 3 mounted proximal to the distal end 5 along the body 1. The balloon is fixed in place with tethering 4 or stitching which prevents or limits the movement of the balloon 3. Preferably, the balloon is constructed of a flexible and elastic material that may be inflated when pressure is applied to the interior of the balloon 5 by way of pressure received from body 1. The pressure exits the body 1 through balloon vent holes 19 in Figure 3 and enters the balloon 3. In this embodiment, when pressure is decreased or removed the balloon may deflate into a collapsed position for insertion. When in use, the balloon is inflated by the aforementioned means.

[0049] Adjacent to the balloon 3 on the proximal side of body 1 is attached an expandable mesh or cage 2. Preferably, the cage 2 is selectively able to expand or contract when desired by a surgeon. The cage 2 may be attached the tethering 4 which may also be connected to further tethers which are operable by surgeons or doctors at the proximal end of the cannula 1 using a sliding sleeve. The cage 2 may be constructed of a biocompatible alloy including titanium, stainless steel or nitinol or from a polymer.

[0050] The sliding sleeve preferably engages the cage 2 at an end opposite to the end attached to the base of the balloon. The sleeve may surround a portion of the cannula with a cylinder that comprises internal diameter greater than the outer diameter of the cannula. Preferably, the surgeon may slide the sleeve away from the surgeon which then exerts a force on the cage 2. Preferably the cage 2 comprises a series of parallel struts and as the sleeve is slid towards the balloon. The struts bend and expand to cage 2 into an expanded configuration. When the sleeve is slid towards the surgeon, the struts are relaxed and change position so that they flatten against the outer surface of the cannula and this is the deflated configuration of the cage 2.

[0051] Preferably, the struts may be made of flexible and resilient material that is adapted to be bent or deformed in accordance with hand pressure applied by the surgeon to the sleeve.

[0052] Figure 2 depicts the first preferred embodiment of the present invention in situ or in use, wherein the distal end 5 of the cannula 1 has been inserted into a ventricle 12 of a heart 13. The view shown in Figure 2 is a stylised illustration of the heart 13.

[0053] During insertion of the first preferred embodiment, the cannula inserted through a blood vessel into the left atrium of the heart 13. The cannula is then positioned through the mitral valve 10 and secured into the left ventricle 12 or through the tricuspid valve and secured in the right ventricle (Figure 5).

[0054] Initially during the insertion procedure, the balloon 3 is in a collapsed position and when the final position is reached by the surgeon, the balloon 3 is inflated by

applying an incompressible fluid pressure along the cannula body 1 into the balloon 3.

Figure 2 depicts the balloon in an inflated configuration.

[0055] Preferably, the balloon 3 is constructed so that it may include maximum expansion limit. The limitation on inflation may allow the balloon 3 not to be over inflated which may damage the left ventricle. Alternatively, ribbing along the surface of the balloon 3 may significantly reduce the elasticity of the balloon.

[0056] In use, the cage 2 is expanded by the surgeon using tethering to expand the cage across the mitral valve 10 to ensure that the mitral valve 10 remains in the open position.

[0057] The insertion of the cannula 1 may serve several functions. The first preferred function is that the hollow body 1 of the cannula 1 may be connected to a pressure sensor (not shown), wherein the pressure sensor may sense fluctuations of pressure acting on the body and the balloon. A controller device electrically connected to the pressure sensor may calculate the difference between the applied pressure (which the surgeon or operator applied) to the pressure being experienced by the balloon 3 and body 1. This difference will be mainly due to the pulsed actions of the heart contracting, thereby allowing for surgeons to detect and measure the viability and strength of a donor heart. This system and device may be used in vivo or in vitro depending on the stage of the transplant operation.

[0058] Figure 3 depicts a variant design of the embodiment shown in figures 1 & 2. This further preferred embodiment shown in Figure 3 is labelled as the second preferred embodiment of the present invention.

[0059] Preferably, the second preferred embodiment lacks a cage 2 but the balloon 3 may be secured by inflation and the inflation force pushing against the walls of the left ventricle may suffice to secure the balloon in place.

[0060] The pig tail arrangement at the distal end 5 has been replaced with a relatively soft bulb to prevent or limit trauma.

