



(43) International Publication Date
19 March 2015 (19.03.2015)

- (51) International Patent Classification:
A61B 17/221 (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2014/054645
- (22) International Filing Date:
9 September 2014 (09.09.2014)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
14/026,302 13 September 2013 (13.09.2013) US
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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, BN, 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, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, 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.

- (84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) Title: ENDOVASCULAR DEVICE ENGAGEMENT

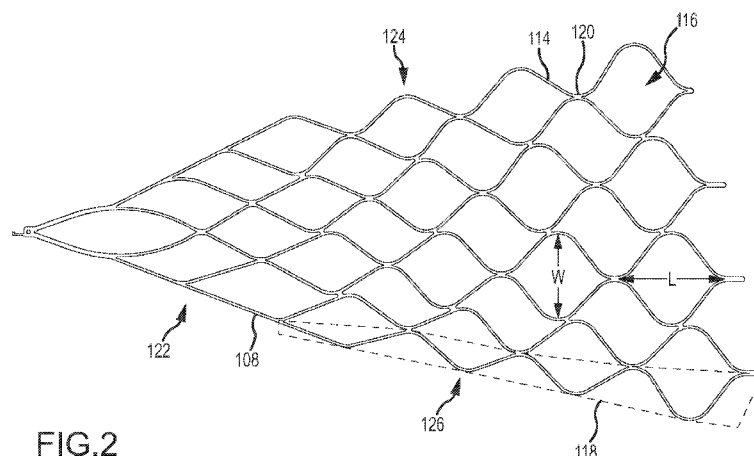


FIG. 2

(57) Abstract: A medical device, configured to perform an endovascular therapy, e.g., thrombectomy, can comprise an elongate manipulation member and an intervention member. The intervention member can comprise a proximal end portion and a mesh. The proximal end portion can be coupled with the distal end portion of the elongate manipulation member. The mesh can have a plurality of cells and, be compressible to a collapsed configuration for delivery to an endovascular treatment site through a catheter, and be self-expandable from the collapsed configuration to an expanded configuration. At least a portion of the mesh, from a first location to a second location along the mesh, can be configured such that an amount of cell deformation in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces decreases by less than 5% or increases in a distal direction along the portion of the mesh.



ENDOVASCULAR DEVICE ENGAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

[0001] Blood vessels can become occluded by emboli, e.g., thrombi. For example, intracranial arteries can become occluded by thromboembolisms. Disruption of blood flow by the occlusion can prevent oxygen and nutrients from being delivered to tissues downstream of the occlusion. Deprivation of oxygen and nutrients to tissue distal to an occlusion can impair proper function of the tissue, and may result in cellular death. Cellular death increases with duration of the occlusion.

SUMMARY

[0002] An aspect of at least some of the embodiments disclosed herein involves the recognition that the location and longitudinal extent of thrombus engagement by a mechanical thrombus-retrieval device can affect the likelihood of successfully capturing the engaged thrombus, and that the likelihood of successful thrombus capture and retrieval can be improved by increasing a longitudinal extent of substantially even thrombus engagement, distally shifting the region of thrombus engagement, or both. When a thrombus is primarily engaged along a portion of the thrombus near its proximal end, and particularly when a longitudinal extent of substantially even thrombus engagement is small, the thrombus may be more likely to fragment, become released from the retrieval device, or both.

[0003] The subject technology is illustrated, for example, according to various aspects described below. Various examples of aspects of the subject technology are described as numbered clauses (1, 2, 3, etc.) for convenience. These are provided as examples and do not limit the subject technology. It is noted that any of the dependent clauses may be combined in any combination, and placed into a respective independent clause, e.g., clause 1, 8, 22, 32, 40, 47, 56, 65, or 69. The other clauses can be presented in a similar manner.

1. A medical device configured to perform an endovascular therapy, the device comprising:

an elongate manipulation member comprising a distal end portion; and

an intervention member comprising a proximal end portion and a mesh, the proximal end portion being coupled with the distal end portion of the elongate manipulation member, the mesh having a proximal mesh end, a distal mesh end, and a mesh length from the proximal end to the distal end, the mesh having a plurality of cells and being compressible to a collapsed configuration for delivery to an endovascular treatment site through a catheter and being self-expandable from the collapsed configuration to an expanded configuration, and wherein at least a portion of the mesh, from a first location to a second location along the mesh, is configured such that an amount of cell deformation in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces decreases by less than 5% or increases in a distal direction along the portion of the mesh, the first and second locations being longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length.

2. The medical device of Clause 1, wherein the portion of the mesh, from the first location to the second location along the mesh, is configured such that the amount of cell deformation in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces does not decrease in a distal direction along the portion of the mesh.

3. The medical device of Clause 1, wherein the portion of the mesh, from the first location to the second location along the mesh, is configured such that the amount of cell deformation in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces increases in a distal direction along the portion of the mesh.

4. The medical device of Clause 1, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least two thirds of the mesh length.

5. The medical device of Clause 1, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least three quarters of the mesh length.

6. The medical device of Clause 1, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least 90% of the mesh length.

7. The medical device of Clause 1, wherein the mesh is generally cylindrical in the absence of external forces.

8. A medical device configured to perform an endovascular therapy, the device comprising:

an elongate manipulation member comprising a distal end portion; and

an intervention member comprising a proximal end portion and a plurality of cells forming a mesh, the proximal end portion being coupled with the distal end portion of the elongate manipulation member, the mesh having a proximal mesh end, a distal mesh end, and a mesh length from the proximal end to the distal end, the mesh being compressible to a collapsed configuration for delivery to an endovascular treatment site through a catheter and being self-expandable from the collapsed configuration to an expanded configuration, and wherein, from a first location to a second location along the mesh, each cell distally adjacent to another cell, in a longitudinal row of cells, has a larger interior bounded area than has the another cell, the first and second locations being longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length.

9. The medical device of Clause 8, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least two thirds of the mesh length.

10. The medical device of Clause 8, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least three quarters of the mesh length.

11. The medical device of Clause 8, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least 90% of the mesh length.

12. The medical device of Clause 8, wherein the longitudinal row of cells comprises at least three cells.

13. The medical device of Clause 8, wherein the first location is at the proximal mesh end.

14. The medical device of Clause 8, wherein the first location is distal to a proximal-most cell.
15. The medical device of Clause 8, wherein the second location is at the distal mesh end.
16. The medical device of Clause 8, wherein the mesh is cylindrical in the absence of external forces.
17. The medical device of Clause 8, wherein the elongate manipulation member has a length between a proximal end and the distal end that is sufficient to permit manipulation of the intervention member within the cerebral vasculature of a patient's body from a location outside the body.
18. The medical device of Clause 8, wherein the mesh is formed by laser cutting one of a tube or a sheet.
19. The medical device of Clause 8, wherein the mesh forms a generally tubular structure.
20. The medical device of Clause 8, wherein the mesh further comprises a first lateral edge extending between the proximal mesh end and the distal mesh end, and a second lateral edge opposite the first lateral edge, the second lateral edge extending between the proximal mesh end and the distal mesh end; wherein the first and second lateral edges are overlapped in a coiled configuration about the longitudinal axis when the mesh is in the collapsed configuration.
21. The medical device of Clause 8, wherein the tube has an open proximal end and an open distal end.
22. A medical device configured to perform an endovascular therapy, the device comprising:

an elongate manipulation member comprising a distal end portion; and

an intervention member comprising a proximal end portion and a plurality of cells forming a mesh, the proximal end portion being coupled with the distal end portion of the elongate manipulation member, the mesh having a proximal mesh end, a distal mesh end, and a mesh length from the proximal end to the distal end, the mesh being compressible to a collapsed configuration for delivery to an endovascular treatment site through a catheter and being self-expandable from the collapsed configuration to an expanded configuration, and wherein, in a longitudinal row of at least three cells, each cell distally adjacent to another cell has a larger proximal inscribed strut angle between first and second struts (i) bounding a proximal portion of the cell and (ii) diverging in a distal direction, than has the another cell.

23. The medical device of Clause 22, wherein the first and second struts comprises a straight portion and a curved portion, and the inscribed strut angle is measured between the straight portions of the first and second struts.

24. The medical device of Clause 22, wherein the inscribe strut angle is measured between straight reference lines that join strut intersection points at each end of the first and second struts.

25. The medical device of Clause 22, wherein, for each cell, the first strut has a length equal to that of the second strut.

26. The medical device of Clause 22, wherein the first struts of all cells between the first and second locations have the substantially equal lengths.

27. The medical device of Clause 22, wherein the longitudinal row extends from a first location to a second location along the mesh, the first and second locations being longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length.

28. The medical device of Clause 27, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least two thirds of the mesh length.

29. The medical device of Clause 27, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least three quarters of the mesh length.

30. The medical device of Clause 27, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least 90% of the mesh length.

31. The medical device of Clause 22, wherein the mesh is cylindrical in the absence of external forces.

32. A medical device configured to perform an endovascular therapy, the device comprising:

an elongate manipulation member comprising a distal end portion; and

an intervention member comprising a proximal end portion and a plurality of cells forming a mesh, the proximal end portion being coupled with the distal end portion of the elongate manipulation member, the mesh having a proximal mesh end, a distal mesh end, and a mesh length from the proximal end to the distal end, the mesh being compressible to a collapsed configuration for delivery to an endovascular treatment site through a catheter and being self-expandable from the collapsed configuration to an expanded configuration, and wherein, from a first location to a second location along the mesh, each cell distally adjacent to another cell, in a longitudinal row of cells, has a larger maximum cell width than has the another cell, the first and second locations being longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length.

33. The medical device of Clause 32, wherein each cell comprises first and second struts (i) bounding a proximal portion of the cell and (ii) diverging in a distal direction, and third and fourth struts (i) bounding a distal portion of the cell and (ii) converging in a distal direction, the maximum cell width is measured from an intersection of the first strut and the third strut to an intersection of the second strut with the fourth strut.

34. The medical device of Clause 32, wherein, for each cell, the first strut has a length equal to that of the second strut.

35. The medical device of Clause 32, wherein the first struts of all cell between the first and second locations have the substantially equal lengths.

36. The medical device of Clause 32, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least two thirds of the mesh length.

37. The medical device of Clause 32, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least three quarters of the mesh length.

38. The medical device of Clause 32, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least 90% of the mesh length.

39. The medical device of Clause 32, wherein the mesh is cylindrical in the absence of external forces.

40. A medical device configured to perform an endovascular therapy, the device comprising:

an elongate manipulation member comprising a distal end portion; and

an intervention member comprising a proximal end portion and a plurality of sinuous members, the sinuous members connected to form a mesh, the proximal end portion being coupled with the distal end portion of the elongate manipulation member, the mesh having a proximal mesh end, a distal mesh end, and a mesh length from the proximal end to the distal end, the mesh being compressible to a collapsed configuration for delivery to an endovascular treatment site through a catheter and being self-expandable from the collapsed configuration to an expanded configuration, each sinuous member comprising a plurality of oscillations, and wherein, from a first location to a second location along the mesh, an amplitude of the oscillations of each sinuous member

increases in a distal direction, the first and second locations being longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length.

41. The medical device of Clause 40, wherein the amplitude of the oscillations increases distally at a constant rate per unit length.

42. The medical device of Clause 40, wherein the frequency of the oscillations increases distally.

43. The medical device of Clause 40, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least two thirds of the mesh length.

44. The medical device of Clause 40, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least three quarters of the mesh length.

45. The medical device of Clause 40, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least 90% of the mesh length.

46. The medical device of Clause 40, wherein the mesh is cylindrical in the absence of external forces.

47. A medical device configured to perform an endovascular therapy, the device comprising:

an elongate manipulation member comprising a distal end portion; and

an intervention member comprising a proximal end portion and a plurality of struts forming a mesh, the proximal end portion being coupled with the distal end portion of the elongate manipulation member, the mesh comprising a plurality of generally longitudinally arranged rows of cells and having a proximal mesh end, a distal mesh end, and a mesh length from the proximal end to the distal end, the mesh being compressible to a collapsed configuration for delivery to an endovascular treatment site through a catheter and being self-expandable from the collapsed configuration to an expanded

configuration, a reference line for each row of at least three cells, each reference line passing through all intersections of adjacent cells in the corresponding row, and adjacent references lines diverging distally.

48. The medical device of Clause 47, wherein, between the first and second locations, all of the reference lines continuously diverge from each adjacent reference line.

49. The medical device of Clause 47, wherein at least one references line is straight.

50. The medical device of Clause 47, wherein all of the references line are straight.

51. The medical device of Clause 47, wherein each row extends from a first location to a second location along the mesh, the first and second locations being longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length.

52. The medical device of Clause 51, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least two thirds of the mesh length.

53. The medical device of Clause 51, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least three quarters of the mesh length.

54. The medical device of Clause 51, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least 90% of the mesh length.

55. The medical device of Clause 47, wherein the mesh is cylindrical in the absence of external forces.

56. A medical device configured to perform an endovascular therapy, the device comprising:

an elongate manipulation member comprising a distal end portion; and

an intervention member comprising a proximal end portion and a plurality of struts forming a mesh, the proximal end portion being coupled with the distal end portion of the elongate manipulation member, the mesh having a proximal mesh end, a distal mesh end, and a mesh length from the proximal end to the distal end, the mesh being compressible to a collapsed configuration for delivery to an endovascular treatment site through a catheter and being self-expandable from the collapsed configuration to an expanded configuration, and wherein, from a first location to a second location along the mesh, each cell distally adjacent to another cell has a strut that is more deflectable than a strut of the another cell, the first and second locations being longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length.

57. The medical device of Clause 56, wherein, from the first location to the second location along the mesh, each cell distally adjacent to another cell has a strut with a smaller cross-sectional dimension than has a strut of the another cell.

58. The medical device of Clause 57, wherein each strut distally adjacent to another strut has a smaller cross-sectional dimension than has the another strut.

59. The medical device of Clause 57, wherein the cross-sectional dimension is a strut width.

60. The medical device of Clause 57, wherein the cross-sectional dimension is a strut thickness.

61. The medical device of Clause 57, wherein circumferentially adjacent struts have substantially the same cross-sectional dimension.

62. The medical device of Clause 56, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least two thirds of the mesh length.

63. The medical device of Clause 56, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least three quarters of the mesh length.

64. The medical device of Clause 56, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least 90% of the mesh length.

65. A method for restoring localized blood flow in a cerebral blood vessel obstructed by a thrombus, comprising:

delivering an intervention member through a microcatheter to a site of the thrombus in the cerebral blood vessel, the intervention member comprising a mesh configured to self-expand to assume an expanded configuration at the site, and to be changed to a compressed configuration for delivery through the microcatheter, the mesh configured to expand into the thrombus when transitioning from the compressed configuration to the expanded configuration;

expanding the mesh at the site, by proximally withdrawing the microcatheter from over the structure, such that at least a portion of the mesh expands into the thrombus; and

applying a proximally directed force to a proximal end of the mesh to collapse, prior to withdrawal of the intervention member into a catheter, a cell of a distal end of the mesh to at least the same extent as a cell of a portion of the mesh proximal of the distal end;

removing at least a portion of the thrombus by retracting the intervention member.

66. The method of Clause 65, further comprising retracting the portion of the thrombus into a balloon catheter with the intervention member.

67. The method of Clause 65, wherein the intervention member is cylindrical in the absence of external forces.

68. The method of Clause 65, wherein the proximally directed force is applied to a proximal end of the mesh to collapse, prior to withdrawal of the intervention member into a

catheter, a distal end of the mesh to a greater extent than the portion of the mesh proximal of the distal end.

69. The method of Clause 65, wherein collapsing the cell of the distal end of the mesh comprises reducing a maximum width of the cell of the distal end to at least the same extent as a maximum width of the cell of the portion of the mesh proximal of the distal end.

