

HEART VALVE SEALING DEVICES AND DELIVERY DEVICES THEREFOR

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present application relates generally to prosthetic devices and related methods for helping to seal native heart valves and prevent or reduce regurgitation therethrough, as well as devices for helping to seal native heart valves while maintaining leaflet mobility and effective orifice area of the native valve after implantation of a device.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The native heart valves (i.e., the aortic, pulmonary, tricuspid, and mitral valves) serve critical functions in assuring the forward flow of an adequate supply of blood through the cardiovascular system. These heart valves can be damaged, and thus rendered less effective, by congenital malformations, inflammatory processes, infectious conditions, or disease. Such damage to the valves can result in serious cardiovascular compromise or death. For many years the definitive treatment for such damaged valves was surgical repair or replacement of the valve during open heart surgery. However, open heart surgeries are highly invasive and are prone to many complications. Therefore, elderly and frail patients with defective heart valves often went untreated. More recently, transvascular techniques have been developed for introducing and implanting prosthetic devices in a manner that is much less invasive than open heart surgery. One particular transvascular technique that is used for accessing the native mitral and aortic valves is the trans-septal technique. The transseptal technique comprises inserting a catheter into the right femoral vein, up the inferior vena cava and into the right atrium. The septum is then punctured and the catheter passed into the left atrium.

[0003] A healthy heart has a generally conical shape that tapers to a lower apex. The heart is four-chambered and comprises the left atrium, right atrium, left ventricle, and right ventricle. The left and right sides of the heart are separated by a wall generally referred to as the septum. The native mitral valve of the human heart connects the left atrium to the left ventricle. The mitral valve has a very different anatomy than other native heart valves. The mitral valve includes an annulus portion, which is an annular portion of the native valve tissue

surrounding the mitral valve orifice, and a pair of cusps, or leaflets, extending downward from the annulus into the left ventricle. The mitral valve annulus can form a “D”-shaped, oval, or otherwise out-of-round cross-sectional shape having major and minor axes. The anterior leaflet can be larger than the posterior leaflet, forming a generally “C”-shaped boundary between the abutting sides of the leaflets when they are closed together.

[0004] When operating properly, the anterior leaflet and the posterior leaflet function together as a one-way valve to allow blood to flow only from the left atrium to the left ventricle. The left atrium receives oxygenated blood from the pulmonary veins. When the muscles of the left atrium contract and the left ventricle dilates (also referred to as “ventricular diastole” or “diastole”), the oxygenated blood that is collected in the left atrium flows into the left ventricle. When the muscles of the left atrium relax and the muscles of the left ventricle contract (also referred to as “ventricular systole” or “systole”), the increased blood pressure in the left ventricle urges the sides of the two leaflets together, thereby closing the one-way mitral valve so that blood cannot flow back to the left atrium and is instead expelled out of the left ventricle through the aortic valve. To prevent the two leaflets from prolapsing under pressure and folding back through the mitral annulus toward the left atrium, a plurality of fibrous cords called chordae tendineae tether the leaflets to papillary muscles in the left ventricle.

[0005] Mitral regurgitation occurs when the native mitral valve fails to close properly and blood flows into the left atrium from the left ventricle during the systolic phase of heart contraction. Mitral regurgitation is the most common form of valvular heart disease. Mitral regurgitation has different causes, such as leaflet prolapse, dysfunctional papillary muscles and/or stretching of the mitral valve annulus resulting from dilation of the left ventricle. Mitral regurgitation at a central portion of the leaflets can be referred to as central jet mitral regurgitation and mitral regurgitation nearer to one commissure (i.e., location where the leaflets meet) of the leaflets can be referred to as eccentric jet mitral regurgitation. Central jet regurgitation occurs when the edges of the leaflets do not meet in the middle and thus the valve does not close and regurgitation is present.

[0006] Some prior techniques for treating mitral regurgitation in patients include surgically stitching the edges of the native mitral valve leaflets directly to one another. A catheter delivered clip has been used to attempt to clip the sides of the leaflets together at the end portions of the leaflets, similar to the surgical stitching method. However, this clip has shortcomings, since it can only be used to clip the middle of the leaflets where they overlap by about 2 mm or more. Alternately, attempts have been made to use multiple clips on the commissures of the mitral valve, where there may be more overlap of the leaflets. This technique results in a longer operation time and also joins the patient's leaflets at the sides, restricting blood flow. Additionally, both the surgical and clip treatments are thought to create stress on patient leaflets.

[0007] Despite these prior techniques, there is a continuing need for improved devices and methods for treating mitral valve regurgitation.

SUMMARY

[0008] In view of the foregoing, a valve repair device for repairing a native heart valve of a patient includes a pair of clasps, where each clasp is configured to attach to native valve leaflet. The ends of the pair of clasps are configured to move away from one another to a partially open position when the native valve leaflets open during a diastolic phase of a cardiac cycle, and the ends of the pair of clasps are configured to move toward one another when the native valve leaflets close during a systolic phase of the cardiac cycle.

[0009] These and other aspects of the exemplary embodiments will become apparent from the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, illustrating by way of example the principles of the various exemplary embodiments.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0010] To further clarify various aspects of embodiments of the present disclosure, a more particular description of the certain embodiments will be made by reference to various aspects of the appended drawings. It is appreciated that these drawings depict only typical embodiments of the present disclosure and are therefore not to be considered limiting of the scope of the disclosure. Moreover,

while the figures can be drawn to scale for some embodiments, the figures are not necessarily drawn to scale for all embodiments. Embodiments and other features and advantages of the present disclosure will be described and explained with additional specificity and detail through the use of the accompanying drawings in which:

- [0011] Figure 1 illustrates a cutaway view of the human heart in a diastolic phase;
- [0012] Figure 2 illustrates a cutaway view of the human heart in a systolic phase;
- [0013] Figure 3 illustrates a cutaway view of the human heart in a diastolic phase, in which the chordae tendineae are shown attaching the leaflets of the mitral and tricuspid valves to ventricle walls;
- [0014] Figure 4 illustrates a healthy mitral valve with the leaflets closed as viewed from an atrial side of the mitral valve;
- [0015] Figure 5 illustrates a dysfunctional mitral valve with a visible gap between the leaflets as viewed from an atrial side of the mitral valve;
- [0016] Figure 6 illustrates a mitral valve having a wide gap between the posterior leaflet and the anterior leaflet;
- [0017] Figure 7 illustrates a tricuspid valve viewed from an atrial side of the tricuspid valve;
- [0018] Figures 8–14 show an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device, in various stages of deployment;
- [0019] Figure 11A shows an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device that is similar to the device illustrated by Figure 11, but where the paddles are independently controllable;
- [0020] Figures 15–20 show the implantable prosthetic device of Figures 8–14 being delivered and implanted within the native mitral valve;
- [0021] Figures 21–23 show an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device;

- [0022] Figure 21A shows an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device;
- [0023] Figures 24-35 show an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device being delivered and implanted within the native mitral valve;
- [0024] Figure 36 shows a side view of an exemplary implantable prosthetic device in a partially-open position with barbed clasps in a closed position;
- [0025] Figure 37 shows a side view of an exemplary implantable prosthetic device in a partially open position with barbed clasps in an open position;
- [0026] Figure 38 shows a side view of an exemplary implantable prosthetic device in a half-open position with barbed clasps in a closed position;
- [027] Figure 39 shows an exemplary implantable prosthetic device implanted on leaflets in a closed position;
- [028] Figure 40A shows an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device attached to leaflets of a mitral valve in an open position;
- [029] Figure 40B shows an exemplary embodiment of the implantable prosthetic device of Figure 40A in a closed position;
- [030] Figure 41A shows a side view of an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device having clasps, a paddle frame, and a coaption element in a closed position;
- [031] Figure 41B shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 41A taken along line 41B-41B;
- [032] Figure 42A shows a side view of an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device having clasps, a paddle frame, and a coaption element in an open position;
- [033] Figure 42B shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 42A taken along line 42B-42B;
- [034] Figure 43A shows a side view of an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device having clasps and a paddle frame in a closed position;

- [035] Figure 43B shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 43A taken along line 43B-43B;
- [036] Figure 44A shows a side view of an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device having clasps and a paddle frame in an open position;
- [037] Figure 44B shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 44A;
- [038] Figure 45A shows a side view of an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device having clasps and a coaption element in a closed position;
- [039] Figure 45B shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 45A taken along line 45B-45B;
- [040] Figure 46A shows a side view of an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device having clasps and a coaption element in an open position;
- [041] Figure 46B shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 46A taken along line 46B-46B;
- [042] Figure 47A shows a schematic view of a path of mitral valve leaflets along each side of an exemplary embodiment of a mitral valve repair device having clasps, a coaption element, and a paddle frame in a closed position;
- [043] Figure 47B shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 47A;
- [044] Figure 48A shows a schematic view of a path of mitral valve leaflets along each side of an exemplary embodiment of a mitral valve repair device having clasps, a coaption element, and a paddle frame where the device is in an open position and the leaflets are open;
- [045] Figure 48B shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 48A;
- [046] Figure 48C shows a schematic view of a path of mitral valve leaflets along each side of an exemplary embodiment of a mitral valve repair device having clasps, a coaption element, and a paddle frame where the device is in an open position and the leaflets are closed;
- [047] Figure 48D shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 48C;