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[0061] The body 1 has been modified to include a bifurcated hollow body with two concentric tubes that may be integrally joined together to form the body 1. The first tube 17 acts as inflation conduit for inflating the balloon 3 through balloon vent holes 19. In this embodiment, the second tube 18 in the body 1 includes a series of vent holes to prevent the left ventricle (when inserted into the left ventricle) from pumping out fluid contents including air through the aortic valve. The second tube 18 includes a second set of balloon vent holes 14 preferably positioned proximal to the distal end 15, wherein the vent holes are adapted to receive fluid of the ventricle and allow it to be vented at mitral valve vent 16. Preferably, vent 16 is mounted and positioned across the mitral valve so as to prevent flow from the aortic valve. The second tube also includes mitral valve vent 16, wherein this vent is positioned along the length of the body 1 to be in a position near the mitral valve in the left atrium, when inserted. The second tube 18 is not in fluid communication with the first tube 17.

[0062] Preferably, mitral valve vent 16 may be used to selectively open or close the mitral valve 10. The embodiment shown in Figure 4 may also be applied to the right ventricle, in which case, the mitral valve references would be replaced the tricuspid valve.

[0063] Figure 4, depicts a further embodiment of the present invention, wherein the balloon catheter or cannula has been inserted within the apex of the left ventricle. In this embodiment, the relatively stiff shaft 46 or body of the cannula has been inserted within the left ventricle. The distal end 5 of the cannula 1 has been sewn or stitched 42 to the apex of the left ventricle to prevent or limit the possibility of the ejection of the balloon or cannula during implantation.

[0064] Preferably, the stitching extends from the distal end or tip of the cannula through the interior wall or myocardium tissue of the heart and extends out through the exterior wall of the ventricle.

[0065] Preferably, the device or cannula shown in Figure 4 also includes a series of holes or vents positioned along the body of the cannula

[0066] Preferably, the stitching may be secured by a spring clip (shown in Figure 5 as clip 43) positioned on the outside of the heart proximal to and adjacent to the apex of the left ventricle. This feature is shown and depicted in Figure 5. The stitching may also be secured by a knot tied by the surgeon.

[0067] Figure 4 shows a configuration wherein the balloon is mounted or positioned on the distal end 5 of the cannula. In this case, the heart is protected from the distal end of the cannula, however other alternate versions could be configured wherein the balloon 3 is mounted around the distal end or positioned on the end of the distal end 5.

[0068] Alternately, for configurations such as the one shown in Fig. 4 wherein the balloon is attached the end of the distal end. It may be preferred to a mount a further reinforcement pad on the surface of the balloon to allow for the connection of stitching or tethering. The reinforcing pad is preferably constructed of a soft padding material that is adapted to receive needles or stitching.

[0069] Further, Figure 5 shows and depicts further uses and adaptation of the preferred embodiments wherein two cannulae have been simultaneously implanted. A first cannula 1 has been inserted within the left ventricle of the heart and a second cannula 45 has been inserted within the right ventricle.

[0070] Figure 5 also shows and depicts the insertion needle used to complete the stitching of the thread or tether which connects the apex of the respective ventricle to the distal end of the respective cannula. The combination of the needle 44 and tether 42 connected to the balloon may be sufficient to reposition the balloon within the apex of the ventricle, if the tether is pulled tight. This method of securing the balloon at the distal end of the cannula may assist surgeons to implant devices wherein the balloon is very floppy and has a tendency to collapse on itself during the implantation.

[0071] Preferably, in the embodiments depicted in Figures 4 & 5, these embodiments may also include pressure transducers 41 attached to cannula at some predetermined distance from the heart. Preferably, these pressure transducers may be used to measure

pressure within the hollow cannula body and measure pressure being exerted on the balloon at the distal end. These measurements may lead to data being acquired that describes the functioning or strength of the ventricle compressions against the balloon. Thereby this data may be logged or sent to a controller system

[0072] In a further embodiment of the present invention as depicted in Figure 6, cannula 1 is provided with an inflatable balloon tip 3. The balloon tip is preferably inflated within a ventricle 62 to occupy the full volume or close to the full volume of the ventricle. Preferably, the balloon tip is adapted to be shaped to the ventricle wherein the upper portions of the balloon extend away from the central longitudinal axis of the cannula at a greater angle than the lower portion of the balloon. The lower portion extends down to the distal end of the cannula and forming a rounded end on the actual tip. The balloon is preferably formed of both the upper and lower portions integrally joined and sealed together. The lower portion is generally conical shaped with a rounded distal end.

