

[19] Patents Registry [11] 1188552 B
The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
香港特別行政區
專利註冊處

[12] **STANDARD PATENT SPECIFICATION**
標準專利說明書

[21] Application no. 申請編號 [51] Int. Cl.
14101620.0 A61F
[22] Date of filing 提交日期
20.02.2014

[54] ENDOPROSTHESIS DELIVERY SYSTEM
內置修復物輸送系統

[30] Priority 優先權 08.04.2011 US 61/473,503 04.04.2012 US 13/439,773	[73] Proprietor 專利所有人 W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. 555 Paper Mill Road Newark DE 19711 UNITED STATES/UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
[43] Date of publication of application 申請發表日期 09.05.2014	[72] Inventor 發明人 HOLM, Brian C. ROGERS, Shane P. TRUJILLO, Aniceto
[45] Date of publication of grant of patent 批予專利的發表日期 06.06.2019	[74] Agent and / or address for service 代理人及/或送達地址 UNITALEN ATTORNEYS AT LAW LIMITED RM 1201, 12/F, GOLDEN ERA PLAZA, 39-55 SAI YEE ST, MONGKOK KLN HONG KONG
[86] International application no. 國際申請編號 PCT/US2012/032358	
[87] International publication no. and date 國際申請發表編號及日期 WO2012/138884 11.10.2012	
EP Application no. & date 歐洲專利申請編號及日期 EP 12714498.8 05.04.2012	
EP Publication no. & date 歐洲專利申請發表編號及日期 EP 2693991 12.02.2014	
Date of grant in designated patent office 指定專利當局批予專利日期 21.03.2018	



(11)

EP 2 693 991 B1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention of the grant of the patent:

21.03.2018 Bulletin 2018/12

(21) Application number: 12714498.8

(22) Date of filing: 05.04.2012

(51) Int Cl.:

A61F 2/95 (2013.01)

(86) International application number:

PCT/US2012/032358

(87) International publication number:

WO 2012/138884 (11.10.2012 Gazette 2012/41)

(54) ENDOPROSTHESIS DELIVERY SYSTEM

SYSTEM ZUR VERABREICHUNG VON ENDOPROTHESEN

SYSTEME DE POSE D'ENDOPROTHESE

(84) Designated Contracting States:

**AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB
GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO
PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR**

(30) Priority: 08.04.2011 US 201161473503 P
04.04.2012 US 201213439773

(43) Date of publication of application:
12.02.2014 Bulletin 2014/07

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Description**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

[0001] This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/473,503, entitled "ENDOPROSTHESIS DELIVERY SYSTEM" filed April 8, 2011.

FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure relates generally to catheters, and more specifically, to a system for delivering an endoprosthesis to a treatment region in the vasculature of a patient.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Current methods for providing medical treatment to human vasculature involve the use of catheters. In many cases, catheters are used to deliver endoprostheses, such as, for example, stents and stent grafts (self-expanding or otherwise), bifurcated stents and stent grafts, drug-eluting stents, and vascular filters, such as inferior vena cava filters, as well as endoluminal imaging devices.

[0004] Frequently catheters enter the body through an orifice or incision. Catheters are typically inserted through main arteries, such as the femoral or brachial artery, and then navigated through the vasculature to the region requiring treatment. Once the tip of the catheter is in the treatment region, it may deploy a medical device. In many cases, the device is a self-expanding endoprosthesis. In other configurations, a balloon may be used to expand the endoprosthesis to its operational size.

[0005] US2011034987 (A1) discloses a medical device for releasing expandable prostheses in a proximal to distal direction including an elongate catheter, a flexible sleeve, and an expandable prosthesis. In one embodiment, the distal end of the flexible sleeve is disposed about the distal end of the elongate catheter. In order to deploy the expandable prosthesis, the flexible sleeve is pulled proximally through the lumen of the elongate catheter to expose the expandable prosthesis. An outer sheath and prosthesis retaining line may also be provided to allow the device to release an expandable prosthesis in the distal to proximal direction, or to allow the recapture of the expandable prosthesis after the flexible sleeve is fully withdrawn into the lumen of the elongate catheter.

[0006] US2005154443 (A1) describes a stent delivery device comprising a guide member having a proximal end and a distal end, and a stent mounted to the guide member. A restraining member positioned about the stent comprises two or more portions that are held together by one or more actuating members. The stent delivery device can further be configured to include an embolic protection component.

[0007] One significant problem with current endoprosthesis delivery systems is the size of the incision required

to accommodate the system. This incision may be referred to as the crossing of the catheter. Large crossings may cause increased patient discomfort, longer recovery times, and potential scarring. Thus, a need exists for endoprostheses delivery systems that can safely and effectively deliver endoprostheses to the treatment region within the vasculature through a relatively small crossing. Those skilled in the art will recognize numerous advantages of such embodiments over the prior art, for example, reducing the size of the crossing necessary to deliver endoprostheses.