- [048] Figure 49A shows a schematic view of a path of mitral valve leaflets along each side of an exemplary embodiment of a mitral valve repair device having clasps and a coaption element in a closed position;
- [049] Figure 49B shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 49A;
- [050] Figure 50A shows a schematic view of a path of mitral valve leaflets along each side of an exemplary embodiment of a mitral valve repair device having clasps and a coaption element where the device is in an open position and the leaflets are open;
- [051] Figure 50B shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 50A;
- [052] Figure 50C shows a schematic view of a path of mitral valve leaflets along each side of an exemplary embodiment of a mitral valve repair device having clasps and a coaption element where the device is in an open position and the leaflets are closed;
- [053] Figure 50D shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 50C;
- [054] Figure 51A shows a schematic view of a path of mitral valve leaflets along each side of an exemplary embodiment of a mitral valve repair device having clasps and a paddle frame in a closed position;
- [055] Figure 51B shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 51A;
- [056] Figure 52A shows a schematic view of a path of mitral valve leaflets along each side of an exemplary embodiment of a mitral valve repair device having clasps and a paddle frame where the device is in an open position and the leaflets are open;
- [057] Figure 52B shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 52A;
- [058] Figure 52C shows a schematic view of a path of mitral valve leaflets along each side of an exemplary embodiment of a mitral valve repair device having clasps and a paddle frame where the device is in an open position and the leaflets are closed;
- [059] Figure 52D shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 52C;

- [060] Figure 53A shows a schematic view of a path of mitral valve leaflets along each side of an exemplary embodiment of a mitral valve repair device having clasps in a closed position;
- [061] Figure 53B shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 53A;
- [062] Figure 54A shows a schematic view of a path of mitral valve leaflets along each side of an exemplary embodiment of a mitral valve repair device having clasps where the device is in an open position and the leaflets are open;
- [063] Figure 54B shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 54A;
- [064] Figure 54C shows a schematic view of a path of mitral valve leaflets along each side of an exemplary embodiment of a mitral valve repair device having clasps where the device is in an open position and the leaflets are closed;
- [065] Figure 54D shows a cross-section of the exemplary embodiment of Figure 54C;
- [066] Figure 55 shows an exemplary implantable prosthetic device without barbed clasps or biasing members in a closed position;
- [067] Figure 55A shows an exemplary implantable prosthetic device with clasps, a collar, and a cap in a closed position;
- [068] Figures 56A-56B each show a perspective view of a valve repair device attached to mitral valve leaflets with a coaption element in the gap of the mitral valve shown from a ventricular side of the heart;
- [069] Figure 57A shows a schematic of an exemplary embodiment of an implantable valve repair device with clasps in a closed position;
- [070] Figure 57B shows a cross-section of the schematic of Figure 57A taken along line 57B-57B;
- [071] Figure 58A shows a schematic of an exemplary embodiment of an implantable valve repair device with clasps in an open position;
- [072] Figure 58B shows a cross-section of the schematic of Figure 58A taken along line 58B-58B;

- [073] Figure 59A shows a schematic of an exemplary embodiment of an implantable valve repair device having flexible clasps in an open position;
- [074] Figure 59B shows a cross-section of the schematic of Figure 59A taken along line 59B-59B;
- [075] Figure 60A shows a schematic of an exemplary embodiment of an implantable valve repair device having a center shaft for expanding the distance between clasps, where the device is unexpanded and in a closed position and the leaflets are closed;
- [076] Figure 60B shows a cross-section of the schematic of Figure 60B taken along line 60B-60B;
- [077] Figure 61A shows a schematic of an exemplary embodiment of an implantable valve repair device having a center shaft for expanding the distance between clasps, where the device is expanded and in a closed position, and the leaflets are closed;
- [078] Figure 61B shows a cross-section of the schematic of Figure 61A taken along line 61B-61B;
- [079] Figure 61C shows a schematic of an exemplary embodiment of an implantable valve repair device having a center shaft for expanding the distance between clasps, where the device is expanded and in an open position, and the leaflets are open;
- [080] Figure 61D shows a cross-section of the schematic of Figure 61C taken along line 61D-61D;
- [081] Figure 62 shows a valve repair device in an open position;
- [082] Figure 63 shows the valve repair device of Figure 62 in a closed position;
- [083] Figure 64 shows a valve repair device according to an exemplary embodiment implanted in a native valve when closed; and
- [084] Figure 65 shows the valve repair device of Figure 64 when a native valve is open.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- [085] The following description refers to the accompanying drawings, which illustrate specific embodiments of the present disclosure. Other embodiments having different structures and operation do not depart from the scope of the present disclosure.
- [086] Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure are directed to devices and methods for repairing a defective heart valve. It should be noted that various embodiments of native valve reparation devices and systems for delivery are disclosed herein, and any combination of these options can be made unless specifically excluded. In other words, individual components of the disclosed devices and systems can be combined unless mutually exclusive or otherwise physically impossible.
- [087] As described herein, when one or more components are described as being connected, joined, affixed, coupled, attached, or otherwise interconnected, such interconnection may be direct as between the components or may be indirect such as through the use of one or more intermediary components. Also as described herein, reference to a "member," "component," or "portion" shall not be limited to a single structural member, component, or element but can include an assembly of components, members, or elements. Also as described herein, the terms "substantially" and "about" are defined as at least close to (and includes) a given value or state (preferably within 10% of, more preferably within 1% of, and most preferably within 0.1% of).
- [088] Figures 1 and 2 are cutaway views of the human heart H in diastolic and systolic phases, respectively. The right ventricle RV and left ventricle LV are separated from the right atrium RA and left atrium LA, respectively, by the tricuspid valve TV and mitral valve MV; i.e., the atrioventricular valves. Additionally, the aortic valve AV separates the left ventricle LV from the ascending aorta AA, and the pulmonary valve PV separates the right ventricle from the pulmonary artery PA. Each of these valves has flexible leaflets (e.g., leaflets 20, 22 shown in Figures 4 and 5) extending inward across the respective orifices that come together or "coapt" in the flowstream to form the one-way, fluid-occluding surfaces. The native valve repair systems of the present application are described primarily with respect to the mitral valve MV. Therefore, anatomical structures of the left

atrium LA and left ventricle LV will be explained in greater detail. It should be understood that the devices described herein may also be used in repairing other native valves, e.g., the devices can be used in repairing the tricuspid valve TV, the aortic valve AV, and the pulmonary valve PV.

[089] The left atrium LA receives oxygenated blood from the lungs. During the diastolic phase, or diastole, seen in Figure 1, the blood that was previously collected in the left atrium LA (during the systolic phase) moves through the mitral valve MV and into the left ventricle LV by expansion of the left ventricle LV. In the systolic phase, or systole, seen in Figure 2, the left ventricle LV contracts to force the blood through the aortic valve AV and ascending aorta AA into the body. During systole, the leaflets of the mitral valve MV close to prevent the blood from regurgitating from the left ventricle LV and back into the left atrium LA, and blood is collected in the left atrium from the pulmonary vein. In one exemplary embodiment, the devices described by the present application are used to repair the function of a defective mitral valve MV. That is, the devices are configured to help close the leaflets of the mitral valve to prevent blood from regurgitating from the left ventricle LV and back into the left atrium LA. The devices described in the present application are designed to easily grasp and secure the native leaflets and assist them in coapting together in the regurgitant orifice.

[090] Referring now to Figures 1–7, the mitral valve MV includes two leaflets, the anterior leaflet 20 and the posterior leaflet 22. The mitral valve MV also includes an annulus 24, which is a variably dense fibrous ring of tissues that encircles the leaflets 20, 22. Referring to Figure 3, the mitral valve MV is anchored to the wall of the left ventricle LV by chordae tendineae 10. The chordae tendineae 10 are cord-like tendons that connect the papillary muscles 12 (i.e., the muscles located at the base of the chordae tendineae and within the walls of the left ventricle) to the leaflets 20, 22 of the mitral valve MV. The papillary muscles 12 serve to limit the movements of the mitral valve MV and prevent the mitral valve from being reverted. The mitral valve MV opens and closes in response to pressure changes in the left atrium LA and the left ventricle LV. The papillary muscles do not open or close the mitral valve MV. Rather, the papillary muscles brace the mitral valve MV against the high pressure needed to circulate blood throughout the

body. Together the papillary muscles and the chordae tendineae are known as the subvalvular apparatus, which functions to keep the mitral valve MV from prolapsing into the left atrium LA when the mitral valve closes.

[091] Various disease processes can impair proper function of one or more of the native valves of the heart H. These disease processes include degenerative processes (e.g., Barlow's Disease, fibroelastic deficiency), inflammatory processes (e.g., Rheumatic Heart Disease), and infectious processes (e.g., endocarditis). In addition, damage to the left ventricle LV or the right ventricle RV from prior heart attacks (i.e., myocardial infarction secondary to coronary artery disease) or other heart diseases (e.g., cardiomyopathy) can distort a native valve's geometry, which can cause the native valve to dysfunction. However, the vast majority of patients undergoing valve surgery, such as surgery to the mitral valve MV, suffer from a degenerative disease that causes a malfunction in a leaflet (e.g., leaflets 20, 22) of a native valve (e.g., the mitral valve MV), which results in prolapse and regurgitation.

[092] Generally, a native valve may malfunction in two different ways: (1) valve stenosis; and (2) valve regurgitation. Valve stenosis occurs when a native valve does not open completely and thereby causes an obstruction of blood flow. Typically, valve stenosis results from buildup of calcified material on the leaflets of a valve, which causes the leaflets to thicken and impairs the ability of the valve to fully open to permit forward blood flow.