[0073] Preferably, the upper region of the balloon is stiffer and less flexible than the lower portion to allow the lower portion to move and fill the ventricle. Preferably the upper surface of the balloon may have a same or similar maximum diameter as the diameter of the upper interior surface of the ventricle as shown in Figure 6.

[0074] Preferably, the balloon is generally ventricle shaped but preferably with a dimple (like the shape of two soft knuckles) at the distal end to prevent the end of the shaft contacting the ventricle and damaging it (shown in Figure 5 on the bottom of the balloons)

[0075] Preferably the balloon may include differential gradients of material. The differential gradients allow differential zones of expansion via allowing or constrain the stretching of the balloon about the central axis. More preferably, the balloon may be more stretchable in a radial direction, and this may prevent ingress or herniation back up into the above positioned atrium. Preferably, the outer surface of the balloon may include a partial textured surface which may allow selected regions of the balloon to grip the inner wall of ventricle better than non-textured regions. Additionally, the textured surfaces may

be used to reinforce thinner areas of the ventricle to prevent or ameliorate herniation into either atrium.

[0076] The preferred differential between flexible and stiff may be structured so that the stiffer regions are positioned proximal to the top of the balloon or upper portion, flexible in the middle, stiff at the bottom where the dimples are preferably positioned (shown in Figure 5).

[0077] Dimple at the distal end of the lower portion of the balloon at the end of the shaft may protect the ventricle from being damaged by tip of the shaft which allows the balloon to expand in chosen directions (e.g. mostly longitudinally along the length of the heart)

[0078] Preferably, the balloon cannula shaft 1 in Figure 1, 2, 3, and 6 may include a rigid longitudinally but flexible and resilient body in lateral axis (directions are relative to the orientation of the heart). Preferably, the shaft 1 is adapted to allow it some degrees of movement with a beating heart but to help prevent damage to the heart

[0079] Preferably, the shaft 1, may be selectively fixed in position so to allow it to move in a limited way with the beating heart, but to require it to stay inside the ventricle in order to take measurements.

[0080] The preferred embodiment may include an ability to measure pressure using a pressure tip transducer mounted within the balloon.

[0081] This sensor may provide high fidelity pressure measurements : to measure dP/dT (allowing use of the whole waveform, but also of the numerics and waveforms of both positive and negative dP/dT , and also $dP/dT \div \text{pressure}$ ie. $(dP / dT) / P$).

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[0082] Preferably, the present embodiment may also include a servo controlled inflation device adapted to be connected to the shaft and the balloon. Preferably, the shaft is adapted to be hollow and allows for the pumping of fluid or gas to inflate or deflate the balloon mounted on its distal end. Preferably, the servo controlled inflation device may be attached to the opposed end of the shaft 1 relative to the balloon 3. Preferably, the servo controlled inflation device may allow for the controlled electric inflation of balloon, possibly by way of a piston shuttle, or pump, or controlled release of pressurised gas, for example via a proportional solenoid controlled valve. Other pumping mechanisms are possible including centrifugal pumps. The inflation device may also selectively allow for the deflation of the balloon. Preferably, pressures and volumes within the balloon may be monitored by sensors including pressure sensors in the tip or sensors in the inflation device. Optimal volumes and pressures may be determined experimentally by the surgeon using the system or preferably, the system may be computer controlled wherein hyper extension of the balloon tip into areas not defined by the ventricle is minimised by correct pressure and volume maintenance. The diagnostics measures may also be used and taken by the system:

[0083] a. pressures

[0084] b. volumes

[0085] c. dP/dT , +ve, -ve, $((dP/dT)/P)$

[0086] d. developed pressure

[0087] e. measuring the affect of the inflated or working (shuttled) balloon on the ECG measurement

[0088] f. temperatures

[0089] g. SpO₂ sensors on the balloon, cannula shaft, or tip, to measure Oxygen saturation inside the organ, at particular sites as desired

[0090] h. ECG electrodes, contact pads, or conductive soft mesh - one or more in or on each of balloon, or connected to a bag which contains the heart which this balloon is measuring, fluid to enable an electric connection for sensing ECG and delivering current to the heart at a site that is determined by the sensing of the signals on these sites, or other measures

[0091] i. Measure efficiency of heart - work done/O₂ consumed

[0092] The above measurements may be taken by an array of sensors mounted on 1, or positioned within or proximal to the tip of the balloon.

