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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: STENT WITH VARYING CROSS-SECTION

(57) Abstract: The present disclosure describes methods and apparatus for endoluminal devices, such as stents, that have components (102) with varying cross-sections (104) at various points about the length of the endoluminal device, with various benefits resulting therefrom.

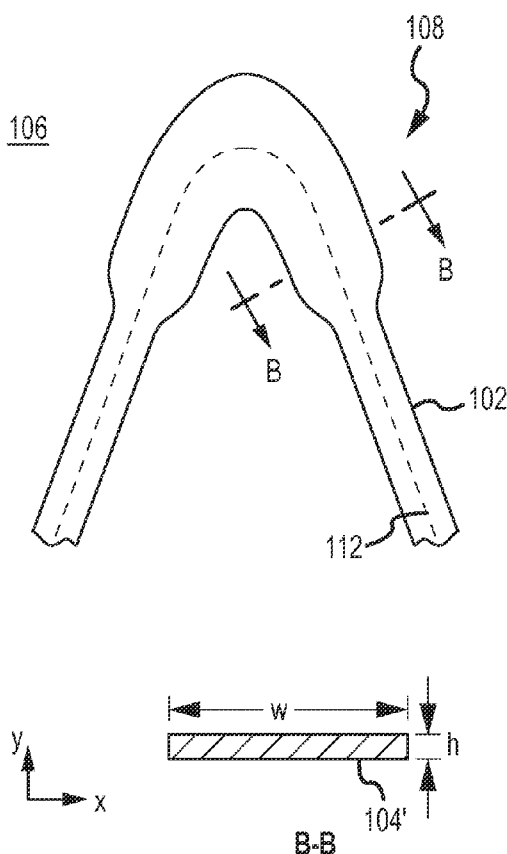


FIG. 4B



TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

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STENT WITH VARYING CROSS-SECTION

FIELD

[0001] The present disclosure relates generally to endoluminal devices and, more specifically, to endoluminal devices such as stents that have components with varying cross-sections.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Endoluminal devices such as stents, grafts, filters, valves, anchors, occluders, and other implantable devices are frequently used to treat the vasculature of human patients. Such devices often include a frame comprising a stent which may be used alone or in connection with other materials such as graft or filtering materials. It may be desirable that the stent have varying levels of flexibility in different directions of motion and/or a lower profile, at various points along its length. Thus, there is a need for stents that provide such characteristics.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0003] The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further understanding of the disclosure and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the disclosure, and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the disclosure, wherein:

[0004] Figure 1A illustrates a perspective view of helical stent;

[0005] Figure 1B illustrates a perspective view of stent comprised of a plurality of rings;

[0006] Figure 2 illustrates various elliptical cross-sectional shapes;

[0007] Figure 3 illustrates various non-elliptical cross-sectional shapes;

[0008] Figure 4A illustrates a close-up view of an apical area of a stent and a cross-sectional view of the same;

[0009] Figure 4B illustrates a close-up view of an apical area of a stent and a cross-sectional view of the same after the cross-sectional shape has been changed from the cross-sectional shape of Figure 4A;

[0010] Figure 5 illustrates a perspective view of a straight section of a stent;

[0011] Figure 6 illustrates a close-up view of two overlapping apical areas of a stent and a cross-sectional view of the same;

[0012] Figure 7 illustrates a cross-sectional view a stent bending with overlapping apical areas; and

[0013] Figure 8 is a partial cross sectional view of a wire for forming a stent having a substantially continuous side and an opposite, substantially opposite non-continuous side.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ILLUSTRATED EMBODIMENTS

[0014] Persons skilled in the art will readily appreciate that various aspects of the present disclosure can be realized by any number of methods and systems configured to perform the intended functions. Stated differently, other methods and systems can be incorporated herein to perform the intended functions. It should also be noted that the accompanying drawing figures referred to herein are not all drawn to scale, but may be exaggerated to illustrate various aspects of the present disclosure, and in that regard, the drawing figures should not be construed as limiting. Finally, although the present disclosure can be described in connection with various principles and beliefs, the present disclosure should not be bound by theory.

[0015] Endoluminal or implantable devices such as stents, grafts, filters, valves, anchors, occluders, and other implantable devices are frequently used to treat the vasculature of human patients. These treatments or procedures are commonly referred to as intraluminal or endovascular procedures. Such endoluminal devices, including stents and stent-grafts, are generally tube like structures that define a lumen inserted into the vasculature to open and/or maintain the vasculature in order to prevent or address localized flow constriction, weakening of the vasculature wall, aneurisms, etc.

[0016] For example, in some embodiments, a stent 100 such as illustrated in Figure 1A or 1B, comprises one or more wires 102 which can be used alone or in connection with various graft or filtering materials 103 now known or as yet unknown. For example, such graft or filtering materials 103 can comprise any number of biocompatible materials, such as, for example, expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE), polyester, polyurethane, fluoropolymers, such as perfluorelastomers and

the like, polytetrafluoroethylene, silicones, urethanes, ultra high molecular weight polyethylene, aramid fibers, and combinations thereof.