70. The method of Clause 65, further comprising gripping the thrombus with the cell of the distal end to at least the same extent as with the cell of the portion of the mesh proximal of the distal end.

71. The method of any of Clauses 65-70, performed with the device of any of Claims 1-64 or 69-75.

69. A medical device configured to perform an endovascular therapy, the device comprising:

an elongate manipulation member comprising a distal end portion; and

an intervention member comprising a proximal end portion and a mesh, the proximal end portion being coupled with the distal end portion of the elongate manipulation member, the mesh having a proximal mesh end, a distal mesh end, and a mesh length from the proximal end to the distal end, the mesh having a plurality of cells and being compressible to a collapsed configuration for delivery to an endovascular treatment site through a catheter and being self-expandable from the collapsed configuration to an expanded configuration, and wherein at least a portion of the mesh, from a first location to a second location along the mesh, is configured such that an amount of thrombus engagement in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces decreases by less than 5% or increases in a distal direction along the portion of the mesh, the first and second locations being longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length.

70. The medical device of Clause 69, wherein the portion of the mesh, from the first location to the second location along the mesh, is configured such that the amount of thrombus engagement in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces does not decrease in a distal direction along the portion of the mesh.

71. The medical device of Clause 69, wherein the portion of the mesh, from the first location to the second location along the mesh, is configured such that the amount of thrombus engagement in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces increases in a distal direction along the portion of the mesh.

72. The medical device of Clause 69, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least two thirds of the mesh length.

73. The medical device of Clause 69, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least three quarters of the mesh length.

74. The medical device of Clause 69, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least 90% of the mesh length.

75. The medical device of Clause 69, wherein the mesh is cylindrical in the absence of external forces.

[0004] Additional features and advantages of the subject technology will be set forth in the description below, and in part will be apparent from the description, or may be learned by practice of the subject technology. The advantages of the subject technology will be realized and attained by the structure particularly pointed out in the written description and claims hereof as well as the appended drawings.

[0005] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory and are intended to provide further explanation of the subject technology as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0006] The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide further understanding of the subject technology and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this description, illustrate aspects of the subject technology and, together with the specification, serve to explain principles of the subject technology.

[0007] Figure 1 illustrates a device, including an expandable member, for blood flow restoration, thrombus removal, or both, according to an embodiment.

[0008] Figure 2 illustrates an expandable member, according to an embodiment, in an unrolled state.

[0009] Figure 3 is a schematic illustration of overlap configurations of the expandable member of FIG. 2, as viewed from a distal end of the expandable member.

[0010] Figures 4A–D are schematic illustrations of overlap configurations of the expandable member of FIG. 2, as viewed from a side of the expandable member.

[0011] Figure 5 illustrates an expandable member in an unrolled state.

[0012] Figures 6A and 6B illustrate change in lateral cell width for various locations along expandable members.

[0013] Figures 7A and 7B illustrate associated contact reaction stress of the clot for various locations along expandable members, as a consequence of the change in lateral cell width illustrated in Figures 6A-6B.

[0014] Figure 8 illustrates an expandable member, according to an embodiment, in an unrolled state.

[0015] Figure 9 illustrates an expandable member, according to an embodiment, in an unrolled state.

[0016] Figure 10 illustrates an expandable member, according to an embodiment, in an unrolled state.

[0017] Figures 11A–11D schematically illustrate thrombi located in various vessel arrangements.

[0018] Figure 12 schematically illustrates a system for blood flow restoration, thrombus removal, or both.

[0019] Figures 13–22 are cross-sectional views of a vessel and illustrate use of a device according to some embodiments.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0020] The detailed description set forth below is intended as a description of various configurations of the subject technology and is not intended to represent the only configurations in which the subject technology may be practiced. The appended drawings are incorporated herein and constitute a part of the detailed description. The detailed description includes specific details for the purpose of providing a thorough understanding of the subject technology. However, the subject technology may be practiced without these specific details. In some instances, well-known structures and components are shown in block diagram form in order to avoid obscuring the concepts of the subject technology.

[0021] Figure 1 depicts a medical device 100 according to some embodiments of the subject technology. As illustrated in Figure 1, the medical device 100 can comprise an expandable member 102 and a manipulation member 104. A proximal end portion of the expandable member 102 and a distal end portion of the manipulation member 104 can be joined at a connection 106. The manipulation member 104 can extend through a catheter 107 such that an operator can manipulate the expandable member 102, positioned within and/or distal to a distal end of the catheter 107, using the manipulation member 104 at a location proximal to a proximal end of the catheter 107.

[0022] The manipulation member 104 can have a length sufficient to extend from a location outside the patient's body through the vasculature to a treatment site within the patient's body. The manipulation member 104 can be monolithic or formed of multiple joined components. In some embodiments, the manipulation member 104 can comprise a combination of wire(s), coil(s), and/or tube(s). The manipulation member 104 can comprise one or more markers, e.g., comprised of radiopaque material(s) to aid radiographic visualization during manipulation.

[0023] The expandable member 102 and the manipulation member 104 can be substantially permanently attached together at the connection 106. That is, the expandable member 102 and the manipulation member 104 can be attached together in a manner that, under

the expected use conditions of the assembly 100, the endovascular device and the manipulation member would not become unintentionally separated from one another.

[0024] Depending on the procedure and intended use of the medical device 100, it optionally may be advantageous to have a connection mechanism that permits intentional release of the medical device 100. For example, during a blood flow restoration procedure, it may prove difficult and/or dangerous to fully retrieve a thrombus due to a complicated vasculature or the risk of damaging a lumen wall. Leaving the medical device 100 inside the patient may prove to be the only option available to a surgeon or other medical personnel, or it may be a goal of the procedure, such as when the device 100 is deployed across an aneurysm (e.g., as an aneurysm bridge to retain coils or other materials in an aneurysm). In other circumstances the medical device 100 may include drug-eluting capabilities, and/or may be coated with a particular type of drug that facilitates thrombus dissolution. It may be advantageous in such circumstances to release the medical device 100 and allow the medical device 100 to anchor the thrombus against the lumen wall while the thrombus is dissolved by the drug. In some embodiments, the medical device 100 can comprise a portion, located proximally or distally of the connection 106, that is configured for selective detachment of the endovascular device 102 from the manipulation member 104. For example, such a portion can comprise an electrolytically severable segment of the manipulation member. In some embodiments, the assembly 100 can be devoid of any feature that would permit selective detachment of the endovascular device 102 from the manipulation member 104.

[0025] Further details regarding connections that can be employed between the expandable member 102 and the manipulation member 104 disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 7,300,458, entitled Medical Implant Having a Curable Matrix Structure, issued November 27, 2007; U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2011/0060212, entitled Methods and Apparatus for Flow Restoration, published on March 10, 2011; U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2012/0083868, entitled Methods and Apparatuses for Flow Restoration and Implanting Members in the Human Body, published on April 5, 2012; U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2011/0160763, entitled Blood Flow Restoration in Thrombus Management Methods, published on June 30, 2011; U.S. Patent Application No. 13/834,945, entitled Connection of an Endovascular Intervention Device to a Manipulation Member, filed on March 15, 2013,

published as ____ on ____; and U.S. Patent Application No. 13/835,130, entitled Connection of a Manipulation Member, Including a Bend without Substantial Surface Cracks, to an Endovascular Intervention Device, filed on March 15, 2013, published as ____ on ____; the entirety of each of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

[0026] Figure 2 is a plan view showing the expandable member 102 in an unrolled state to facilitate description and understanding. As illustrated in Figures 1 and 3, the expandable member 102 can have a tubular or generally cylindrical shape in absence of external forces in some embodiments. The expandable member 102 can be self-expanding, e.g. by super-elasticity or shape memory, or expandable in response to forces applied on the expandable member, e.g. by a balloon.

[0027] As illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the expandable member 102 can comprise a frame 108 having a proximal end 110 and a distal end 112. The frame can comprise a plurality of struts 114 and a plurality of cells 116 forming a mesh. Groups of longitudinally and serially interconnected struts 114 can form undulating members 118 that extend in a generally longitudinal direction. The struts 114 can be connected to each other by joints 120. While the struts are shown having a particular undulating or sinuous configurations, in some embodiments the struts can have other configurations. The frame can have a generally tubular or generally cylindrical shape with one or both of the proximal end 110 and the distal end 112 being open.

[0028] As illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, a proximal portion 122 of the expandable member 102 can be tapered toward the proximal end 110. In some embodiments, the taper of the proximal portion can advantageously facilitate retraction and repositioning of the device 10 and expandable member 102. In some embodiments, the tapered proximal portion can also be designed to generally not contact the vessel wall during a blood flow restoration procedure, and to generally not interfere with the flow of blood within a vessel.

[0029] Individual cells of the proximal portion 122 can have different sizes than individual cells located distal to the tapered proximal portion. For example, in some embodiments, the proximal portion 122 can have individual cells that have a size larger than that of the individual cells located distal to the tapered proximal portion. The proximal portion 122 can taper gradually towards the connection 106.

[0030] The taper of proximal portion 122 can be at various angles relative to the manipulation member 104. For example, in some embodiments, the taper can have an angle of approximately 45 degrees relative to the manipulation member, though other angles are also possible.

[0031] The expandable member 102 can comprise a first edge 124 and a second edge 126. The first edge 124 and second edge 126 can be formed, for example, from cutting a sheet or a tube. While the first and second edges are shown as having an undulating, or sinuous configuration, in some embodiments the first and second edges can have a straight, or linear configuration, or other configuration. In some embodiments, the edges 124, 126 can be curved, straight, or a combination thereof along the tapered proximal portion 122.

[0032] Referring to Figures 3 and 4A–D, the expandable member 102 can be curled, rolled, or otherwise formed such that first edge 124 and second edge 126 overlap one another when the expandable member 102 is in a volume-reduced form. In a volume-reduced form, the frame 102 of the expandable member 102 can overlap to facilitate introduction of the expandable member 102 into and through the catheter 107. In some embodiments, the expandable member 102 is circumferentially continuous (e.g., forming a continuous cylindrical shape), lacking first and second edges 124, 126 and having no overlap or gap in a volume-reduced form and expanded form. Regardless of whether the expandable member is circumferentially continuous, the expandable member 102 can have a central longitudinal axis both while in a volume-reduce form and when fully or partially expanded. In some embodiments, the expandable member 102 can be self-expandable, and can expand toward a fully expanded configuration upon release from the catheter 107. Upon expansion, the expandable member 102 can expand towards an inner wall of a vessel, towards a thrombus occluding the inner wall of a vessel, or both.

[0033] Figures 4A–4D illustrate various amounts of overlap of the frame 108 of the expandable member 102. The extent of any overlap of the frame 108 can depend upon a degree of the frame's expansion. Expansion within a vessel can be limited, at least in part, by the vessel's size, and the amount and the properties of any thrombus present. For example, a greater overlap of the edges 124, 126 can occur in narrower vessels, whereas in wider vessels the overlap can be smaller, or even an "underlap" may occur, in which case the edges 22 and 24 are separated by an open gap or space within the vessel.

[0034] With continued reference to Figures 3 and 4A–D, embodiments of the expandable member 102 can experience various degrees of overlap in a volume-reduced form, forming zones of overlap 128. The expandable member 102 can assume various diameters Δ_1 , Δ_2 , etc., depending on the degree of the overlap (e.g. represented by angle α_1 , α_2 , etc.). As illustrated in Figures 4A–D, the overlap zones 128 can vary in size and configuration depending on the vessel size. When inside a vessel, the overlap zone of the expandable member 102 can advantageously provide grip and/or retaining ability with respect to a thrombus. For example, when the expandable member 102 expands against a thrombus, the individual struts 114 and individual cells 116 of the overlap zone can embed into and grip, or retain, the thrombus. Alternatively, the expandable member 102 can be constructed without any overlap or edges 124, 126, e.g. as a continuous tubelike or cylindrical member.

[0035] The expandable member 102 can be manufactured in various lengths and relaxed-state diameters. In some embodiments, the expandable member 102 can have lengths, measured proximally to distally along the longitudinal axis, of 15 mm or less to 40 mm or more, though other ranges and sizes are also possible. The expandable member 102 can also have relaxed-state diameters, the diameters being measured when the expandable member 102 is fully free to expand, i.e., in absence of external forces. In some embodiments, the expandable member 102 can have a diameter of approximately 3 mm to 4 mm so as to be used in size 18 microcatheters (i.e. microcatheters with an inner diameter of approximately 0.21 inch). In some embodiments the expandable member 102 can have a diameter of approximately 5 mm to 6 mm so as to be used in size 27 microcatheters (i.e. microcatheters with an inner diameter of approximately 0.027 inch). Other ranges and values are also possible.

[0036] Each cell 116 of the expandable member 102 can have a maximum length (labeled "L" in Figure 2), as measured along a longitudinal axis of the expandable member 102, and a maximum width W, as measured along a direction generally perpendicular to the length (labeled "W" in Figure 2). In some embodiments, cell size and dimensions can vary, as can the individual filament thicknesses and widths.

[0037] The location and longitudinal extent of thrombus engagement by a mechanical thrombus-retrieval device, e.g., the expandable member 102, can affect the likelihood of successfully capturing the engaged thrombus. Some embodiments of the subject technology

increase the likelihood of successful thrombus capture and retrieval by increasing a longitudinal extent of substantially even thrombus engagement, distally shifting the region of increased thrombus engagement, or both. When a thrombus is primarily engaged along a portion of the thrombus near its proximal end, and particularly when a longitudinal extent of substantially even thrombus engagement is small, the thrombus may be more likely to fragment, become released from the retrieval device, or both.

[0038] In some embodiments, the expandable member 102 can be configured for substantially uniform or distally biased thrombus engagement, after expansion of the expandable member 102 into the thrombus, during retrieval of thrombus from a vessel by proximal retraction of the manipulation member 104. The thrombus can be generally soft, or malleable, or generally hard, or callous. For example, the expandable member 102 can have strut and cell dimensions that provide substantially uniform or distally biased thrombus engagement.

[0039] Figure 5 illustrates an expandable member 102 having a pattern 130 of cells 116 of substantially uniform dimensions and of struts 114 of substantially uniform dimensions. The pattern of cells and struts of Figure 5 is substantially uniformly flexible or deformable. However, when the expandable member of Figure 5 is embedded in a thrombus and a proximally directed force is applied at a proximal end 110 of the expandable member, the cells of the expandable member tend to collapse in width, and therefore engage a thrombus, more along a proximal portion of the substantially uniform pattern 130 than they do along a distal portion of the substantially uniform pattern 130. Such a proximally directed force may be considered to simulate the force exerted on the proximal end 110, via the manipulation member 104, during retrieval of the expandable member 102 in a procedure to remove, e.g., thrombus from a blood vessel.

[0040] Figure 6A and 6B illustrate the amount of change (reduction) in (e.g., maximum) cell width W observed for cells in various longitudinal positions along the length of the frame 108, upon application of a proximally directed force at a proximal end of the frame when embedded in simulated thrombus having an outer extent fixed in six degrees of freedom. Figure 6A is an exemplifying plot of the amount of change (reduction) in (maximum) cell width (resulting from such force application) against longitudinal position for a frame having a substantially uniform cell angle or pattern 130. As indicated by Figure 6A, the amount of change

in maximum cell width diminishes with distance from the proximal end for a frame having a substantially uniform pattern 130. Thus, an expandable member having a substantially uniform pattern 130 “pinches” the thrombus more (by virtue of a greater reduction in cell width) along a proximal portion of the thrombus than it does along a distal portion of the thrombus.

