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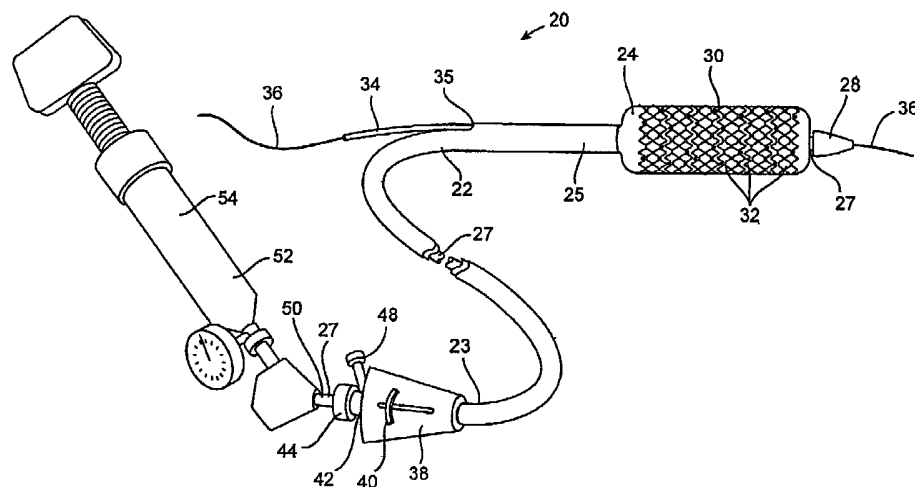
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR DEPLOYMENT OF VASCULAR PROSTHESES



(57) Abstract: Apparatus for delivering stents to body lumens include one or more tubular prostheses carried at the distal end of a catheter shaft, a sheath slidably disposed over the prostheses, and a guidewire tube extending from within the sheath to the exterior of the sheath through an exit port in a sidewall thereof. A guidewire extends slidably through the guidewire tube. The sheath can be moved relative to the catheter shaft and the guidewire tube to expose the prostheses for deployment. Methods of delivering stents are also provided.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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 US CL : 623/1.12
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B. FIELDS SEARCHED
 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 U.S. : 623/1.12; 604/103.04

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)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,458,615 A (KLEMM ET AL.) 17 OCTOBER 1995, COL. 5, LINE 41 TO COL. 6, LINE 51.	1-46
Y	US 4,468,224 A (ENZMANN ET AL.) 28 AUGUST 1984, COL. 9, LINES 26-37.	1-46
Y	US 5,634,928 A (FISCHELL ET AL.) 03 JUNE 1997, COL. COL. 3, LINE 66 TO COL. 7, LINE 18.	47-58
Y	US 4,733,665 A (PALMAZ) 29 MARCH 1988, COL. 7, LINES 44-68.	47-58

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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