SUMMARY

[0008] An endoprosthesis delivery device is disclosed according to the appended claims.

[0009] An example method of delivering an endoprosthesis to a treatment region within a human patient comprises inserting an endoprosthesis delivery system into the body of the patient, the endoprosthesis delivery system comprising an endoprosthesis, a catheter shaft, an introducer sheath having an inner diameter equal to or less than the endoprosthesis, a sock extending from the leading end of the introducer sheath over the endoprosthesis and a sock positioning element, guiding the leading end of the catheter shaft to the region to be treated, retracting the sock, deploying the endoprosthesis, and retracting the catheter shaft from the body.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further understanding of the disclosure and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate examples of the disclosure, and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the disclosure, wherein;

Figure 1 illustrates a side view of a catheter shown for illustrative purposes;
Figures 2A and 2B illustrate axial cross sectional views of a catheter in accordance with the present disclosure;
Figures 3A, 3B, and 3C illustrate longitudinal cross-sectional views of catheters in accordance with the present disclosure;
Figure 4 illustrates a cross sectional view of a segment of a catheter in accordance with the present disclosure;
Figure 5 illustrates a side view of a catheter in accordance with the present disclosure; and
Figure 6 illustrates a cross section of a catheter in accordance with the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0011] Persons skilled in the art will readily appreciate that various aspects of the present disclosure can be

realized by any number of methods and systems configured to perform the intended functions. Stated differently, other methods and systems can be incorporated herein to perform the intended functions. It should also be noted that the accompanying drawing figures referred to herein are not all drawn to scale, but may be exaggerated to illustrate various aspects of the present disclosure, and in that regard, the drawing figures should not be construed as limiting. Finally, although the present disclosure can be described in connection with various principles and beliefs, the present disclosure should not be bound by theory.

[0012] An endoprosthesis delivery system of the present disclosure comprises a catheter shaft, introducer sheath, endoprosthesis, and sock. In such an embodiment, the catheter shaft is housed within the introducer sheath, and the endoprosthesis is situated at the leading end of the catheter shaft, outside of the introducer sheath. The sock, which surrounds the catheter shaft within the introducer sheath, exits the leading end of the introducer sheath and covers the endoprosthesis. In various embodiments, the outer diameter of the introducer sheath is less than or equal to the outer diameter of the endoprosthesis in its collapsed and/or compressed configuration.

[0013] In the present disclosure, the term "leading" is used to describe a position inside the body of a patient that is farthest from the entry point of the device into the body. For example, the leading end of a catheter refers to the end, inside the vasculature of the body, which is farthest from the entry point of the catheter. The term "trailing" is used to describe a position closest to the entry point of a device into the body of a patient. For example, the trailing end of a catheter refers to the portion of the catheter outside of the body of a patient.

[0014] With reference to Figure 1 as an illustrative example, catheter 100 is an endoprosthesis delivery system. Catheter 100 includes an introducer sheath 104, an endoprosthesis 101 and a leading tip 103. In various examples, endoprosthesis 101 is positioned between introducer sheath 104 and leading tip 103. In various embodiments, endoprosthesis 101 can be an expandable stent or stent graft. In an aspect of these examples, endoprosthesis 101 is a self-expanding stent or stent graft. In various examples, before catheter 100 is inserted into the body of a patient, endoprosthesis 101 is in a collapsed and/or compressed state.

[0015] In various examples, the inner diameter of introducer sheath 104 is less than or equal to the outer diameter of endoprosthesis 101 in a collapsed and/or compressed state. In these examples, because the outer diameter of endoprosthesis 101 is larger than the inner diameter of introducer sheath 104, endoprosthesis 101 cannot be deployed from within introducer sheath 104. In an aspect of these examples, the outer diameter of introducer sheath 104 may also be less than or equal to the outer diameter of endoprosthesis 101 in a collapsed and/or compressed state. In embodiments in which the

outer diameter of introducer sheath 104 is equal to the outer diameter of endoprosthesis 101, introducer sheath 104 and endoprosthesis 101 form an integrated tube of constant diameter from the entry point of introducer sheath 104 to the leading end of endoprosthesis 101.

[0016] With reference to Figure 2A, catheter 200 is an endoprosthesis delivery device. In various embodiments, catheter 200 comprises a catheter shaft 202, introducer sheath 204 and sock 205. In these embodiments, introducer sheath 204 is inserted into the vasculature. Catheter shaft 202 and sock 205 pass through introducer sheath 204 and are navigated towards the treatment area in the vasculature.

[0017] With reference to Figure 2B, catheter 200 further comprises an endoprosthesis 201. In various embodiments, endoprosthesis 201 is situated at the leading end of catheter shaft 202. Endoprosthesis 201 may comprise, for example, a stent. In an aspect of these embodiments, endoprosthesis comprises a self-expanding stent or stent graft in a compressed and/or collapsed configuration. However, any endoprosthesis which may be delivered by a catheter to a treatment region is within the scope of the present disclosure.

