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

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application No. 09/750,595, filed on Dec. 28, 2000, now Pat. No. 6,790,228, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/470,559, filed on Dec. 23, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,713,119, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/390,855, filed on Sep. 3, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,287,628, and which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/390,069, filed on Sep. 3, 1999, now Pat. No. 6,379,381.

Said application No. 09/750,595 is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/715,510, filed on Nov. 17, 2000, now Pat. No. 6,749,626, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 09/540,241, filed on Mar. 31, 2000, now abandoned.

(21) Appl. No.: **10/856,984**

(22) Filed: **May 27, 2004**

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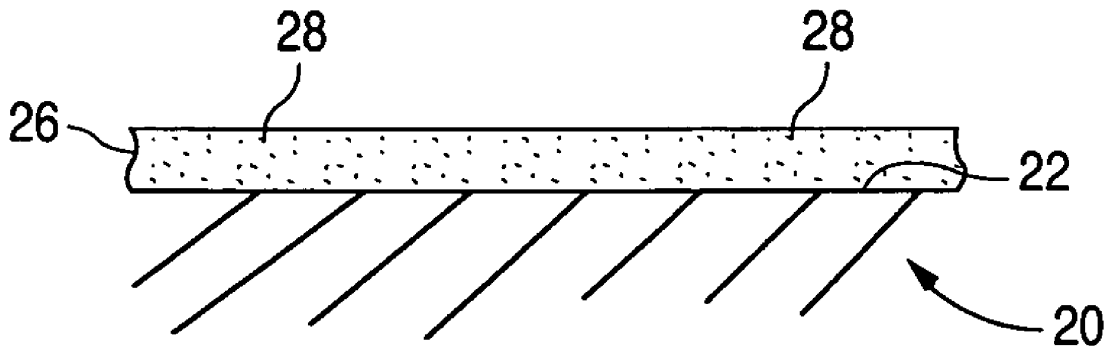
(60) Continuation-in-part of application No. 10/603,794, filed on Jun. 25, 2003.
Continuation-in-part of application No. 10/108,004, filed on Mar. 27, 2002.
Continuation-in-part of application No. 10/304,360, filed on Nov. 25, 2002, which is a division of application No. 09/751,691, filed on Dec. 28, 2000, now Pat. No. 6,503,556.
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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.



