

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A prosthetic heart valve comprising a plurality of valve leaflets that control directional flow of blood through a heart, a stent structure having a plurality of commissure posts supporting the valve leaflets, the stent structure having a covering over the plurality of commissure posts and having a sewing ring at an inflow end of the stent structure, each of the plurality of commissure posts having a tip and a first suture loop attached to the covering at a location adjacent to or on the tip of the commissure post, wherein each first suture loop provides a passage for a suture to pass through between the covering and the first suture loop.

2. The prosthetic heart valve of claim 1, wherein the passage of each first suture loop is aligned with the tip of the commissure post.

3. The prosthetic heart valve of claim 1 or 2, wherein the passage of each first suture loop is aligned perpendicular to the tip of the commissure post.

4. The prosthetic heart valve of one of claims 1 to 3, wherein each commissure post has an additional suture loop or loops attached to the covering at a location adjacent to or on the tip of the commissure post, wherein the first suture loop and the additional suture loop or loops are aligned to provide a single aligned passage for a suture to pass through between the covering and the suture loops.

5. The prosthetic heart valve of claim 4, wherein the additional suture loop lays across the first suture loop.

6. The prosthetic heart valve of one of claims 1 to 5, wherein each commissure post has an additional suture loop attached to the covering at a location adjacent to or on the tip of the commissure post, wherein the first suture loop and the additional suture loop are located end to end to provide two adjacent passages for a suture or sutures to pass through between the covering and the suture loops.

7. A valve holder assembly comprising:

a valve holder;

a prosthetic heart valve comprising a plurality of valve leaflets that control directional flow of blood through a heart, a stent structure having a plurality of commissure posts supporting the valve leaflets, the stent structure having a covering over the plurality of commissure posts and having a sewing ring at an inflow end of the stent structure, each of the plurality of commissure posts having a tip and a suture loop attached to

the covering at a location adjacent to or on the tip of the commissure post, wherein each suture loop provides a passage for a suture to pass through between the covering and the suture loop; and

a first deployment suture connecting the valve holder to the prosthetic heart valve, the first deployment suture attached to the valve holder, routed through the suture loop, and back to the valve holder.

8. The valve holder assembly of claim 7, wherein the plurality of commissure posts comprises a first commissure post and a second commissure post and wherein the first deployment suture is attached to the valve holder, routed through the suture loop of the first commissure post, routed through the suture loop of the second commissure post, and back to the valve holder.

9. The valve holder assembly of claim 8, wherein the first deployment suture is attached to the valve holder, routed through the sewing ring, through the suture loop of the first commissure post, through the suture loop of the second commissure post, again through the sewing ring, and back to the valve holder.

10. The valve holder assembly of claim 9 further comprising a second deployment suture connecting the valve holder to the prosthetic heart valve, the second deployment suture attached to the valve holder, routed through the suture loop of the second commissure post, and back to the valve holder.

11. The valve holder assembly of one of claims 8 to 10, wherein the suture loop of the second commissure post is a first suture loop, and further comprising a second suture loop of the second commissure post, wherein the first suture loop and the second suture loop are located end to end to provide two adjacent passages for a suture or sutures to pass through between the covering and the suture loops.

12. The valve holder assembly of claim 11 further comprising a second deployment suture connecting the valve holder to the prosthetic heart valve, the second deployment suture attached to the valve holder, routed through the second suture loop of the second commissure post, and back to the valve holder.

~~13. A valve holder assembly comprising:
a valve holder body to hold a prosthetic heart valve, the valve holder body having
an upper surface, a bottom surface, and a central axis;
a rotor insertable through the upper surface and positioned in the valve holder
body, wherein when the prosthetic heart valve is coupled to the valve~~

~~holder body, the rotor is rotatable around the central axis of the valve holder body to adjust the prosthetic heart valve to a delivery position; a guide body mounted to the valve holder body and projecting above the upper surface of the valve holder body when assembled, the guide body having an opening through which an activator is couplable to the rotor for rotating the rotor around the central axis of the valve holder body; a handle adapter insertable into the opening of the guide body along the central axis, the handle adapter having an opening through which the activator is couplable to the rotor for rotating the rotor around the central axis of the valve holder body, the opening of the handle adapter also configured to receive a handle.~~

~~14. — The valve holder assembly of claim 13, wherein the valve holder body has a snap arm that flexes to engage a stop of the guide body to secure the valve holder body and the guide body together.~~

~~15. — The valve holder assembly of claim 13 or 14, further comprising an attachment suture, wherein the guide body has an arm extending from the front of the guide body and the arm has a recess along a bottom of the arm, wherein the guide body has a stop extending from the back of the guide body and the stop has a recess along a bottom of the stop, wherein the handle adapter has a suture mount extending from the front of the handle adapter and the suture mount has a recess along a top of the suture mount, wherein the handle adapter has a suture support extending from the back of the handle adapter and the suture support has a recess along a top of the suture support, wherein the attachment suture is secured in the recesses of the arm and the stop of the guide body and in the recesses of the suture support and the suture mount of the handle adapter.~~

~~16. — The valve holder assembly of claim 15, wherein the handle adapter has a ledge and a gap is formed between the ledge of the handle adapter and a top surface of the guide body, wherein the attachment suture is located in the gap to hide the suture routing from view.~~

~~17. — The valve holder assembly of one of claims 13 to 16, wherein the valve holder body has a central opening and the rotor extends through the central opening to a location below a bottom of the valve holder body.~~

~~18.—The valve holder assembly of one of claims 13 to 17, where in the guide body has a cutting well comprising two arms extending from the guide body, a top of each arm has a suture and the arms are spaced apart to form an opening to permit cutting of a suture across the arms of the cutting well.~~

~~19.—The valve holder assembly of one of claims 13 to 18, further comprising an activator dial connectable to the rotor for rotating the rotor around the central axis of the body.~~

~~20.—The valve holder assembly of claim 19, wherein the activator dial has a flange and the handle adapter has a corresponding rib, wherein the activator dial is rotatable in one direction and stops at a location where the flange engages the rib.~~