[0018] In various embodiments, catheter 200 further comprises a sock 205. In these configurations, sock 205 has an inner diameter greater than or equal to that of catheter shaft 202 and less than the inner diameter of introducer sheath 204. Sock 205 surrounds catheter shaft 202, passes through introducer sheath 204, and extends outward from the leading end of introducer sheath 204. Sock 205 then surrounds the exterior of endoprosthesis 201. In various embodiments, sock 205 has an inner diameter greater than or equal to that of endoprosthesis 201 and greater than or equal to that of introducer sheath 204.

[0019] In various embodiments, sock 205 protects endoprosthesis 201 as the device is delivered to the treatment region. For example, sock 205 may prevent endoprosthesis 201 from becoming contaminated as the catheter 200 is navigated to the treatment region. In various embodiments, sock 205 covers both endoprosthesis 201 and a deployment sheath (not shown). In these configurations, the deployment sheath surrounds endoprosthesis 201 and retains it in a collapsed and/or compressed configuration. In embodiments which do not utilize a deployment sheath, sock 205 may provide both protection against contamination and retention of endoprosthesis 201 in a collapsed and/or compressed configuration.

[0020] Sock 205 may comprise, for example, a biologically compatible material, such as a polymer. In an aspect of these embodiments, sock 205 comprises ePTFE. However, any material which allows sock 205 and endoprosthesis 201 to traverse a vasculature without causing adverse biological impact is within the scope of the present disclosure, such as, for example, nylons, polycarbonates, polyethylenes, polypropylenes, polytetrafluoroethylenes, polyvinyl chlorides, polyurethanes, polysiloxanes, and other biocompatible materials.

[0021] In various embodiments, the inner diameter of introducer sheath 204 is less than or equal to the outer diameter of endoprosthesis 201 in a collapsed and/or compressed state. In an aspect of these embodiments, the outer diameter of introducer sheath 204 is less than or equal to the outer diameter of endoprosthesis 201.

[0022] In various embodiments, catheter shaft 202 of catheter 200 comprises a guidewire. However, any flexible shaft which provides support for catheter 200 is within the scope of the present disclosure. The term "flexible shaft" includes any longitudinally extending structure with or without a lumen therethrough. Thus, flexible shafts include but are not limited to tubes with lumens, solid rods, hollow or solid wires (e.g., guidewires), hollow or solid stylets, metal tubes (e.g., hypotubes), polymer tubes, pull cords or tethers, fibers, filaments, electrical conductors, radiopaque elements, radioactive elements and radiographic elements. Flexible shafts can be of any material and can have any cross-sectional shape including but not limited to profiles that are circular, oval, triangular, square, polygon shaped or randomly shaped.

[0023] Because introducer sheath 204 provides the medical device being delivered access to the vasculature, it is important that introducer sheath 204 comprise a material that is biologically compatible material. In various embodiments, introducer sheath 204 comprises a polymer, such as, for example, Pebax. However, any material which allows introducer sheath to traverse a vasculature without causing adverse biological impact is within the scope of the present disclosure, such as, for example, ePTFE, nylons, polycarbonates, polyethylenes, polypropylenes, polytetrafluoroethylenes, polyvinyl chlorides, polyurethanes, polysiloxanes, and other biocompatible materials.

[0024] With reference to Figures 3A and 3B, catheter 200 is the endoprosthesis delivery system of Figures 2A and 2B. In various embodiments, catheter 200 further comprises a leading tip 203. Leading tip 203 may be connected to the leading end of catheter shaft 202. In various embodiments, leading tip 203 comprises a tip capable of piercing a thrombus. In various embodiments, leading tip 203 may comprise a material that is radiopaque and/or comprises a marker. Leading tip 203 can comprise, for example, a biologically compatible material, such as a polymer. However, any material which allows leading tip to navigate a vasculature without causing adverse biological impact is within the scope of the present disclosure.

[0025] In various embodiments, endoprosthesis 201 is positioned between the leading end of introducer sheath 204 and leading tip 203. This configuration allows leading tip 203 to remove or traverse potential blockages or thrombus in the vasculature and provides access to the treatment area by endoprosthesis 201.

[0026] With initial reference to Figure 3C, catheter 200 comprises a leading tip 203. In various embodiments, leading tip 203 comprises a cavity. In an aspect of these embodiments, the leading end of sock 205 enters and is

retained within a conically-shaped cavity of leading tip 203.

[0027] Catheter 200 further comprises a sock retaining segment 207. In various embodiments, sock retaining segment 207 is positioned between endoprosthesis 201 and leading tip 203. Sock retaining segment 207 can, for example, include a cavity into which the leading end of sock 205 enters. In these embodiments, sock retaining segment 207 may retain the position of sock 205 by preventing sock 205 from changing position as catheter 200 traverses the vasculature.