[0017] In various embodiments, the stent 100 can comprise a wire 102 with a “helical” configuration and can include various further patterns along its length such as an undulating pattern with angular apical areas 106 interconnected by generally straight sections 116 (Figure 1A). In another embodiment, the stent 100 can comprise one or more rings of wire 102 (Figure 1B). In various embodiments, the stent 100 has dimensions appropriate for the desired vascular treatment and with sufficient strength to provide structural support for the flexible wall of the endoluminal device and/or the vasculature.

[0018] Briefly, as used herein, “wire” or “wires” (e.g., wire 102) refers to a member or strand which, if oriented along a line, has a relatively long length in relation to the breadth of its cross-section, such as an extruded strand of metal or polymer (as noted below), and which can be wound into a particular pattern or shape. A “wire” or “wires” can also refer to a member or strand which is cut from a larger piece of material, such as a tube or planar sheet of material. In various embodiments, the wire can be hollow or otherwise contain various cavities therein along a portion or the entirety of its length.

[0019] Additionally, as used herein, a “cross-section” of a wire refers to a section of the wire formed by a plane cutting through the wire at right angle to its axis at a particular location (or along a portion of the wire proximate the location), such as at a first location, second location, third location and so on. Thus, one wire can have numerous distinct cross-sections (which can have the same or different shapes) at various locations or along various portions along its length.

[0020] In various embodiments, among other configurations, the wire(s) 102 can be helical and, optionally, have sinusoidal or zig-zag patterns such as an undulating pattern with angular apical areas interconnected by generally straight sections 116 as illustrated in Figure 1A. In other embodiments, the wire(s) 102 can be helical, but linear (without any undulations), or as shown in Figure 1B, can be comprised of individual rings. In various embodiments, stent 100 can be formed from a length of wire such as, but not limited to, an extruded wire, or can be cut from a tube. In any case, whether or not wound or cut, the resulting stent 100 can have any size, shape, or pattern suitable for a vascular treatment.

[0021] In some embodiments, the stent 100 is comprised of a shape-memory material, such as, but not limited to, nitinol. In other embodiments, however, the stent 100 can be comprised of other materials, self-expandable or otherwise expandable (e.g., with a balloon or spring mechanism), such as various metals (e.g., stainless steel), alloys and polymers.

[0022] In various embodiments, the materials and components of the stents, grafts, filters, valves, anchors, occluders, and other implantable devices in accordance with the present disclosure can also include one or more bioactive agents. For example, the materials or components can be coated by a therapeutic agent such as, for example, heparin, sirolimus, paclitaxel, everolimus, ABT-578, mycophenolic acid, tacrolimus, estradiol, oxygen free radical scavenger, biolimus A9, anti-CD34 antibodies, PDGF receptor blockers, MMP-1 receptor blockers, VEGF, G-CSF, HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors, stimulators of iNOS and eNOS, ACE inhibitors, ARBs, doxycycline, thalidomide, and many others.

[0023] In accordance with the present disclosure, the wire 102 comprises a cross-section 104. Cross-section 104 can be of any shape, such as but not limited to, elliptical or non-elliptical. In this regard, as used herein, an “elliptical” shape refers to any shape that generally lacks a point where two lines, curves, or surfaces converge to form an angle. For example, with reference to Figure 2, an “elliptical” shape encompasses traditional Euclidian geometric shapes such as circles 202 and ellipses 204, as well as other non-angular shapes 206 (that lack any angles), even if those shapes do not have designations common in Euclidian geometry.

[0024] As used herein, a “non-elliptical” shape refers to any shape that includes at least one point where two lines, curves, or surfaces converge to form an angle. For example, with reference to Figure 3, a “non-elliptical” shape encompasses traditional Euclidian geometric shapes such as triangles 302, rectangles 304, squares 306, hexagons 308, trapezoids 310, and the like as well as other shapes that have at least one angle 314 even if those shapes do not have designations common in Euclidian geometry. By way of example, an atypical shape 312 defined by two parallel lines 316 connected by two polynomial curves 318, while appearing generally “smooth,” nonetheless has four angles 314 and is thus non-elliptical.

[0025] In some embodiments, it can be desirable for the stent 100 to have varying levels of flexibility in different directions of motion and at various points along its length for purposes of, for example, collapsing and expanding the stent 100 and/or to facilitate desired bending of the stent about its axis. In this regard, as may be used herein, “flexibility” refers to the physical characteristic of the ability of a material allow bending without unduly damaging or fatiguing the material.