[0041] Figure 6B is an exemplifying plot of the amount of change (reduction) in (maximum) cell width against the longitudinal position for frames in some embodiments of the subject technology, for example such as those illustrated in Figures 2, 8, 9, and 10. In contrast to Figure 6A, Figure 6B indicates that the amount of reduction in maximum cell width increases with distance from the proximal end for frames according to some embodiments of the subject technology. Thus, an expandable member according to some embodiments of the subject technology pinches and grips the thrombus more along a distal portion of the thrombus than it does along a proximal portion of the thrombus. Therefore, expandable members according to some embodiments of the subject technology can be less likely to fragment the thrombus, release the thrombus, or both during retrieval, compared to an expandable member having a substantially uniform pattern 130.

[0042] Figure 7A and 7B indicate the resultant contact reaction stresses (due to the cell width reduction) between the frame and thrombus in cells at various longitudinal positions along the length of the frame, upon application of a proximally directed force at a proximal end of the frame when embedded in simulated thrombus having an outer extent fixed in six degrees of freedom. Figure 7A is an exemplifying plot of contact reaction stress against longitudinal position for a frame, as illustrated in Figure 5 for example, wherein longitudinally and laterally adjacent cells have substantially the same dimensions and the struts surrounding those cells have substantially the same dimensions. As indicated by Figure 7A, contact reaction stress diminishes with distance from the proximal end for a frame having a substantially uniform pattern 130. Thus, an expandable member having a substantially uniform pattern 130 tends to pull on the thrombus, during retraction, more along a proximal portion of the thrombus than it does along a distal portion of the thrombus.

[0043] Figure 7B is an exemplifying plot of contact reaction stress against longitudinal position for frames in some embodiments of the subject technology, for example such as those illustrated in Figures 2, 8, 9, and 10. In contrast to Figure 7A, Figure 7B indicates that contact

reaction stress increases, along at least a portion of the frame's length, with distance from the proximal end for frames according to some embodiments of the subject technology. Thus, an expandable member according to some embodiments of the subject technology tends to pull on the thrombus less along a proximal portion of the thrombus than it does along a portion of the thrombus distal to the proximal portion. Therefore, expandable members according to some embodiments of the subject technology can be less likely to fragment the thrombus, release the thrombus, or both during retraction, compared to an expandable member having a substantially uniform pattern 130.

[0044] Figures 8–10 illustrate expandable members 102, according to embodiments of the subject technology, in plan view, e.g., an unrolled state. The expandable members 102 of Figures 8–10 are examples of the expandable member 102 described above with reference to Figures 2–4D. Accordingly, the description of the expandable member 102 with reference to Figures 2–4D also applies to expandable members 102 of Figures 8–10.

[0045] The expandable members 102 of Figures 8–10 can provide distally biased thrombus engagement, as described above with reference to Figures 6B and/or 7B, substantially uniform thrombus engagement, or a combination thereof over lengthwise portions of the expandable member. Thrombus engagement can be considered substantially uniform when the amount of change in maximum cell width and/or contact reaction stress varies in the longitudinal direction by less than 5% upon application of a proximally directed force at a proximal end of the expandable member when the expandable member is embedded in thrombus, or simulated thrombus, having an outer extent fixed in six degrees of freedom.

[0046] In some embodiments, at least a portion of the frame 108, from a first location to a second location along the frame, is configured such that an amount of cell deformation or deflection in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces decreases by less than 5% or increases in a distal direction along a portion of the frame. The cell deformation can be, for example, change of maximum cell width. In some embodiments, the amount of cell deformation in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces does not decrease in a distal direction along the portion of the frame. In some embodiments, the amount of cell deformation in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces continuously increases in a distal direction along the portion of the frame. The portion of the frame can extend from a first location to a second location along

the frame. In some embodiments, the first and second locations can be longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length, at least two thirds of the frame length, at least three quarters of the frame length, or at least 90% of the frame length. In some embodiments, portion of the frame can comprise a longitudinal row of at least two, three, or four cells.

[0047] In some embodiments, at least a portion of the frame 108, from a first location to a second location along the frame, is configured such that an amount of thrombus engagement in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces decreases by less than 5% or increases in a distal direction along a portion of the frame. The thrombus engagement can be, for example, contact reaction stress. In some embodiments, the amount of thrombus engagement in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces does not decrease in a distal direction along the portion of the frame. In some embodiments, the amount of thrombus engagement in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces continuously increases in a distal direction along the portion of the frame. The portion of the frame can extend from a first location to a second location along the frame. In some embodiments, the first and second locations can be longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length, at least two thirds of the frame length, at least three quarters of the frame length, or at least 90% of the frame length. In some embodiments, portion of the frame can comprise a longitudinal row of at least two, three, or four cells.

[0048] Figure 8 illustrates an expandable member 102 wherein, in a portion of the frame 108 in a relaxed state, each cell distally adjacent to another cell, in a longitudinal row of cells, has a larger proximal inscribed strut angle θ between first and second struts (i) bounding a proximal portion of the cell and (ii) diverging in a distal direction, than has the another cell. For example, Figure 8 shows a first cell 132 having a proximal inscribed strut angle θ_1 , a second cell 134 having a proximal inscribed strut angle θ_2 , a third cell 136 having a proximal inscribed strut angle θ_3 , and a fourth cell having a proximal inscribed strut angle θ_4 , wherein $\theta_4 > \theta_3 > \theta_2 > \theta_1$. The portion of the frame can extend from a first location to a second location along the frame. In some embodiments, the first and second locations can be longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length, at least two thirds of the frame length, at least three

quarters of the frame length, or at least 90% of the frame length. In some embodiments, portion of the frame can comprise a longitudinal row of at least two, three, or four cells.

[0049] In some embodiments, the proximal inscribed strut angle θ can be measured between substantially straight portions 140 of the struts 114, as illustrated in Figure 8. In some embodiments, the proximal inscribed strut angle θ can be measured between straight reference lines that connect a joint 120a, at a proximal end of a cell, with opposing laterally positioned joints 120b, 120c, respectively, at of that cell. In either case, each strut 114 can be straight, curved, or comprise straight portion(s) and curved portion(s).

[0050] In addition or alternative to distally increasing, proximal inscribed strut angles, the expandable member 102 can have a portion of the frame 108 wherein, in a relaxed state, each cell distally adjacent to another cell, in a longitudinal row of cells, has a larger interior bounded area than has the another cell. For example, an interior bounded area of fourth cell 138 can be larger than an interior bounded area of third cell 136, which can be larger than an interior bounded area of second cell 134, which can be larger than an interior bounded area of first cell 132. The portion of the frame can extend from a first location to a second location along the frame. In some embodiments, the first and second locations can be longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length, at least two thirds of the frame length, at least three quarters of the frame length, or at least 90% of the frame length. In some embodiments, portion of the frame can comprise a longitudinal row of at least two, three, or four cells.

[0051] In some embodiments, the expandable member 102 can have a portion of the frame 108 wherein, in a relaxed state, each cell distally adjacent to another cell, in a longitudinal row of cells, has a larger maximum cell width W than has the another cell. For example, a maximum cell width of fourth cell 138 can be larger than a maximum cell width of third cell 136, which can be larger than a maximum cell width of second cell 134, which can be larger than a maximum cell width of first cell 132. The portion of the frame can extend from a first location to a second location along the frame. In some embodiments, the first and second locations can be longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length, at least two thirds of the frame length, at least three quarters of the frame length, or at least 90% of the frame length. In some embodiments, portion of the frame can comprise a longitudinal row of at least two, three, or four cells.

[0052] Accordingly, the herein-discussed configurations of the expandable member 102 (distally increasing maximum cell width W, distally increasing cell area, distally increasing proximal included strut angle θ , distally increasing amplitude A, distally diverging reference lines 144, and/or distally increasing strut flexibility/deflectability) can each be considered a means for engaging a thrombus (or other material) in a substantially uniform (and/or distally biased) manner along the length of the expandable member 102.

[0053] In the embodiment of Figure 8, maximum cell length can range from 3.50 mm to 5.50 mm in a relaxed state, though other ranges and values are also possible, and maximum cell width can range from between 2.50 mm to 4.50 mm in a relaxed state, though other ranges and values are also possible. All of the foregoing dimensions can optionally be implemented alone or in any combination without departing from the scope of this disclosure.

[0054] Figure 9 illustrates an expandable member 102 comprising a plurality of undulating or sinuous members 118. Each undulating or sinuous member 118 can comprise a plurality of oscillations 142. Each oscillation can have an amplitude (labeled "A" in Figure 9). In some embodiments, an oscillation can correspond in length to the length of a cell. An oscillation 142 can comprise one or more struts 114. Some embodiments can comprise a portion of the frame 108 wherein, in a relaxed state, each oscillation of each undulating or sinuous member 118 does not decrease, or alternatively, increases in a distal direction compared to a proximally adjacent oscillation. In some embodiments, the amplitude of the oscillations can increase distally at a constant rate per unit length. The portion of the frame can extend from a first location to a second location along the frame. In some embodiments, the first and second locations can be longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length, at least two thirds of the frame length, at least three quarters of the frame length, or at least 90% of the frame length. In some embodiments, portion of the frame can comprise a longitudinal row of at least two, three, or four cells.

[0055] Figure 9 illustrates a plurality of reference lines 144. Each reference line can pass through all joints 120 between adjacent cells in a row of cells. Some embodiments can comprise a portion of the frame 108 wherein, in a relaxed state, each reference line 144 continuously diverges from at least one or two adjacent reference lines 144. In some embodiments, the reference lines can be straight. In some embodiments, all or a portion of respective reference line

can be curved. The portion of the frame can extend from a first location to a second location along the frame. In some embodiments, the first and second locations can be longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length, at least two thirds of the frame length, at least three quarters of the frame length, or at least 90% of the frame length. In some embodiments, the portion of the frame can comprise a longitudinal row of at least two, three, or four cells.

[0056] In some embodiments, the expandable member 102 can have a portion of the frame 108 wherein, in a relaxed state, each cell distally adjacent to another cell can have a strut that is more flexible or deflectable than a strut of the another cell. In some embodiments, each strut distally adjacent to another strut can be more flexible or deflectable than is the another strut. Strut flexibility or deflectability can be increased, for example, by diminishing strut thickness, strut width, or both along all or a portion of the strut's length. The portion of the frame can extend from a first location to a second location along the frame. In some embodiments, the first and second locations can be longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length, at least two thirds of the frame length, at least three quarters of the frame length, or at least 90% of the frame length. In some embodiments, portion of the frame can comprise a longitudinal row of at least two, three, or four cells.

[0057] The struts 114 can have individual strut widths "a" (Figure 10) that range from 0.010 in. to 0.025 in., and individual strut thicknesses "b" that range from 0.045 mm to 0.080 mm, though other ranges and values for individual strut width and thickness are also possible. Widths "a" as described herein can generally be measured as illustrated by the arrows in Figure 10. Thicknesses "b" as described herein can generally be measured as illustrated by the arrows in Figure 3 (e.g. in a direction extending out of the page of Figure 10, and perpendicular to the measurement for width "a"). The widths "a" can be measured, for example, using a system such as the Visicon Automated Inspection System, or other suitable system. The thicknesses "b" can be measured, for example, using a system such as the Heidenhain Inspection System, or other suitable system.

[0058] With continued reference to Figure 10, the joints 120 can have an individual strut thickness "b" that range from 0.050 mm to 0.0825 mm and an individual strut width "a" that ranges from 0.050 mm to 0.0825 mm, though other ranges and values are also possible. In some

embodiments, individual struts can have individual strut thicknesses “b” that range from 0.040 mm to 0.075 mm, and individual strut widths “a” that range from 0.038 mm to 0.082 mm, though other ranges and values are also possible. In some embodiments, the individual struts in a portion of the expandable member 102 can have average strut thicknesses “b” that range from 0.048 mm to 0.067 mm, and individual strut widths “a” that average from 0.053 mm to 0.067 mm, though other ranges for average values are also possible.

[0059] Figure 10 illustrates an example of an embodiment wherein strut thickness is diminished in a distal direction, thereby distally increasing strut flexibility or to flexibility. The frame 108 of the expandable member 102 in Figure 10 comprises a plurality of rings 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158 of circumferentially adjacent struts. The struts 114 in each ring can have substantially the same width, as illustrated, for example, in Figure 10. In some embodiments, circumferentially adjacent struts can have different widths. Referring again to Figure 10, the strut width of each ring 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158 can diminish in the distal direction. In other words, a strut width of ring 158 can be less than a strut width of ring 156, which can be less than a strut width of ring of 154, which can be less than a strut width of ring 152, which can be less than a strut width of ring 150, which can be less than a strut width of ring 148, which can be less than a strut width of ring 146. In some embodiments, two or more longitudinally adjacent struts, or rings of struts, can have the same, or substantially the same, width. For example, struts 114 distal to the ring 158 can have the same, or substantially the same, strut width as the struts of ring 158.

[0060] Although Figure 10 illustrates the struts 114 as having substantially constant widths along their entire respective lengths, the struts can have widths that vary along their lengths in some embodiments. For example, the struts can have an hourglass shape, can be wider in the middle than at the ends, can have corrugated edges, or have other configurations. Strut thickness can likewise be constant or variable along each strut’s length. The struts’ cross-sectional areas can likewise be constant or variable along each strut’s length.

[0061] In the embodiment of Figure 10, maximum cell length can range from 3.50 mm to 5.50 mm in a relaxed state, though other ranges and values are also possible and within the scope of this disclosure, and maximum cell width can range from between 2.50 mm to 4.50 mm and a

relaxed state, though other ranges and values are also possible and within the scope of this disclosure.

[0062] The expandable member 102 can generate specific forces once it is deployed and released from the catheter 107 for engagement and removal of thrombi. By deploying the expandable member 102 in or across a thrombus, the expandable member 102 can be expanded, e.g., self-expanded to a larger diameter due to elastic energy stored in the expandable member 102. The expandable member 102 can expand in the vessel until equilibrium is reached between the stored elastic energy and an opposing force from the surrounding vessel wall and/or thrombus. The struts 114 and cells 116 of the expandable member 102 can penetrate a thrombus, promoting adhesion and embedment of the thrombus to the expandable member 102, and the expanding force of the expandable member 102 can promote dislodgment of the thrombus from the vessel wall.

[0063] For example, the stored elastic energy of the expandable member 102 can generate outward forces known as radial force (RF) and chronic outward force (COF). The radial force is equivalent to the outward force exerted by the expandable member 102 during compression of the expandable member 102. The chronic outward force is equivalent to the outward force exerted by the expandable member 102 during decompression, or expansion, of the expandable member 102. In a preferred arrangement, the COF can be designed so that it is not so high that it bursts, or damages, a vessel wall. In a preferred arrangement, the RF can be designed so that it is high enough to resist compression forces from the surrounding vessel environment, maintain patency of the vessel lumen, and restore flow through the thrombus site.

[0064] During deployment and thrombus retrieval, the highest COF and RF can occur when the expandable member 102 is deployed and/or retrieved inside a minimum recommended diameter vessel. Conversely, the COF and RF can be the lowest when the expandable member 102 is deployed and/or retrieved inside a maximum recommended diameter vessel. In some embodiments, a curled, overlapped expandable member 102 can enhance the COF and RF, particularly in smaller diameter vessels, to allow for increased embedment of a thrombus to the expandable member 102.

[0065] The radial force can be measured by various methods. For example, a two pin method can measure the radial force by placing (e.g. sliding) the expandable member 102 over

two elongate, parallel pins, such that the generally tubular, expandable member 102 encompasses and surrounds the two pins. When placed over the two pins, the proximal end 110 of proximal portion 122 can be located generally halfway between the two elongate pins, and to one side. The ends of the two pins can be placed in a tensile testing machine. When the testing machine is loaded, the machine can cause the pins to pull apart from one another, such that a force is imparted on the expandable member 102. When the expandable member 102 slips off of one of the pins, the radial force can be measured.