[0028] In various embodiments, sock 205 extends from the leading end of the introducer sheath 204, over endoprosthesis 201, over sock retaining segment 207, and finally enters the cavity of sock retaining segment 207 and/or leading tip 203. Leading tip 203 can, for example, include an indented lip, which allows sock retaining segment 207 to interface with leading tip 203 and creates a smooth transition between the end of the sock 205 and the surface of leading tip 203.

[0029] With reference to Figure 4, catheter 400 is an endoprosthesis delivery system. Various embodiments of catheter 400 comprise a sock 405 and sock securing element 406. Sock securing element 406 can comprise, for example, a suture which reduces the diameter of sock 405 at or near its leading end over the reduced diameter, or within the cavity, of sock retaining segment 207. This prevents sock 405 from moving from the desired position as the device is inserted into the patient and navigated through the vasculature.

[0030] In various embodiments, catheter 400 further comprises a pull string 410. Pull string 410 may be attached to sock securing element 406. In various embodiments, pull string 410 may be actuated by, for example, providing tension to pull string 410. In these embodiments, when pull string 410 is actuated, sock securing element 406 releases from sock 405. In an aspect of these embodiments, sock securing element 406 can comprise a suture that releases and restores sock 405 to its initial inner diameter. This allows sock 405 to be removed from catheter 400.

[0031] In various embodiments, catheter 400 further comprises a sock removal mechanism 409. In these embodiments, sock removal mechanism 409 may be connected to sock 405. When sock removal mechanism 409 is actuated, sock 405 is removed from catheter 400. Sock 405 can extend from the inside of an introducer sheath (not shown) to cover an endoprosthesis (not shown). As sock 405 is removed, the endoprosthesis becomes exposed and may be deployed in the treatment area.

[0032] In various embodiments, sock removal mechanism 409 is connected to both sock 405 and pull string 410. In these embodiments, pull string 410 further comprises a section of additional length, such that pull string 410 is not in tension. Sock 405 also further comprises a section of additional length. The section of additional length of pull string 410, can, for example, be shorter than the section of additional length of sock 405. In these

configurations, when tension is applied to sock removal mechanism 409, pull string 410 becomes taught before sock 405. This allows for pull string 410 to release sock securing element 406, which expands the diameter of sock 405, and allows sock 405 to then be removed from the body.

[0033] In an embodiment, the endoprosthesis is a self-expanding stent or stent graft, and actuation of sock removal mechanism 409 allows the endoprosthesis to expand and deploy to the treatment area. In other embodiments, the actuation of sock removal mechanism 409 allows for final placement of the endoprosthesis in the vasculature, and other means may be used, such as, for example, an expanding balloon, to deploy the endoprosthesis.

[0034] With reference now to Figures 5 and 6, catheter 500 is an endoprosthesis delivery device. Catheter 500 comprises a handle 512, through which catheter shaft 502 is controlled. Catheter shaft 502 passes through a valve 511 and into introducer sheath 504. Sock 505 passes through introducer sheath 504 and surrounds catheter shaft 502. Sock 505 exits the introducer sheath 504 at its leading end.

[0035] Endoprosthesis 501 is positioned on catheter shaft 502 at the leading end of the introducer sheath 504 prior to insertion of catheter 500 into the body. Though not shown in the drawing, sock 505, after exiting introducer sheath 504, surrounds endoprosthesis 501. A sock retaining segment 507 is positioned adjacent to endoprosthesis 501. At the leading end of catheter shaft 502, and adjacent to sock retaining segment 507, is a leading tip 503. A sock removal mechanism 509 is connected to sock 505 and situated on handle 512.

[0036] With initial reference to Figure 6, a cross sectional view of catheter 500 is presented. Catheter 500 comprises a slitting blade 513. In various embodiments, when sock removal mechanism 509 is actuated, slitting blade 513 cuts sock 505, which allows it to be removed from catheter shaft 502. In other embodiments, sock 205 can be configured so that it can be removed without the use of slitting blade 513, such as, for example, by using a perforated film, a longitudinally-oriented film, and/or a film of varying thickness, such that sock 205 can be relatively easily torn or deconstructed at a particular location. However, any means of facilitating the removal of sock 505 from catheter shaft 502 is within the scope of the present disclosure.

[0037] Thus, the endoprosthesis delivery system of the present disclosure provides an effective, low crossing system capable of delivering endoprostheses to a vasculature.