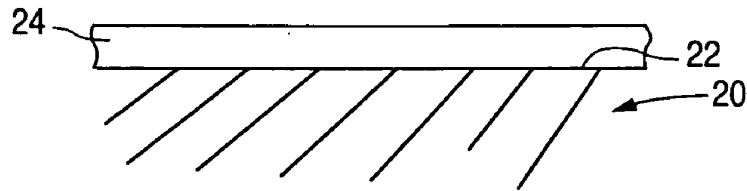


FIG. 1A

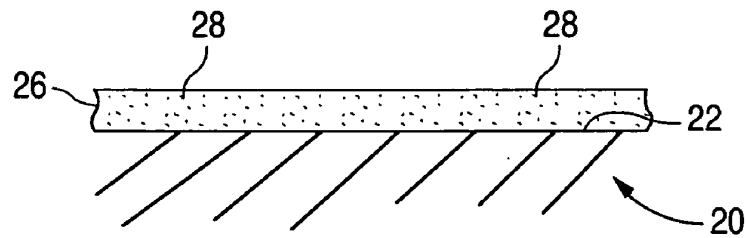


FIG. 1B

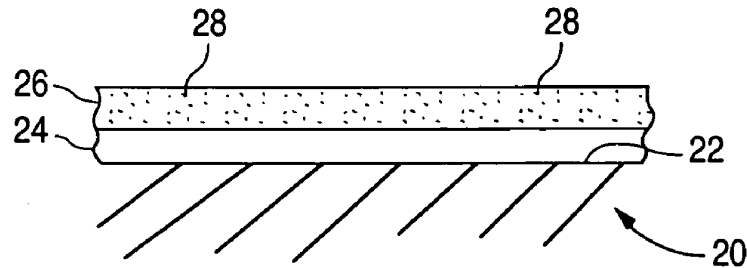


FIG. 1C

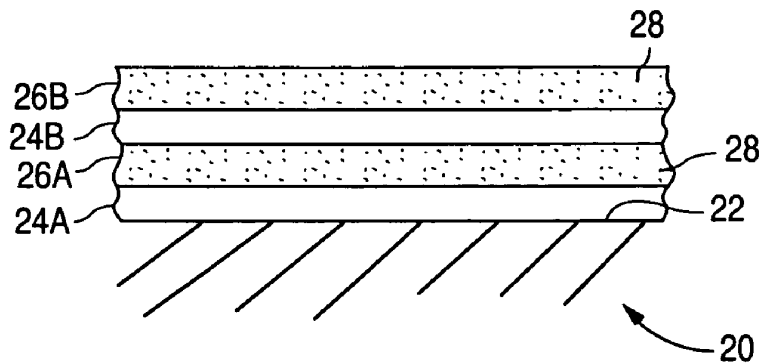


FIG. 1D

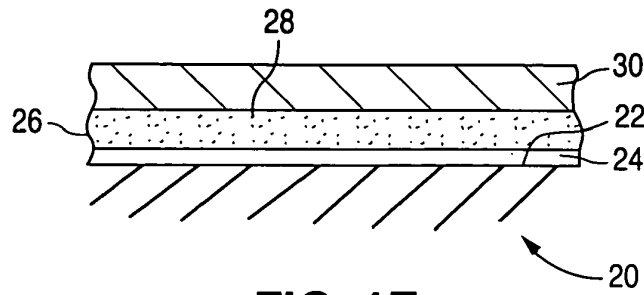


FIG. 1E

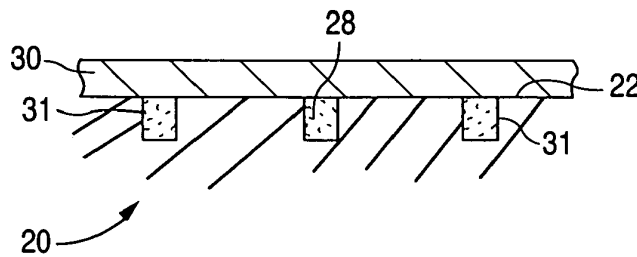


FIG. 1F

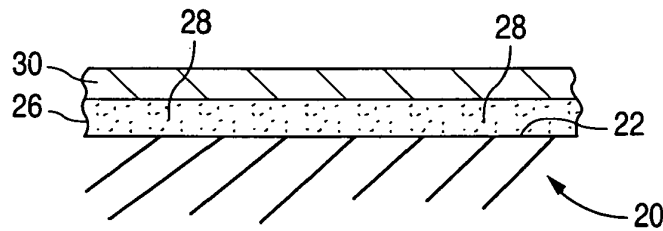


