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(54) **HEART VALVE PROSTHESIS AND SUTURELESS IMPLANTATION OF A HEART VALVE PROSTHESIS**

Publication Classification

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

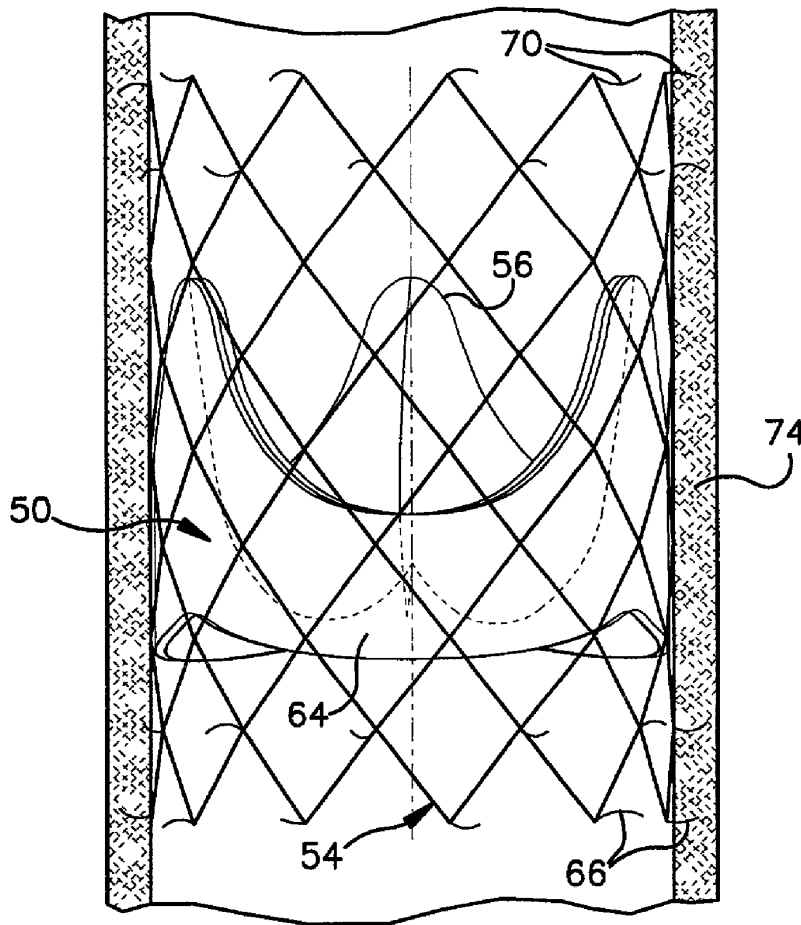
A heart valve prosthesis and method of implanting the prosthesis are disclosed. A valve is mounted within a support apparatus that is deformable between a first condition and a second condition. The prosthesis has a cross-sectional dimension in the second condition that is less than a cross-sectional dimension of the supported valve when in first condition. The prosthesis can be implanted into a patient's heart, such as during a direct vision procedure through a tubular implantation apparatus that maintains the prosthesis in its second condition until discharged from the tubular apparatus.

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(63) **Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/659,882, filed on Sep. 12, 2000.**



