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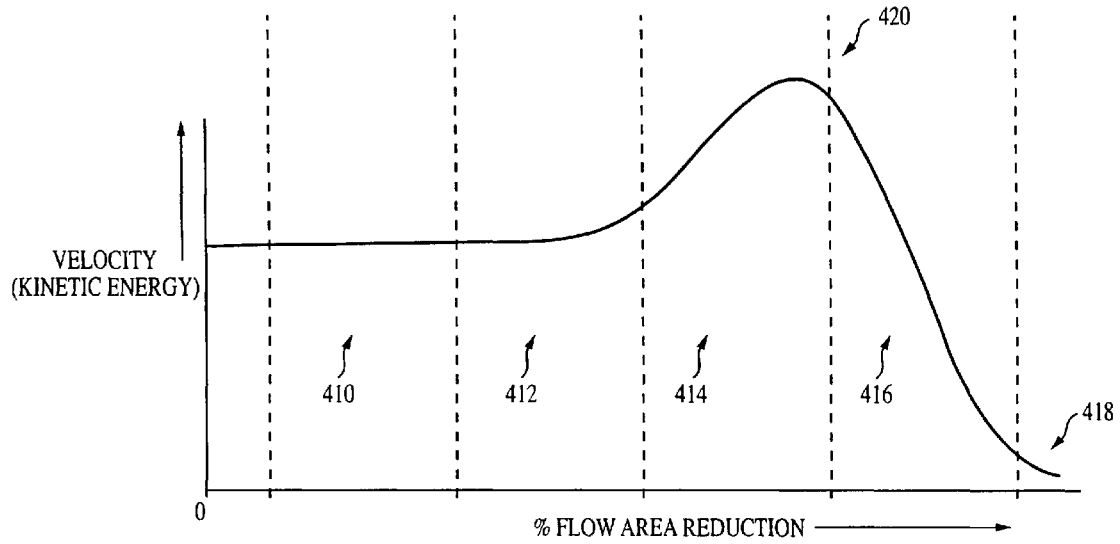
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ASSESSING HEMODYNAMIC PARAMETERS AND BLOOD VESSEL LOCATION WITHIN THE CIRCULATORY SYSTEM OF A LIVING SUBJECT



(57) Abstract: An improved method and apparatus for non-invasively assessing one or more hemodynamic parameters associated with the circulatory system of a living organism. In one aspect, the invention comprises a method of measuring a hemodynamic parameter by measuring a non-calibrated value of the parameter non-invasively, and inducing a stress of the circulatory system while measuring a second parameter. The response of the circulatory system to the stress is determined directly from the subject, and a calibration function is derived from the response and applied to the non-calibrated measured value to produce a calibrated measure of the actual value of the hemodynamic parameter. Methods of using backscattered acoustic energy for determination of hemodynamic markers are also disclosed.

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