[0038] It is intended that the present disclosure cover the modifications and variations of this disclosure provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

Claims

1. An endoprosthesis delivery system comprising:
 - 5 an endoprosthesis (201);
 - a catheter shaft (202);
 - an introducer sheath (204) having a leading end and an inner diameter less than the outer diameter of the endoprosthesis;
 - 10 a sock (205) extending from the leading end of the introducer sheath over the endoprosthesis and
 - a sock securing element (406).
- 15 2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a sock retaining segment (207), wherein the sock (205) extends over the sock retaining segment.
- 20 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the sock retaining segment (207) is tapered.
4. The system of claim 2 further comprising a leading tip (203).
- 25 5. The system of claim 4 wherein the sock securing element (406) is located between the sock retaining segment (207) and the leading tip (203).
- 30 6. The system of claim 1, wherein the sock securing element (406) comprises a suture.
7. The system of claim 1 further comprising a sock removal mechanism (409).
- 35 8. The system of claim 7 wherein the sock removal mechanism (509) further comprises a blade (513).
9. The system of claim 8 wherein the sock removal mechanism (409) further comprises a deployment ring.
- 40 10. The system of claim 1, wherein the catheter shaft (202) comprises a guidewire lumen.
- 45 11. The system of claim 1, wherein the endoprosthesis (201) comprises a stent.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein the endoprosthesis (201) comprises a self-expanding stent.
- 50 13. The system of claim 1 wherein:
 - 55 the catheter (200) has a trailing and leading end;
 - the endoprosthesis (201) is a stent located near the leading end of the catheter;
 - the introducer sheath (204) has an outer diameter equal to or less than the stent and a leading end; the system further comprising

a leading tip (203);
 a sock retaining segment (207) located between the stent and the leading tip (203), wherein the sock (205) extends from the leading end of the introducer sheath over the stent and the sock retaining segment; and wherein the sock securing element (406) is a sock securing suture located between the sock retaining segment and the leading tip; and a sock removal mechanism (409) is located near the trailing end of the catheter.

Patentansprüche

1. Endoprothesenzuführungssystem, das Folgendes beinhaltet:

eine Endoprothese (201);
 einen Katheterschaft (202);
 eine Einführerhülle (204), die ein vorderes Ende und einen Innendurchmesser aufweist, der kleiner als der Außendurchmesser der Endoprothese ist;
 eine Socke (205), die sich vom vorderen Ende der Einführerhülle über die Endoprothese erstreckt; und
 ein Sockensicherungselement (406).

2. System gemäß Anspruch 1, das ferner ein Sockenhaltesegment (207) beinhaltet, wobei sich die Socke (205) über das Sockenhaltesegment erstreckt.

3. System gemäß Anspruch 2, wobei das Sockenhaltesegment (207) konisch ist.

4. System gemäß Anspruch 2, das ferner eine vordere Spitze (203) beinhaltet.

5. System gemäß Anspruch 4, wobei das Sockensicherungselement (406) zwischen dem Sockenhaltesegment (207) und der vorderen Spitze (203) liegt.

6. System gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei das Sockensicherungselement (406) einen Faden beinhaltet.

7. System gemäß Anspruch 1, das ferner einen Sockenentfernungsmechanismus (409) beinhaltet.

8. System gemäß Anspruch 7, wobei der Sockenentfernungsmechanismus (409) ferner ein Messer (513) beinhaltet.

9. System gemäß Anspruch 8 wobei der Sockenentfernungsmechanismus (409) ferner einen Einsatzring beinhaltet.

10. System gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei der Katheder-

schaft (202) ein Führungsdrahtlumen beinhaltet.

11. System gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei die Endoprothese (201) einen Stent beinhaltet.

12. System gemäß Anspruch 11, wobei die Endoprothese (201) einen selbstexpandierenden Stent beinhaltet.

13. System gemäß Anspruch 1, wobei:

der Katheder (200) ein hinteres und vorderes Ende aufweist;
 die Endoprothese (201) ein Stent ist, der in der Nähe des vorderen Endes des Katheters liegt; die Einführerhülle (204) einen Außendurchmesser, der gleich dem oder kleiner als der Stent ist, und ein vorderes Ende aufweist; wobei das System ferner Folgendes beinhaltet:

eine vordere Spitze (203);
 ein Sockenhaltesegment (207), das zwischen dem Stent und der vorderen Spitze (203) liegt, wobei sich die Socke (205) vom vorderen Ende der Einführerhülle über den Stent und das Sockenhaltesegment erstreckt; und wobei das Sockensicherungselement (406) ein Sockensicherungsfaden ist, der zwischen dem Sockenhaltesegment und der vorderen Spitze liegt; und ein Sockenentfernungsmechanismus (409) in der Nähe des vorderen Endes des Katheters liegt.

Revendications

1. Système de mise en place d'une endoprothèse comprenant :

une endoprothèse (201) ;
 une tige de cathéter (202) ;
 une gaine d'introduction (204) ayant une extrémité avant et un diamètre intérieur inférieur au diamètre extérieur de l'endoprothèse ;
 une enveloppe extérieure (205) s'étendant de l'extrémité avant de la gaine d'introduction par-dessus l'endoprothèse et un élément de fixation d'enveloppe extérieure (406).