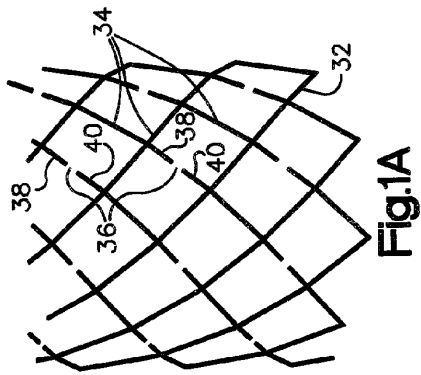


Fig.1A

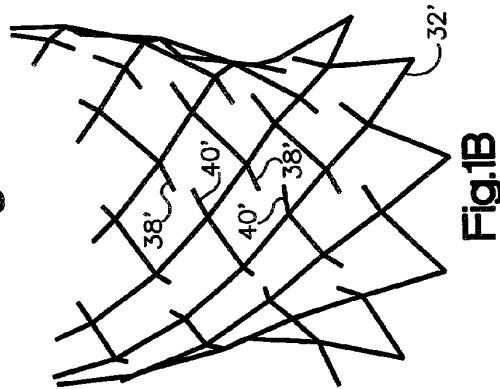


Fig.1B

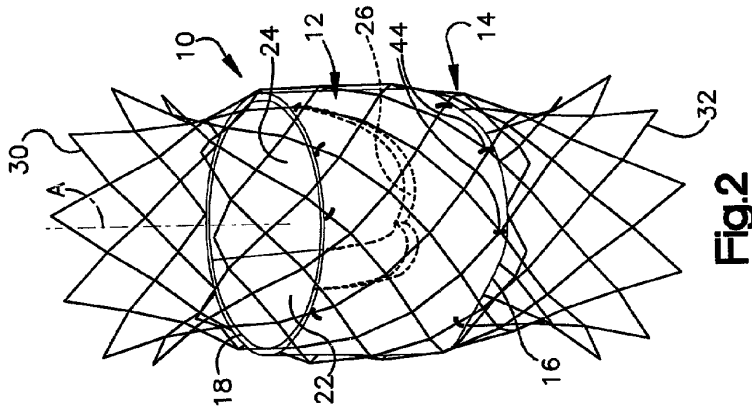


Fig.2

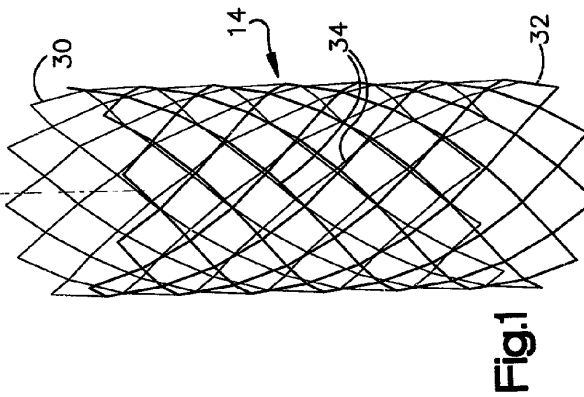
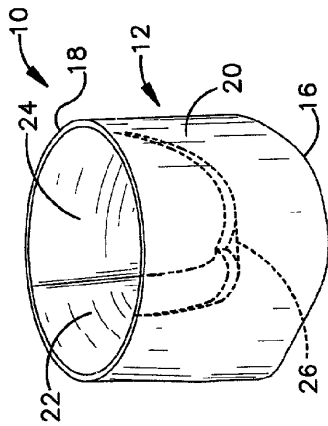