[0066] A thin film method can also be used to measure the radial force, and can additionally be used to measure the chronic outward force. The thin film method can generally comprise compressing and decompressing the expandable member 102 circumferentially 360 degrees using a thin film of PTFE wrapped around the expandable member 102. The thin film method can measure changes in diameter of the expandable member 102 versus force for both expansion and contraction of the expandable member 102.

[0067] In a preferred arrangement using the thin film method, the expandable member 102 can have a radial force measurement greater than or equal to 0.0010 N per mm of length of the portion of the expandable member 102 that is configured to contact a vessel wall or thrombus (e.g. distal portion 30). The length in this unit refers to a proximal to distal direction measurement (i.e. moving left to right in Figure 1). Instead of or in addition to the foregoing, the expandable member 102 can have a chronic outward force of less than or equal to 0.026 N per mm (or between about 0.001 N/mm and 0.026 N/mm) of length of the portion of the expandable member 102 that is configured to contact a vessel wall or thrombus, depending on the inner diameter of the vessel in which the expandable member is deployed. In a preferred arrangement using the two pin method, the expandable member 102 can have a radial force measurement of between approximately 6 to 37 (or between approximately 0 to 50) gf per inch of length of the portion of the expandable member 102 that is configured to contact a vessel wall or thrombus. Other values for the foregoing variables are possible and within the scope of this disclosure.

[0068] In some embodiments, the expandable member 102 can further include at least one distal marker 160. The distal marker 160 can be attached to or integrally formed with a distal portion of the expandable member 102. The distal marks 160 can comprise, for example, a band comprising platinum, gold, and/or other radiopaque materials. The markers 160 can be used

during an imaging process to identify a location or locations of the expandable member 102 during a blood flow restoration procedure. PCT Publication No. WO 2009/105710, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety, describes various uses of marker bands and imaging of an expandable member 102.

[0069] The frame 108 can be formed, for example, by cutting a sheet or tube (e.g., by laser, etching, etc.), by interconnecting a multitude of filaments by laser welding, or by other suitable methods. In some embodiments, the expandable member 102 can be initially laser cut from a tube. In some embodiments, the expandable member 102 can be formed by cutting a pattern on a flat sheet and then rolling the flat sheet into a generally tube-like or coiled shape. The joints 120 may be formed by welding, soldering, or otherwise joining the struts 114. Other methods for forming the expandable member 102 are also possible.

[0070] In some embodiments, the expandable member 102 can comprise metal, polymer, ceramic, permanent enduring materials, and may comprise either of or both of non-bioabsorbable and bioabsorbable materials. Exemplary materials include, but are not limited to, NITINOL®, stainless steel, cobalt chromium alloys, Elgiloy, magnesium alloys, polylactic acid, poly glycolic acid, poly ester amide (PEA), poly ester urethane (PEU), amino acid based bioanalogous polymers, tungsten, tantalum, platinum, polymers, bio-polymers, ceramics, bio-ceramics, or metallic glasses. Part or all of the expandable member may elute over time substances such as drugs, biologics, gene therapies, antithrombotics, coagulants, anti-inflammatory drugs, immunomodulator drugs, anti-proliferatives, migration inhibitors, extracellular matrix modulators, healing promoters, re-endothelialization promoters, or other materials. In some embodiments, the expandable member may be formed from materials having shape memory properties. In some embodiments, the expandable member may be finished by processes to remove slag. In some embodiments, the expandable member may be subjected to a tempering treatment at temperatures customarily applied to the material so that the impressed structure is permanently established.

[0071] Referring to Figures 11A–D, in some embodiments the expandable member 102 can be used as a flow restoration device and/or an implantable member (e.g. stent) in a vessel, including at bifurcation, bi-vessel, and/or multi-vessel locations. For example, and with reference to Figure 11A, thrombi can be located at bifurcations in the neurovasculature such as the internal

carotid artery and the anterior cerebral artery, or internal carotid artery and middle cerebral artery, or the basilar artery and the posterior cerebral artery. With reference to Figure 11B, thrombi can also be located at two vessels (i.e. bi-vessels) as two separate clots in similar vessels. With reference to Figures 11C and 11D, thrombi can also be located at multi-vessels as one clot that is within multiple vessels or as multiple clots that are within multiple vessels. Vessels with such clots can be located, for example, at the intracranial internal carotid, anterior cerebral and middle cerebral arteries, and basilar artery and both posterior and cerebral arteries.

[0072] Referring to Figure 12, the medical device 100 can be used in a system with a balloon guide catheter 164, with a syringe 166 for expanding a balloon 168, a syringe 170 for aspiration, or both. Aspiration assistance can enable flow reversal through the expandable member 102 and thrombus 162. Inflation of the balloon 168 can impede or prevent flow proximally through the vessel from the balloon 168 towards the expandable member 102. As part of the retrieval procedure, continuous aspiration can be employed through the balloon guide catheter 164, with vigorous aspiration when the expandable member 102 is near a distal tip of the balloon guide catheter. The aspiration with flow reversal can help allow the distal vasculature to continue to have blood perfusing through the vessels during the retrieval process, and can inhibit the possibility of distal emboli. There can be an advantage to having blood flow across the expandable member 102 and thrombus 162 with the potential of natural lysing of blood and increased surface area for thrombus dissolving medicines, if they are provided. The aspiration with flow reversal can also assist in the thrombus retrieval process by aiding in the removal of the thrombus 162. The flow can be directed towards a lumen of the balloon guide catheter 164 due to the aspiration. The expandable member 102 and thrombus 162 can thus be assisted by the flow to enter the lumen of the balloon guide catheter 164. In some embodiments, if withdrawal into the balloon guide catheter 164 is difficult for any reason during aspiration, the balloon 168 can be deflated, and the balloon guide catheter 164, catheter 107, and expandable member 102 can be withdrawn simultaneously while maintaining aspiration.

[0073] A technique for engaging and removing a thrombus 162 and restricting downstream travel of secondary emboli during thrombus retrieval will now be discussed with reference to Figures 13–22. This technique can be performed with any of the embodiments of the medical device 100 and expandable member 102 disclosed herein, including any of the

expandable members 102 of Figures 2, 8, 9 or 10. Referring to Figure 13, the medical device 100 may be inserted into an anatomical vessel 172 by first inserting a guide wire 174 into the anatomical vessel 172. The guide wire 174 is advanced through a guide catheter 164, which optionally includes a balloon near the guide catheter's distal end, and a catheter 107 to the treatment site, adjacent the thrombus 162. Referring to Figure 14, the guide wire 174 is advanced distally through the thrombus 162. Once in position, the catheter 107 is advanced over the guide wire 174, through a distal end of the guide catheter, into the anatomical vessel 172. Referring to Figure 15, the catheter 107 is advanced distally through the thrombus 162. The guide wire 174 is then withdrawn proximally.

[0074] Referring to Figure 16, the medical device 100 is advanced through the catheter 107 such that the distal portion 120 of the medical device 100 is disposed distal of the thrombus 162 in the anatomical vessel 172. The medical device 100 is advanced through the catheter 107 by the manipulation member 104 coupled to the proximal end of the expandable member 102. The catheter 107 compresses the expandable member 102 and thus, maintains the expandable member 102 in a compressed, volume-reduced configuration as the expandable member 102 is advanced to the treatment site.

[0075] Referring to Figures 17 and 18, the catheter 107 is withdrawn proximally relative to the expandable member 102 to expose the expandable member 102. If the expandable member is self-expanding, retraction of the catheter 107 can permit the expandable member 102 to expand. The frame 108 expands against a length of the thrombus 162 and engages the thrombus 162. As discussed above, the frame 108 is designed to engage and remove thrombi that are both generally soft, or malleable, or generally hard, or callous. A period of time can be allowed to pass to allow blood to reperfuse the downstream area, the expandable member 102 to penetrate the thrombus 162, or both.

[0076] Referring to Figures 19 and 20, the expandable member 102 is withdrawn proximally, along with the thrombus 162. Applying a proximally directed force to a proximal end of the frame 108 can collapse a distal end of the frame 108, prior to withdrawal of the intervention member into the guide catheter 164. The distal end of the frame 108 can collapse to at least substantially the same extent, and optionally more than, a portion of the frame proximal of the distal end as discussed above.

[0077] Referring to Figures 12, 20, and 21, in embodiments wherein the guide catheter 164 comprises a balloon 168, the balloon optionally can be inflated to occlude flow during retraction of the thrombus 162 toward the guide catheter. In some embodiments, an aspiration syringe 170 can be attached to the guide catheter 164, and aspiration can be applied to aid thrombus retrieval.

[0078] Referring to Figure 21, the expandable member 102 is withdrawn proximally to the guide catheter 164. The guide catheter 164 causes the frame 108 to collapse, with the thrombus 162 engaged therein. The thrombus 162 is thus retrieved and removed from the anatomical vessel 172. Referring to Figure 22, if retrieval of the expandable member 102 is determined to be undesirable, e.g., to avoid damaging the vessel 172, and the expandable member 102 is detachably connected to the manipulation member 104, the expandable member can be detached from the manipulation member 104 and can remain in the vessel 172.

[0079] Additionally, while the expandable member 102 described above has been described in the context of use during a blood flow restoration procedure, the expandable member 102 can also, or alternatively, be used as an implantable member (e.g. stent). For example, the expandable member 102 can be released through the connection 106 at a stenosis, aneurysm, or other appropriate location in a vessel. The expandable member 102 can expand and engage a vessel wall so as to hold the vessel wall open and/or act as an occluding member. While the filament thicknesses, widths, cell sizes, and forces described above can be optimized for an expandable member 102 for flow restoration, these values can also be optimized for an expandable member 102 for use as an implantable member. In some embodiments the same values can be used for both flow restoration and use as an implantable member.

[0080] Further details regarding expandable members, the manufacture of expandable members, and use of expandable members are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 7,300,458, entitled Medical Implant Having a Curable Matrix Structure, issued November 27, 2007; U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2011/0060212, entitled Methods and Apparatus for Flow Restoration, published on March 10, 2011; U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2012/0083868, entitled Methods and Apparatuses for Flow Restoration and Implanting Members in the Human Body, published on April 5, 2012; U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2011/0160763, entitled Blood Flow Restoration in Thrombus Management Methods, published

on June 30, 2011; U.S. Patent Application No. 13/834,945, entitled Connection of an Endovascular Intervention Device to a Manipulation Member, filed on March 15, 2013, published as ____ on ____; and U.S. Patent Application No. 13/835,130, entitled Connection of a Manipulation Member, Including a Bend without Substantial Surface Cracks, to an Endovascular Intervention Device, filed on March 15, 2013, published as ____ on ____; the entirety of each of which is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

[0081] The foregoing description is provided to enable a person skilled in the art to practice the various configurations described herein. While the subject technology has been particularly described with reference to the various figures and configurations, it should be understood that these are for illustration purposes only and should not be taken as limiting the scope of the subject technology.

[0082] There may be many other ways to implement the subject technology. Various functions and elements described herein may be partitioned differently from those shown without departing from the scope of the subject technology. Various modifications to these configurations will be readily apparent to those skilled in the art, and generic principles defined herein may be applied to other configurations. Thus, many changes and modifications may be made to the subject technology, by one having ordinary skill in the art, without departing from the scope of the subject technology.

[0083] It is understood that the specific order or hierarchy of steps in the processes disclosed is an illustration of exemplary approaches. Based upon design preferences, it is understood that the specific order or hierarchy of steps in the processes may be rearranged. Some of the steps may be performed simultaneously. The accompanying method claims present elements of the various steps in a sample order, and are not meant to be limited to the specific order or hierarchy presented.

[0084] As used herein, the phrase “at least one of” preceding a series of items, with the term “and” or “or” to separate any of the items, modifies the list as a whole, rather than each member of the list (i.e., each item). The phrase “at least one of” does not require selection of at least one of each item listed; rather, the phrase allows a meaning that includes at least one of any one of the items, and/or at least one of any combination of the items, and/or at least one of each of the items. By way of example, the phrases “at least one of A, B, and C” or “at least one of A,

B, or C” each refer to only A, only B, or only C; any combination of A, B, and C; and/or at least one of each of A, B, and C.

[0085] A phrase such as “an aspect” does not imply that such aspect is essential to the subject technology or that such aspect applies to all configurations of the subject technology. A disclosure relating to an aspect may apply to all configurations, or one or more configurations. An aspect may provide one or more examples of the disclosure. A phrase such as “an aspect” may refer to one or more aspects and vice versa. A phrase such as “an embodiment” does not imply that such embodiment is essential to the subject technology or that such embodiment applies to all configurations of the subject technology. A disclosure relating to an embodiment may apply to all embodiments, or one or more embodiments. An embodiment may provide one or more examples of the disclosure. A phrase such as “an embodiment” may refer to one or more embodiments and vice versa. A phrase such as “a configuration” does not imply that such configuration is essential to the subject technology or that such configuration applies to all configurations of the subject technology. A disclosure relating to a configuration may apply to all configurations, or one or more configurations. A configuration may provide one or more examples of the disclosure. A phrase such as “a configuration” may refer to one or more configurations and vice versa.

[0086] Terms such as “top,” “bottom,” “front,” “rear” and the like as used in this disclosure should be understood as referring to an arbitrary frame of reference, rather than to the ordinary gravitational frame of reference. Thus, a top surface, a bottom surface, a front surface, and a rear surface may extend upwardly, downwardly, diagonally, or horizontally in a gravitational frame of reference.

[0087] Furthermore, to the extent that the term “include,” “have,” or the like is used in the description or the claims, such term is intended to be inclusive in a manner similar to the term “comprise” as “comprise” is interpreted when employed as a transitional word in a claim.

[0088] The word “exemplary” is used herein to mean “serving as an example, instance, or illustration.” Any embodiment described herein as “exemplary” is not necessarily to be construed as preferred or advantageous over other embodiments.

[0089] A reference to an element in the singular is not intended to mean “one and only one” unless specifically stated, but rather “one or more.” Pronouns in the masculine (e.g., his)

include the feminine and neuter gender (e.g., her and its) and vice versa. The term “some” refers to one or more. Underlined and/or italicized headings and subheadings are used for convenience only, do not limit the subject technology, and are not referred to in connection with the interpretation of the description of the subject technology. All structural and functional equivalents to the elements of the various configurations described throughout this disclosure that are known or later come to be known to those of ordinary skill in the art are expressly incorporated herein by reference and intended to be encompassed by the subject technology. Moreover, nothing disclosed herein is intended to be dedicated to the public regardless of whether such disclosure is explicitly recited in the above description.

[0090] While certain aspects and embodiments of the subject technology have been described, these have been presented by way of example only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the subject technology. Indeed, the novel methods and systems described herein may be embodied in a variety of other forms without departing from the spirit thereof. The accompanying claims and their equivalents are intended to cover such forms or modifications as would fall within the scope and spirit of the subject technology.

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A medical device configured to perform an endovascular therapy, the device comprising:

an elongate manipulation member comprising a distal end portion; and

an intervention member comprising a proximal end portion and a mesh, the proximal end portion being coupled with the distal end portion of the elongate manipulation member, the mesh having a proximal mesh end, a distal mesh end, and a mesh length from the proximal end to the distal end, the mesh having a plurality of cells and being compressible to a collapsed configuration for delivery to an endovascular treatment site through a catheter and being self-expandable from the collapsed configuration to an expanded configuration, and wherein at least a portion of the mesh, from a first location to a second location along the mesh, is configured such that an amount of cell deformation in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces decreases by less than 5% or increases in a distal direction along the portion of the mesh, the first and second locations being longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length.

2. The medical device of Claim 1, wherein the portion of the mesh, from the first location to the second location along the mesh, is configured such that the amount of cell deformation in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces does not decrease in a distal direction along the portion of the mesh.

3. The medical device of Claim 1, wherein the portion of the mesh, from the first location to the second location along the mesh, is configured such that the amount of cell deformation in response to longitudinally directed tensile forces increases in a distal direction along the portion of the mesh.

