CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A device for treating a patient's nasal airway by modifying at least one property of at least one tissue of or near a nasal valve of the airway, without using a surgical incision or an implant, to decrease airflow resistance or perceived airflow resistance in a nasal airway, the device comprising:

an energy delivery member sized to be inserted into a nose and configured to deliver energy to tissues within the nose to modify the at least one property of the at least one tissue;

a shaft extending from the energy delivery member; and

a handle attached to the shaft at an opposite end from the energy delivery member, wherein the handle includes a housing to hold a power source for providing energy to the energy delivery member.

2. A device as in claim 1, wherein the energy delivery member has a contact surface with convex shape configured to at least temporarily create a concavity in nasal tissue.

3. A device as in claim 1, wherein the energy delivery member has a contact surface with flat shape.

4. A device as in claim 1, wherein the energy delivery member comprises multiple protruding electrodes configured to at least temporarily deform nasal tissue.

5. A device as in claim 4, wherein the protruding electrodes comprise two rows of electrodes, wherein the energy delivery member comprises a bipolar radio frequency delivery member, and wherein radio frequency energy travels from one row of electrodes to the other row of electrodes.

6. A device as in claim 4, wherein the housing is configured to hold at least one battery.

7. A device as in claim 4, further comprising at least one sensor configured to sense at least one of temperature or impedance in nasal tissue.

8. A device as in claim 4, wherein the at least one sensor is attached to the device on or near the energy delivery member.

9. A device as in claim 4, further comprising a tissue cooling member attached to the device at or near the energy delivery member.

CLAIMS

1. A device for treating a patient's nasal airway by modifying at least one property of at least one tissue of or near a nasal valve of the airway, without using a surgical incision or an implant, to decrease airflow resistance or perceived airflow resistance in a nasal airway, the device comprising:

an elongate treatment element sized to be inserted into a nose and having a convex tissue-contact surface configured to at least temporarily create a concavity in nasal tissue;

an energy delivery member located on the tissue-contact surface of the elongate treatment element and configured to deliver energy to tissues within the nose to modify the at least one property of the at least one tissue;

a shaft extending from the elongate treatment element, wherein a length of elongate treatment element is parallel to a longitudinal axis of the shaft; and

a handle attached to the shaft at an opposite end from the energy delivery member.

2. A device as in claim 1, wherein the energy delivery member comprises multiple protruding electrodes configured to at least temporarily deform nasal tissue.

3. A device as in claim 2, wherein the protruding electrodes comprise two rows of electrodes, wherein the energy delivery member comprises a bipolar radio frequency delivery member, and wherein radio frequency energy travels from one row of electrodes to the other row of electrodes.

4. A device as in claim 1, wherein the handle comprises a housing configured to hold at least one battery for providing energy to the energy delivery member.

5. A device as in claim 1, further comprising at least one sensor configured to sense at least one of temperature or impedance in nasal tissue during a treatment.

6. A device as in claim 5, wherein the at least one sensor is attached to the elongate treatment element.

7. A device as in claim 5, further comprising a tissue cooling member attached to the elongate treatment element.