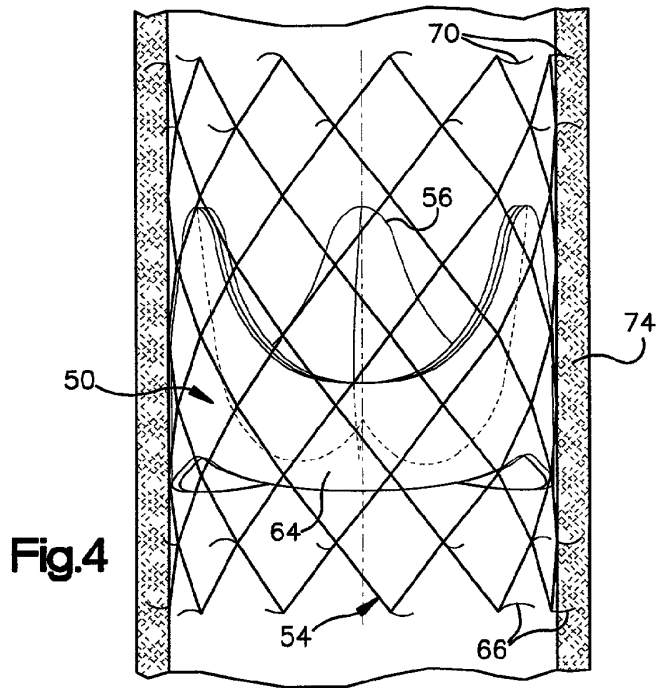
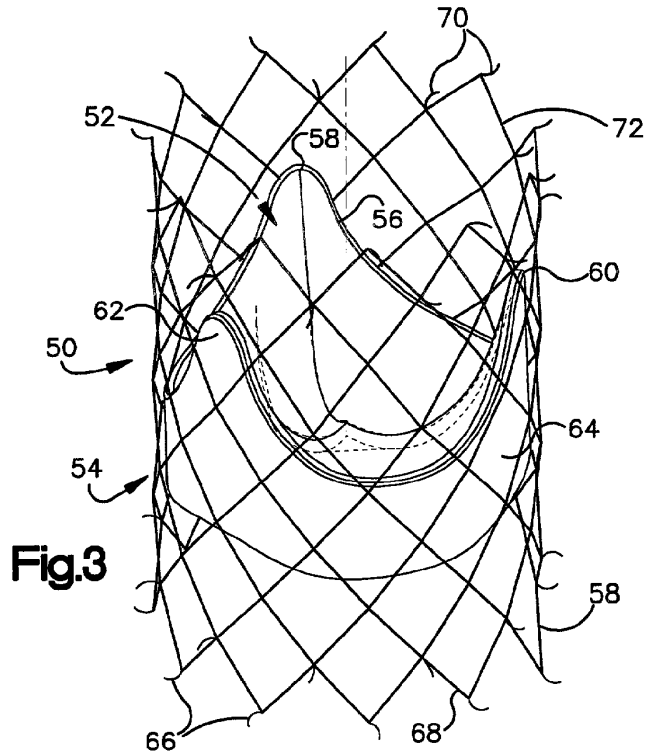
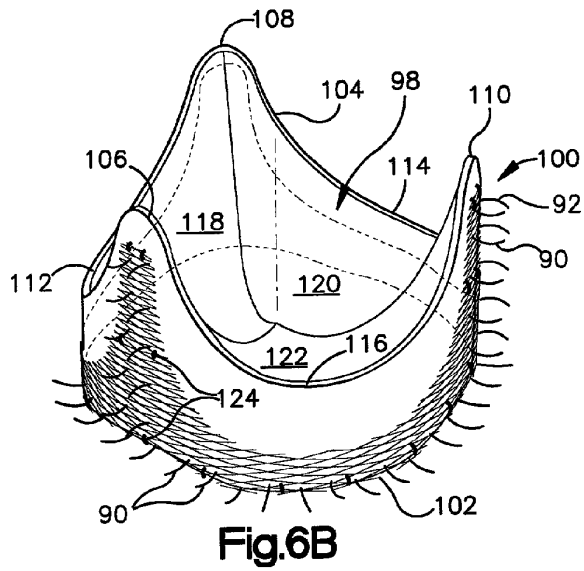
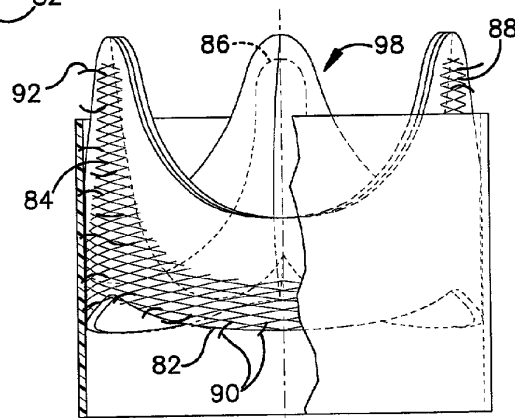
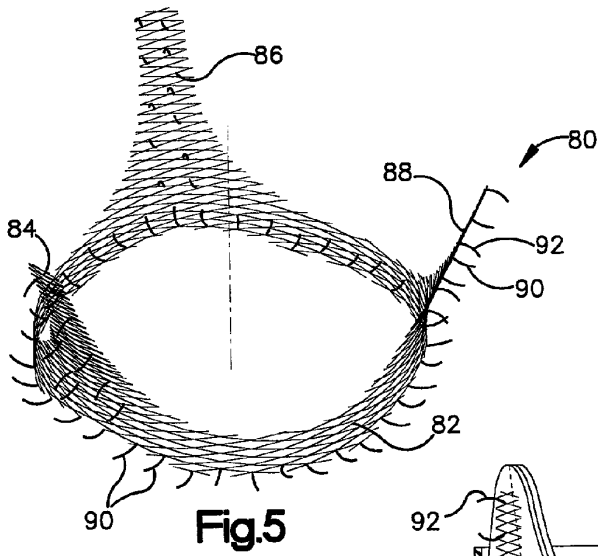
