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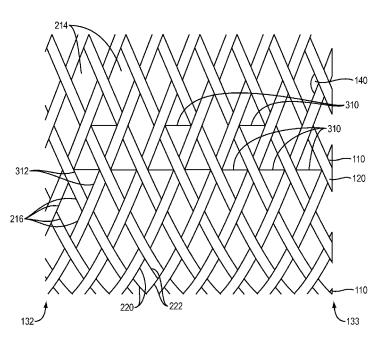


FIG. 3

(57) Abstract: Disclosed is a self-expanding medical implant for placement within a lumen of a patient. The implant comprises a woven or non-woven structure having a substantially tubular configuration, and is designed to be lowprofile such that it is deliverable with a small diameter catheter. The implant has a high recoverability and desirable mechanical properties. The implant comprises a plurality of open area (214) having a continuous outer boundary and one or more elements (310) spanning one or more open area of the implant and connecting proximal and distal boundary portions of said open area. The spanning element (310) due to its nature (for instance due to its material) applies a force to the implant that acts in favour of radial expansion and axial contraction, thus enhancing radial strength.



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