[093] The second type of valve malfunction, valve regurgitation, occurs when the leaflets of the valve do not close completely thereby causing blood to leak back into the prior chamber (e.g., causing blood to leak from the left ventricle to the left atrium). There are three mechanisms by which a native valve becomes regurgitant—or incompetent—which include Carpentier's type I, type II, and type III malfunctions. A Carpentier type I malfunction involves the dilation of the annulus such that normally functioning leaflets are distracted from each other and fail to form a tight seal (i.e., the leaflets do not coapt properly). Included in a type I mechanism malfunction are perforations of the leaflets, as are present in endocarditis. A Carpentier's type II malfunction involves prolapse of one or more leaflets of a native valve above a plane of coaption. A Carpentier's type III malfunction involves restriction of the motion of one or more leaflets of a

native valve such that the leaflets are abnormally constrained below the plane of the annulus. Leaflet restriction can be caused by rheumatic disease (Ma) or dilation of a ventricle (IIIb).

- [094] Referring to Figure 4, when a healthy mitral valve MV is in a closed position, the anterior leaflet 20 and the posterior leaflet 22 coapt, which prevents blood from leaking from the left ventricle LV to the left atrium LA. Referring to Figure 5, regurgitation occurs when the anterior leaflet 20 and/or the posterior leaflet 22 of the mitral valve MV is displaced into the left atrium LA during systole. This failure to coapt causes a gap 26 between the anterior leaflet 20 and the posterior leaflet 22, which allows blood to flow back into the left atrium LA from the left ventricle LV during systole. As set forth above, there are several different ways that a leaflet (e.g. leaflets 20, 22 of mitral valve MV) may malfunction, which can thereby lead to regurgitation.
- [095] Referring to Figure 6, in certain situations, the mitral valve MV of a patient can have a wide gap 26 between the anterior leaflet 20 and the posterior leaflet 22 when the mitral valve is in a closed position (i.e., during the systolic phase). For example, the gap 26 can have a width W between about 2.5 mm and about 17.5 mm, such as between about 5 mm and about 15 mm, such as between about 7.5 mm and about 12.5 mm, such as about 10 mm. In some situations, the gap 26 can have a width W greater than 15 mm. In any of the above-mentioned situations, a valve repair device is desired that is capable of engaging the anterior leaflet 20 and the posterior leaflet 22 to close the gap 26 and prevent regurgitation of blood through the mitral valve MV.
- [096] Although stenosis or regurgitation can affect any valve, stenosis is predominantly found to affect either the aortic valve AV or the pulmonary valve PV, and regurgitation is predominantly found to affect either the mitral valve MV or the tricuspid valve TV. Both valve stenosis and valve regurgitation increase the workload of the heart H and may lead to very serious conditions if left un-treated; such as endocarditis, congestive heart failure, permanent heart damage, cardiac arrest, and ultimately death. Because the left side of the heart (i.e., the left atrium LA, the left ventricle LV, the mitral valve MV, and the aortic valve AV) is primarily responsible for circulating the flow of blood throughout the body, malfunction of the mitral valve MV or the aortic valve AV is

particularly problematic and often life threatening. Accordingly, because of the substantially higher pressures on the left side of the heart, dysfunction of the mitral valve MV or the aortic valve AV is much more problematic.

[097] Malfunctioning native heart valves may either be repaired or replaced. Repair typically involves the preservation and correction of the patient's native valve. Replacement typically involves replacing the patient's native valve with a biological or mechanical substitute. Typically, the aortic valve AV and pulmonary valve PV are more prone to stenosis. Because stenotic damage sustained by the leaflets is irreversible, the most conventional treatments for a stenotic aortic valve or stenotic pulmonary valve are removal and replacement of the valve with a surgically implanted heart valve, or displacement of the valve with a transcatheter heart valve. The mitral valve MV and the tricuspid valve TV are more prone to deformation of leaflets, which, as described above, prevents the mitral valve or tricuspid valve from closing properly and allows for regurgitation or back flow of blood from the ventricle into the atrium (e.g., a deformed mitral valve MV may allow for regurgitation or back flow from the left ventricle LV to the left atrium LA). The regurgitation or back flow of blood from the ventricle to the atrium results in valvular insufficiency. Deformations in the structure or shape of the mitral valve MV or the tricuspid valve TV are often repairable. In addition, regurgitation can occur due to the chordae tendineae 10 becoming dysfunctional (e.g., the chordae tendineae may stretch or rupture), which allows the anterior leaflet 20 and the posterior leaflet 22 to be reverted such that blood is regurgitated into the left atrium LA. The problems occurring due to dysfunctional chordae tendineae 10 can be repaired by repairing the chordae tendineae or the structure of the mitral valve (e.g., by securing the leaflets 20, 22 at the affected portion of the mitral valve).

[098] Implantable prosthetic devices for repairing the mitral valve can repair the structure of the mitral valve to approximate the leaflets together and reduce regurgitation. If leaflets are not able to open a sufficient amount once an implant is in place, however, an increase in the pressure gradient across a valve can occur. For example, a pressure gradient of 5 mmHg or more across the mitral valve is correlated with the development of stenosis in the valve. Thus, there can be a correlation between the pressure gradient across the mitral valve

and the rigidity of the repair device used to repair the valve. An implant that maintains an effective orifice area when the leaflets are open can maintain a lower pressure gradient than conventional implants. In the exemplary embodiments described herein, the implants can be configured to both reduce regurgitation when the native valve is closed and only minimally impact pressure gradients across the native valve when the native valve is open. The exemplary valve repair devices can also be useful for valves with a small valve area, such as less than 4.0 cm². The exemplary embodiments described herein can enhance leaflet mobility and effective orifice area (EOA) after implantation as compared to valve replacement devices that do not open or flex open as the heart beats.

- [0099] Various embodiments described herein approximate the leaflets while not excessively reducing the EOA and thereby only minimally affecting the pressure gradient across the native valve. In one exemplary embodiment, this is done by locking clasp and/or paddle arms in an open or partially position and/or by allowing for movement of the paddles with the native valve leaflet. These embodiments can permit tissue ingrowth such that a double orifice is formed. This provides a healing response while mitigating the restriction of the native valve.
- [0100] As will be described in more detail below, pressure gradients across the mitral valve or across the tricuspid valve can be kept at acceptable levels with the prosthetic valve repair devices described herein. In some exemplary embodiments, devices described in U.S. provisional application no. 62/744,031, filed October 10, 2018, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety, can be flexible to allow the paddles of the device to flex when the native valve opens. This flexibility can reduce the amount of immobilized tissue of the leaflets when a device is clasped onto the leaflets and can reduce the change in pressure gradient.
- [0101] Certain exemplary embodiments for increasing the mobility of the leaflets can have an implantable prosthetic device with increased flexibility and/ or that can move and/or flex with the leaflets as they open and close during the cardiac cycle. This can be achieved by configuring the paddles to open and close with the native valve during the cardiac cycle, by reducing the profile of the coaption device, by

reducing the profile of the paddles, and/or by making the paddles flexible enough to flex open with the native valve during the cardiac cycle.

- [0102] In other exemplary embodiments, flexibility of the leaflets can be improved by having both a flexible portion and an immobilized portion of the device, once implanted. In certain exemplary embodiments, the paddles can remain fixed, or propped, open. This can immobilize the tips of the leaflets while maintaining mobility of the leaflet. As will be explained in more detail below, these embodiments can provide an improved acute response in reducing regurgitation and/or in providing tissue ingrowth.
- [0103] The devices and procedures disclosed herein make reference to repairing the structure of a mitral valve. However, it should be understood that the devices and concepts provided herein can be used to repair any native valve, as well as any component of a native valve. Referring now to Figure 7, any of the devices and concepts provided herein can be used to repair the tricuspid valve TV. For example, any of the devices and concepts provided herein can be used between any two of the anterior leaflet 30, septal leaflet 32, and posterior leaflet 34 to prevent regurgitation of blood from the right ventricle into the right atrium. In addition, any of the devices and concepts provided herein can be used on all three of the leaflets 30, 32, 34 together to prevent regurgitation of blood from the right ventricle to the right atrium. That is, the valve repair devices provided herein can be centrally located between the three leaflets 30, 32, 34.
- [0104] An exemplary implantable prosthetic device has a coaption element and at least one anchor. The anchor region can be where the individual components of the device are mechanically connected together, and there can be a cap or base at the anchor, as well as joints that permit the paddles and clasps to pivot. The coaption element is configured to be positioned within the native heart valve orifice to help fill the space and form a more effective seal, thereby reducing or preventing regurgitation described above. The coaption element can have a structure that is impervious to blood and that allows the native leaflets to close around the coaption element during ventricular systole to block blood from flowing from the left or right ventricle back into the left or right atrium, respectively. The prosthetic device can be configured to seal against two or three native valve leaflets; that is, the device may be used in the native mitral

(bicuspid) and tricuspid valves. The coaption element is sometimes referred to herein as a spacer because the coaption element can fill a space between improperly functioning native mitral or tricuspid leaflets that do not close completely.

