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# United States Patent [19]

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Cragg

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- [54] **INTRALUMINAL STENT**
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- [73] Assignee: **EndoTech Ltd.**, Guernsey, Channel Islands
- [21] Appl. No.: **839,911**
- [22] Filed: **Feb. 21, 1992**
- [51] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... **A61F 2/06**
- [52] U.S. Cl. .... **623/1; 623/12; 606/191; 606/194; 606/198**
- [58] Field of Search ..... **604/281; 606/108, 191, 606/192, 194, 198; 623/1, 12; 139/387 R; 140/11**

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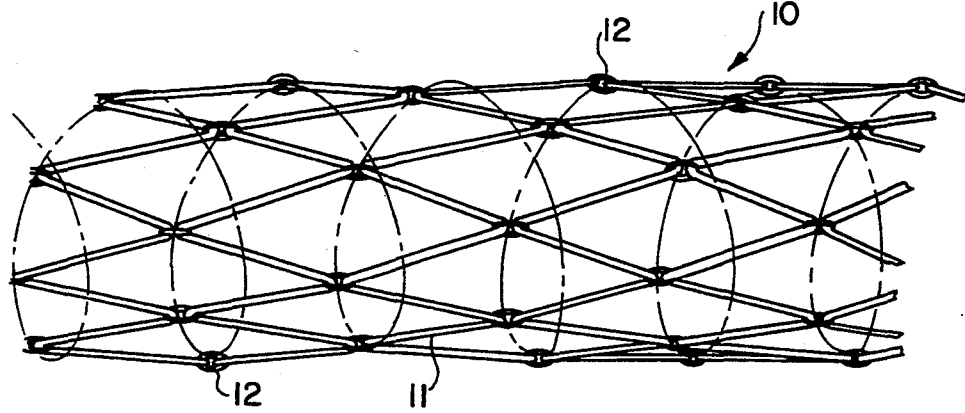
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### ABSTRACT

[57] An intraluminal stent includes a continuous helix of zig-zag wire and loops which connect adjacent apices of the wire. The stent is compressible and self-expandable substantially to a pre-compressed configuration. A method of forming the stent includes bending a length of wire into a zig-zag configuration and a helix and connecting adjacent apices of the wire. A method implanting this stent includes compressing the stent radially, implanting it in a predetermined location of a body vessel, and allowing it to recoil to the configuration it had before compression.