4. The medical device of Claim 1, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least two thirds of the mesh length.

5. The medical device of Claim 1, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least three quarters of the mesh length.

6. The medical device of Claim 1, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least 90% of the mesh length.

7. The medical device of Claim 1, wherein the mesh is generally cylindrical in the absence of external forces.

8. A medical device configured to perform an endovascular therapy, the device comprising:

an elongate manipulation member comprising a distal end portion; and

an intervention member comprising a proximal end portion and a plurality of cells forming a mesh, the proximal end portion being coupled with the distal end portion of the elongate manipulation member, the mesh having a proximal mesh end, a distal mesh end, and a mesh length from the proximal end to the distal end, the mesh being compressible to a collapsed configuration for delivery to an endovascular treatment site through a catheter and being self-expandable from the collapsed configuration to an expanded configuration, and wherein, from a first location to a second location along the mesh, each cell distally adjacent to another cell, in a longitudinal row of cells, has a larger interior bounded area than has the another cell, the first and second locations being longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length.

9. The medical device of Claim 8, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least two thirds of the mesh length.

10. The medical device of Claim 8, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least three quarters of the mesh length.

11. The medical device of Claim 8, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least 90% of the mesh length.

12. The medical device of Claim 8, wherein the longitudinal row of cells comprises at least three cells.
13. The medical device of Claim 8, wherein the first location is at the proximal mesh end.
14. The medical device of Claim 8, wherein the first location is distal to a proximal-most cell.
15. The medical device of Claim 8, wherein the second location is at the distal mesh end.
16. The medical device of Claim 8, wherein the mesh is cylindrical in the absence of external forces.
17. The medical device of Claim 8, wherein the elongate manipulation member has a length between a proximal end and the distal end that is sufficient to permit manipulation of the intervention member within the cerebral vasculature of a patient's body from a location outside the body.
18. The medical device of Claim 8, wherein the mesh is formed by laser cutting one of a tube or a sheet.
19. The medical device of Claim 8, wherein the mesh forms a generally tubular structure.
20. The medical device of Claim 8, wherein the mesh further comprises a first lateral edge extending between the proximal mesh end and the distal mesh end, and a second lateral edge opposite the first lateral edge, the second lateral edge extending between the proximal mesh end and the distal mesh end; wherein the first and second lateral edges are overlapped in a coiled configuration about the longitudinal axis when the mesh is in the collapsed configuration.

21. The medical device of Claim 8, wherein the tube has an open proximal end and an open distal end.

22. A medical device configured to perform an endovascular therapy, the device comprising:

an elongate manipulation member comprising a distal end portion; and

an intervention member comprising a proximal end portion and a plurality of cells forming a mesh, the proximal end portion being coupled with the distal end portion of the elongate manipulation member, the mesh having a proximal mesh end, a distal mesh end, and a mesh length from the proximal end to the distal end, the mesh being compressible to a collapsed configuration for delivery to an endovascular treatment site through a catheter and being self-expandable from the collapsed configuration to an expanded configuration, and wherein, in a longitudinal row of at least three cells, each cell distally adjacent to another cell has a larger proximal inscribed strut angle between first and second struts (i) bounding a proximal portion of the cell and (ii) diverging in a distal direction, than has the another cell.

23. The medical device of Claim 22, wherein the first and second struts comprises a straight portion and a curved portion, and the inscribed strut angle is measured between the straight portions of the first and second struts.

24. The medical device of Claim 22, wherein the inscribe strut angle is measured between straight reference lines that join strut intersection points at each end of the first and second struts.

25. The medical device of Claim 22, wherein, for each cell, the first strut has a length equal to that of the second strut.

26. The medical device of Claim 22, wherein the first struts of all cells between the first and second locations have the substantially equal lengths.

27. The medical device of Claim 22, wherein the longitudinal row extends from a first location to a second location along the mesh, the first and second locations being longitudinally separated by a distance that is more than half of the mesh length.

28. The medical device of Claim 27, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least two thirds of the mesh length.

29. The medical device of Claim 27, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least three quarters of the mesh length.

30. The medical device of Claim 27, wherein the first and second locations are longitudinally separated by a distance that is at least 90% of the mesh length.

31. The medical device of Claim 22, wherein the mesh is cylindrical in the absence of external forces.

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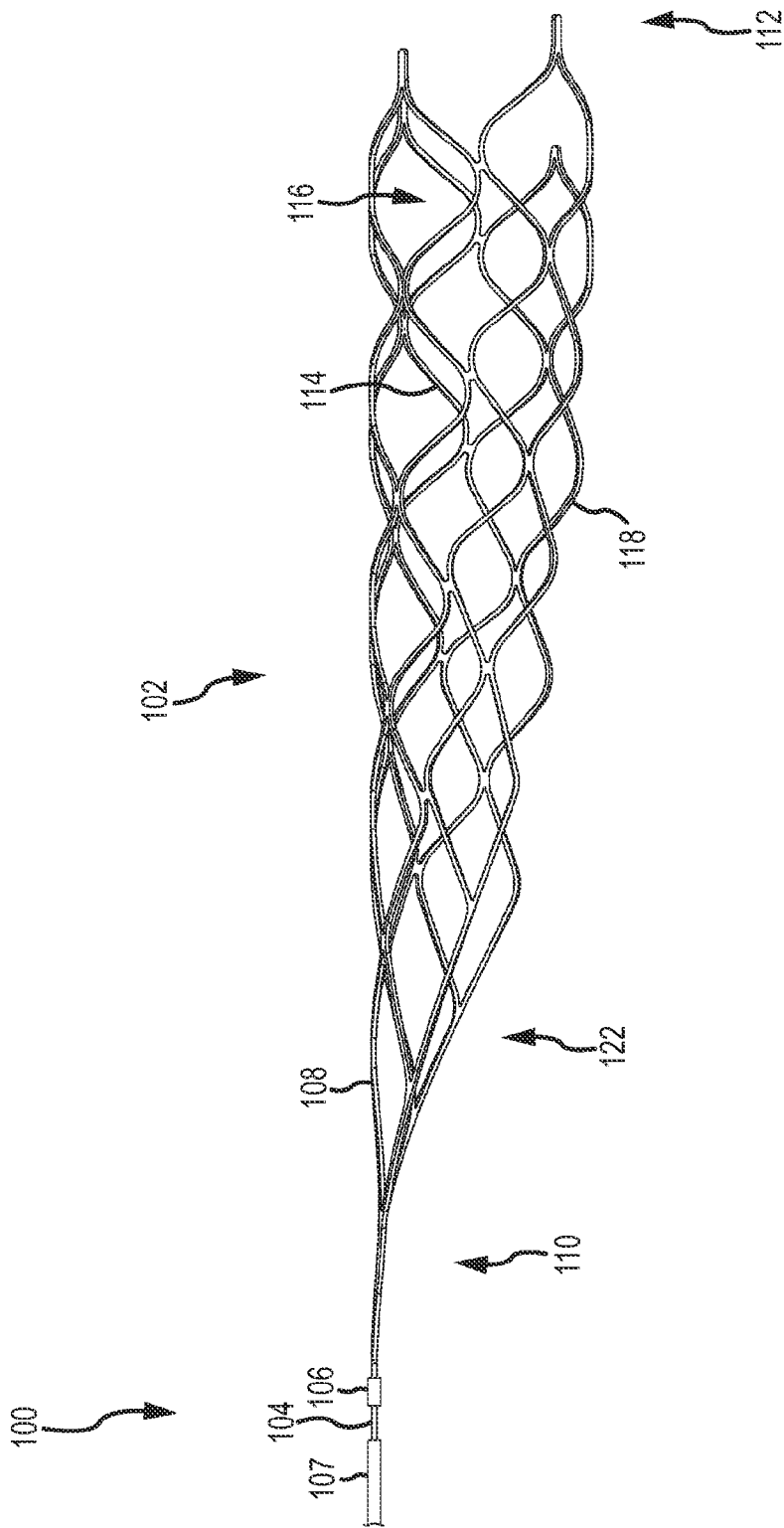


FIG.1

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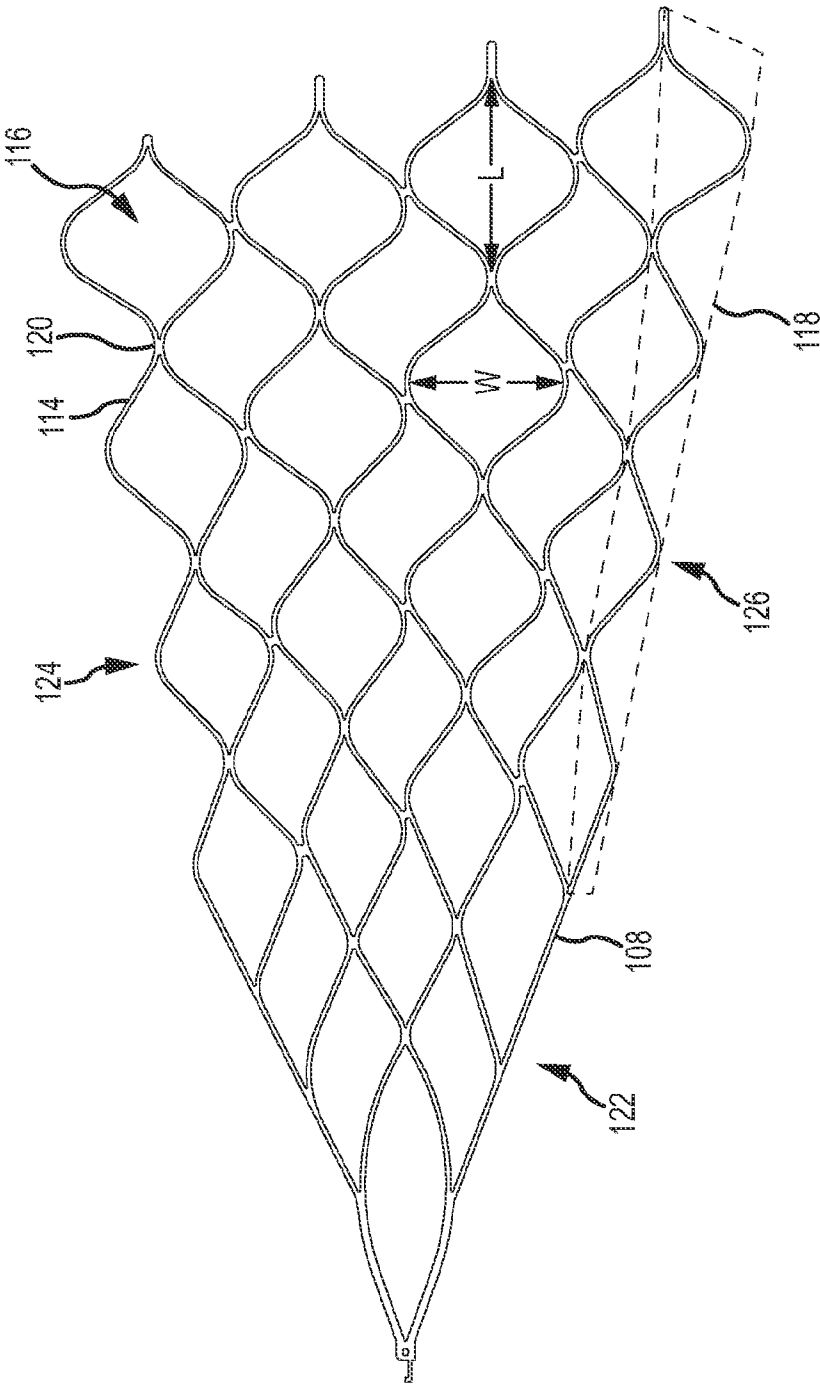


FIG.2

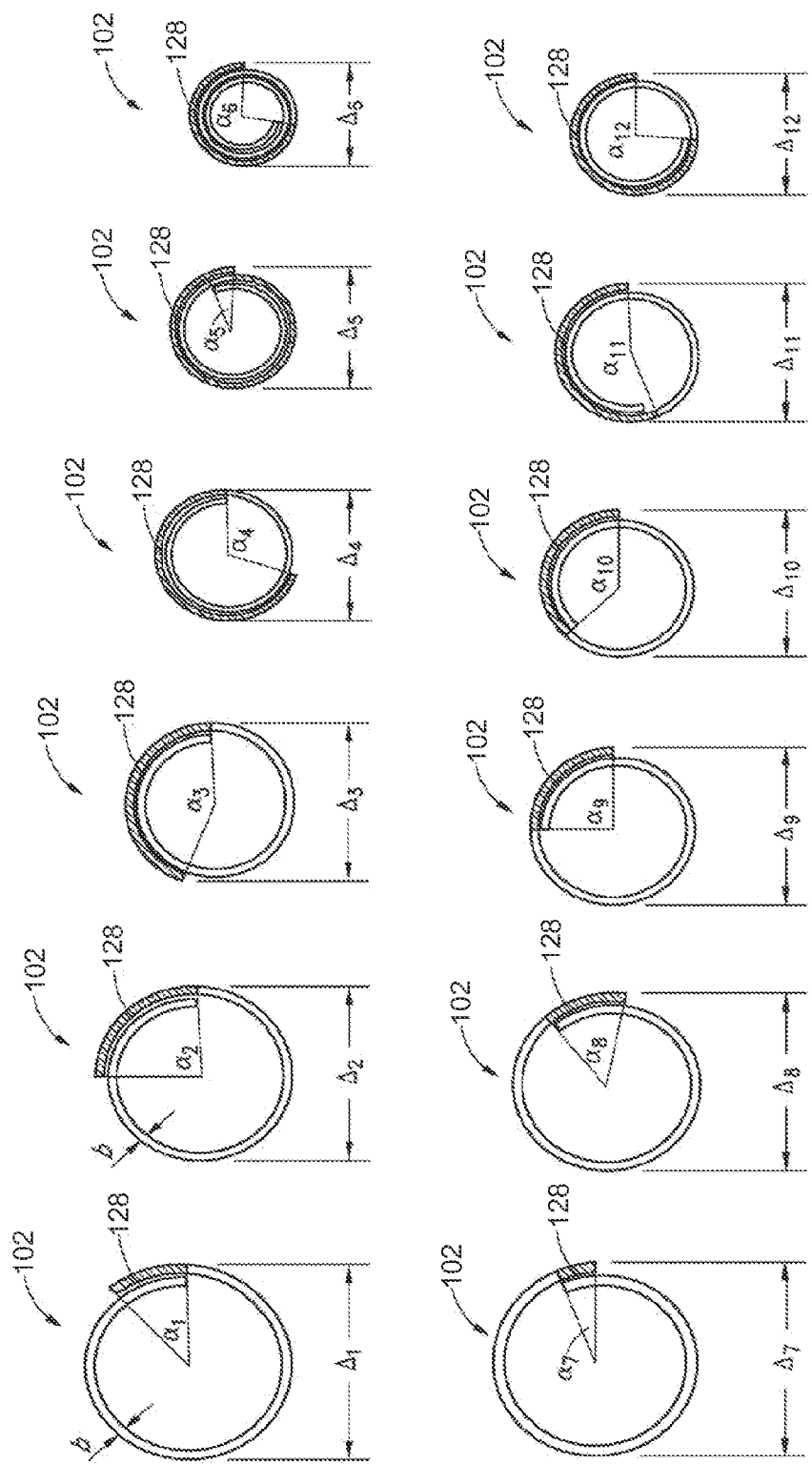


FIG.3

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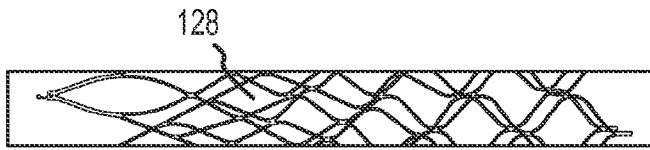