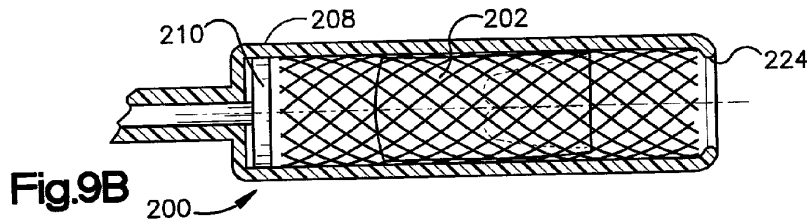
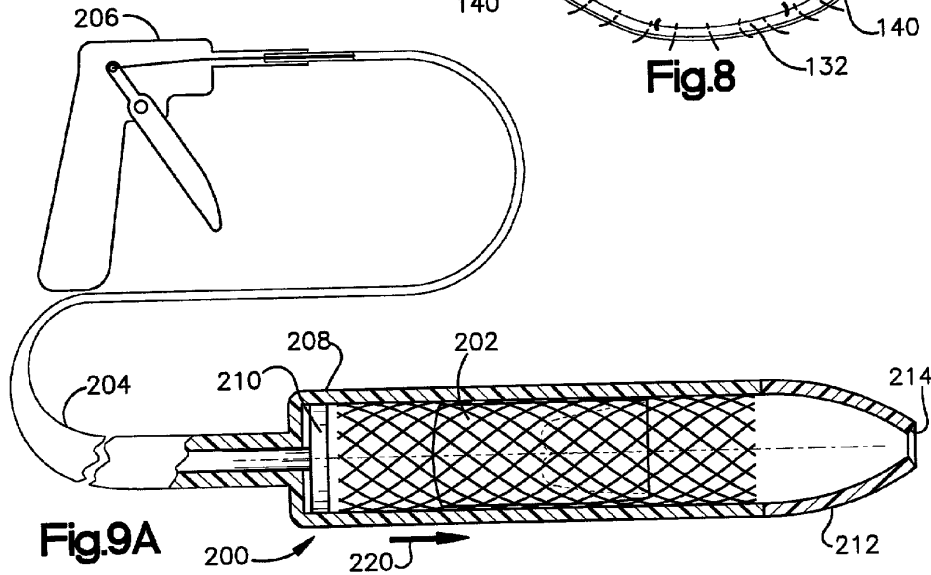
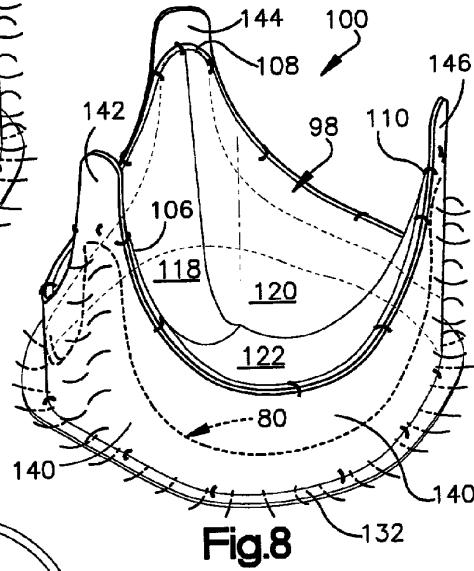
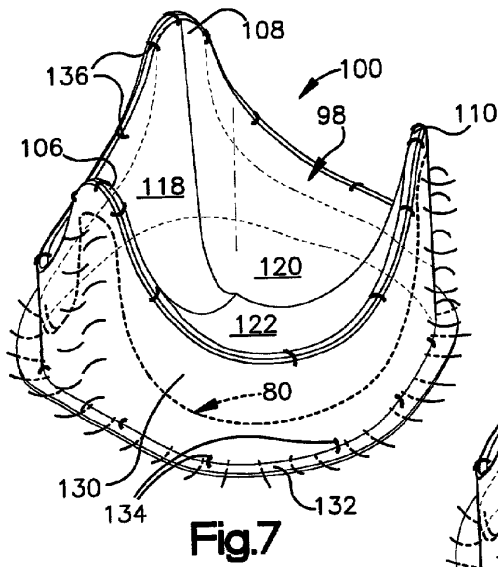


Fig.1







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