[0026] In contrast to “flexibility,” as may be used herein, the physical characteristic of “stiffness” generally has a contrary meaning. Namely, “stiffness” refers to the characteristic of resistance to bending or the characteristic of being more rigid. Thus, increased flexibility refers to an increased ability to allow bending without damaging the material, while increased stiffness refers to an increased resistance to bending without damaging the material.

[0027] In this regard, many intraluminal and endovascular procedures using endoluminal devices such as stent 100 provide advantages over surgery, such that when intraluminal or endovascular treatment is an option, it is often the more desirable option. This desire arises from the fact that such procedures tend to be a more minimally invasive method of treating diseases than surgical methods. Benefits of minimally invasive procedures include more rapid procedures, shorter hospital stays, quicker recoveries, and lower risk of complications.

[0028] However, to expand the number of procedures that may be performed intraluminally or endovascularly, improvements in the ability to deliver and deploy an endoluminal device from a remote location, typically a location outside the body, are beneficial. For example, to improve delivery, smaller delivery profiles, namely, the diameter of the endoluminal device inserted, are desirable to help traverse irregularly shaped, tortuous, heavily branched, or narrow lumens or vessels to gain access to the treatment site. For these and other reasons, endoluminal devices with improved flexibility in various directions and at various points on the endoluminal device are desirable.

[0029] Thus, in an embodiment, different portions of the stent 100 (e.g., first portion, second portion, third portion, etc.) can have shapes that vary, change or are otherwise altered in such a manner as to lower the profile and/or change the flexibility of the stent 100 along those portions. For example, in an embodiment, the flexibility of the stent 100 in a particular direction along a portion having one cross-

section 104' may be affected so that it differs from the flexibility in the same direction along another portion of the same stent 100 having a differently shaped cross-section 104. As will be described in more detail below, these changes in shape include varying the shape of the cross-section 104' from one shape exhibiting one flexibility to a different shape which exhibits a different flexibility. For example, in an embodiment, a change of shape in the cross-section 104' in accordance with the present disclosure includes a change in the cross-section 104' from a generally elliptical shape to a generally non-elliptical shape. In an embodiment and as described in more detail, such a change can comprise flattening the cross-section 104' proximate a particular location. In various embodiments, though the shape of cross-section 104' can be changed, the area of cross-section 104' is generally changed only nominally, if at all, because, in such embodiments, material is not necessarily removed, but rather redistributed.

[0030] For example, with reference to Figure 4A, a close-up view of an apical area 106 of Figure 1A illustrates the wire 102 of one apex 108 of a helically wound, undulating stent 100 formed by winding a nitinol wire in a helically wound, undulating form. Alternatively, in other embodiments, the stent 100 can be cut from a nitinol tube. In either case, the close-up of Figure 4A illustrates the apical area 106 prior to any change in the shape of the cross-section 104. In this regard, with reference to section A-A, an elliptical shape is shown. In this illustrated embodiment, the elliptical cross-section 104 is a circle, though in other embodiments the wire 102 can have other generally elliptical shapes as defined above prior to the change noted above. In Figure 4A, prior to any change, this elliptical shape is generally continuous through apical area 106.

[0031] In contrast, with reference to Figure 4B, a close-up view of the same apical area 106 of Figure 1A illustrates the wire 102 of the apex 108 after changing the shape of the cross-section 104. With specific reference to section B-B in Figure 4B, a non-elliptical shape is shown. In this illustrated embodiment, the non-elliptical cross-section 104 is has been flattened from the previous generally elliptical shape to a generally rectangular shape, though in other embodiments the wire 102 can have other generally non-elliptical shapes as defined above.

[0032] By changing the shape of the cross-section 104 from a generally elliptical to a generally non-elliptical shape, the flexibility is changed along the axes

of cross-section 104. Stated another way, the stiffness of the cross-section 104 is changed along the opposite axes of cross-section 104. The change in flexibility (or stiffness) can be attributed to a change in what is known as the “moment of inertia of a plane area” or the “second area moment” of the cross-section 104. The moment of inertia of a plane area is a property of the cross-section 104 that can be used to determine the resistance of the wire 102 to bending about an axis 112 of the wire 102. For example, such determinations can be accomplished by finite element methods or similar mathematical computations.

[0033] Thus, with reference to an embodiment such as illustrated in Figures 4A and 4B, section A-A has been flattened from a generally elliptical shape in Figure 4A to a generally non-elliptical shape in section B-B of Figure 4B, thereby changing the flexibility of the wire 102 in apical area 106. Specifically, about the x-axis of section B-B of the flattened (non-elliptical) wire 102, the wire 102 exhibits less flexibility than exhibited about the x-axis of section A-A of the unflattened (elliptical) wire 102. Stated otherwise, about the x-axis of section B-B of the flattened (non-elliptical) wire 102, the wire 102 exhibits a greater stiffness than about the x-axis of section A-A of the unflattened (elliptical) wire 102.