- [0105] The coaption element can have various shapes. In some embodiments, the coaption element can have an elongated cylindrical shape having a round cross-sectional shape. In other embodiments, the coaption element can have an oval cross-sectional shape, a crescent cross-sectional shape, or various other non-cylindrical shapes. The coaption element can have an atrial portion positioned in or adjacent to the left atrium, a ventricular or lower portion positioned in or adjacent to the left ventricle, and a side surface that extends between the native mitral leaflets. In embodiments configured for use in the tricuspid valve, the atrial or upper portion is positioned in or adjacent to the right atrium, and the ventricular or lower portion is positioned in or adjacent to the right ventricle, and the side surface that extends between the native tricuspid leaflets.
- [0106] The anchor can be configured to secure the device to one or both of the native mitral leaflets such that the coaption element is positioned between the two native leaflets. In embodiments configured for use in the tricuspid valve, the anchor is configured to secure the device to one, two, or three of the tricuspid leaflets such that the coaption element is positioned between the three native leaflets. As described herein, the paddles (see paddles 520, 522 in Figures 36-38 for example) are anchoring paddles and are a part of the anchor. In some embodiments, the anchor can attach to the coaption element at a location adjacent the ventricular portion of the coaption element. In some embodiments, the anchor can attach to a shaft or actuation wire, to which the coaption element is also attached. In some embodiments, the anchor and the coaption element can be positioned independently with respect to each other by separately moving each of the anchor and the coaption element along the longitudinal axis of the shaft or actuation wire. In some embodiments, the anchor and the coaption element can be positioned simultaneously by moving the anchor and the coaption element together along the longitudinal axis of the shaft or actuation wire. The anchor can be configured to be positioned behind a native leaflet when implanted such that the leaflet is grasped by the anchor.

- [0107] The prosthetic device can be configured to be implanted via a delivery sheath. The coaption element and the anchor can be compressible to a radially compressed state and can be self-expandable to a radially expanded state when compressive pressure is released. The device can be configured for the anchor to be expanded radially away from the still-compressed coaption element initially in order to create a gap between the coaption element and the anchor. A native leaflet can then be positioned in the gap. The coaption element can be expanded radially, closing the gap between the coaption element and the anchor and capturing the leaflet between the coaption element and the anchor. In some embodiments, the anchor and coaption element are optionally configured to self-expand.
- [0108] The disclosed prosthetic devices can be configured such that the anchor is connected to a leaflet, taking advantage of the tension from native chordae tendineae to resist high systolic pressure urging the device toward the left atrium. During diastole, the devices can rely on the compressive and retention forces exerted on the leaflet that is grasped by the anchor.
- [0109] Referring now to Figures 8–14, a schematically illustrated implantable prosthetic device 100 is shown in various stages of deployment. The device 100 can include any other features for an implantable prosthetic device discussed in the present application, and the device 100 can be positioned to engage valve tissue 20, 22 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application).
- [0110] The device 100 is deployed from a delivery sheath or means for delivery 102 and includes a coaption portion 104 and an anchor portion 106. The coaption portion 104 of the device 100 includes a coaption element or means for coapting 110 that is adapted to be implanted between the leaflets of the native mitral valve and is slidably attached to an actuation wire or shaft 112. The anchor portion 106 is actuatable between open and closed conditions and can take a wide variety of forms, such as, for example, paddles, gripping elements, or the like. Actuation of the actuation wire or means for actuating 112 opens and closes the anchor portion 106 of the device 100 to grasp the mitral valve leaflets during implantation. The actuation wire or shaft 112 may take a wide variety of different forms. For example, the actuation wire or shaft may be threaded such

that rotation of the actuation wire or shaft moves the anchor portion 106 relative to the coaption portion 104. Or, the actuation wire or shaft may be unthreaded, such that pushing or pulling the actuation wire or shaft 112 moves the anchor portion 106 relative to the coaption portion 104.

- [0111] The anchor portion 106 of the device 100 includes outer paddles 120 and inner paddles 122 that are connected between a cap 114 and the coaption element or means for coacting 110 by portions 124, 126, 128. The portions 124, 126, 128 may be jointed and/or flexible to move between all of the positions described below. The jointed portions may be joints and the flexible portions may be flexible connections. The interconnection of the outer paddles 120, the inner paddles 122, the coaption element or means for coacting 110, and the cap 114 by the portions 124, 126, and 128 can constrain the device to the positions and movements illustrated herein.
- [0112] The actuation wire or means for actuating 112 extends through the delivery sheath and the coaption element or means for coacting 110 to the cap 114 at the distal connection of the anchor portion 106. Extending and retracting the actuation wire or means for actuating 112 increases and decreases the spacing between the coaption element or means for coacting 110 and the cap 114, respectively. A collar removably attaches the coaption element or means for coacting 110 to the delivery sheath or means for delivery 102 so that the actuation wire or means for actuating 112 slides through the collar and coaption element or means for coacting 110 during actuation to open and close the paddles 120, 122 of the anchor portion 106.
- [0113] Referring now to Figure 11, the anchor portion 106 includes attachment portions or gripping members. The illustrated gripping members are barbed clasps 130 that include a base or fixed arm 132, a moveable arm 134, barbs or means for securing 136, and a joint portion 138. The fixed arms 132 are attached to the inner paddles 122, with the joint portion 138 disposed proximate the coaption element or means for coacting 110. The barbed clasps have flat surfaces and do not fit in a recess of the paddle. Rather, the flat portions of the barbed clasps are disposed against the surface of the inner paddle 122. The joint portion 138 provides a spring force between the fixed and moveable arms 132, 134 of the barbed clasp 130. The joint portion 138 can be any suitable joint, such as a

flexible joint, a spring joint, a pivot joint, or the like. In certain embodiments, the joint portion 138 is a flexible piece of material integrally formed with the fixed and moveable arms 132, 134. The fixed arms 132 are attached (i.e., fixed) to the inner paddles 122 and remain stationary relative to the inner paddles 122 when the moveable arms 134 are opened to open the barbed clasps 130 and expose the barbs or means for securing 136. The barbed clasps 130 are opened by applying tension to actuation lines 116 attached to the moveable arms 134, thereby causing the moveable arms 134 to pivot on the joint portions 138.

[0114] During implantation, the paddles 120, 122 are opened and closed to grasp the native mitral valve leaflets between the paddles 120, 122 and the coaption element or means for coapting 110. The barbed clasps 130 further secure the native leaflets by engaging the leaflets with barbs or means for securing 136 and pinching the leaflets between the moveable and fixed arms 134, 132. The barbs or means for securing 136 of the barbed clasps 130 increase friction with the leaflets or may partially or completely puncture the leaflets. The actuation lines 116 can be actuated separately so that each barbed clasp 130 can be opened and closed separately. Separate operation allows one leaflet to be grasped at a time, or for the repositioning of a clasp 130 on a leaflet that was insufficiently grasped, without altering a successful grasp on the other leaflet. The barbed clasps 130 can be opened and closed relative to the position of the inner paddle 122 (as long as the inner paddle is in an open position), thereby allowing leaflets to be grasped in a variety of positions as the particular situation requires.

[0115] The barbed clasps 130 can be opened separately by pulling on an attached actuation line 116 that extends through the delivery sheath or means for delivery 102 to the barbed clasp 130. The actuation line 116 can take a wide variety of forms, such as, for example, a line, a suture, a wire, a rod, a catheter, or the like. The barbed clasps 130 can be spring loaded so that in the closed position the barbed clasps 130 continue to provide a pinching force on the grasped native leaflet. This pinching force remains constant regardless of the position of the inner paddles 122. Barbs or means for securing 136 of the barbed clasps 130 can pierce the native leaflets to further secure the native leaflets.

[0116] Referring now to Figure 8, the device 100 is shown in an elongated or fully open condition for deployment from the delivery sheath. The device 100 is loaded in

the delivery sheath in the fully open position, because the fully open position takes up the least space and allows the smallest catheter to be used (or the largest device 100 to be used for a given catheter size). In the elongated condition the cap 114 is spaced apart from the coaption element or means for coapting 110 such that the paddles 120, 122 of the anchor portion 106 are fully extended. In some embodiments, an angle formed between the interior of the outer and inner paddles 120, 122 is approximately 180 degrees. The barbed clasps 130 are kept in a closed condition during deployment through the delivery sheath or means for delivery 102 so that the barbs or means for securing 136 (Fig. 11) do not catch or damage the sheath or tissue in the patient's heart.

- [0117] Referring now to Figure 9, the device 100 is shown in an elongated detangling condition, similar to Figure 8, but with the barbed clasps 130 in a fully open position, ranging from about 140 degrees to about 200 degrees, to about 170 degrees to about 190 degrees, or about 180 degrees between fixed and moveable portions of the barbed clasps 130. Fully opening the paddles 120, 122 and the clasps 130 has been found to improve ease of detanglement from anatomy of the patient during implantation of the device 100.
- [0118] Referring now to Figure 10, the device 100 is shown in a shortened or fully closed condition. The compact size of the device 100 in the shortened condition allows for easier maneuvering and placement within the heart. To move the device 100 from the elongated condition to the shortened condition, the actuation wire or means for actuating 112 is retracted to pull the cap 114 towards the coaption element or means for coapting 110. The joints or flexible connections 126 between the outer paddle 120 and inner paddle 122 are constrained in movement such that compression forces acting on the outer paddle 120 from the cap 114 being retracted towards the coaption element or means for coapting 110 cause the paddles or gripping elements 120, 122 to move radially outward. During movement from the open to closed position, the outer paddles 120 maintain an acute angle with the actuation wire or means for actuating 112. The outer paddles 120 can optionally be biased toward a closed position. The inner paddles 122 during the same motion move through a considerably larger angle as they are oriented away from the coaption element or means for coapting 110 in the open condition and collapse along the sides of the coaption element or means for

coapting 110 in the closed condition. In certain embodiments, the inner paddles 122 are thinner and/or narrower than the outer paddles 120, and the joint or flexible portions 126, 128 connected to the inner paddles 122 can be thinner and/or more flexible. For example, this increased flexibility can allow more movement than the joint or flexible portion 124 connecting the outer paddle 120 to the cap 114. In certain other embodiments, the outer paddles 120 are narrower than the inner paddles 122. The joint or flexible portions 126, 128 connected to the inner paddles 122 can be more flexible, for example, to allow more movement than the joint or flexible portion 124 connecting the outer paddle 124 to the cap 114. In yet another embodiment, the inner paddles 122 can be the same or substantially the same width as the outer paddles.