FIG. 4A

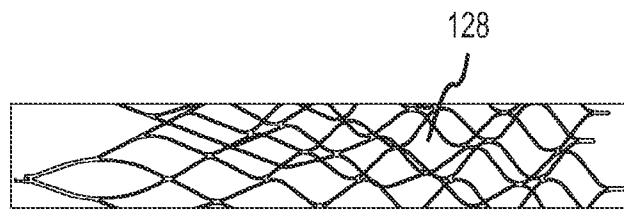


FIG. 4B

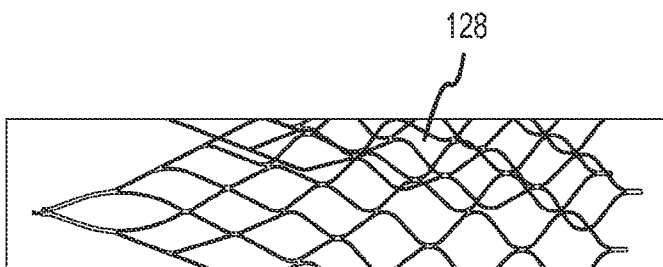


FIG. 4C

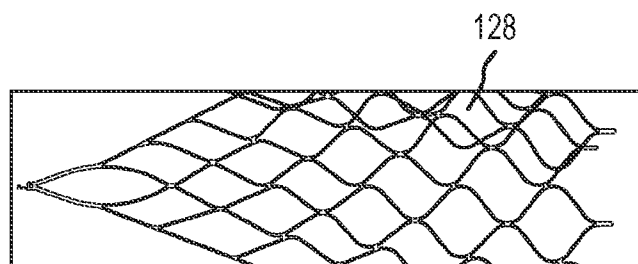


FIG. 4D

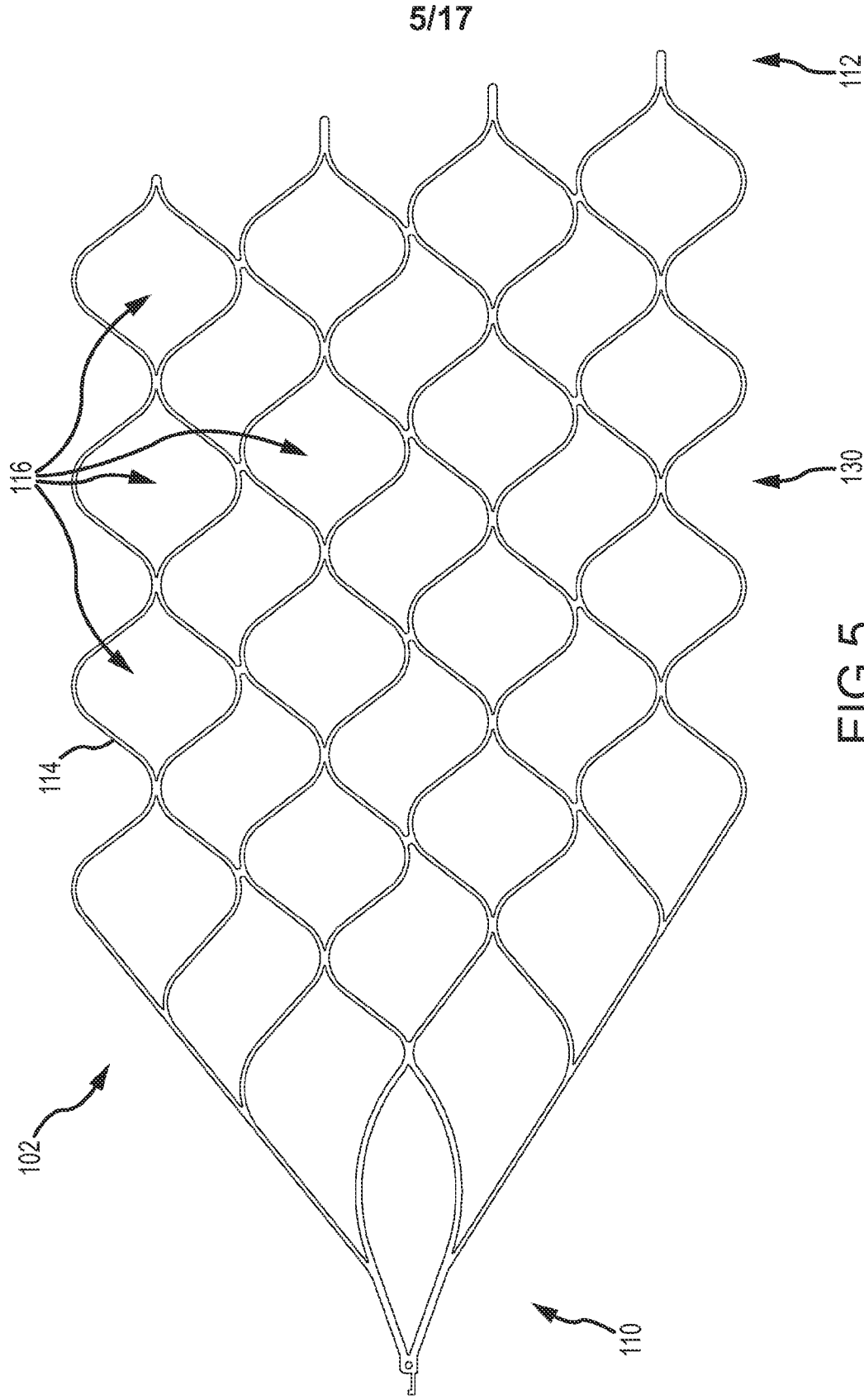


FIG. 5

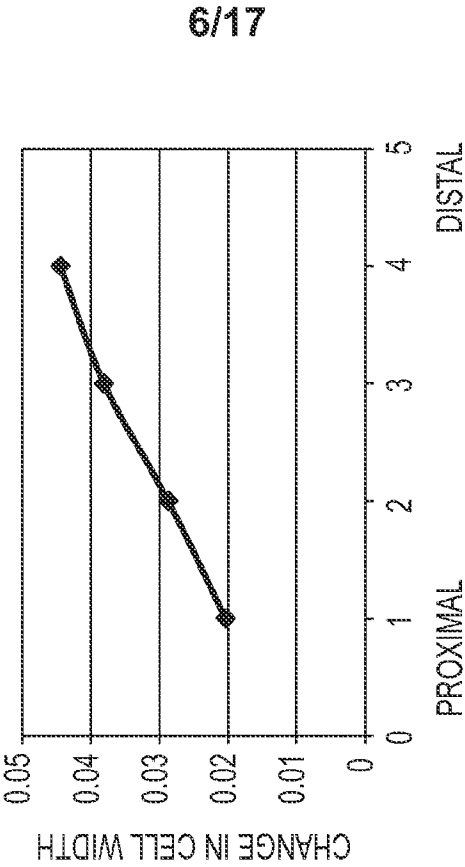


FIG.6B

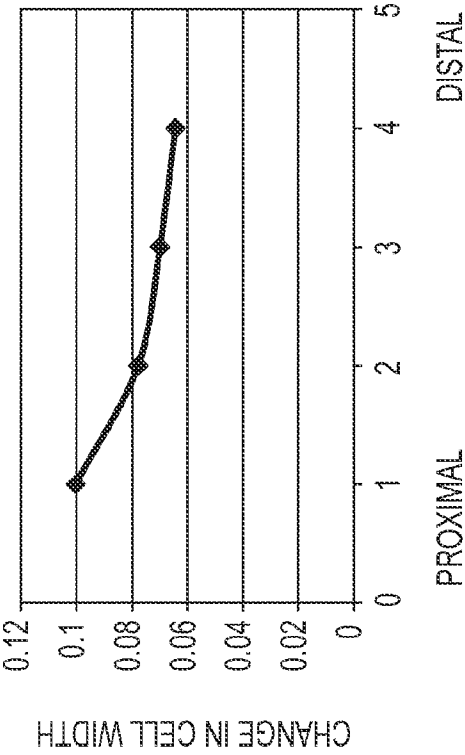


FIG.6A

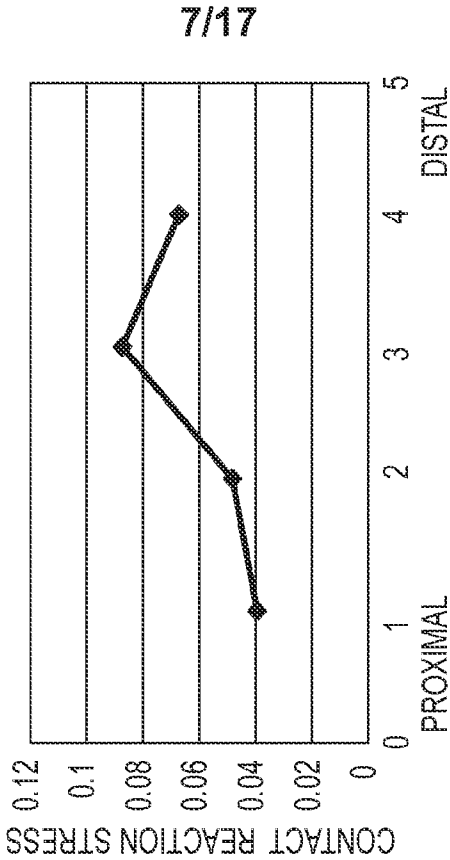


FIG.7B

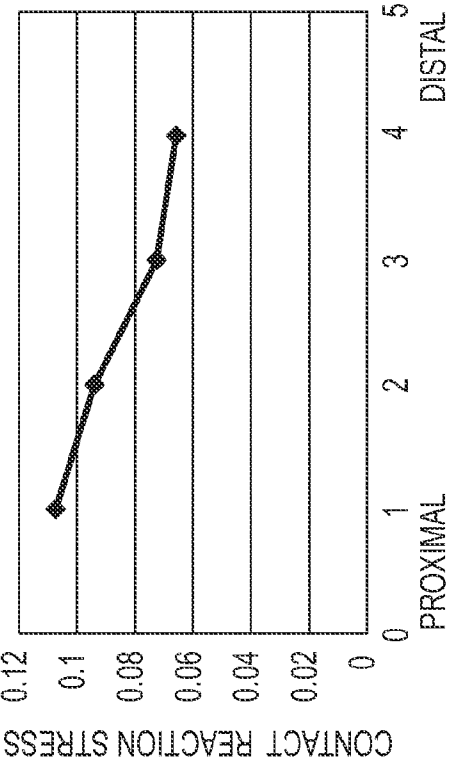


FIG.7A

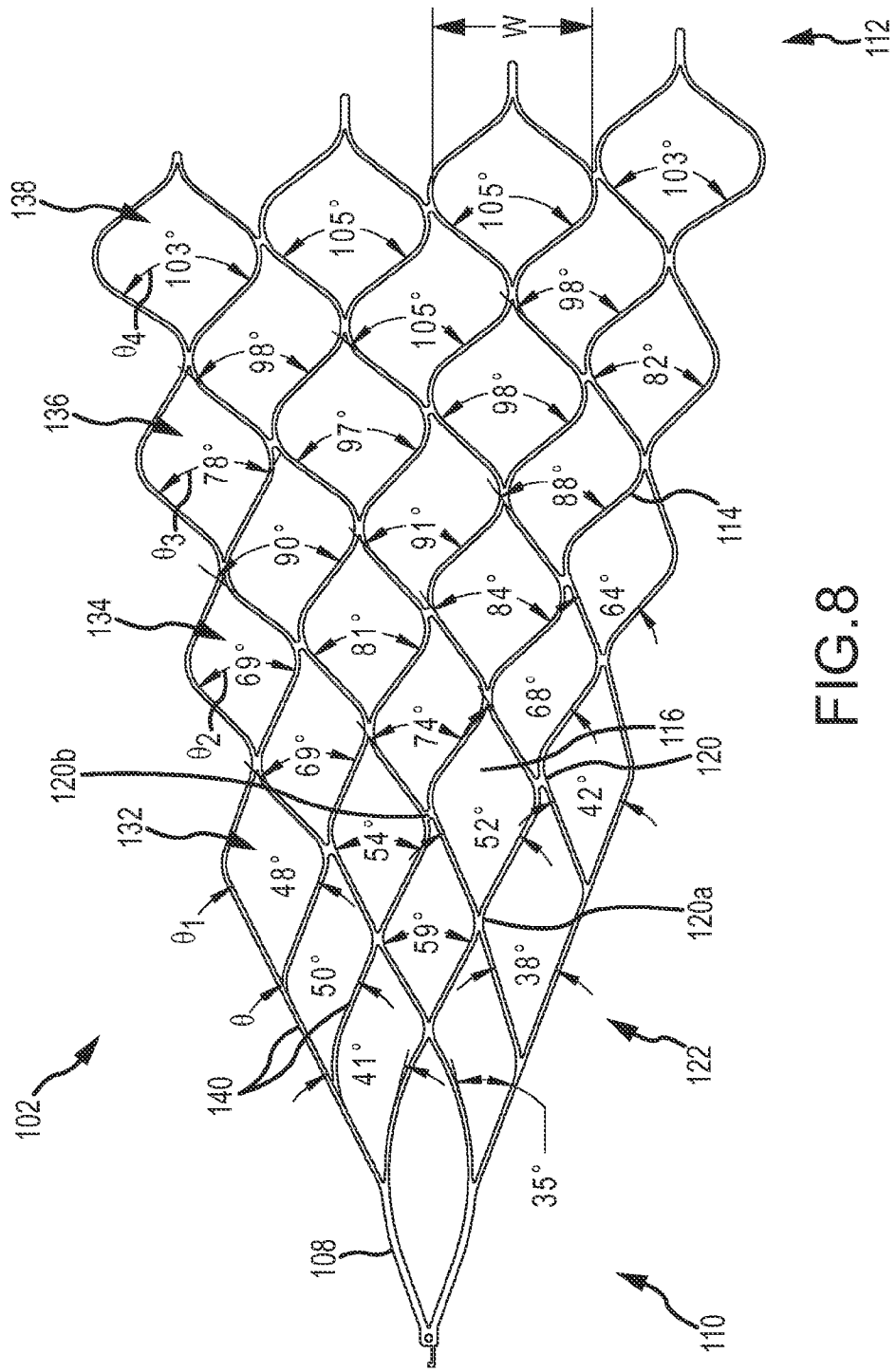


FIG.8

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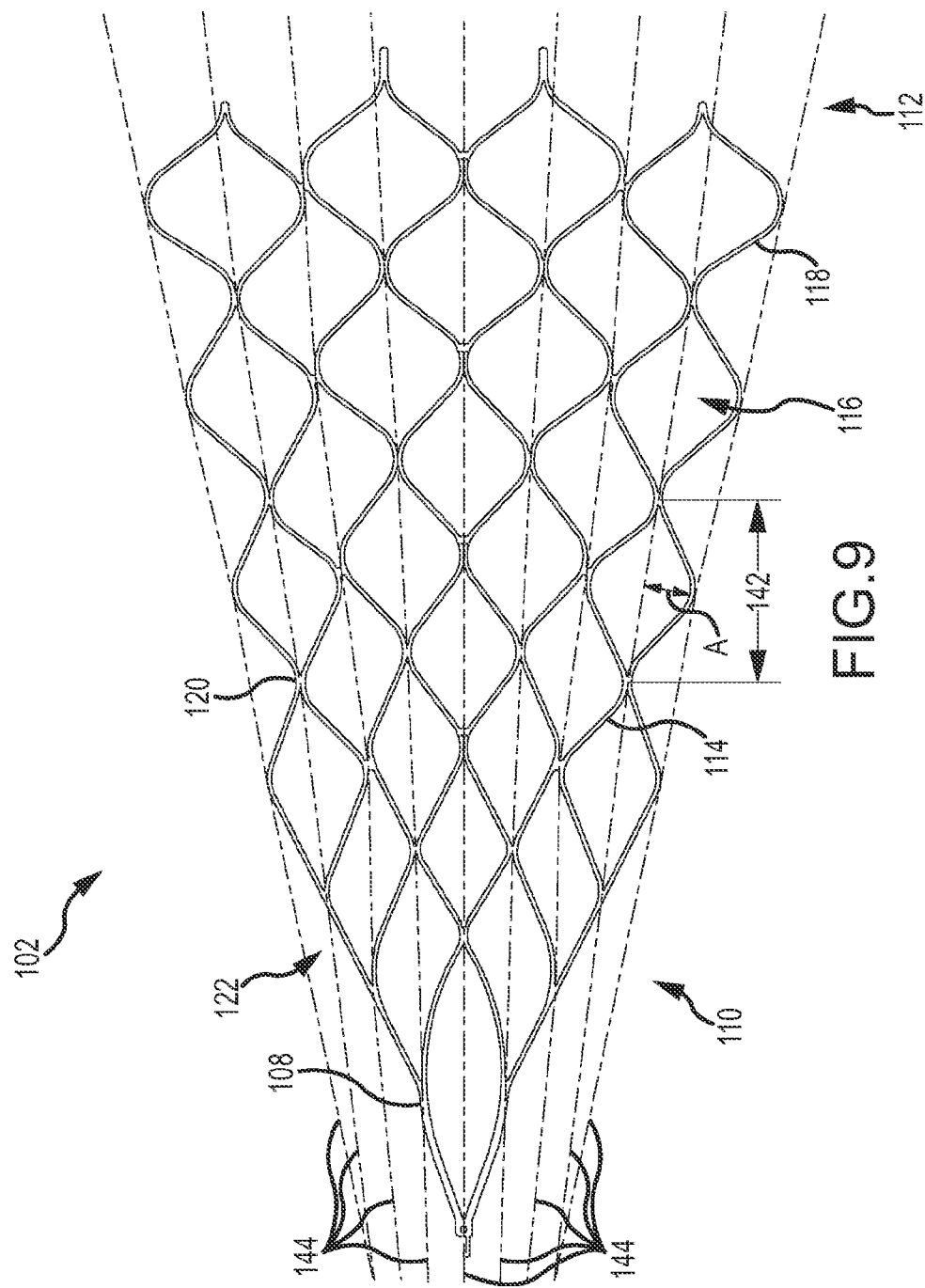


FIG. 9

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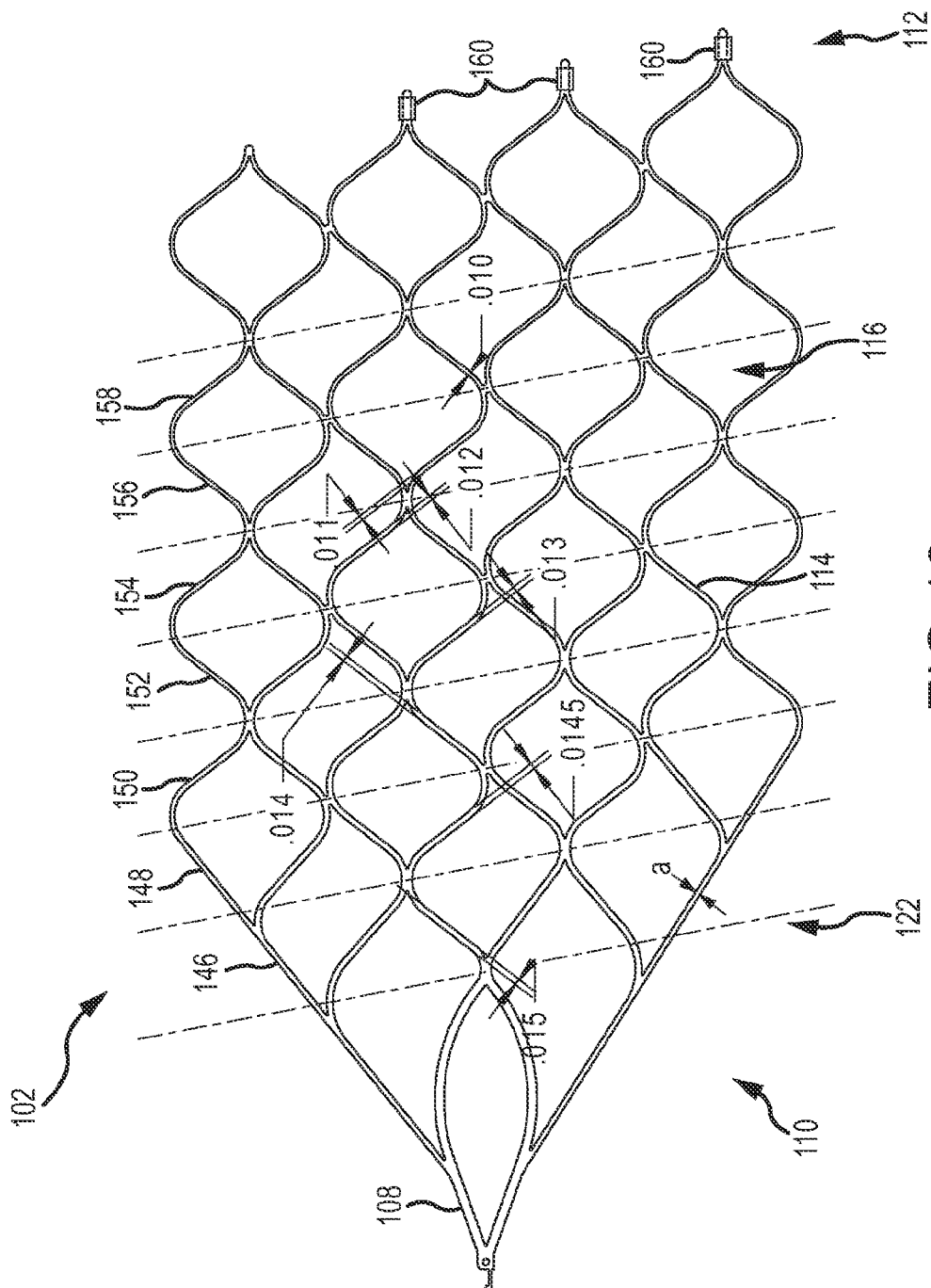