[0034] In contrast, with continued reference to Figures 4A and 4B and sections A-A and B-B, about the y-axis of section B-B of the flattened (non-elliptical) wire 102, the wire 102 will exhibit more flexibility than about the y-axis of section A-A of the unflattened (elliptical) wire 102. Stated otherwise, about the y-axis of section B-B of the flattened (non-elliptical) wire 102, the wire 102 exhibits a smaller stiffness than about the y-axis of section A-A of the unflattened (elliptical) wire 102.

[0035] Thus, by changing the cross-section 104 of the wire 102, for example, in apical areas 106, the flexibility/stiffness can be changed or optimized. Benefits of changes in flexibility or stiffness include reduced stresses and strains in the wire 102 due to bending during insertion and traversal of the vasculature, or collapsing and expansion of the stent 100 during loading and deployment of the endoluminal device. Other benefits can include the normalization of stresses and strains along the stent 100, which can in turn lower the profile of the stent 100 and increase the fatigue life of the stent 100.

[0036] In various embodiments, changing the shape of the cross-section 104 from generally elliptical to generally non-elliptical can be accomplished by various

operations. For example, in some embodiments, this flattening can be done by “coining” the wire 102 at desired locations using various presses, forging machinery, clamps or the like. Similarly, other machining operations such as milling, cutting (mechanical, plasma, laser, or the like) can be used, and in still others, various casting, molding or extruding techniques can be used to change the cross-section 104 of the wire 102. For example, in an embodiment where the stent 100 is formed on a mandrel, a press or clamp could compress the wire 102 at desired locations to flatten it. Alternatively, the stent 100 can be unwound/removed from the mandrel and the flattening operations could be applied at that time to the desired locations.

[0037] In embodiments such as those described herein, the profile of the wire 102 can beneficially have a substantially continuous side 107 (or “flat”) and a substantially non-continuous side 109 (or “patterned”), for example, as illustrated in Figure 8. Additionally, in some embodiments, the flattening of various portions of the wire 102 can be facilitated by using hollow wire in those portions.

[0038] With reference to Figure 4B and section B-B for example, in some embodiments, by flattening various cross-sections 104 of the wire 102 to non-elliptical shapes, a flattened region 110 is created, which in turn, can provide a longer width (w) along the x-axis and thus an expanded surface area proximate flattened region 110. This expanded surface area of flattened region 110 along the x-axis can provide additional benefits such as an increase in attachment points for other materials such as, but not limited to, graft materials, filters or the like.

[0039] In some embodiments, when flattened regions 110 are created, a reduced height (h) surface area along the y-axis at that location results. The reduced height of the flattened region 110 along the y-axis can provide additional benefits such as a lower height profile, which can be useful when inserting an endoluminal device during endovascular procedures.

[0040] Additionally, with reference now to Figure 5 for example, in some embodiments, the flattened region 110 (or portion with a generally non-elliptical cross-section) can be formed in the wire 102 in other portions of the wire 102, such as along a straight section 116 (instead of or in addition to the apical areas 106), thus exhibiting benefits similar to those described above. Additionally, different combinations of straight sections 116 and apical areas 106 can be flattened or left unflattened (non-elliptical or elliptical) depending on the characteristics such as

flexibility desired the stent 100. For example, in one embodiment, it may be desirable to flatten every other straight section 116 and/or apical area 106. Alternatively, it may be desirable to flatten only one or the other of the straight sections 116 or the apical areas 106. Still further, any number of other combinations of flattened portions of the wire 102 of stent 100 fall within the scope of the present disclosure.

[0041] In various embodiments, the various flattened regions of the wire 102, such as, for example, flattened region 110 or apex 108 can further comprise an aperture 114 or a plurality thereof. The aperture 114 can comprise any type of hole through the flattened region and can facilitate attachment of materials such as grafts and filters by, for example, sutures, adhesives, rivets or other attachment mechanisms. Additionally, in some embodiments the aperture 114 can function as visual indicator of, for example, location of the flattened region, and potentially the endoluminal device itself. In this regard, the material of the wire 102 surrounding the aperture 114 can be radiopaque, but the lack of the radiopaque material in the aperture 114 provides a marker that can be viewed by X-rays and the like for assisting in locating and positioning of the endoluminal device.

[0042] As noted above, in some embodiments, the endoluminal devices can be collapsed, for example, to facilitate delivery to a vascular treatment site. As also noted above, varying degrees of flexibility of the collapsed endoluminal device may be desirable to assist the endoluminal device as it traverses the vasculature. As such, in some embodiments, it may be desirable for multiple flattened regions 110 of the wire 102 to be in proximity to one another when the endoluminal device is in a collapsed state. For example, with reference to Figure 6, a close-up view of the flattened regions 110, 110' of two apical areas 106 of the wire 102 is shown. Section C-C illustrates the flattened region 110 above the flattened region 110'. As shown, the flattened region 110 is adjacent to and overlaps the flattened region 110', which, with reference to Figure 7, can in turn facilitate the flattened regions 110, 110' sliding over one another as necessary as the collapsed endoluminal device bends during travel through the vasculature to a treatment site.