[0119] Referring now to Figures 11–13, the device 100 is shown in a partially open, grasp-ready condition. To transition from the fully closed to the partially open condition, the actuation wire or means for actuating 112 is extended to push the cap 114 away from the coaption element or means for coapting 110, thereby pulling on the outer paddles 120, which in turn pulls on the inner paddles 122, causing the anchor portion 106 to partially unfold. The actuation lines 116 are also retracted to open the clasps 130 so that the leaflets can be grasped. In the example illustrated by Figure 11, the pair of inner and outer paddles 122, 120 are moved in unison, rather than independently, by a single actuation wire or means for actuating 112. Also, the positions of the clasps 130 are dependent on the positions of the paddles 122, 120. For example, referring to Figure 10 closing the paddles 122, 120 also closes the clasps.

[0120] Figure 11A illustrates an exemplary embodiment where the paddles 120, 122 are independently controllable. The device 100A illustrated by Figure 11A is similar to the device illustrated by Figure 11, except the device 100A includes two independent actuation wires 112A, 112B that are coupled to two independent caps 114A, 114B. To transition a first inner paddle and a first outer paddle from the fully closed to the partially open condition, the actuation wire or means for actuating 112A is extended to push the cap 114A away from the coaption element or means for coapting 110, thereby pulling on the outer paddle 120, which in turn pulls on the inner paddle 122, causing the first anchor portion 106 to partially unfold. To transition a second inner paddle and a second outer

paddle from the fully closed to the partially open condition, the actuation wire or means for actuating 112B is extended to push the cap 114 away from the coaption element or means for coapting 110, thereby pulling on the outer paddle 120, which in turn pulls on the inner paddle 122, causing the second anchor portion 106 to partially unfold. The independent paddle control illustrated by Figure 11A can be implemented on any of the devices disclosed by the present application.

- [0121] Referring now to Figure 12, one of the actuation lines 116 is extended to allow one of the clasps 130 to close. Referring now to Figure 13, the other actuation line 116 is extended to allow the other clasp 130 to close. Either or both of the actuation lines 116 may be repeatedly actuated to repeatedly open and close the barbed clasps 130.
- [0122] Referring now to Figure 14, the device 100 is shown in a fully closed and deployed condition. The deployed condition may be the position illustrated by Figure 14 or some position between the position illustrated by Figure 14 and the position illustrated by Figure 13. The delivery sheath or means for delivery 102 and actuation wire or means for actuating 112 are retracted and the paddles 120, 122 and clasps 130 remain fully closed around the leaflets. Once deployed, the device 100 may be biased toward the deployed position, such that the device 100 remains in the deployed position or such that the device closes to the deployed position each time the native valve closes, but the biasing allows the device to open past the deployed position each time the native valve opens. This can be achieved through the use of spring materials, such as steel, other metals, plastics, composites, etc. or shape-memory alloys such as Nitinol. For example, the jointed or flexible portions 124, 126, 128, 138, and/or the inner and outer paddles 122, and/or an additional biasing component (see biasing member 524 in Figure 47A) may be formed of metals such as steel or shape-memory alloy, such as Nitinol—produced in a wire, sheet, tubing, or laser sintered powder—and bias the outer paddles 120 toward being closed around the coaption element or means for coapting 110 and the barbed clasps 130 pinched around native leaflets. Similarly, the fixed and moveable arms 132, 134 of the barbed clasps 130 are biased to pinch the leaflets. In certain embodiments, the joint portions 124, 126, 128, 138, and/or the inner and outer paddles 122, and/or an additional biasing

component (see biasing member 524 in Figure 47A) may be formed of any other suitably elastic material, such as a metal or polymer material, to maintain the device in the closed condition after implantation or to close the device each time the native valve closes, but also allow the device to open or partially open each time the native valve opens.

[0123] Referring now to Figures 15–20, the implantable device 100 of Figures 8–14 is shown being delivered and implanted within the native mitral valve MV of the heart H. Referring now to Figure 15, the delivery sheath is inserted into the left atrium LA through the septum and the device 100 is deployed from the delivery sheath in the fully open condition. The actuation wire or means for actuating 112 is then retracted to move the device 100 into the fully closed condition shown in Figure 16. As can be seen in Figure 17, the device 100 is moved into position within the mitral valve MV into the ventricle LV and partially opened so that the leaflets 20, 22 can be grasped. Referring now to Figure 18, an actuation line 116 is extended to close one of the clasps 130, capturing a leaflet 20. Figure 19 shows the other actuation line 116 being then extended to close the other clasp 130, capturing the remaining leaflet 22. Lastly, as can be seen in Figure 20, the delivery sheath or means for delivery 102 and actuation wire or means for actuating 112 and actuation lines 116 are then retracted to leave the device 100 in the deployed position in the native mitral valve MV. IN the example illustrated by Figure 20, the device is fully closed in the deployed position. In other exemplary embodiments, the device 100 can be deployed in any position between the position illustrated by Figure 19 and Figure 20. That is, the device does not need to be fully closed in some exemplary embodiments.

[0124] The features including structure, material, and connectivity to each other to form the device, of the clasps, paddles, coaption elements and delivery devices and methods can vary among the exemplary embodiments, and combinations of the different embodiments can be combined to form additional embodiments within the scope of the disclosure. The devices can incorporate features such as those in U.S. provisional application no. 62/744,031, filed on October 10, 2018, and U.S. application no. 15/865,890, filed January 9, 2018, both of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entireties.

- [0125] The devices 100, 400, 400A 500, and 600 described herein can be positioned to engage valve tissue 20, 22 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application). In one exemplary embodiment, any of these devices 100, 400, 500, and 600 can be configured to open and close with the opening and closing of the native valve. In one exemplary embodiment, any of these devices 100, 400, 500, and 600 can be configured to be implanted in a partially open condition and can optionally be configured to further open and return to the partially open, implanted position with the opening and closing of the native valve.
- [0126] Referring now to Figures 21-23, an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device 400 is shown. The device 400 can include any other features for an implantable prosthetic device discussed in the present application, and the device 400 can be positioned to engage valve tissue 20, 22 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application).
- [0127] Referring now to Figure 21, the device 400 can include a coaption portion 404 and an anchor portion 406, the anchor portion 406 including a plurality of anchors 408. The coaption portion 404 includes a coaption or spacer member 410. The anchor portion 406 includes a plurality of paddles 420 (e.g., two in the illustrated embodiment), and a plurality of clasps 430 (e.g., two in the illustrated embodiment). A first or proximal collar 411, and a second collar or cap 414 are used to move the coaption portion 404 and the anchor portion 406 relative to one another.
- [0128] As shown in Figure 23, first connection portions 425 of the anchors 408 can be coupled to and extend from a first portion 417 of the coaption or spacer member 410, and second connection portions 421 of the anchors 408 can be coupled to the first collar 414. The proximal collar 411 can be coupled to a second portion 419 of the coaption member 410.
- [0129] The coaption member 410 and the anchors 408 can be coupled together in various ways. For example, as shown in the illustrated embodiment, the coaption member 410 and the anchors 408 can be coupled together by integrally forming the coaption member 410 and the anchors 408 as a single, unitary component.

This can be accomplished, for example, by forming the coaption member 410 and the anchors 408 from a braided or woven material, such as braided or woven nitinol wire. In other embodiments, the coaption member 410 and the anchors 408 can be coupled together by welding, fasteners, adhesive, joint connections, sutures, friction fittings, swaging, and/or other means for coupling.

[0130] Referring now to Figure 22, the anchors 408 can comprise first portions or outer paddles 420 and second portions or inner paddles 422 separated by joint portions 423. In this manner, the anchors 408 are configured similar to legs in that the inner paddles 422 are like upper portions of the legs, the outer paddles 420 are like lower portions of the legs, and the joint portions 423 are like knee portions of the legs. In the illustrated example, the inner paddle portion 422, the outer paddle portion 420, and the joint portion 423 are formed from a continuous strip of fabric, such as a metal fabric.

[0131] The anchors 408 can be configured to move between various configurations by axially moving the cap 414 relative to the proximal collar 411 and thus the anchors 408 relative to the coaption member 410 along a longitudinal axis extending between the first or distal and second or proximal portions 417, 419 of the coaption member 410. For example, the anchors 408 can be positioned in a straight configuration by moving the cap 414 away from the coaption member 410. In the straight configuration, the paddle portions are aligned or straight in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the device and the joint portions 423 of the anchors 408 are adjacent the longitudinal axis of the coaption member 410 (e.g., similar to the configuration shown in Figure 24). From the straight configuration, the anchors 408 can be moved to a fully folded configuration (e.g., similar to the configuration shown in Figure 25) by moving the cap 414 toward the coaption member 410. Initially as the cap 414 moves toward the coaption member 410, the anchors 408 bend at the joint portions 423, 425, 421 and the joint portions 423 move radially outward relative to the longitudinal axis of the coaption member 410 and axially toward the first portion 414 of the coaption member 410, as shown in Figures 22-23. As the cap 414 continues to move toward the coaption member 410, the joint portions 423 move radially inwardly relative to the longitudinal axis of the coaption member 410 and axially toward the proximal portion 419 of the coaption member 410, as shown in Figure 21.