2. Système selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre un segment de retenue d'enveloppe extérieure (207), l'enveloppe extérieure (205) s'étendant par-dessus le segment de retenue d'enveloppe extérieure.

3. Système selon la revendication 2, dans lequel le segment de retenue d'enveloppe extérieure (207) est conique. 5
veloppe extérieure et l'embout avant ; et un mécanisme d'enlèvement d'enveloppe extérieure (409) est situé près de l'extrémité arrière du cathéter.

4. Système selon la revendication 2, comprenant en outre un embout avant (203). 5

5. Système selon la revendication 4, dans lequel l'élément de fixation d'enveloppe extérieure (406) est situé entre le segment de retenue d'enveloppe extérieure (207) et l'embout avant (203). 10

6. Système selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'élément de fixation d'enveloppe extérieure (406) comprend une suture. 15

7. Système selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre un mécanisme d'enlèvement d'enveloppe extérieure (409). 20

8. Système selon la revendication 7, dans lequel le mécanisme d'enlèvement d'enveloppe extérieure (509) comprend en outre une lame (513).

9. Système selon la revendication 8, dans lequel le mécanisme d'enlèvement d'enveloppe extérieure (409) comprend en outre une bague de déploiement. 25

10. Système selon la revendication 1, dans lequel la tige de cathéter (202) comprend une lumière pour fil-guide. 30

11. Système selon la revendication 1, dans lequel l'endoprothèse (201) comprend un stent. 35

12. Système selon la revendication 11, dans lequel l'endoprothèse (201) comprend un stent auto-expansible.

13. Système selon la revendication 1, dans lequel : 40

le cathéter (200) a une extrémité arrière et une extrémité avant ;
l'endoprothèse (201) est un stent situé près de l'extrémité avant du cathéter ; 45
la gaine d'introduction (204) a un diamètre extérieur égal ou inférieur au stent et une extrémité avant ; le système comprenant en outre un embout avant (203) ;
un segment de retenue d'enveloppe extérieure (207) situé entre le stent et l'embout avant (203), 50
l'enveloppe extérieure (205) s'étendant de l'extrémité avant de la gaine d'introduction par-dessus le stent et le segment de retenue d'enveloppe extérieure ; et dans lequel l'élément de fixation d'enveloppe extérieure (406) est une suture de fixation d'enveloppe extérieure située entre le segment de retenue d'en- 55