[0043] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the present disclosure without departing from the spirit or scope of the disclosure. Thus, it is intended that the present disclosure

cover the modifications and variations of this disclosure provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

[0044] Likewise, numerous characteristics and advantages have been set forth in the preceding description, including various alternatives together with details of the structure and function of the devices and/or methods. The disclosure is intended as illustrative only and as such is not intended to be exhaustive. It will be evident to those skilled in the art that various modifications can be made, especially in matters of structure, materials, elements, components, shape, size and arrangement of parts including combinations within the principles of the disclosure, to the full extent indicated by the broad, general meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed. To the extent that these various modifications do not depart from the spirit and scope of the appended claims, they are intended to be encompassed therein.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An implantable device comprising:
a stent having a wire with a generally elliptical cross-section along a first portion and a generally non-elliptical cross-section along a second portion.
2. The implantable device of claim 1, wherein the generally elliptical cross-section is circular.
3. The implantable device of claim 1, wherein the generally non-elliptical cross-section is rectangular.
4. The implantable device of claim 1, wherein the wire has an undulating pattern with apical areas interconnected by generally straight sections.
5. The implantable device of claim 4, wherein the generally non-elliptical cross-section is located in at least one apical area.
6. The implantable device of claim 1, wherein the generally non-elliptical cross-section is a flattened form of the first cross-section.
7. The implantable device of claim 4, wherein the generally non-elliptical cross-section is located in at least one generally straight section.
8. The implantable device of claim 1, wherein the second portion is attached to a graft material.
9. The implantable device of claim 1, the first portion is attached to a graft material.
10. The implantable device of claim 1, the second portion has an aperture.

11. The implantable device of claim 1, further comprising a third portion having a generally non-elliptical cross-section, wherein the third portion is adjacent the second portion.
12. The implantable device of claim 11, wherein the third portion is in contact with the second portion.
13. The implantable device of claim 11, wherein the third portion is joined to the second portion.
14. The implantable device of claim 11, wherein the third portion overlaps the second portion.
15. The implantable device of claim 1 including a graft, wherein at least one of the stent and graft is coated with a bioactive agent.
16. An implantable device comprising:
a stent having a wire with a first moment of inertia of a plane area along a first portion and a second moment of inertia of a plane area along a second portion.
17. The implantable device of claim 16, wherein the first portion is circular.
18. The implantable device of claim 16, wherein the second portion is rectangular.
19. The implantable device of claim 16, wherein the second portion is flattened.
20. The implantable device of claim 16, wherein the wire has an undulating pattern with apical areas interconnected by generally straight sections.
21. The implantable device of claim 20, wherein the second portion is located in at least one apical area.
22. The implantable device of claim 20, wherein the second portion is located in at least one generally straight section.

23. The implantable device of claim 16, wherein the second portion is attached to a graft material.

24. The implantable device of claim 16, wherein the first portion is attached to a graft material.

25. The implantable device of claim 16, the second portion has an aperture.

26. The implantable device of claim 16, further comprising a third portion having a moment of inertia of a plane area, wherein the third portion is adjacent the second portion.

27. The implantable device of claim 26, wherein the third portion is in contact with the second portion.

28. The implantable device of claim 26, wherein the third portion is joined to the second portion.

29. The implantable device of claim 26, wherein the third portion is welded to the second portion.

30. The implantable device of claim 26, wherein the third portion overlaps the second portion.

31. A method of forming a stent comprising:
supplying a wire having a generally elliptical cross-section;
changing a first portion of the wire to form an generally non-elliptical cross-section;
forming the wire into a generally tubular shaped stent.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the generally elliptical cross-section is circular.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein the generally non-elliptical cross-section is rectangular.

34. The method of claim 31, further comprising forming the wire into an undulating pattern with apical areas interconnected by generally straight sections.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the generally non-elliptical cross-section is located in at least one apical area.

36. The method of claim 34, wherein the generally non-elliptical cross-section is located in at least one generally straight section.

37. The method of claim 31, further comprising attaching a graft material to the generally non-elliptical cross-section.

38. The method of claim 31, further comprising forming an aperture in the generally non-elliptical cross-section.

39. An implantable device comprising:
a stent having a wire with a generally elliptical cross-section along a first portion and a second generally elliptical cross-section along a second portion, wherein the second generally elliptical cross-section has a bending moment of inertia different than the first.

40. The implantable device of claim 39, wherein the wire has an undulating pattern with apical areas interconnected by generally straight sections.

41. The implantable device of claim 40, wherein the second portion is located in at least one apical area.

42. The implantable device of claim 40, wherein the second portion is located in at least one generally straight section.