[0093] Preferably, measuring work done by the heart during a pre-set time interval may enable us to also use the consumed O₂ measurement to calculate efficiency of heart. Additionally, the use of a piston in the inflation device that is connected to balloon to let liquid drive piston in and out - matching the fluid being pushed out of, then accepted back into the ventricle by the heart may allow for the measurement input and output of O₂ in the perfusate or blood whilst doing this to determine the O₂ usage over a short time frame - say a minute, as compared to the resting heart O₂ consumption, and the consumption change over time and also across measurements.

[0094] In this specification, the term “tube” means the same or equivalent as “lumen”.

[0095] Although the invention has been described with reference to specific examples, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the invention may be embodied in many other forms, in keeping with the broad principles and the spirit of the invention described herein.

[0096] The present invention and the described preferred embodiments specifically include at least one feature that is industrially applicable.

[0097] Citation List

Bell RM et al. J Mol Cell Cardiol. 2011 Jun;50(6):940-50

Suga H, Sagawa S. Circ Res. 1974;35:117-126

Goto Y et al. Am J Physiol Heart Circ Physiol1988;255:H394-H396

Eaton LW et al. Circulation. 1979;60:320-326

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A device adapted for determining cardiac viability, wherein said device includes: a cannula having a hollow body and at least a distal end adapted for insertion into a heart and operator end for adapted for an operator to position the catheter in the ventricular apex and adapted for connection to a plumbing system; an inflatable balloon positioned near to the distal end in fluid communication with the hollow body to allow for selected inflation of the balloon, a controller adapted to calculate the viability of the heart from pressure data detected within cannula or balloon which is inflated to various degrees with an incompressible fluid.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the distal end is adapted to be inserted within a left or right ventricle of the heart.
3. The device of any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein the pressure data is calculated from the difference of internal pressure applied to body and balloon by an operator and the pressure applied to the exterior surface of the balloon by the interior pressure of the heart acting on balloon in use.
4. The device of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the pressure data is detected by a pressure sensor in communication with the interior of the body or balloon.
5. The device of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the balloon includes an expansion limitation to prevent or limit over expansion of the balloon, in use.
6. The device of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the balloon is attached to the body of the catheter by tethering.

7. The device of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein an expandable cage is joined to the body in a position adapted to disable or limit the action of the mitral or tricuspid valve, when in use.
8. The device of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein a second tube joined in parallel to the first tubes and wherein the second tube includes a number of holes to vent the ventricle across the mitral or tricuspid valve .
9. The device of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the balloon, when inflated, extends past the farthest point defined by the distal end and wherein the balloon is adapted to prevent injury to the heart during insertion of the device.
10. The device of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the distal end is secured in position within a ventricle by the use of stitching extending through the apex of the respective ventricle.
11. A system adapted for determining cardiac viability, wherein said device includes: a cannula having a hollow body and at least a distal end adapted for insertion into a heart and operator end adapted for an operator; an inflatable balloon positioned near to the distal end in fluid communication with the hollow body to allow for selected inflation of the balloon, a controller adapted to calculate the viability of the heart from pressure data detected within cannula or balloon.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein the distal end is adapted to be inserted within a left ventricle of the heart.
13. The system of any one of claims 11 or 12, wherein the pressure data is calculated from the difference of internal pressure applied to body and balloon by a surgeon

and the pressure applied by the exterior pressure of the heart acting on the balloon in use.

14. The system of any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein the pressure data is detected by a pressure sensor in communication with the interior of the body or balloon.
15. The system of any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein the balloon includes an expansion limitation to prevent or limit over expansion of the balloon, in use.
16. The system of any one of claims 11 to 15, wherein the balloon is attached to the body by annular tethering at two points.
17. The system of any one of claims 11 to 16, wherein an expandable cage is joined to the body in a position adapted to disable the mitral valve when in use.
18. The system of any one of claims 11 to 17, wherein the distal end is joined to a pig tail shaped arrangement to prevent injury to heart during insertion.
19. The system of any one of claims 11 to 18, wherein the hollow body includes a first and second tubes which are integrally joined and parallel.
20. The system of any one of claims 11 to 19, wherein the second tube includes a includes a number of holes to vent the ventricle across the mitral or tricuspid valve.
21. The system of any one of claims 11 to 20, wherein the distal end is secured in position within a ventricle by the use of stitching extending through the apex of the respective ventricle.

