(54) **THERMAL TREATMENT OF AN IMPLANTABLE MEDICAL DEVICE**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of manufacturing an implantable medical device, such as a drug eluting stent, is disclosed. The method includes subjecting an implantable medical device that includes a polymer to a thermal condition. The thermal condition can result in reduction of the rate of release of an active agent from the device subsequent to the implantation of the device and/or improve the mechanical properties of a polymeric coating on the device.
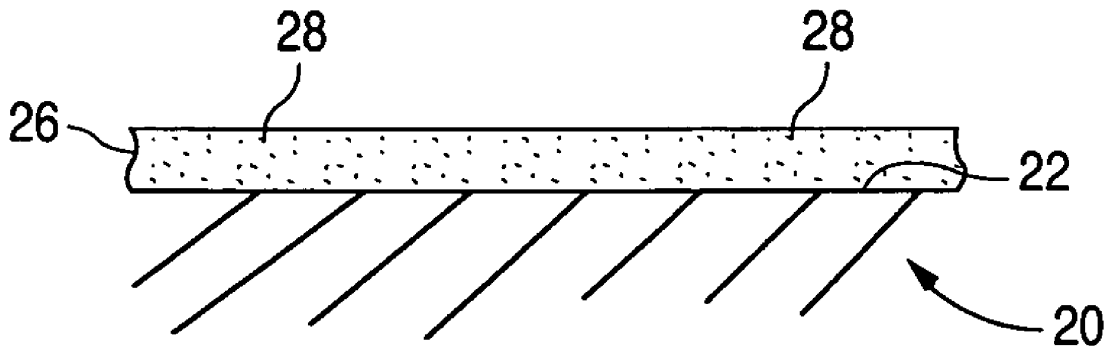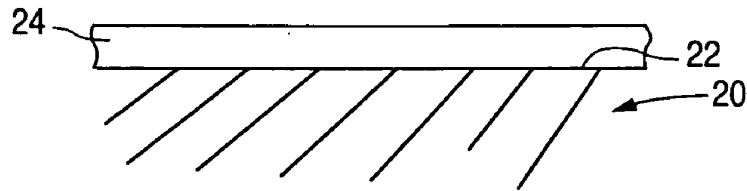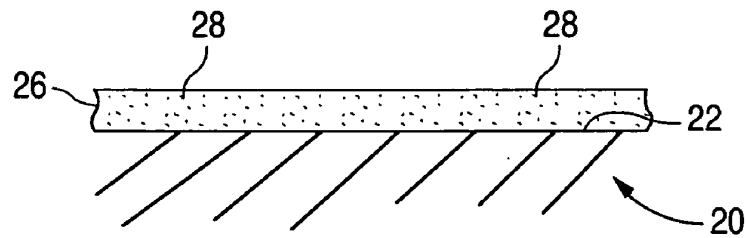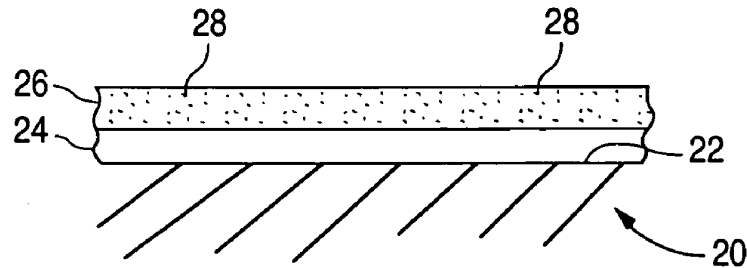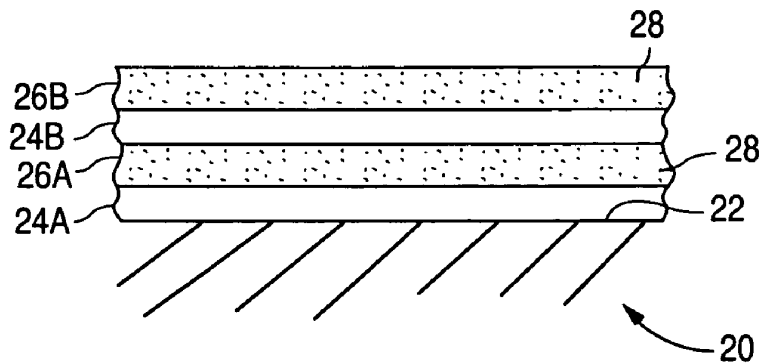
FIG. 1A