43. The implantable device of claim 39, wherein the second portion is attached to a graft material.

44. The implantable device of claim 39, wherein the first portion is attached to a graft material.

45. The implantable device of claim 39 including a graft, wherein at least one of the stent and graft is coated with a bioactive agent.

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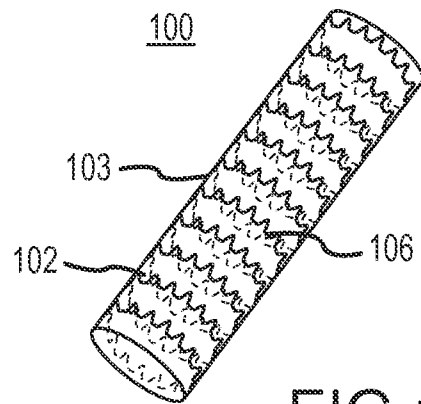


FIG. 1A

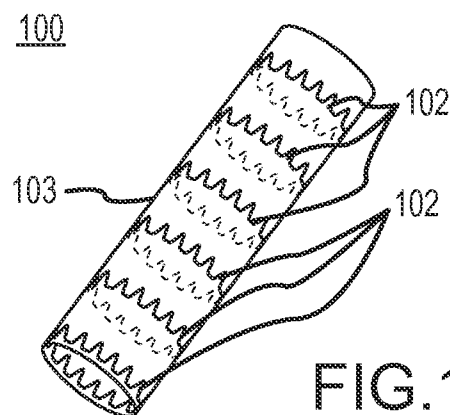


FIG. 1B



FIG. 2

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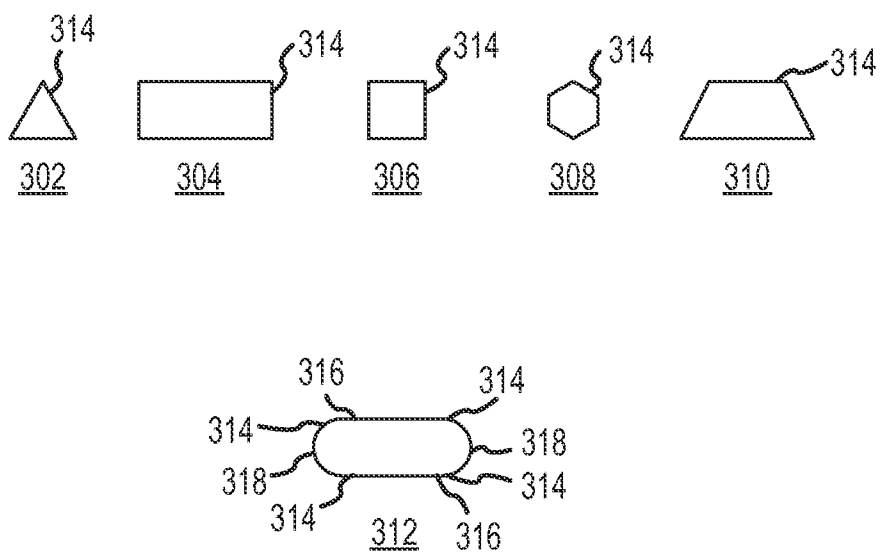