- [0132] In some embodiments, an angle between the inner paddles 422 of the anchors 408 and the coaption member 410 can be approximately 180 degrees when the anchors 408 are in the straight configuration (see, e.g., similar to the position illustrated by Figure 24), and the angle between the inner paddles 422 of the anchors 408 and the coaption member 410 can be approximately 0 degrees when the anchors 408 are in the fully folded configuration (See, e.g. similar to the position illustrated by Figure 26). The anchors 408 can be positioned in various partially folded configurations such that the angle between the inner paddles 422 of the anchors 408 and the coaption member 410 can be approximately 10–170 degrees or approximately 45–135 degrees.
- [0133] In one exemplary embodiment, anchors of a deployed or implanted device can be positioned such that the angle between the inner paddles 422 of the anchors 408 and the coaption member 410 can be approximately 0–45 degrees, such as approximately 0–30 degrees, such as approximately 0–15 degrees. In some exemplary embodiments, the anchors of the deployed or implanted device are partially open such that the angle between the inner paddles 422 of the anchors 408 and the coaption member 410 can be at least 5 degrees, at least 10 degrees, at least 15 degrees, at least 20 degrees, such as at least 25 degrees.
- [0134] Configuring the prosthetic device 400 such that the anchors 408 can extend to a straight or approximately straight configuration (e.g. approximately 120–180 degrees relative to the coaption member 410) can provide several advantages. For example, this can reduce the radial crimp profile of the prosthetic device 400. It can also make it easier to grasp the native leaflets by providing a larger opening in which to grasp the native leaflets. Additionally, the relatively narrow, straight configuration can prevent or reduce the likelihood that the prosthetic device 400 will become entangled in native anatomy (e.g., chordae tendineae) when positioning and/or retrieving the prosthetic device 400 into the delivery apparatus.
- [0135] Configuring the prosthetic device 400 such that the deployed anchors 408 can be in an open configuration (e.g. approximately 5–45 degrees relative to the coaption member 410 or at least 5 degrees, at least 10 degrees, at least 15 degrees, at least 20 degrees, such as at least 25 degrees) can provide several advantages. For example, the anchors can place less stress on the native valve

leaflets, especially in cases where there is a wide gap between the valve leaflets. This benefit can be enhanced by allowing the anchors to open and close with the native valve, either by movement or flexing of the anchors. In some exemplary embodiments, the device is deployed with the anchors 408 fully closed (e.g. about 0 degrees relative to the coaption member 410) and the anchors are allowed to open and close with the native valve, either by movement or flexing of the anchors. In some exemplary embodiments, the device is deployed with the anchors 408 partially open (e.g. at least 5 degrees, at least 10 degrees, at least 15 degrees, at least 20 degrees, such as at least 25 degrees relative to the coaption member 410) and the anchors are allowed to further open and return to the deployed (partially open) configuration when the native valve closes, either by movement or flexing of the anchors.

- [0136] Referring again to Figure 22 the clasps 430 can comprise attachment or fixed portions 432 and arm or moveable portions 434. The attachment or fixed portions 432 can be coupled to the inner paddles 422 of the anchors 408 in various ways such as with sutures, adhesive, fasteners, welding, stitching, swaging, friction fit and/or other means for coupling.
- [0137] The moveable portions 434 can pivot relative to the fixed portions 432 between an open configuration (e.g., Figures 22) and a closed configuration (Figures 21 and 23). In some embodiments, the clasps 430 can be biased to the closed configuration. In the open configuration, the fixed portions 432 and the moveable portions 434 pivot away from each other such that native leaflets can be positioned between the fixed portions 432 and the moveable portions 434. In the closed configuration, the fixed portions 432 and the moveable portions 434 pivot toward each other, thereby clamping the native leaflets between the fixed portions 432 and the moveable portions 434.
- [0138] Referring now to Figure 21A, an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device 400A is shown. The device 400A can include any other features for an implantable prosthetic device discussed in the present application, and the device 400A can be positioned to engage valve tissue 20, 22 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application).

- [0139] The prosthetic device 400A can include a coaption portion 404A and an anchor portion 406A, the anchor portion 406A including a plurality of anchors 408A. The coaption portion 404A includes a coaption member or spacer 410A. The anchor portion 406A includes a plurality of paddles 420A (e.g., two in the illustrated embodiment), and a plurality of clasps 430A (e.g., two in the illustrated embodiment). A first or proximal collar 411A, and a second collar or cap 414A are used to move the coaption portion 404A and the anchor portion 406A relative to one another.
- [0140] The coaption member 410A extends from a proximal portion 419A assembled to the collar 411A to a distal portion 417A that connects to the anchors 408A. The coaption member 410A and the anchors 408A can be coupled together in various ways. For example, as shown in the illustrated embodiment, the coaption member 410A and the anchors 408A can be coupled together by integrally forming the coaption member 410A and the anchors 408A as a single, unitary component. This can be accomplished, for example, by forming the coaption member 410A and the anchors 408A from a continuous strip 401A of a braided or woven material, such as braided or woven nitinol wire.
- [0141] The anchors 408A are attached to the coaption member 410A by hinge portions 425A and to the cap 414A by hinge portions 421A. The anchors 408A can comprise first portions or outer paddles 420A and second portions or inner paddles 422A separated by joint portions 423A. The joint portions 423A are attached to paddle frames 424A that are hingeably attached to the cap 414A. In this manner, the anchors 408A are configured similar to legs in that the inner paddles 422A are like upper portions of the legs, the outer paddles 420A are like lower portions of the legs, and the joint portions 423A are like knee portions of the legs. In the illustrated example, the inner paddle portion 422A, the outer paddle portion 420A, and the joint portion 423A are formed from the continuous strip of fabric 401A, such as a metal fabric.
- [0142] The anchors 408A can be configured to move between various configurations by axially moving the cap 414A relative to the proximal collar 411A and thus the anchors 408A relative to the coaption member 410A along a longitudinal axis extending between the cap 414A and the proximal collar 411A. For example, the anchors 408 can be positioned in a straight configuration (see for example,

Figures 8, 9) by moving the cap 414A away from the coaption member 410A. In the straight configuration, the paddle portions 420A, 422A are aligned or straight in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the device and the joint portions 423A of the anchors 408A are adjacent the longitudinal axis of the coaption member 410A. From the straight configuration, the anchors 408 can be moved to a fully folded configuration (e.g., Figure 10) by moving the cap 414A toward the coaption member 410A. Initially, as the cap 414A moves toward the coaption member 410A, the anchors 408A bend at joint portions 421A, 423A, 425A, and the joint portions 423A move radially outwardly relative to the longitudinal axis of the device 400A and axially toward the distal portion 417A of the coaption member 410A. As the cap 414A continues to move toward the coaption member 410A, the joint portions 423A move radially inwardly relative to the longitudinal axis of the device 400A and axially toward the proximal portion 419A of the coaption member 410A.

[0143] In some embodiments, an angle between the inner paddles 422A of the anchors 408A and the coaption member 410A can be approximately 180 degrees when the anchors 408A are in the straight configuration, and the angle between the inner paddles 422A of the anchors 408A and the coaption member 410A can be approximately 0 degrees when the anchors 408A are in the fully folded configuration (see Figure 21A). The anchors 408A can be positioned in various partially folded configurations such that the angle between the inner paddles 422A of the anchors 408A and the coaption member 410A can be approximately 10–170 degrees or approximately 45–135 degrees.

[0144] Configuring the prosthetic device 400A such that the anchors 408A can extend to a straight or approximately straight configuration (e.g. approximately 120–180 degrees relative to the coaption member 410A) can provide several advantages. For example, this can reduce the radial crimp profile of the prosthetic device 400A. It can also make it easier to grasp the native leaflets by providing a larger opening in which to grasp the native leaflets. Additionally, the relatively narrow, straight configuration can prevent or reduce the likelihood that the prosthetic device 400A will become entangled in native anatomy (e.g., chordae tendineae) when positioning and/or retrieving the prosthetic device 400A into the delivery apparatus.

- [0145] In one exemplary embodiment, anchors of a deployed or implanted device can be positioned such that the angle between the inner paddles 422A of the anchors 408A and the coaption member 410A can be approximately 0–45 degrees, such as approximately 0-30 degrees, such as approximately 0-15 degrees. In some exemplary embodiments, the anchors of the deployed or implanted device are partially open such that the angle between the inner paddles 422A of the anchors 408A and the coaption member 410A can be at least 5 degrees, at least 10 degrees, at least 15 degrees, at least 20 degrees, such as at least 25 degrees.
- [0146] Configuring the prosthetic device 400A such that the deployed anchors 408A can be in an open configuration (e.g. approximately 5–45 degrees relative to the coaption member 410A or at least 5 degrees, at least 10 degrees, at least 15 degrees, at least 20 degrees, such as at least 25 degrees) can provide several advantages. For example, the anchors can place less stress on the native valve leaflets, especially in cases where there is a wide gap between the valve leaflets. This benefit can be enhanced by allowing the anchors to open and close with the native valve, either by movement or flexing of the anchors. In some exemplary embodiments, the device is deployed with the anchors 408 fully closed (e.g. about 0 degrees relative to the coaption member 410A) and the anchors are allowed to open and close with the native valve, either by movement or flexing of the anchors. In some exemplary embodiments, the device is deployed with the anchors 408 partially open (e.g. at least 5 degrees, at least 10 degrees, at least 15 degrees, at least 20 degrees, such as at least 25 degrees relative to the coaption member 410) and the anchors are allowed to further open and return to the deployed (partially open) configuration when the native valve closes, either by movement or flexing of the anchors.
- [0147] The clasps 430A can comprise attachment or fixed portions 432C and arm or moveable portions 434C. The attachment or fixed portions 432C can be coupled to the inner paddles 422A of the anchors 408A in various ways such as with sutures, adhesive, fasteners, welding, stitching, swaging, friction fit and/or other means for coupling. The clasps 430A are similar to the clasps 430.
- [0148] The moveable portions 434C can pivot relative to the fixed portions 432C between an open configuration (e.g., Figure 54A) and a closed configuration (Figures 53A). In some embodiments, the clasps 430A can be biased to the closed

configuration. In the open configuration, the fixed portions 432C and the moveable portions 434C pivot or flex away from each other such that native leaflets can be positioned between the fixed portions 432C and the moveable portions 434C. In the closed configuration, the fixed portions 432C and the moveable portions 434C pivot or flex toward each other, thereby clamping the native leaflets between the fixed portions 432C and the moveable portions 434C.

