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(54) **Title:** CHRONICALLY IMPLANTABLE SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR AFFECTING CARDIAC CONTRACTILITY AND/OR RELAXATION

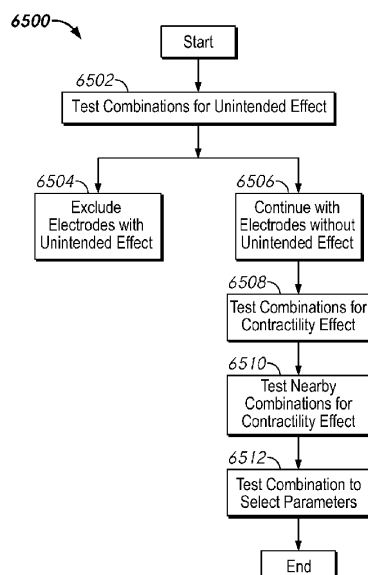


FIG. 65A

(57) **Abstract:** A method of selecting a combination of electrodes for use in neurostimulation includes testing combinations of electrodes in an electrode array to identify an atrial capture. The atrial capture is indicated by at least one effect on an atrium. The method includes excluding electrodes with the atrial capture to result in remaining electrodes of the electrode array, testing combinations of the remaining electrodes of the electrode array for effect on cardiac contractility and/or relaxation, and selecting a combination of electrodes from the remaining electrodes. The selected combination has both a desired effect on cardiac contractility and/or relaxation and does not have an undesired side effect.

[Continued on next page]

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