FIG.3

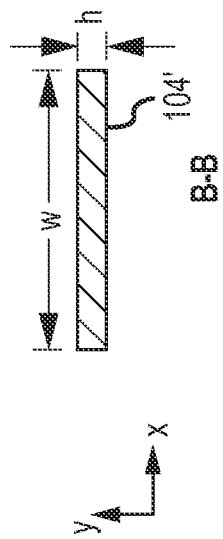
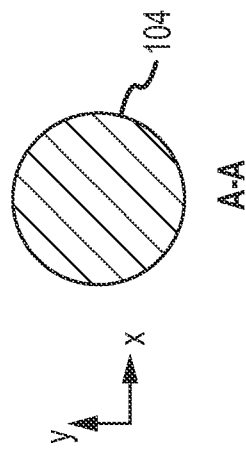
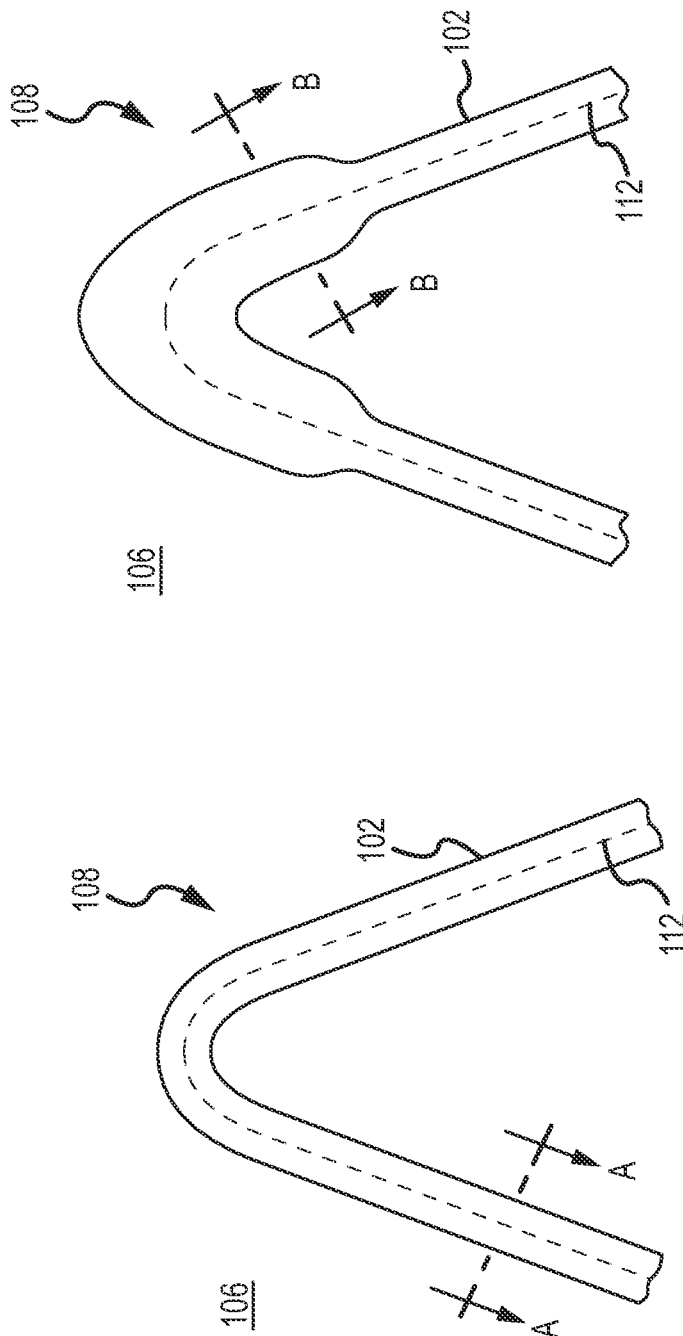