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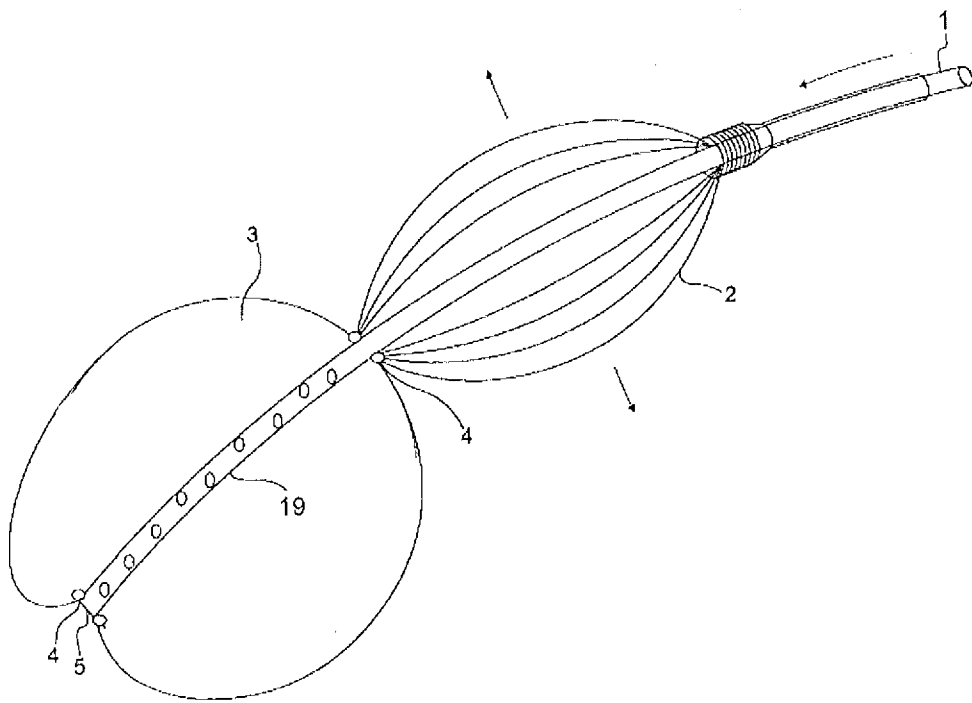


FIG. 1

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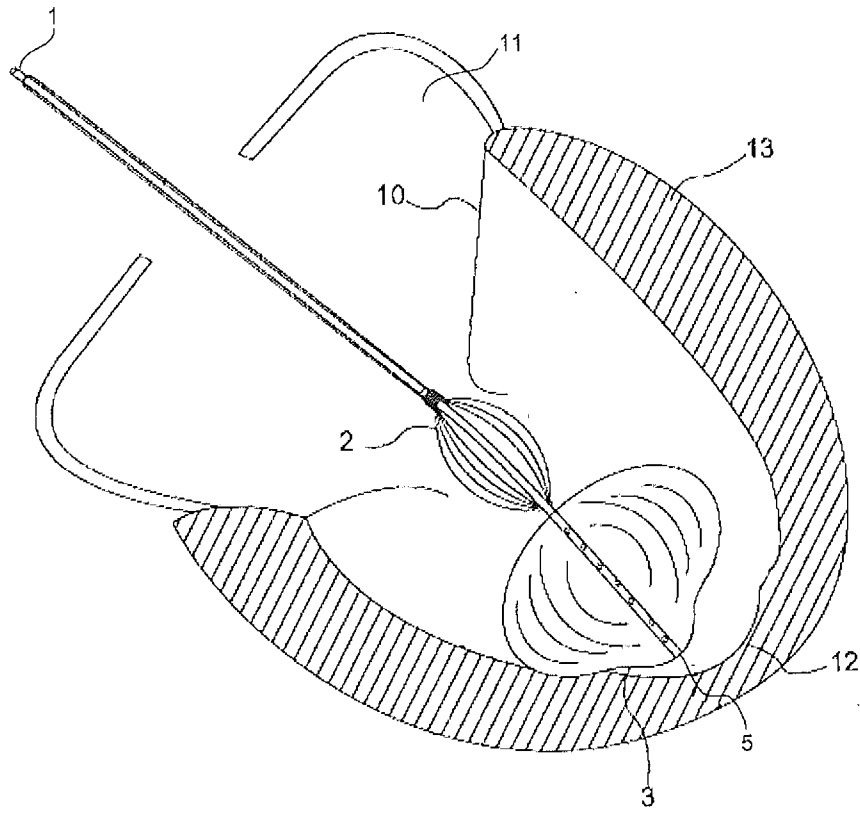