FIG. 1B

FIG. 1C

FIG. 1D
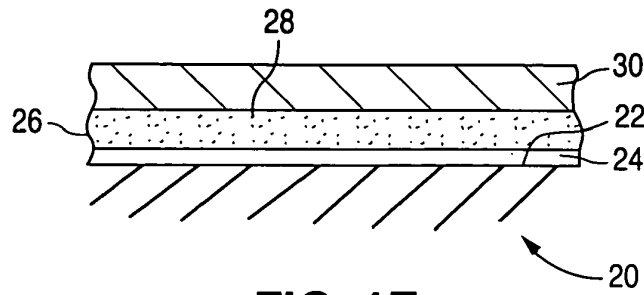
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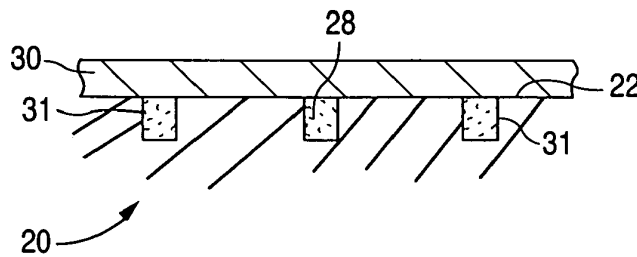
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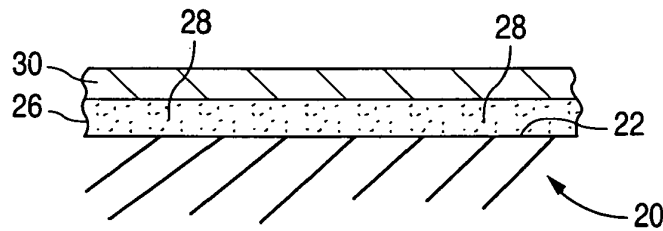
FIG. 1G
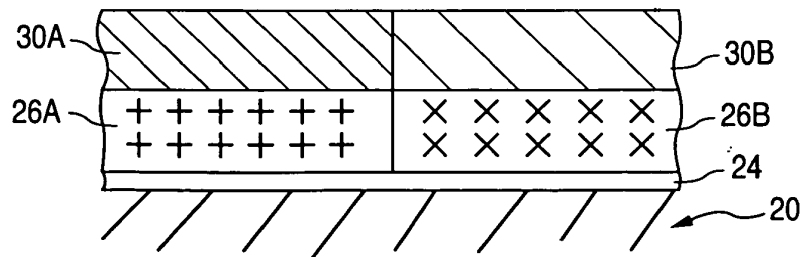
FIG. 1H
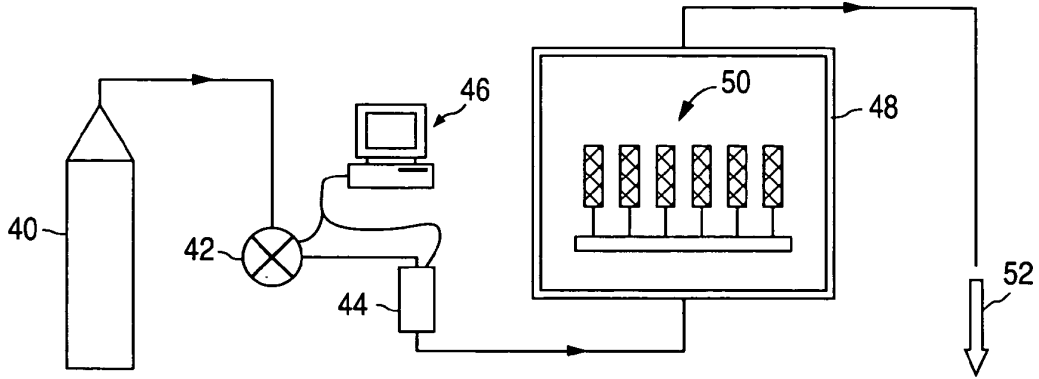
FIG. 2