FIG.4B

FIG.4A

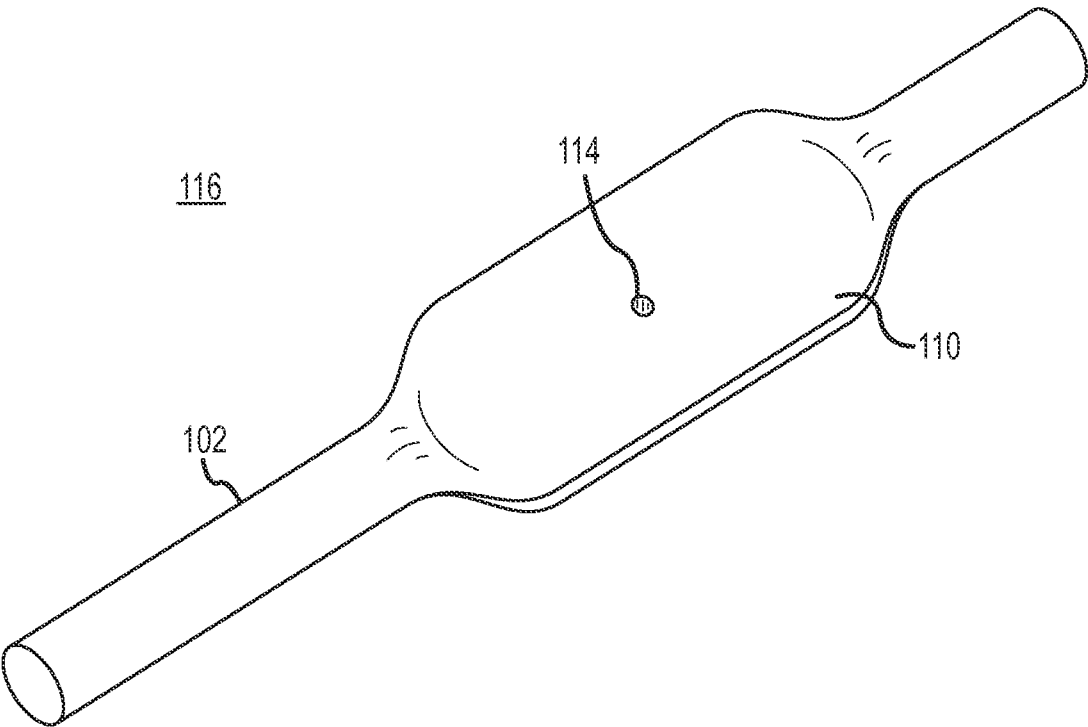


FIG.5

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106

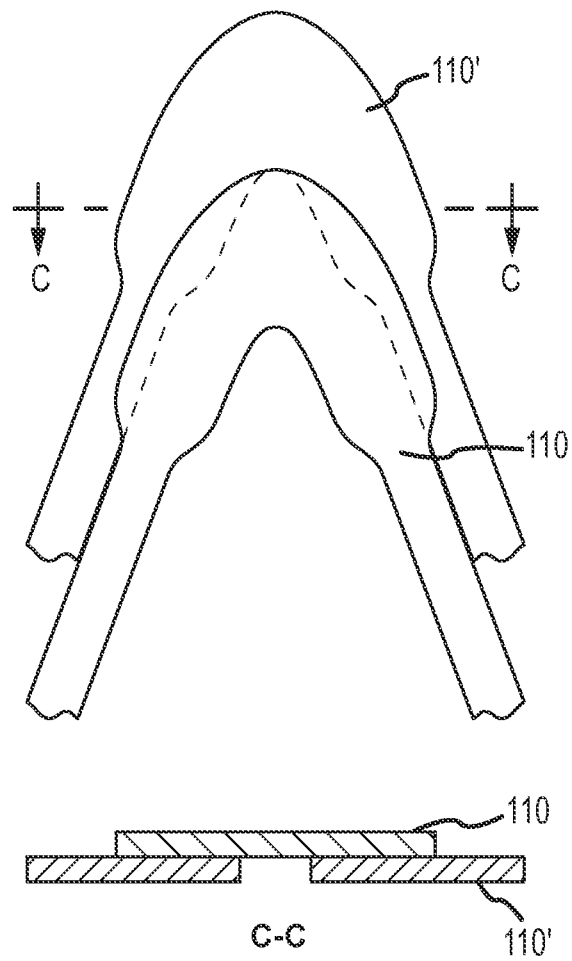


FIG.6

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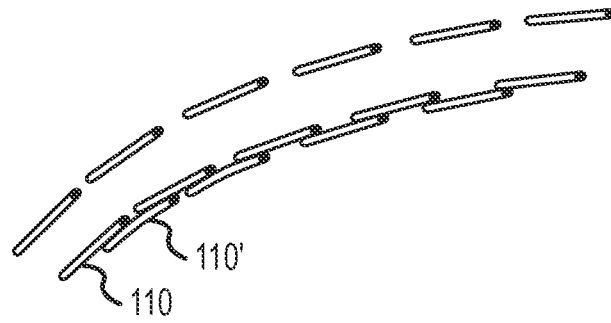


FIG. 7

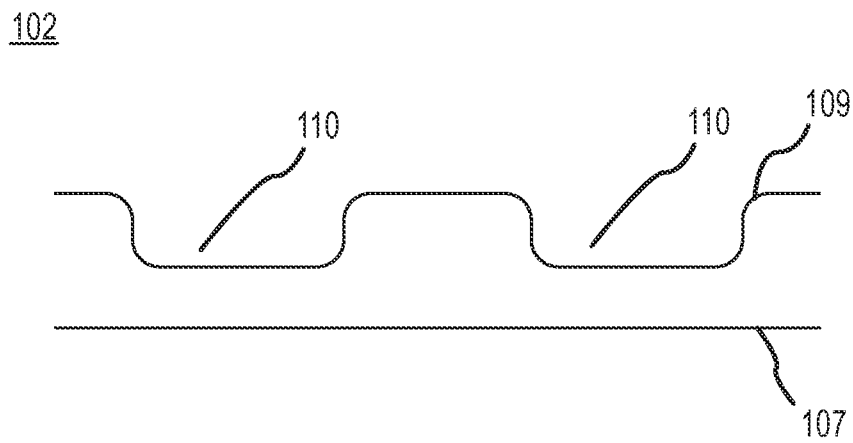


FIG. 8

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2013/063862

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 INV. A61F2/915
 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)
 A61F

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 806 190 A1 (SORIN BIOMEDICA CARDIO SPA [IT]) 12 November 1997 (1997-11-12)	1-4,6,7, 11-13, 16-20, 22, 26-29, 31-34, 36,39, 40,42
Y	column 10, line 20 - column 11, line 20; figures 4-6 ----- -/--	5,8-10, 14,15, 30,41, 43-45



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 November 2013

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2013/063862

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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Y	page 5, line 3 - line 10; figure 5 -----	5,8-10, 15,41, 43-45
Y	WO 02/13725 A2 (ADVANCED CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM [US]) 21 February 2002 (2002-02-21) page 13, line 16 - page 14, line 2; figures 11-15 -----	14,30

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

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摘要

本公开描述了针对腔内装置诸如支架的方法和设备。该腔内装置具有部件（102），该部件在关于腔内装置的长度的各个位置处具有变化的截面（104）以及由此带来的各种好处。