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(54) Title: EXPANDABLE INTRODUCER SHEATH FOR MEDICAL DEVICE

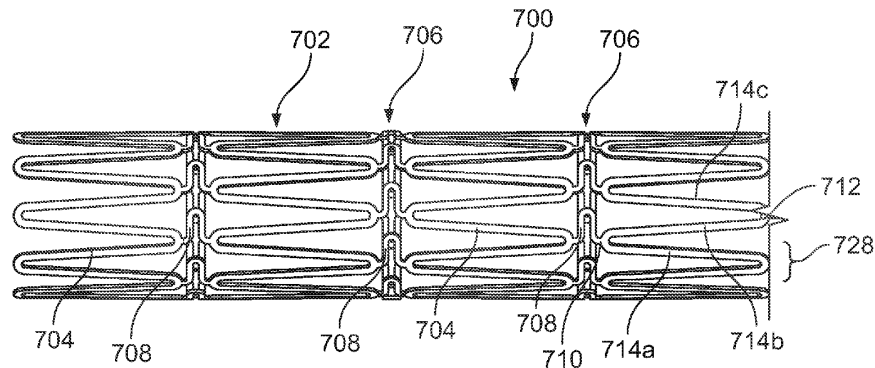


FIG. 7

(57) Abstract: Expandable introducer sheaths and associated laser cut frames for the insertion of a medical device into a blood vessel. In some examples, an expandable sheath may have a frame including a plurality of radial expansion bands and a plurality of connecting bridges for connecting adjacent radial expansion bands. The radial expansion bands are configured to accommodate radial expansion and the plurality of connecting bridges are configured to be longitudinally expandable and to impart column strength as a medical device (e.g., an intracardiac heart pump) is passed through the sheath, such as during insertion or removal of the medical device.

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