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(54) Title: STABILIZER FOR SURGERY

(57) Abstract

A stabilizer is used to immobilize a portion of the heart or other organ to facilitate a surgical procedure such as anastomosis. The stabilizer comprises two, C–shaped, organ wall–contacting elements (12, 14), hinged together so that they can form a continuous loop. The hinge allows the C–shaped elements to be separated so that, after surgery in which a tubular graft connected to the organ extends through the loop, the stabilizer can be released from the graft. The C–shaped elements are connected to a stem which consists of two lockably articulating parts (30, 36), one of which is immediately connected to one of the C–shaped elements and aligned with the hinge axis. A spring–loaded sleeve (32), surrounding the last–mentioned part of the stem, has pins (76, 78) which engage recesses in the C–shaped parts to lock them in the closed condition, while allowing them to be opened quickly by manipulation of the sleeve. Removable, disposable pads (92) form the organ wall–contacting surfaces. An optional light carrier (102, 104) provides illumination, and ports (114) are provided in one of the C–shaped elements for suction and/or irrigation.

