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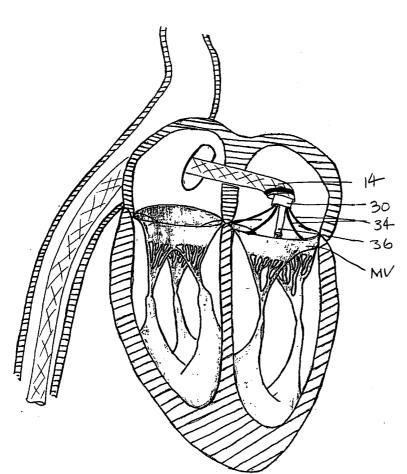
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(54) Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR CARDIAC VALVE REPAIR



(57) Abstract: The methods, devices, and systems are provided for performing endovascular repair of atrioventricular and other cardiac valves in the heart. Regurgitation of an atrioventricular valve, particularly a mitral valve, can be repaired by modifying a tissue structure selected from the valve leaflets, the valve annulus, the valve chordae, and the papillary muscles. structures may be modified by suturing, stapling, snaring, or shortening, using interventional tools (30, 36, 56) which are introduced to a heart chamber. Preferably, the tissue structures will be temporarily modified prior to permanent modification. For example, opposed valve leaflets may be temporarily grasped and held into position prior to permanent attachment.



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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) WEST Search Terms: valve, leaflet, vasculature, catheter, coapt, ventricular, suture C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. 4. US 5,716,367 A (KOIKE et al.) 10 February 1998, whole document. 5. Special categories of cited documents 4. Special categories of cited documents 6. Special categories of cited documents 7. Special ca	IPC(7) :A61B 17/04 US CL :606/150 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system follow U.S. : 606/139, 142, 144, 150, 151; 623/2.11 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the	ved by classification symbols)	in the fields searched	
Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. US 5,716,367 A (KOIKE et al.) 10 February 1998, whole document. 65-67, 71, 72, 76, 77, 79, 80, 87 X,P WO 00/03759 A (KUEHN et al.) 27 January 2000, whole document. Special categories of cited documents. Special categories of cited documents. A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance. The canadical many disconsists of the particular relevance to earlied document which may those doubtes on priority claims is one of the actual complete published on or after the international filling date of the considered to any other actual that the political relevance to priority claims is one of the actual complete published on the international filling date or priority claims is one of the actual complete published on the international filling date or priority claims is one of the actual complete published on the international filling date or priority claims is one of the actual complete published on the actual completed on the considered to any other and comment of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to any other and comment invention cannot be considered to any other and comment invention cannot be possible of the complete published one of the international filing date but later than "%" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to any other and comment invention cannot be considered to any other and comment invention cannot be considered to any other and comment invention cannot be considered to any other and comment invention cannot be considered to any other and comment invention cannot be considered to any other and comment invention cannot be considered to any other and comment invention cannot be considered to any other and comment invention cannot be considered to any other and comment invention cannot be considered to any other and comment invention cannot be considered to	WEST		e, search terms used)	
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**C" 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) "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 Date of the actual completion of the international search 26 JULY 2000 Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone 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 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 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 taken alone "Y" Document of particular relevance; the claimed invention 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 taken alone "Y" Document of particular relevance; the claimed invention 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 taken alone "Y" Document vide (I) I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	'A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered	date and not in conflict with the app	lication but cited to understand	
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