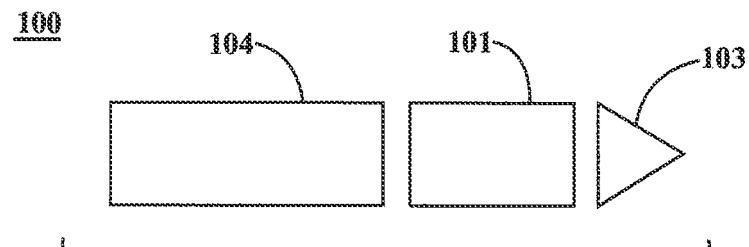


FIG. 1

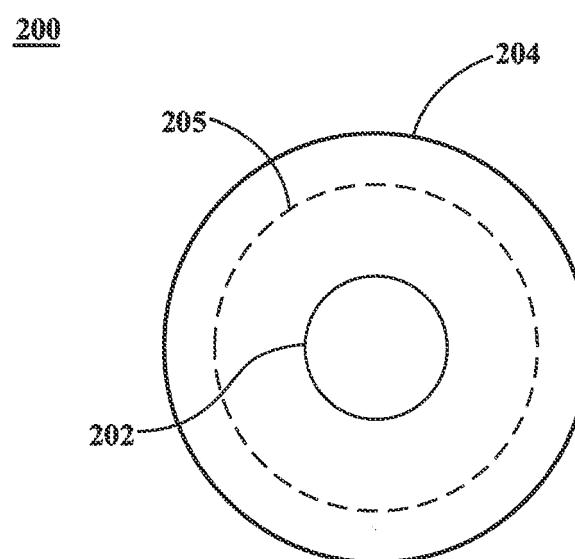


FIG. 2A

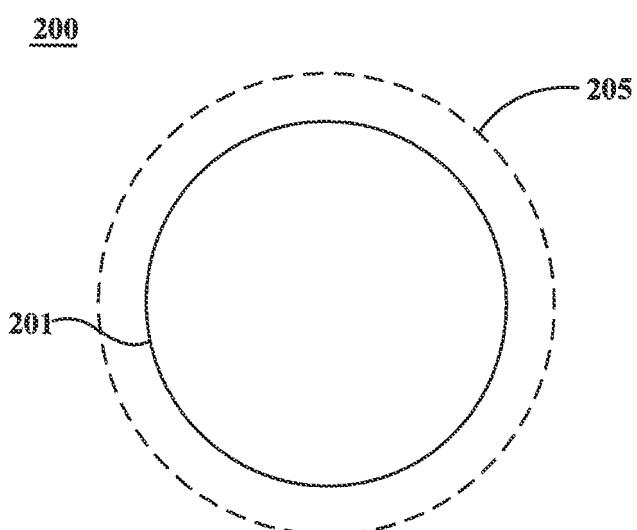


FIG. 2B

200

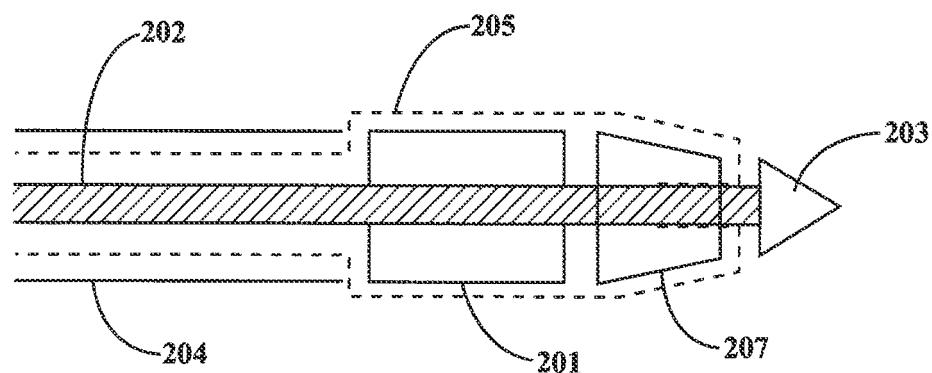


FIG. 3A

200

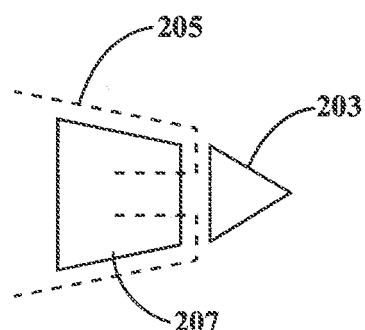


FIG. 3B

200