[0149] The strip 401A is attached to the collar 411A, cap 414A, paddle frames 424A, clasps 430A to form both the coaption portion 404A and the anchor portion 406A of the device 400A. In the illustrated embodiment, the coaption member 410A, hinge portions 421A, 423A, 425A, outer paddles 420A, and inner paddles 422A are formed from the continuous strip 401A. The continuous strip 401A may be a single layer of material or may include two or more layers. In certain embodiments, portions of the device 400A have a single layer of the strip of material 401A and other portions are formed from multiple overlapping or overlying layers of the strip of material 401A. For example, Figure 21A shows the coaption member 410A and inner paddles 422A formed from multiple overlapping layers of the strip of material 401A. The single continuous strip of material 401A can start and end in various locations of the device 400A. The ends of the strip of material 401A can be in the same location or different locations of the device 400A. For example, in the illustrated embodiment of Figure 21A, the strip of material begins and ends in the location of the inner paddles 422A.

[0150] Referring now to Figures 24-35, the implantable device 500 is shown being delivered and implanted within the native mitral valve MV of the heart H. As described above, the device 500 has an optional covering 540 over the coaption element 510, clasps 530, inner paddles 522 and/or the outer paddles 520. The device 500 is deployed from a delivery sheath 502 and includes a coaption portion 504 and an anchor portion 506 including a plurality of anchors 508 (e.g., two in the illustrated embodiment). The coaption portion 504 of the device includes a coaption element 510 for implantation between the leaflets 20, 22 of the native mitral valve MV that is slidably attached to an actuation wire or shaft 512.

[0151] The anchors 508 of the device 500 include outer paddles 520 and inner paddles 522 that are flexibly connected to the cap 514 and the coaption element 510. The

actuation wire 512 extends through a capture mechanism 503 (see Figure 30), delivery sheath 502, and the coaption element 510 to the cap 514 connected to the anchor portion 506. Extending and retracting the actuation wire 512 increases and decreases the spacing between the coaption element 510 and the cap 514, respectively. In the example illustrated by Figures 24-35, the pair of inner and outer paddles 522, 520 are moved in unison, rather than independently, by a single actuation wire 512. Also, the positions of the clasps 530 are dependent on the positions of the paddles 522, 520. For example, referring to Figure 34 closing the paddles 522, 520 also closes the clasps. In one exemplary embodiment, the device 500 can be made to have the paddles 520, 522 be independently controllable in the same manner as the Figure 11A embodiment.

- [0152] Fingers of the capture mechanism 503 removably attach the collar 511 to the delivery sheath 502. The collar 511 and the coaption element 510 slide along the actuation wire 512 during actuation to open and close the anchors 508 of the anchor portion 506. In some embodiments, the capture mechanism 503 is held closed around the collar 511 by the actuation wire 512, such that removal of the actuation wire 512 allows the fingers of the capture mechanism 503 to open, releasing the collar 511, and thus the coaption element 510.
- [0153] The coaption element 510 and paddles 520, 522 can be formed from a flexible material that may be a metal fabric, such as a mesh, woven, braided, or formed in any other suitable way or a laser cut or otherwise cut flexible material. The flexible material may be cloth, shape-memory alloy wire—such as Nitinol—to provide shape-setting capability, or any other flexible material suitable for implantation in the human body.
- [0154] The barbed clasps 530 include a base or fixed arm 532, a moveable arm 534, barbs 536 (see Figure 30), and a joint portion 538. The fixed arms 532 are attached to the inner paddles 522, with the joint portions 538 disposed proximate the coaption element 510. Sutures (not shown) attach the fixed arms 532 to the inner paddles 522. The fixed arms 532 can be attached to the inner paddles 522 with any suitable means, such as screws or other fasteners, crimped sleeves, mechanical latches or snaps, welding, adhesive, or the like. The fixed arms 532 remain substantially stationary when the moveable arms 534 are opened to open

the barbed clasps 530 and expose the barbs 536. The barbed clasps 530 are opened by applying tension to actuation lines 537 attached to the moveable arms 534, thereby causing the moveable arms 534 to pivot or flex on the joint portions 538.

[0155] During implantation, the anchors 508 are opened and closed to grasp the native mitral valve leaflets between the paddles 520, 522 and the coaption element 510. The outer paddles 520 have a wide curved shape that fits around the curved shape of the coaption element 510 to more securely grip the leaflets 20, 22. The curved shape and rounded edges of the outer paddle 520 also prohibits tearing of the leaflet tissue. The barbed clasps 530 further secure the native leaflets by engaging the leaflets with barbs 536 and pinching the leaflets between the moveable and fixed arms 534, 532. The barbs 536 of the barbed clasps 530 increase friction with the leaflets or may partially or completely puncture the leaflets. The actuation lines can be actuated separately so that each barbed clasp 530 can be opened and closed separately. Separate operation allows one leaflet to be grasped at a time, or for the repositioning of a clasp 530 on a leaflet that was insufficiently grasped, without altering a successful grasp on the other leaflet. The barbed clasps 530 can be fully opened and closed when the inner paddle 522 is not closed, thereby allowing leaflets to be grasped in a variety of positions as the particular situation requires.

[0156] The device 500 can be loaded in the delivery sheath in the fully open position, because the fully open position takes up the least space and allows the smallest catheter to be used (or the largest device 500 to be used for a given catheter size). Referring now to Figure 24, the delivery sheath is inserted into the left atrium LA through the septum and the device 500 is deployed from the delivery sheath 502 in the fully open condition. The actuation wire 512 is then retracted to move the device 500 into the fully closed condition shown in Figures 25-26 and then maneuvered towards the mitral valve MV as shown in Figure 27. Referring now to Figure 28, when the device 500 is aligned with the mitral valve MV, the actuation wire 512 is extended to open the paddles 520, 522 into the partially opened position and the actuation lines 537 are retracted to open the barbed clasps 530 to prepare for leaflet grasp. Next, as shown in Figures 29-30, the partially open device 500 is inserted through the mitral valve MV until leaflets

20, 22 are properly positioned in between the inner paddles 522 and the coaption element 510 and inside the open barbed clasps 530. Figure 31 shows the device 500 with both clasps 530 closed, though the barbs 536 of one clasp 530 missed one of the leaflets 22. As can be seen in Figures 31-33, the out of position clasp 530 is opened and closed again to properly grasp the missed leaflet 22. When both leaflets 20, 22 are grasped properly, the actuation wire 512 is retracted to move the device 500 into the fully closed position shown in Figure 34. With the device 500 fully implanted in the native mitral valve MV, the actuation wire 512 is withdrawn to release the capture mechanism 503 from the proximal collar 511. However, in other exemplary embodiments, the device is moved to a partially open position and released in the partially open position. Once deployed, the device 500 may be maintained in the fully closed position or a partially open deployed position

[0157] Referring now to Figures 36-38, an implantable device 500 is shown in various positions and configurations. The implantable device 500 can include any other features for an implantable prosthetic device discussed in the present application, and the device 500 can be positioned to engage valve tissue 20, 22 as part of any suitable valve repair system (e.g., any valve repair system disclosed in the present application).

[0158] The implantable device 500 has a proximal or attachment portion 505, a coaption element 510, inner anchor portions or inner paddles 522, outer anchor portions or outer paddles 520, anchor extension members or biasing members 524, and a distal portion 507. The inner paddles 522 are jointably attached between the coaption element 510 and the outer paddles 520. The outer paddles 520 are flexibly attached between the inner paddles 522 and the distal portion 507. The biasing members 524 are attached to the cap 514 at the distal portion 507 and extend to the joint portion 523 between the inner and outer paddles 522, 520. In some embodiments, the biasing members 524 are formed of a material that is more rigid and stiff than the material forming the paddles 522, 520 so that the biasing members 524 provide support for the paddles 522, 520. In one exemplary embodiment, the biasing members 524 are resilient enough or have resilient portions that allow the paddles 520, 522 to open and close with the opening and closing of the native valve. In one exemplary embodiment, the inner paddles 522

are stiff, relatively stiff, rigid, have rigid portions and/or are stiffened by a stiffening member or the fixed portion of the clasps 530. The stiffening of the inner paddle facilitates movement to the various different positions shown and described herein. The inner paddle 522, the outer paddle 520, the coaption can all be interconnected as described herein, such that the device 500 is constrained to the movements and positions shown and described herein.

