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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES CORPORATION** [US/US];
One Edwards Way, Irvine, CA 92614 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **GAUTAM, Abishek** [IN/US]; One Edwards Way, Irvine, CA 92614 (US).
WRIGHT, Gregory, A. [US/US]; One Edwards Way, Irvine, CA 92614 (US).

(74) Agents: **KAISER, AnneMarie** et al.; Edwards Lifesciences LLC, One Edwards Way, Irvine, CA 92614 (US).

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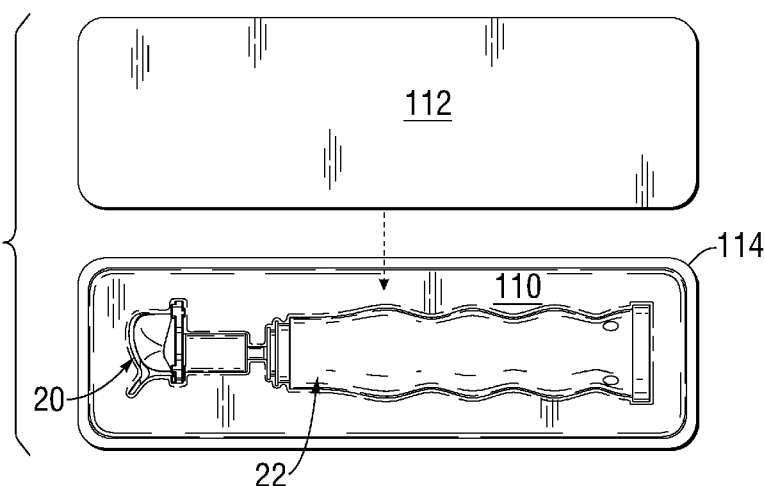
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(54) Title: PROSTHETIC HEART VALVE DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND PACKAGING

FIG.10



(57) Abstract: Packaging for dry prosthetic tissue heart valves and their delivery systems includes a primary sterile barrier that permits gas sterilization of the tissue implant, and a secondary sterile barrier that also prevents oxidation of the implant during long-term storage. Dry tissue heart valves and their delivery systems are placed within a primary container such as a rigid tray that limits movement of the components therein. The primary container is placed within a secondary container, such as another rigid tray or a flexible pouch, and the assembly is then sterilized. The outer sterile barrier may include a double seal so that a first gas-permeable seal can be closed for sterilization, after which a second gas-impermeable seal can be closed to seal out any further oxygen contact with the tissue implant. A collapsible delivery handle for a surgical heart valve may be provided which reduces the size of the packaging, and is useful for various types of prosthetic heart valves.