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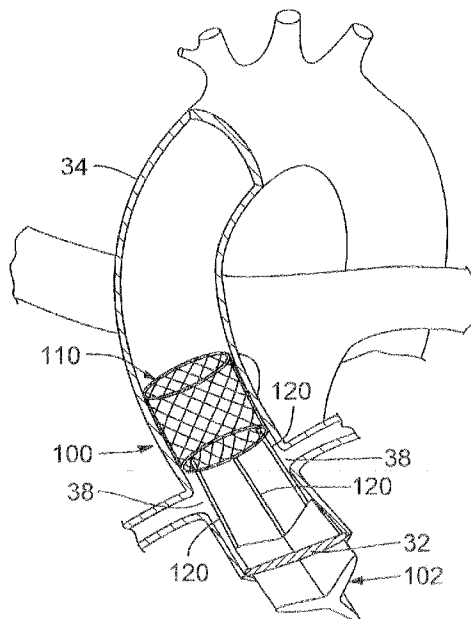
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(54) Title: PROSTHETIC INSERT FOR IMPROVING HEART VALVE FUNCTION



(57) Abstract: A device and methods for improving the function of a heart valve, such as an aortic valve, is disclosed. In one embodiment, the device includes an insert member (102) configured for insertion between leaflets of an aortic valve. The insert member preferably includes three radial arms extending outwardly from a central portion. The device also includes an anchoring member (110) which is coupled to the insert member and configured for maintaining the insert member within the heart valve. In operation, each of the arms fills gaps between heart valve leaflets, thereby minimizing or preventing regurgitation through the heart valve.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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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 practical, search terms used)

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Y	claims; figures 10, 12a	3-16, 18-21, 23-27
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