FIG. 2

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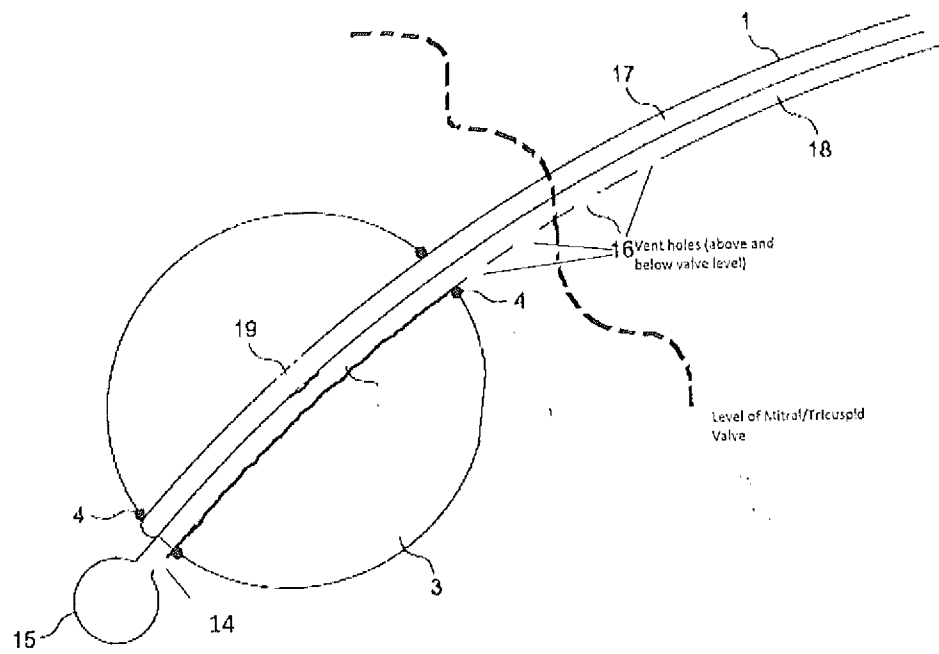


FIG. 3

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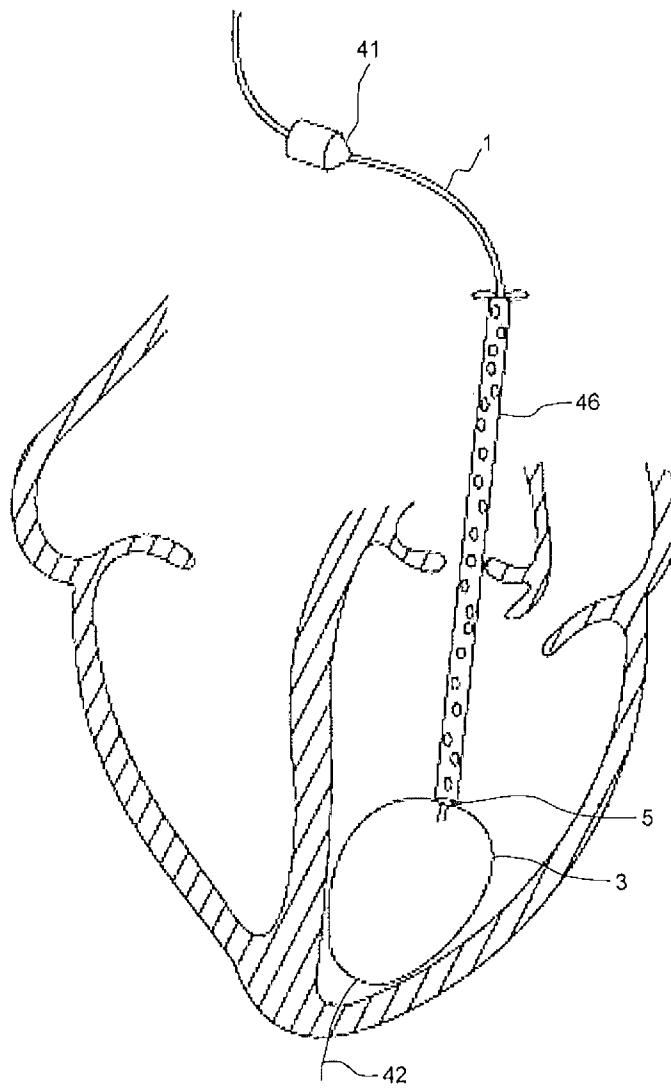


