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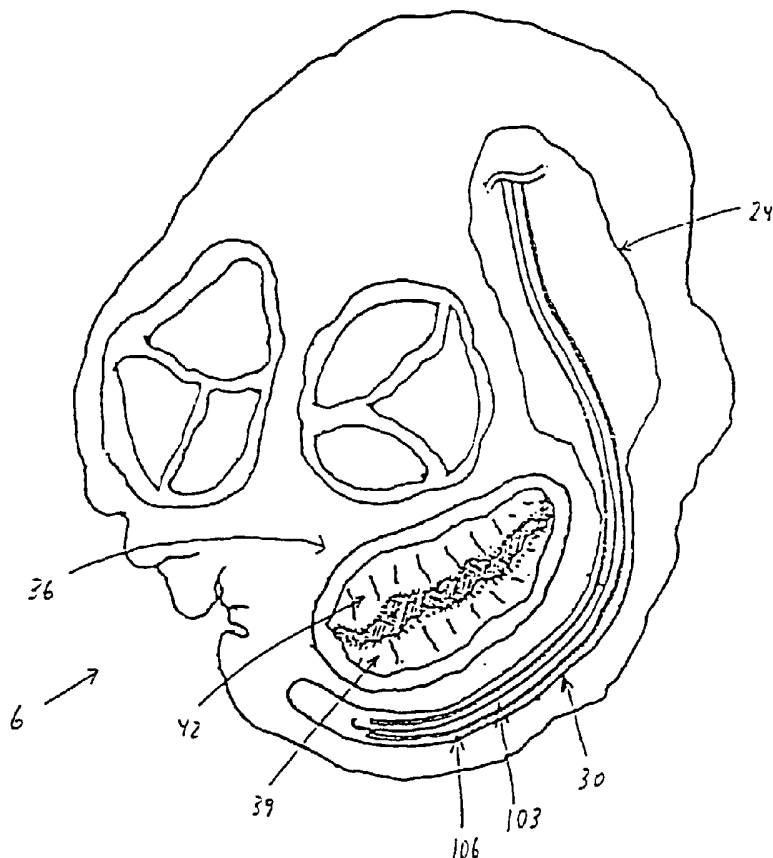
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR IMPROVING MITRAL VALVE FUNCTION



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for reducing mitral regurgitation includes a delivery catheter (106) extendable through a vascular system of a patient and into a coronary sinus (30) proximate a posterior leaflet (39) of a mitral valve (36). The catheter has at its distal end a flexible tubular extension for engaging an opening of the coronary sinus and entering the coronary sinus. A substantially rigid body is inserted via the catheter and is positioned in the coronary sinus proximate the posterior leaflet. An elongated rod is used to push the rigid body through the catheter and into the coronary sinus.



European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/25890

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A 61F 2/06

US CL : 623/1.11

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)

U.S. : 623/1.11,2.36,2.37;606/108,191

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)
Please See Continuation Sheet**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	US 6,165,194 A (Denardo) 26 December 2000, Fig. 6, col. 2, lines 25-29, col. 3, lines 8-12, col. 5, lines 26-34.	1,2,6,7 ----- 4,9
X, P --- Y, P	US 6,402,781 B1 (Langberg et al) 11 June 2002, see entire document.	1,2,6,7,11-14 ----- 3-5,8-10,15
Y	US 5,389,091 A (Moorehead) 14 February 1995, col. 8, lines 58-68, Fig. 7, col. 10, lines 10-16, col. 16, lines 16-36.	1,5,10,11,15
X --- Y	US 6,210,432 B1 (Solem et al) 3 April 2001, see entire document.	7,13,14 ----- 1-4,6,8,9,11,12

☐

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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

"E" earlier application or patent 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

12 November 2002 (12.11.2002)

Date of mailing of the international search report

15 APR 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US02/25890

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

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

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

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

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

Remark on Protest

☐
☐

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.