FIG.10

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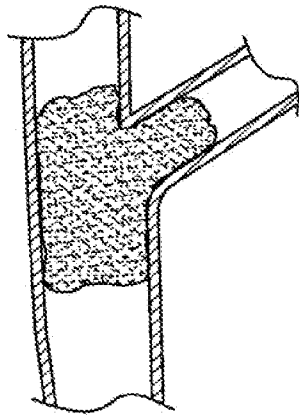


FIG. 11A

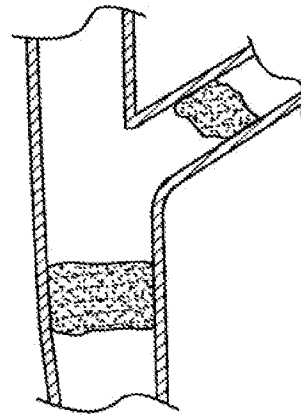


FIG. 11B

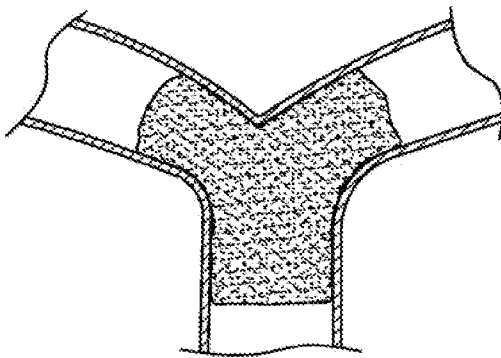


FIG. 11C

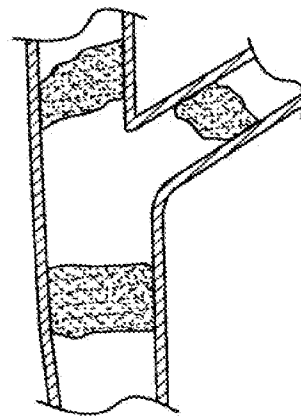


FIG. 11D

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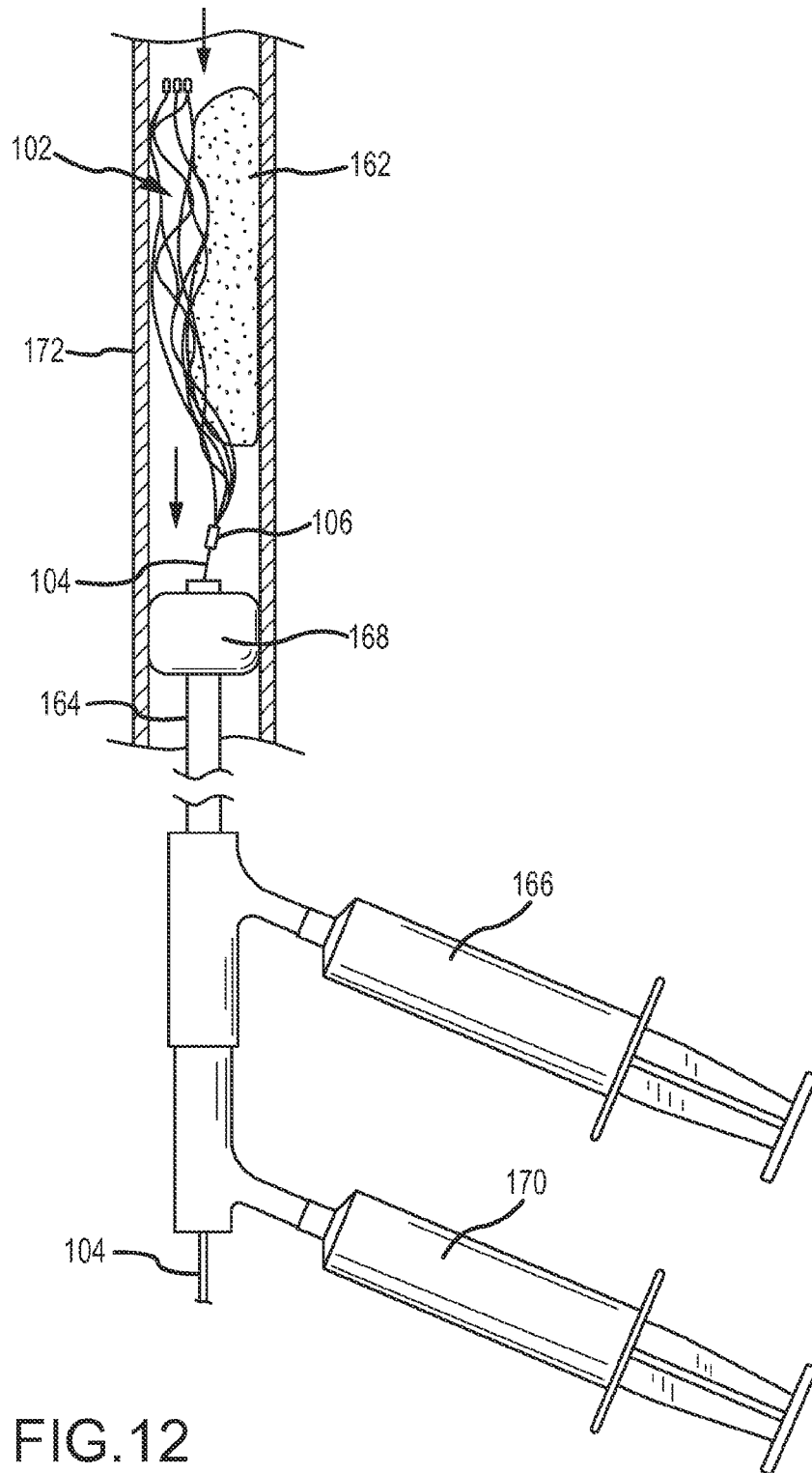


FIG.12

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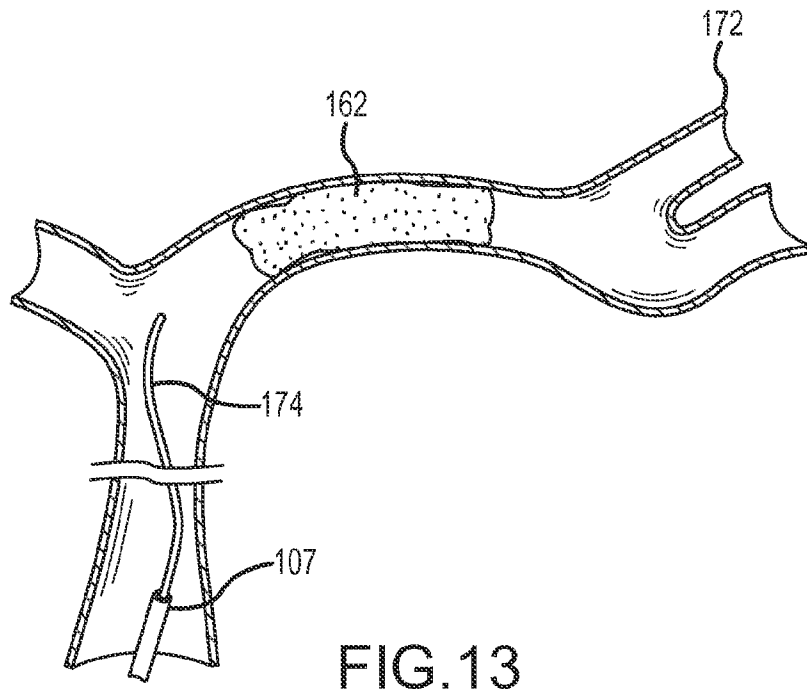


FIG. 13

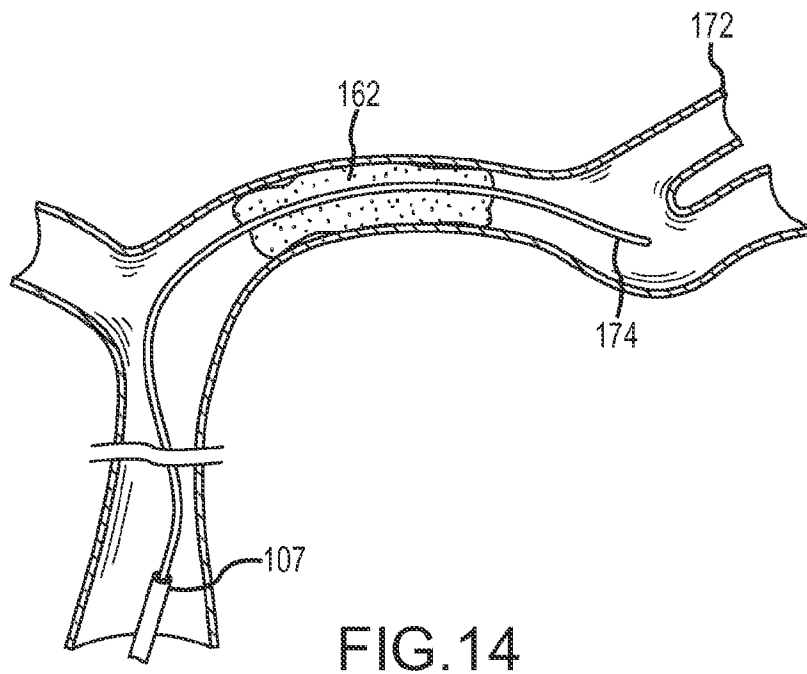


FIG. 14

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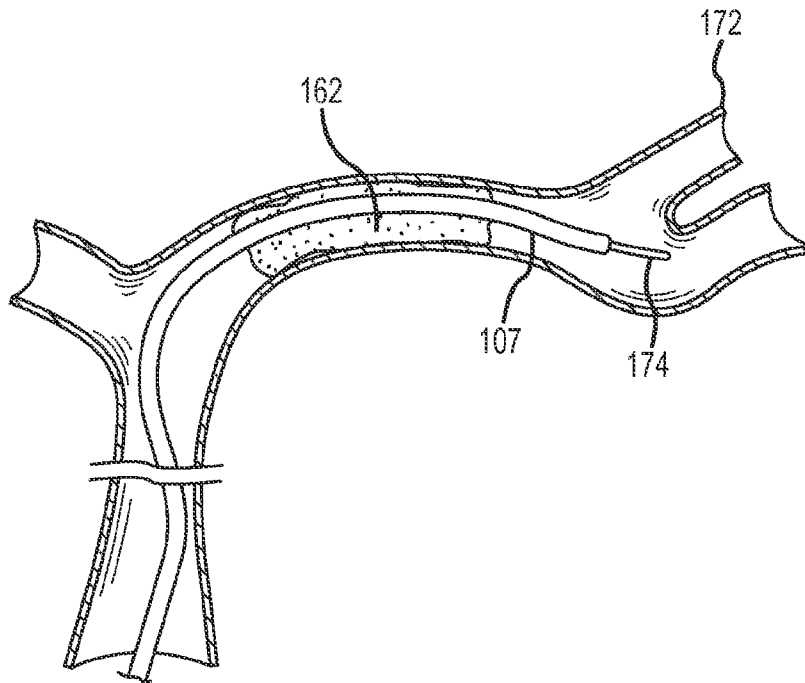