FIG. 4

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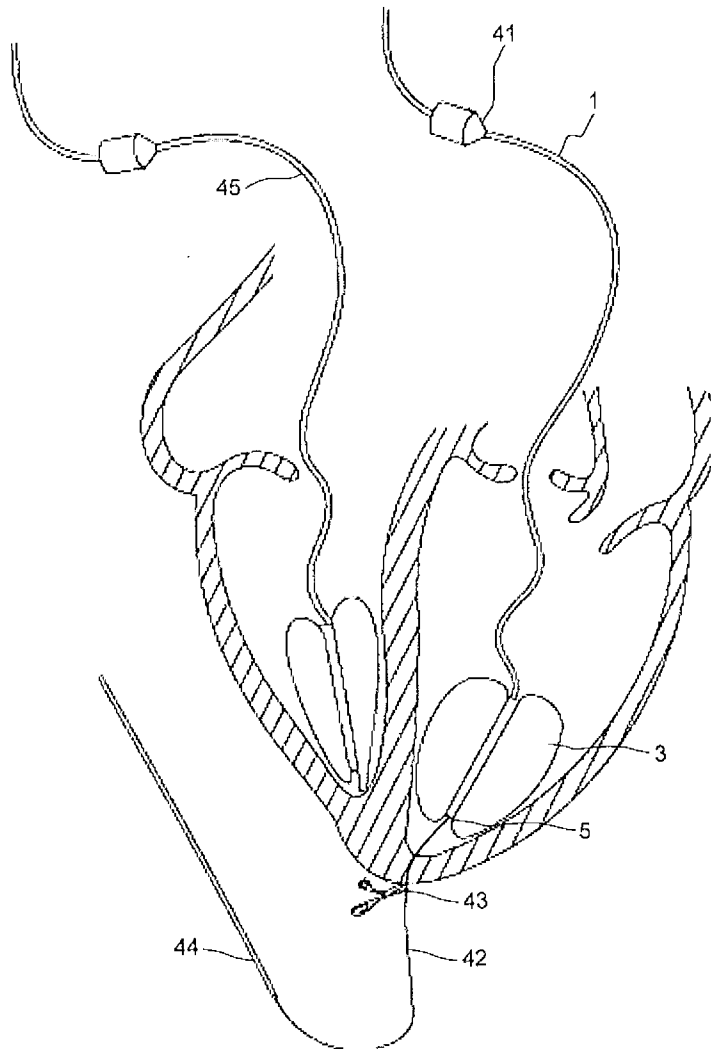


FIG. 5

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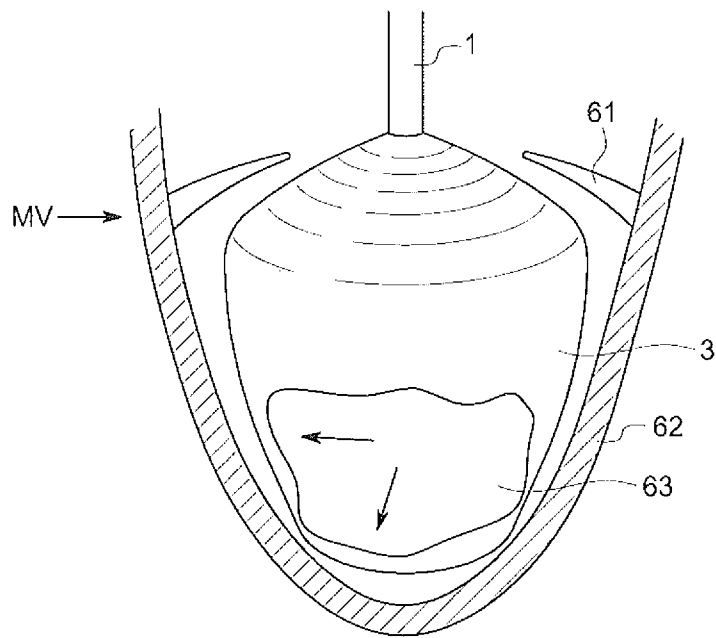