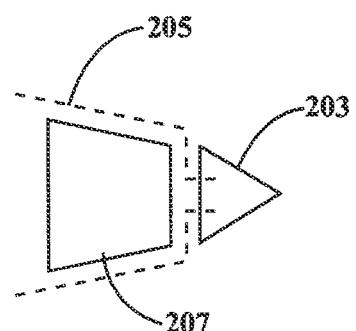


FIG. 3C

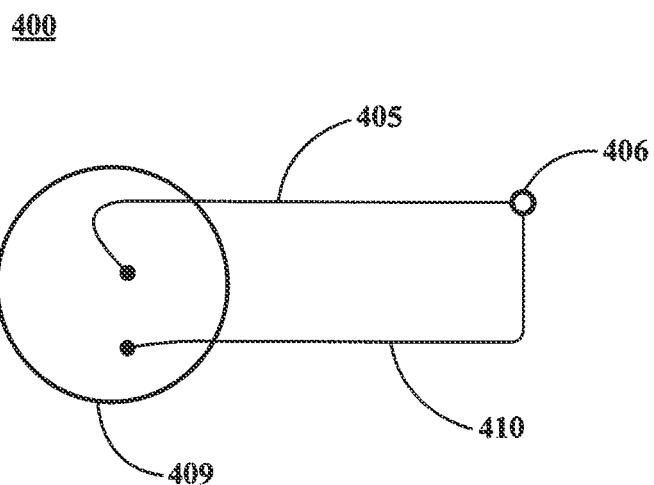


FIG. 4

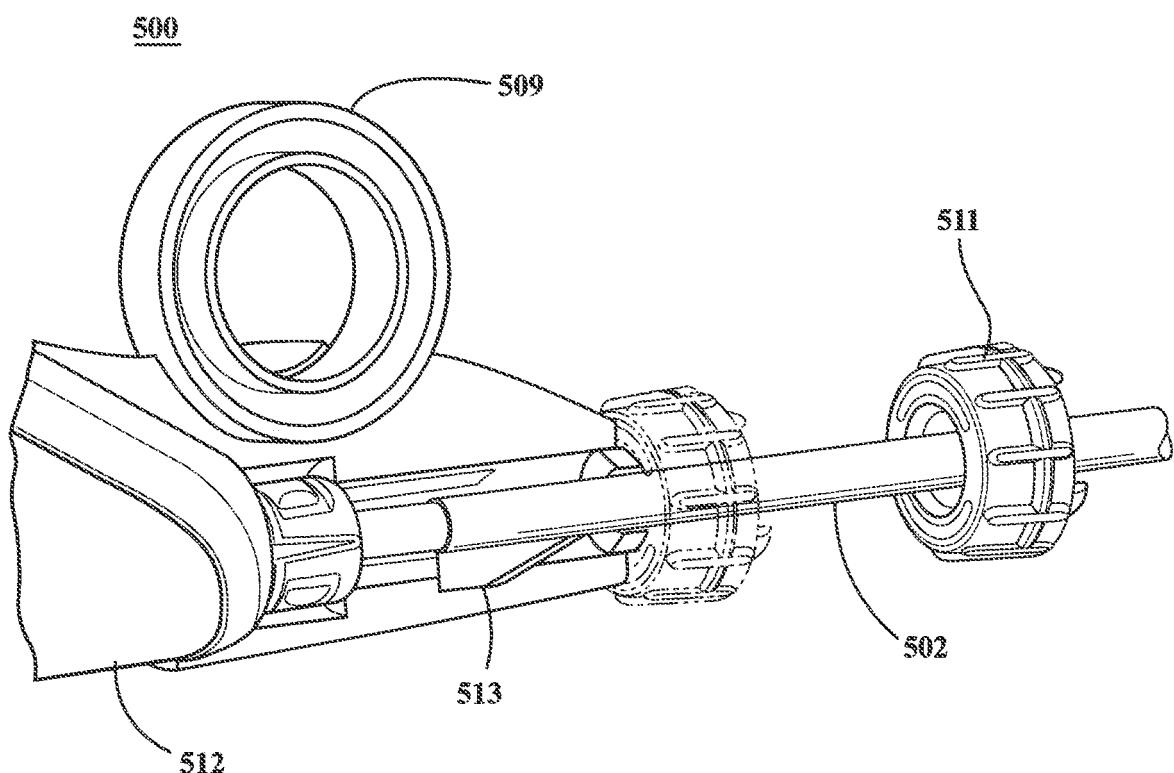


FIG. 6

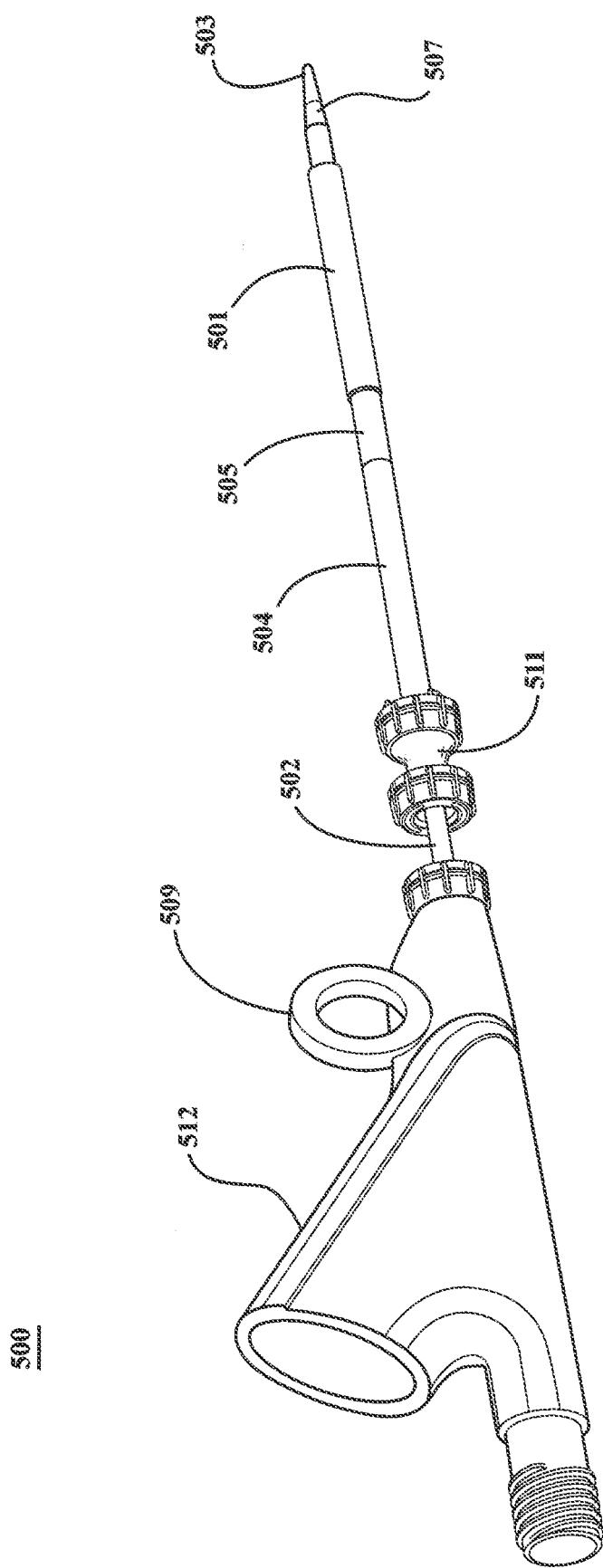


FIG. 5

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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