6 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



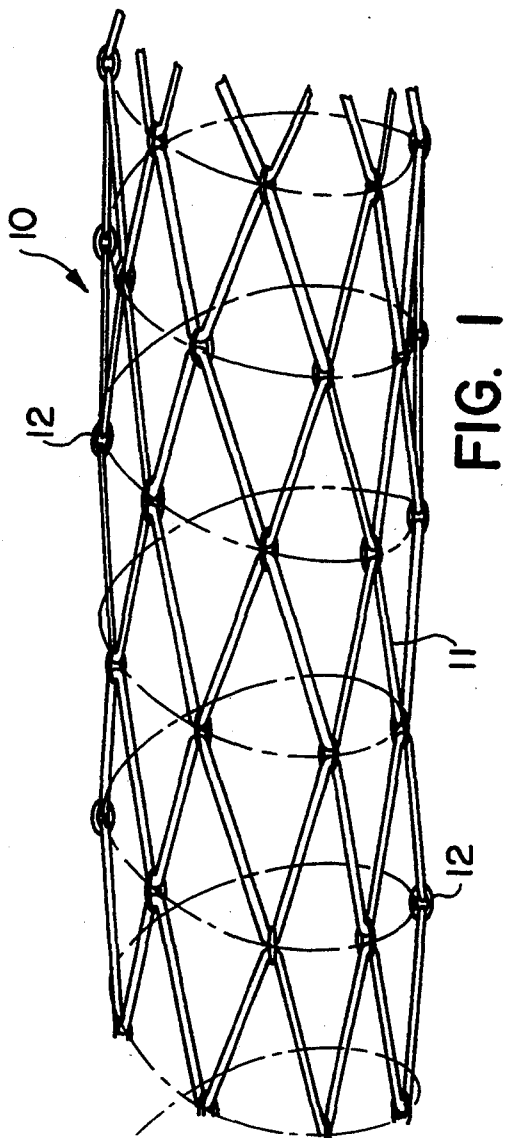


FIG. 1

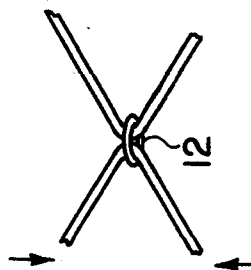


FIG. 2

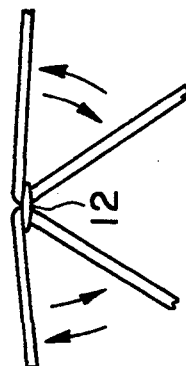


FIG. 3



FIG. 4

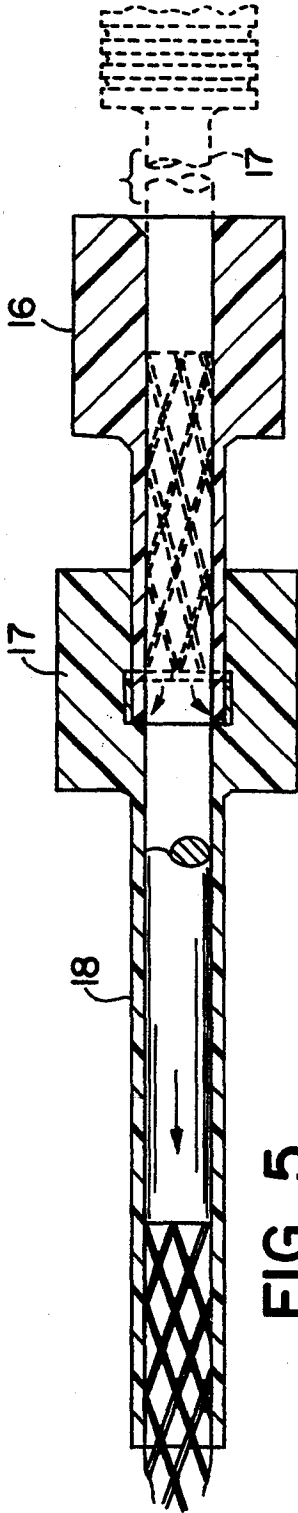


FIG. 5

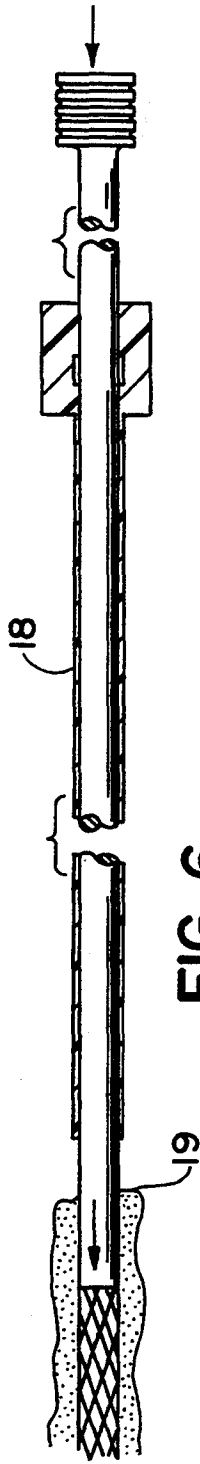


FIG. 6

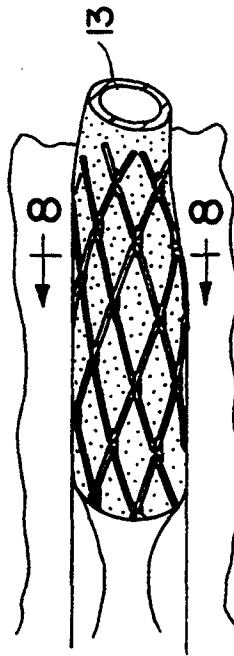


FIG. 7

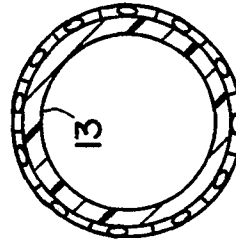


FIG. 8

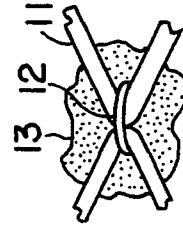


FIG. 9

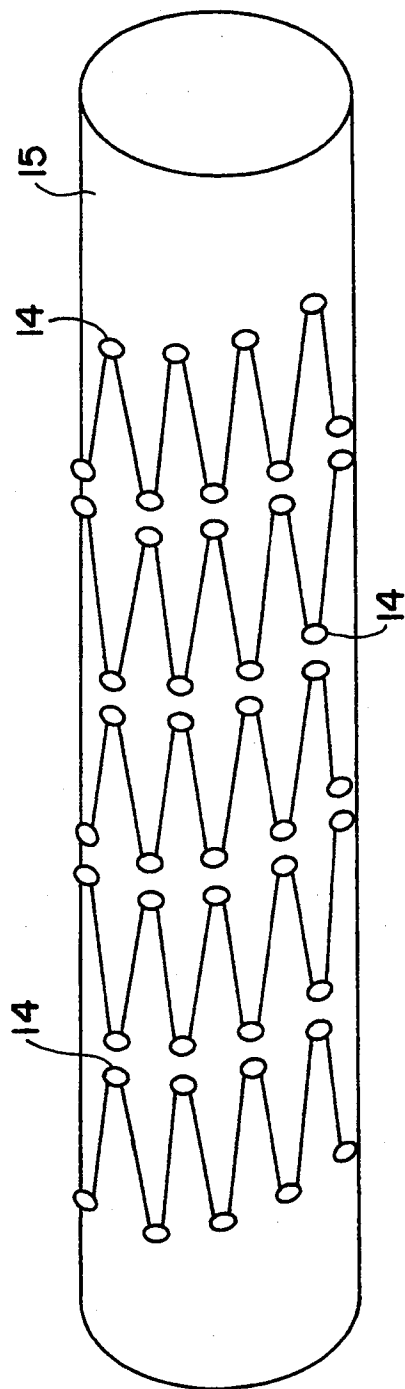


FIG. 10

## INTRALUMINAL STENT

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

## 1. Field Of The Invention

The present invention generally relates to a vascular prosthesis, and more particularly to an intraluminal stent which has a flexible and elastic tubular construction with sufficient hoop strength to prevent elastic recoil of balloon-resistant strictures or to produce delayed dilation of those strictures.