FIG. 6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU2014/000550

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

A61B 5/0215 (2006.01) A61M 25/10 (2013.01) A01N 1/02 (2006.01)

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)

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)

EPODOC; A61B5/0215, A61B5/02158, A61B5/6853, A61B5/6869, A61B19/46, A61b2019/464, A61M2025/0003, A61M25/10/LOW, A61M2025/10/LOW, A01N1/0236/LOW, A61B5/LOW

CLUSTER TXTE; HEART, VENTRICLE, CONDITION, VIABILITY, HEALTH+, TEST, BALLOON, INFLAT+, EXPAND+, PRESSUR+, CATHETER+, DONOR, CALCULAT+, DETECT+, POSITION+, and similar terms

PUBMED: implant, heart, compliance, pressure, function, cannula, balloon, contraction, and similar terms

GOOGLE SCHOLAR & GOOGLE PATENTS: balloon, pressure, transport, preservation, tether, limiting, and similar terms

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
	Documents are listed in the continuation of Box C	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C



See patent family annex

* "A"	Special categories of cited documents: document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E"	earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"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
"L"	document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"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
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

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8 July 2014

Date of mailing of the international search report
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT		International application No.
C (Continuation).		PCT/AU2014/000550
DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2008/0015466 A1 (LERMAN) 17 January 2008	
Y	Figures 1 to 3, paragraphs [0012], [0014] to [0018], and [0026] to [0030]	1-5, 11-15, 19
	Figures 1 to 3, paragraphs [0012], [0014] to [0018], and [0026] to [0030]	6 to 8, 16, 17, 20
X	US 5181518 A (MCDONAGH) 26 January 1993	
Y	Figure 1; column 3, lines 31-44; Column 4, lines 27-32; Column 6, lines 1-23	1, 3, 4, 9, 11-14
	Figure 1; column 3, lines 31-44; Column 4, lines 27-32; Column 6, lines 1-23	6, 7, 16, 17
X	US 5025786 A (SIEGEL) 25 June 1991	
Y	Figure 1, 2, 5 and column 2, lines 16-43; column 2, line 67 to column 3, line 3; column 3, lines 47-64; column 5, lines 47-63	1, 2, 4, 9, 11, 12, 14, 18
	Figure 1, 2, 5 and column 2, lines 16-43; column 2, line 67 to column 3, line 3; column 3, lines 47-64; column 5, lines 47-63	6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 20
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Y	Figure 1 and column 2, line 65 to column 3, line 2; column 4, lines 18 to 27; column 4, line 52 to column 5, line 37	11-14
	Figure 1 and column 2, line 65 to column 3, line 2; column 4, lines 18 to 27; column 4, line 52 to column 5, line 37	6, 7, 16, 17
X	WEBER, K.T. et al., 'Measurement of Ventricular Function in the Experimental Laboratory', The Heart and Cardiovascular System, 1986, Chapter 42, pages 865 to 886	
Y	page 867, figure 2 and column 1, line 14 to column 2, line 29	1, 4, 10, 11, 12, 14, 21
	page 867, figure 2 and column 1, line 14 to column 2, line 29	6, 16
Y	US 2012/0277785 A1 (AGGERHOLM et al.) 01 November 2012	
	paragraphs [0010], [0016], [0045] and [0050]	6, 16
Y	WO 2007/119241 A1 (ARAN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT LTD.) 25 October 2007	
	Figures 2 - 6, page 4, lines 5-14; page 9, lines 16-33; page 10, lines 12-22	7, 17
Y	US 5865801 A (HOUSER) 02 February 1999	
	Figure 5 and column 5, lines 23-36	8, 20
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Form PCT/ISA/210 (fifth sheet) (July 2009)		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT		International application No.	
Information on patent family members		PCT/AU2014/000550	
This Annex lists known patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.			
Patent Document/s Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member/s	
Publication Number	Publication Date	Publication Number	Publication Date
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US 5181518 A	26 January 1993	WO 9213588 A1	20 Aug 1992
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		US 8535237 B2	17 Sep 2013
Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.			

Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001.

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