FIG. 15

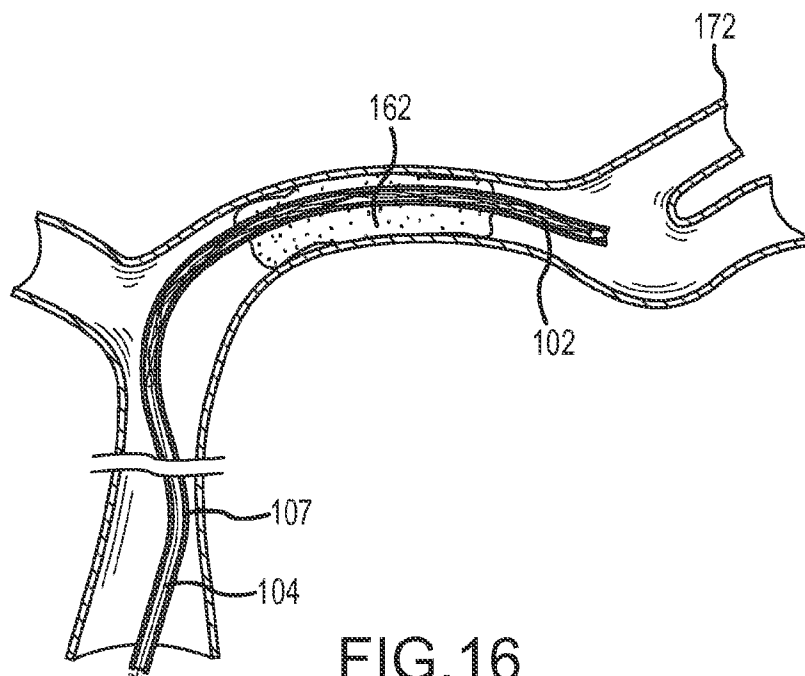


FIG. 16

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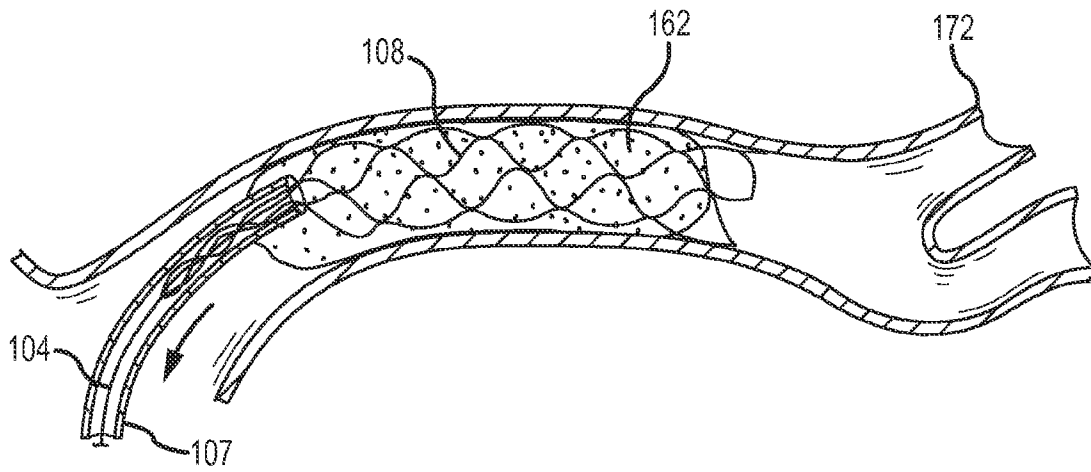


FIG.17

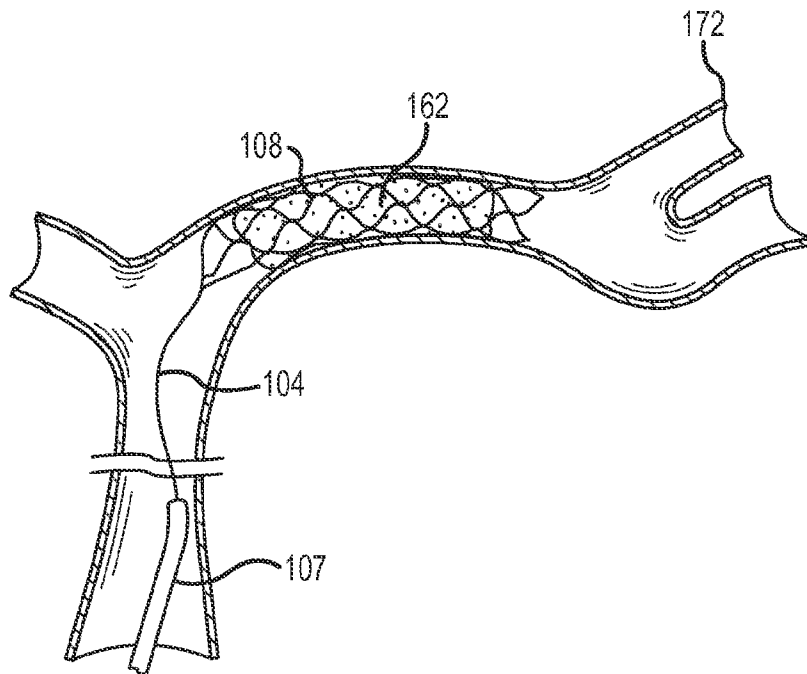


FIG.18

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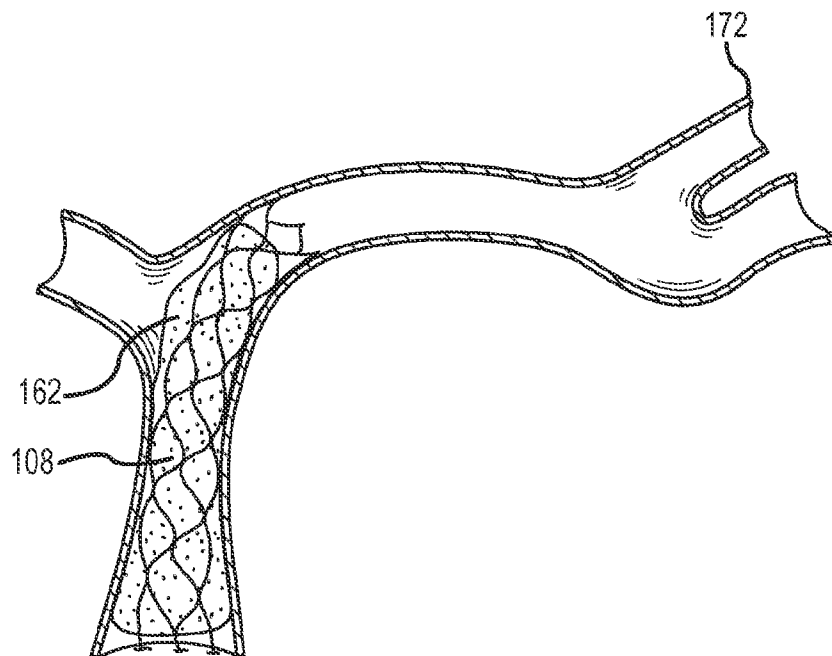


FIG. 19

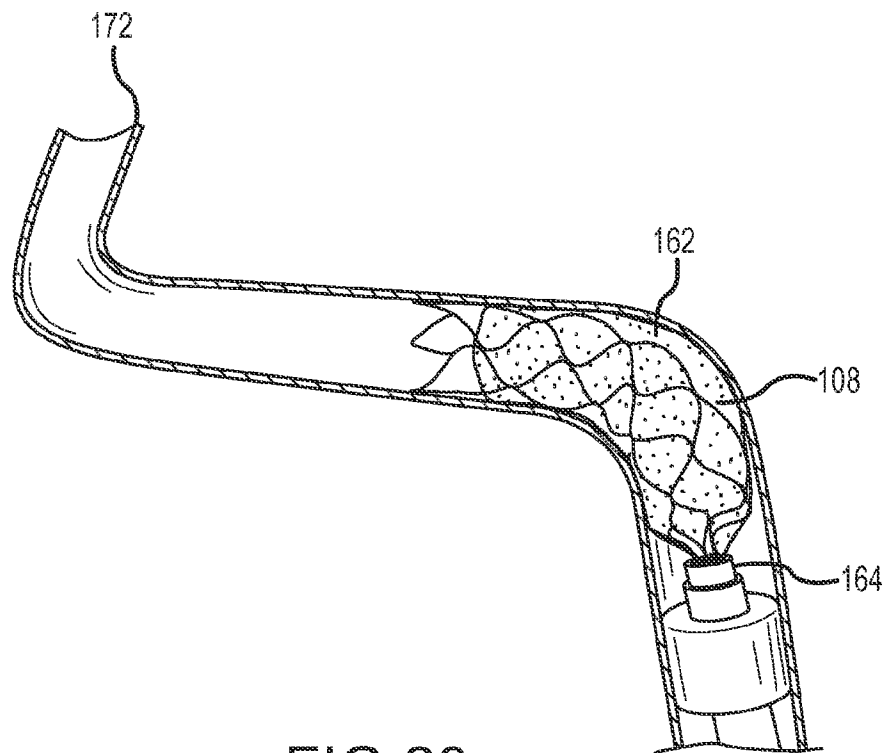


FIG. 20

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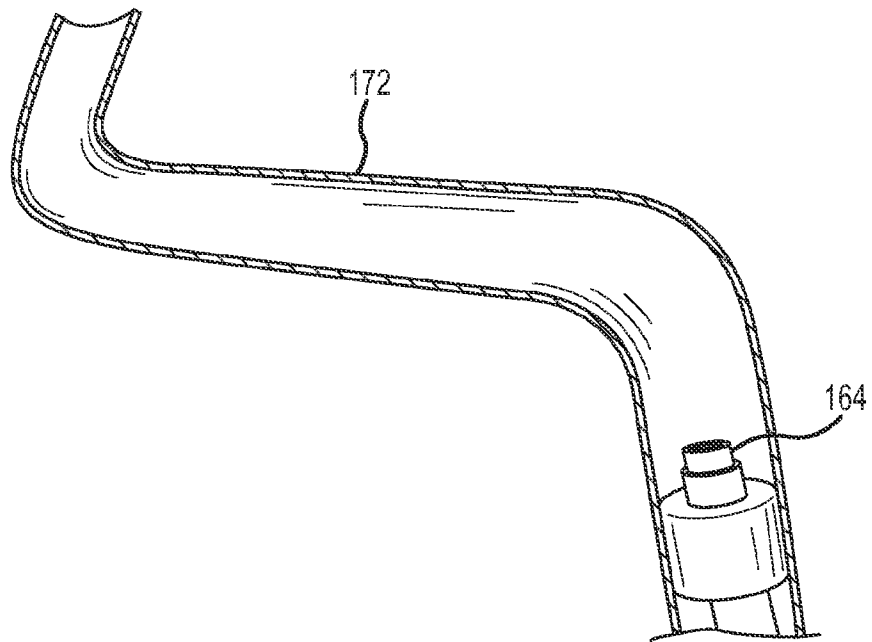


FIG. 21

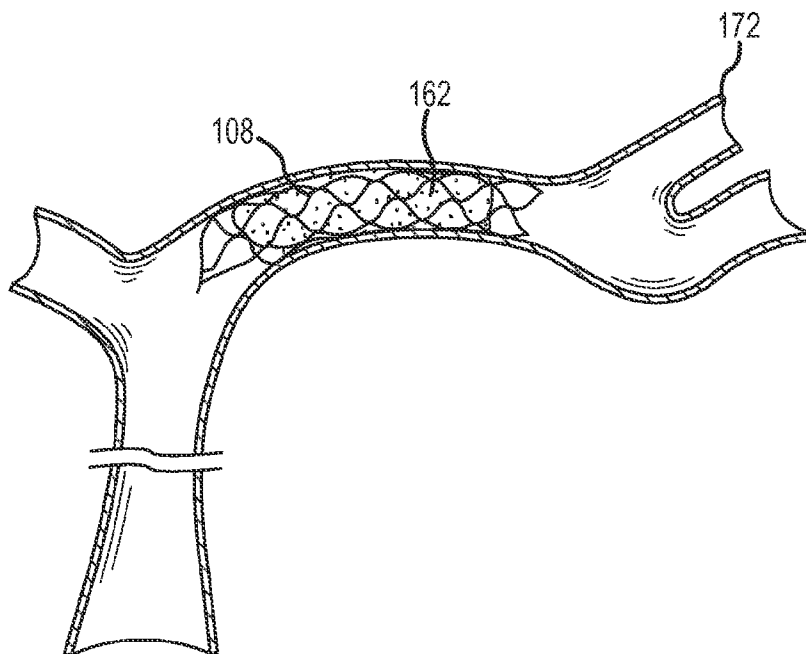


FIG. 22

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2014/054645

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61B17/221

ADD.

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)

A61B

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)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2013/158592 A1 (PORTER STEPHEN C [US]) 20 June 2013 (2013-06-20)	22-30
Y	paragraph [0067]; figures 7a,b -----	1-21,31
Y	US 2013/030460 A1 (MARKS MICHAEL P [US] ET AL) 31 January 2013 (2013-01-31) paragraph [0121]; figure 13 -----	1-21,31
A	US 2011/160763 A1 (FERRERA DAVID A [US] ET AL) 30 June 2011 (2011-06-30) paragraph [0244] - paragraph [0251]; figure 27 -----	1,8,22
A	US 2012/083868 A1 (SHRIVASTAVA SANJAY [US] ET AL) 5 April 2012 (2012-04-05) abstract; figures 1-3 ----- -/-	1,8,22



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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

"L" 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

"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

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

3 December 2014

Date of mailing of the international search report

11/12/2014

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Moers, Roelof

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2014/054645

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 2009/299393 A1 (MARTIN BRIAN B [US] ET AL) 3 December 2009 (2009-12-03) paragraph [0066]; figure 1b -----	1,8,22
A	EP 1 867 290 A1 (CORDIS CORP [US]) 19 December 2007 (2007-12-19) paragraph [0029] - paragraph [0033]; figure 3 -----	1,8,22

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2014/054645

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			EP 2790598 A1 22-10-2014
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			WO 2013090122 A1 20-06-2013

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