## 2. Description Of The Prior Art

The prior art includes a wide variety of intraluminal stents and grafts. For example, Palmaz U.S. Pat. No. 4,733,665 discloses a balloon-expandable intraluminal graft, including an embodiment comprising a wire mesh tube. Intersecting wire members, secured to one another at their intersections by welding, soldering or gluing, form the wire mesh and define a diamond-like pattern. This structure provides a relatively high resistance to radial collapse; but it suffers a number of disadvantages. First it is a rigid structure which cannot easily assume the configuration of a curved vessel which receives it. Second one must use a balloon catheter to expand and implant it. This requirement limits the length of the graft, as does the rigidity.

Other prior stents have more flexible constructions; but they suffer other disadvantages. Wiktor U.S. Pat. No. 4,886,062, for example, discloses a stent which has a relatively flexible construction. This construction includes a deformable wire bent into a zig-zag design and coiled in a spiral fashion. The resulting wire tube has an open configuration with a reduced hoop strength. Each hoop lies essentially isolated from the adjacent hoops and does not obtain substantial support from them. Moreover, the open configuration increases the risk that plaque elements may herniate through the coil. Finally, one must use a balloon catheter to expand and implant it. Thus, the length of the stent cannot exceed the balloon length of available balloon catheters.

The intraluminal stent of the present invention avoids the disadvantages of the prior art stents and grafts. It has sufficient hoop strength to prevent elastic recoil of balloon-resistant strictures. The stent of the present invention has a flexible construction which allows it to follow the curvature of the vessel which receives it. It has an elastic construction which allows implantation without a balloon catheter. This elasticity further allows compression of the structure and recoil upon implantation to produce delayed dilation of the receiving vessel.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, an intraluminal stent includes a predetermined length of wire having a sinuous or zig-zag configuration and defining a continuous helix with a plurality of connected spirals or hoops. A plurality of loop members connect adjacent apices of adjacent helix hoops. The stent is compressible and self-expandable substantially to the configuration prior to compression.

In accordance with an alternative embodiment of the present invention, an intraluminal stent includes the continuous helix and the plurality of loop members described above. It also includes a prosthetic graft disposed longitudinally of the wire helix within its central opening (or around the wire helix). One or more of the loop members secures the graft to the wire helix. This

graft is a flexible, tubular shell which allows the wire helix to contract and recoil.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a more complete understanding of this invention one should now refer to the embodiments illustrated in greater detail in the accompanying drawings and described below by way of examples of the invention. In the drawings:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the intraluminal stent of the present invention;

FIGS. 2-4 are side elevation views of a suture connection for the stent of FIG. 1;

FIG. 5 is a sectional view of the devices used to implant the stent of FIG. 1;

FIG. 6 is a sectional view of the sheath and catheter devices used to implant the stent, showing the catheter holding the stent in place as the sheath moves out of the body vessel.

FIG. 7 is a side elevation view of an alternative embodiment of the stent of the present invention;

FIG. 8 is a sectional view taken along the line 8-8 in FIG. 7;

FIG. 9 is a partial perspective view of the stent of FIG. 7, showing a suture connection for the stent; and

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of the mandrel used to form the wire helix of the present invention.

While the applicant will describe the invention in connection with preferred and alternative embodiments, one should understand that the invention is not limited to those embodiments. Furthermore, one should understand that the drawings are not necessarily to scale. In certain instances, the applicant may have omitted details which are not necessary for an understanding of the present invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Turning now to the drawings, FIG. 1 shows the intraluminal stent of the present invention generally at 10. This stent includes a wire body 11 made out of a predetermined length of wire having a sinuous or zig-zag configuration and defining a continuous helix with a series of connected spirals or hoops. It also includes loop members 12 which connect adjacent apices of adjacent helix hoops to help define the tubular stent. The loop members 12 may connect all or some of the pairs of adjacent apices.

The wire body 11 is an elastic alloy which provides radial elasticity for the stent. Preferably, it is a nitinol alloy which has superior elasticity and fatigue resistance. The wire has a round cross-section; but its cross-section may also be any one of a variety of shapes, e.g., triangular, rectangular, etc. Alternatively, any material of sufficient strength and elasticity and the other properties identified above may form the wire body, including stainless steel, tantalum, titanium, or any one of a variety of plastics.

The loop members 12 connect adjacent apices of adjacent hoops of the wire body 11 so that the adjacent apices abut each other (See FIGS. 2-4). Thus, each hoop receives support from adjacent hoops, increasing the hoop strength of the overall stent structure and minimizing the risk of plaque herniation. The loop members 12 are ligatures of suture material with the ends tied together to form a loop. This material is polypropylene material or any other biocompatible material

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