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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR DELIVERING PROSTHESES USING RAIL TECHNIQUES

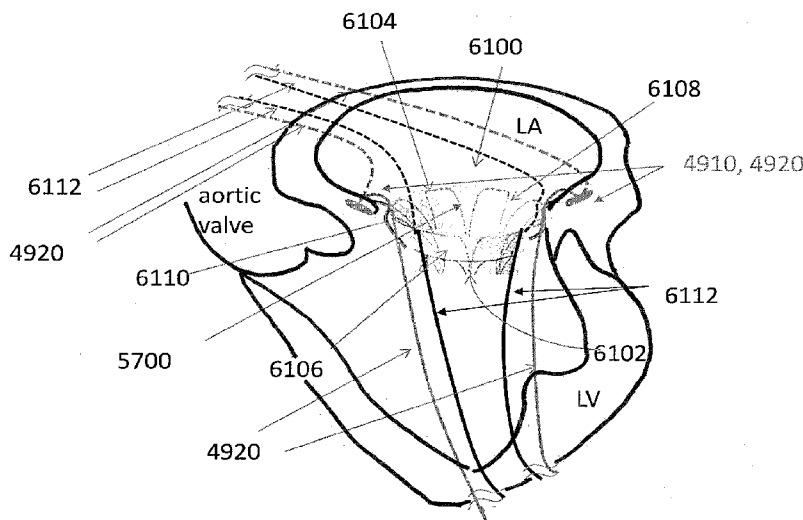


Figure 61A

(57) Abstract: Exemplary embodiments provide methods and systems for delivering a prosthesis to a target location in a luminal system of a patient. At least one tether is secured proximate the target location to serve as a rail, and a prosthesis is advanced along the rail to the target location and secured in place. Exemplary methods and systems provide for repair of the mitral and tricuspid valves, as well as abdominal aortic aneurysms, stomach valves, fallopian tubes and the pulmonary system, among others. Also disclosed are various prostheses suitable for use with the disclosed methods and systems.



— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
**PCT/US2011/059586****A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER***A61F 2/00(2006.01)i, A61F 2/84(2006.01)i, A61F 2/24(2006.01)i, A61M 25/01(2006.01)i, A61B 17/00(2006.01)i*

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)

A61F 2/00; A61F 2/24; A61F 2/06

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Korean utility models and applications for utility models  
Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) &amp; Keywords: prosthesis, heart valve, tether, tubular member, delivery system, fastening mechanism, loop, shaft, retractable sheath, conduit, resorbable material.

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2005-0143809 A1 (AMR SALAHIEH et al.) 30 June 2005 See paragraphs 0075, 0076, and 0147-0157; Figs. 1A-2C, 4A, 4B, 10-13, and 50A-51B.	29,31
Y		33
A		30,32,34-47
Y	US 2003-0065386 A1 (KEVIN SHAUN WEADOCK) 03 April 2003 See paragraph 0022.	33
A		29-32,34-47
X	US 2010-0036479 A1 (ALEXANDER J. HILL et al.) 11 February 2010 See paragraph 0047;Figs. 5, 8, 27, and 28.	34,36,37
A		29-33,35,38-47
X	US 2001-0021872 A1 (STEVEN R. BAILEY and CHRISTOPHER T. BOYLE) 13 September 2001 See Figs. 1-20I.	34
A		29-33,35-47
X	US 2002-0032481 A1 (SHLOMO GABBAY) 14 March 2002 See Figs. 12-18.	34

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

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

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"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

"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

"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

"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

"&amp;" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 MAY 2012 (25.05.2012)

Date of mailing of the international search report

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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A		29-33, 35-47
X	US 2007-0043435 A1 (JACQUES SEGUIN et al.) 22 February 2007	34
A	See Figs. 13, 14, 18-22, and 36-40.	29-33, 35-47
X	US 2008-0077234 A1 (MIKOLAJ WITOLD STYRC) 27 March 2008	34
A	See Figs. 2 and 5-8.	29-33, 35-47
A	US 2009-0005863 A1 ( WOLFGANG GOETZ and HOU-SEN LIM) 01 January 2009	29-47
	See the whole document.	
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	See the whole document.	

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No.

**PCT/US2011/059586****Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.: 1-28,48  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
Claims 1-28 and 48 pertain to methods for treatment of the human body by surgery, and thus relate to a subject matter which this International Searching Authority is not required, under Article 17(2)(a)(i) of the PCT and Rule 39.1(iv) of the Regulations under the PCT, to search.
2.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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