FIG. 1G

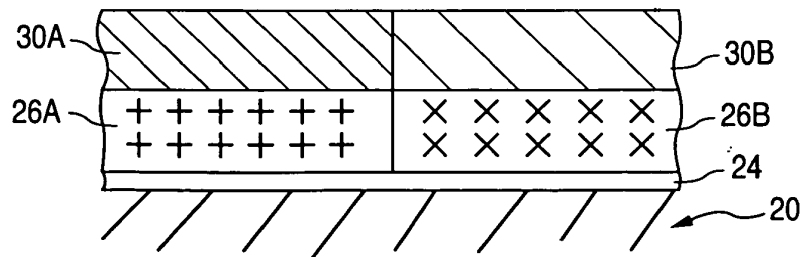


FIG. 1H

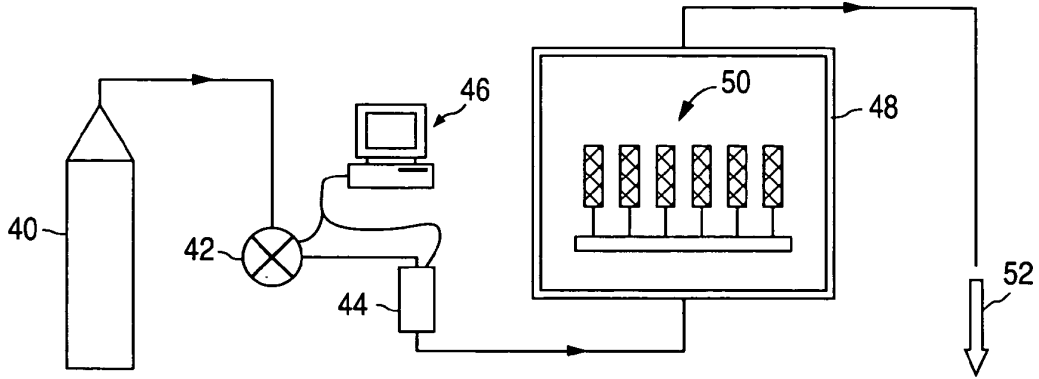


FIG. 2

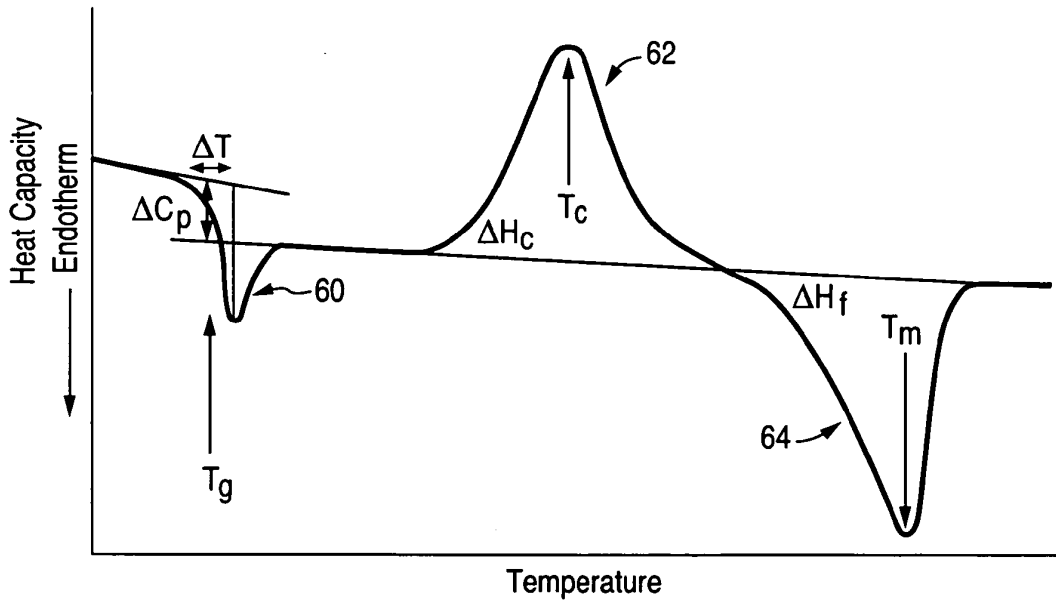


FIG. 3

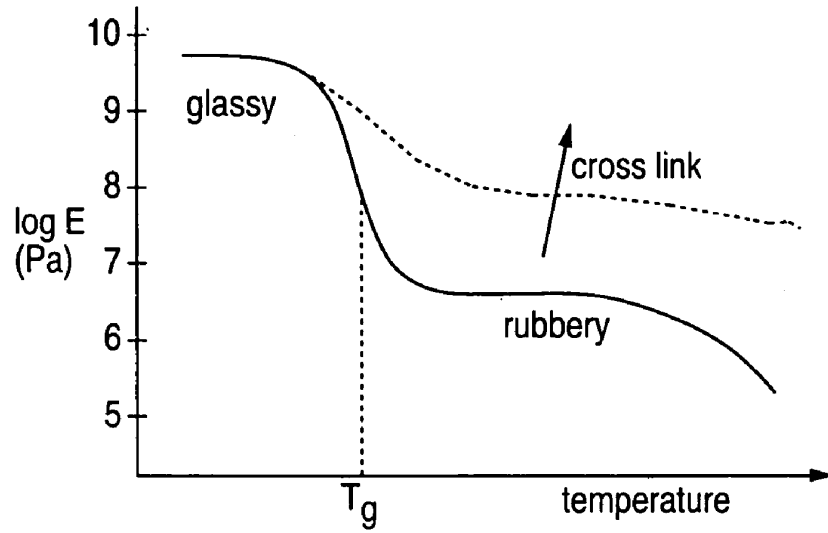


FIG. 4

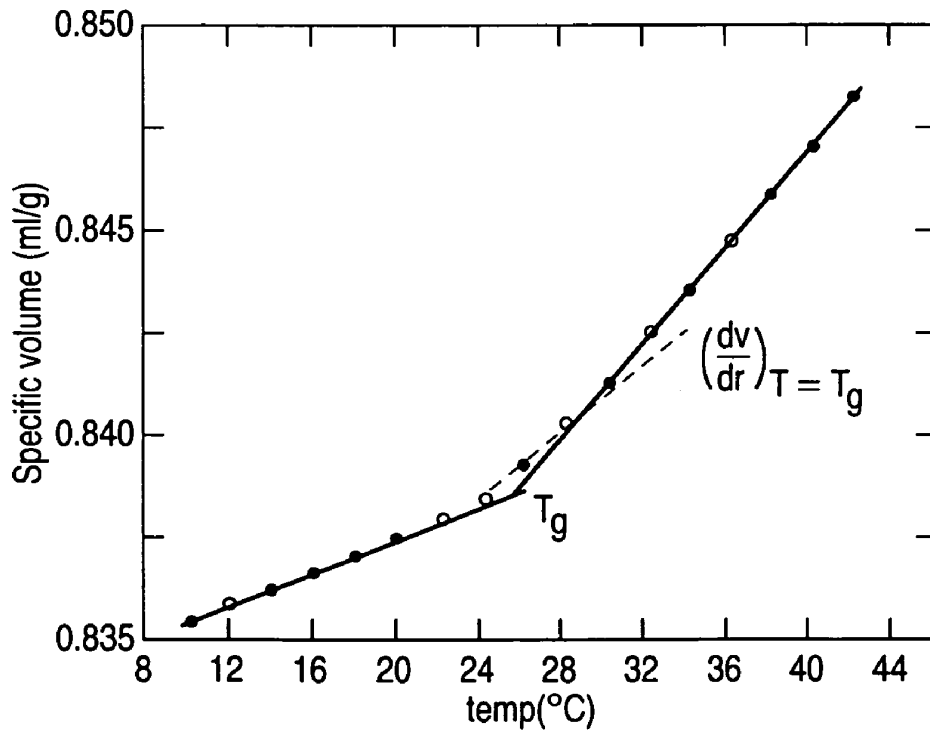


FIG. 5

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