FIG. 3

FIG. 4

FIG. 5

DOCKET ALARM
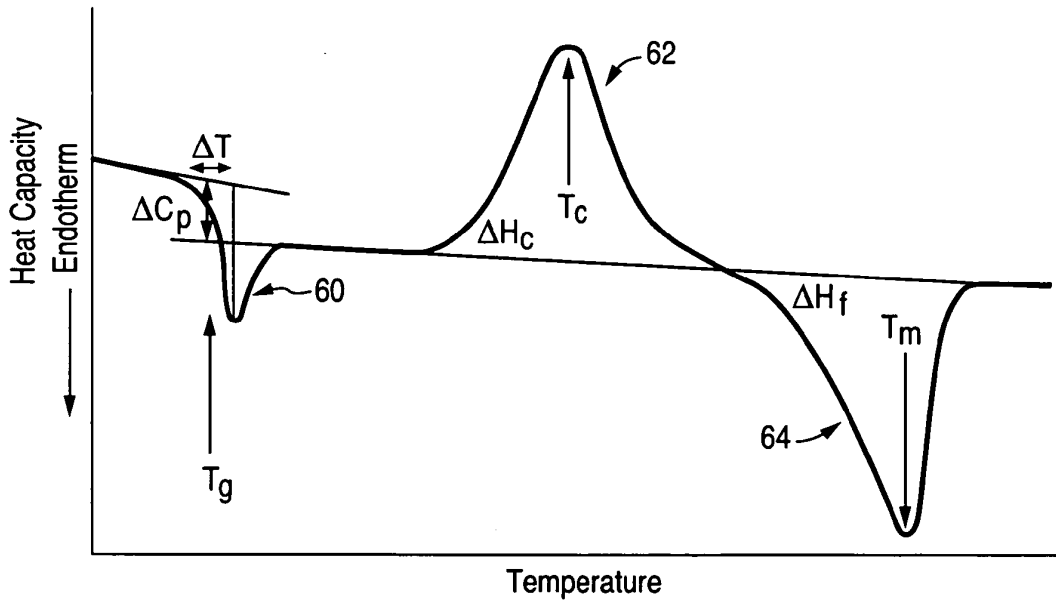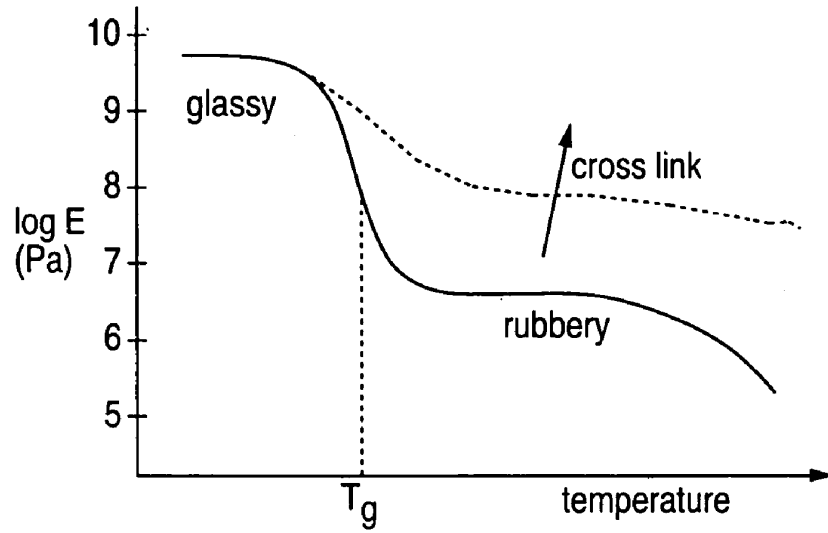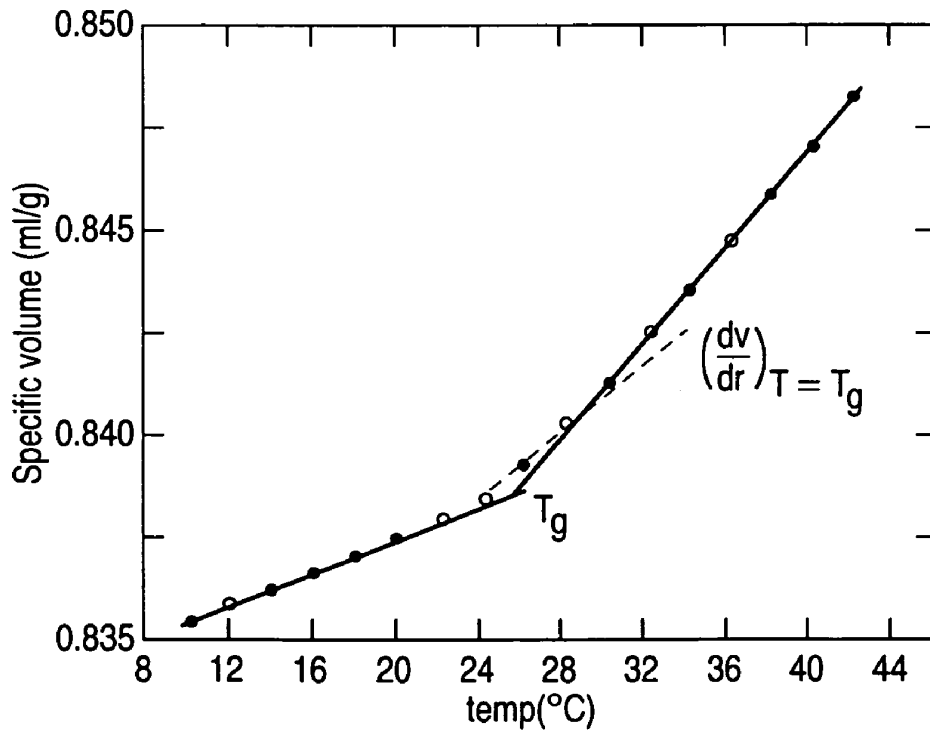
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