- [0159] Referring now to Figures 36-37, the device 500 is shown in a partially open position. The device 500 is moved into the partially open position by an actuation wire or shaft 512 that passes through the attachment portion 505 and coaption element 510 and can removably engage the distal portion 507. The actuation wire 512 is extended through the attachment portion 505 such that a distance D between the attachment portion 505 and distal portion 507 increases as the actuation wire 512 is extended. In the example illustrated by Figures 36-37, the pair of inner and outer paddles 522, 520 are moved in unison, rather than independently, by a single actuation wire 512. Also, the positions of the clasps 530 are dependent on the positions of the paddles 522, 520. In one exemplary embodiment, the device 500 can be made to have the paddles 520, 522 be independently controllable in the same manner as the Figure 11A embodiment.
- [0160] Extending the actuation wire 512 pulls down on the bottom portions of the outer paddles 520 and biasing members 524. The outer paddles 520 and biasing members pull down on the inner paddles 522, where the inner paddles 522 are connected to the outer paddles 520 and the biasing members 524. Because the attachment portion 505 and coaption element 510 are held in place, the inner paddles 522 are caused to pivot or flex in an opening direction. Opening the paddles 522, 520 and biasing members 524 forms a gap 520A between the coaption element 510 and the inner paddle 522 that can receive and grasp the native leaflets 20.
- [0161] As is described above, some embodiments of the device 500 include clasps or gripping members 530. When the device 500 is partially opened the clasps 530 are exposed. In some embodiments, the closed clasps 530 (Figure 36) can be opened (Figure 37), thereby creating a second opening or gap 530A for receiving and capturing the native leaflets 20, 22. The extent of the gap 530A in the clasps

530 is limited to the extent that the inner paddle 522 has spread away from the coaption element 510.

[0162] Referring now to Figure 38, the device 500 is shown in a laterally extended or open position. The device 500 is moved into the laterally extended or open position by continuing to extend the actuation wire 512 described above, thereby increasing the distance D between the attachment portion 505 and distal portion 507. Continuing to extend the actuation wire 512 pulls down on the outer paddles 520 and biasing members 524, thereby causing the inner paddles 522 to spread apart further from the coaption element 510. In the laterally extended or open position, the inner paddles 522 extend horizontally more than in other positions of the device 500 and form an approximately 90-degree angle with the coaption element 510. Similarly, the biasing members 524 are at their maximum spread position when the device 500 is in the laterally extended or open position. The increased gap 520A formed in the laterally extended or open position allows clasps 530 to open further (not shown) before engaging the coaption element 510, thereby increasing the size of the gap 530A.

[0163] In some embodiments, the inner paddles 522A are stiff, relatively stiff, rigid, have rigid portions and/or are stiffened by a stiffening member or the fixed portion of the clasps 530C. The stiffening of the inner paddle allows the device to move to the various different positions shown and described herein.

[0164] In one exemplary embodiment, one or more devices having the design of the devices 100, 200, 400A, 500 described herein or another design can be configured to:

- a) Be implanted in a closed condition and open and close with the native valve, as the native valve opens and closes;
- b) Be implanted in a partially open condition and further open and move toward the partially open implanted condition with the native valve, as the native valve opens and closes; and/or
- c) Be implanted in a partially open condition and remain in the partially open implanted condition (i.e. remains stationary), as the native valve opens and closes.

- [0165] These device configurations reduce the pressure gradient across the native valve by allowing the area of the native valve that is captured by the device to move as the native valve opens and closes or reduces the pressure gradient across the native valve by maintaining the area of the native valve that is captured by the device in an open or partially open position.
- [0166] Any number of devices can be implanted to achieve these benefits. In the example illustrated by Figure 39, two implantable prosthetic devices in accordance with an exemplary embodiment are positioned on the leaflets 20, 22 of a mitral valve MV (viewed from the ventricular side of the mitral valve). While illustrated on a mitral valve, the devices can be implanted on any native heart valve. However, in other exemplary embodiments, only a single device is implanted. The illustrated implanted devices 100 are positioned side by side. As illustrated in Figure 39, one or more implants 100 can be used to approximate, or coapt, the leaflets together in a centrally located region of the leaflets. Figure 39 illustrates the leaflets in a partially closed position.
- [0167] Referring now to Figures 40A and 40B, the two implantable prosthetic devices 100 (each identified by a coaption element 110 and inner clasps 130) are shown implanted on the leaflets 20, 22 of a native mitral valve MV, from a point of view taken from the atrium looking down toward the ventricle. The leaflets are secured between the inner clasps 130 and outer clasps and/or paddles (not shown in the point of view of Figures 40A and 40B). The closed clasps and paddles on each device can be pivot between open and closed positions by the opening and closing of the mitral valve. In Figure 40A, the leaflets are approximated to each other by the device, and the leaflets and clasps are in an open configuration, as occurs during diastole. The opening of the leaflets, which occurs naturally, forces the clasps to open as well. The gap in Figure 40A has a “barbell” or “figure-eight” appearance because of the approximation of the center of the leaflets to each other by the device. On either side of the devices 100, the leaflets open, permitting blood to flow through from the left atrium to the left ventricle. The movement of the clasps is one exemplary embodiment of increasing the mobility of the leaflets to reduce the pressure gradient between the left atrium and left ventricle, which can occur when implantable prosthetic devices are implanted in a native cardiac valve and are maintained in a closed position while the native

valve leaflets open and close. The leaflet mobility permitted after the implantation of such as device as that in Figure 40A allows gaps of sufficient area between the leaflets, and an effective orifice area, great enough to keep the pressure gradient between the atrium and ventricle less than or equal to 5 mmHg after implantation of the device(s). The leaflet mobility permitted after the implantation of such as device as that in Figure 40A allows reduces the stress placed on the native valve leaflet tissue by the claps and/or paddles.

[0168] Referring now to Figure 40B, the devices 100 implanted on the mitral valve leaflets 20, 22 are shown during systole, when the leaflets are closed. The closed clasps 134 (outer clasps and paddles not shown in this view) are moved in toward a central coaption element 110 and the leaflets are approximated together across the entire width of each leaflet. The implantable prosthetic devices assist in hold the central portions leaflets together during systole to correct regurgitation that would otherwise occur in a diseased or defective valve.

[0169] Referring now to Figures 41A-42B, an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device 100 secured to leaflet tissue, having clasps each with an inner clasp 134 and an outer clasp 132, inner paddles 122, outer paddles 120, and a coaption element 110, is shown. Figure 41A illustrates a side cross-section schematic of an exemplary embodiment, where the cross-section is taken through the center of the device. Figure 41A illustrates the implantable prosthetic device in a closed position, with the clasps and the paddles positioned to hold the leaflets secure against the coaption element. Each leaflet 20, 22 is secured between an inner clasp 134 and an outer clasp 132. The clasps can have barbs 136 that penetrate the leaflet tissue to further secure the leaflet in between the clasps. The inner and outer clasps 134, 132 can be pivotally secured to the coaption element at a joint portion 138. The coaption element can be of any of the embodiments described herein regarding size, shape, and material. The inner paddles 122 can each be connected to the coaption element by a joint portion 128, and the outer paddles 120 can each be connected to the cap 114 by a joint portion 124. The joint portions 138, 128, and 124 can each be positioned on the coaption element 110 or on the cap 114.

[0170] Figure 41B illustrates a cross-section of the device in Figure 41A, taken along line 41B-41B, looking in a downward direction, from the direction of the atrium

towards the ventricle. In Figure 41B, the leaflets 20, 22 are secured between the inner and outer clasps 134, 132, further secured in place by barbs 136. The clasps 134, 132 and paddles 120, 122 are in a closed position. The leaflets are in a closed position, with the leaflet edges coapted together and in the center region of the leaflets, where the leaflets are positioned between the clasps, the leaflets are coapted around the coaption device.

[0171] Figures 42A and 42B are representative of two embodiments. That is, Figures 42A and 42B illustrate both:

- a) An embodiment where the device moves from the closed position illustrated by Figures 41A and 41B to the partially open position illustrated by Figures 42A and 42B when the native valve opens and closes; and
- b) An embodiment where the device is implanted in the partially open position illustrated by Figures 42A and 42B.

[0172] In the first example, Figures 42A and 42B illustrate the device moved to a partially open position from the position shown in Figures 41A and 41B by the native valve leaflets. In the open position, the inner clasps 134, outer clasps 132, inner paddles 122, and outer paddles 120 are all pivoted away from the coaption element at the joint portions 124, 128, 138 by the opening of the native valve leaflets. This position of the clasps and paddles can permit less of the leaflets to be coapted against the coaption device during diastole, thereby increasing the effective orifice area and reducing the gradient in blood pressure between the ventricle and atrium.

[0173] Figure 42B illustrates the cross-section of the device in the open position in Figure 42A, taken along line 42B-42B, looking in a downward direction, from the atrium towards the ventricle. In Figure 42B, the leaflets 20, 22 remain secured between the inner and outer clasps, further secured by barbs 136. The leaflets are in an open position, and a central region of each of the leaflets remains coapted to the coaption device. The gap 26 between the leaflets is visible.

[0174] The device 100 can be configured to be moved from the closed position (e.g. Figures 41A and 41B) to the partially open position (e.g. Figures 42A and 42B) in

a wide variety of different ways. For example, in one exemplary embodiment the paddles 120, 122 can be biased to the closed position by one or more spring elements, but the biasing force is low enough to be overcome by the opening and closing of the native valve and partially open the paddles 120, 122. In another exemplary embodiment, the paddles 120, 122 are not biased to any position and can freely move between the closed position and the partially open position. In yet another exemplary embodiment, the paddles 120, 122 are closed, but the paddles are flexible enough to flex from a closed position to a position that is similar to the partially open position illustrated by Figures 42A and 42B. Any device configuration that reduces the constraints on the native valve leaflets by the device as the native valve moves from the closed state to the open state can be implemented.

[0175] In the second example, Figure 42A illustrates an embodiment where the device 100 is implanted in partially open position. In one exemplary embodiment, the device is configured to remain fixed, once implanted, such that the inner clasps 134, outer clasps 132, inner paddles 122, and outer paddles 120 maintain the same position throughout the cardiac cycle. The leaflets will still open and close during the cardiac cycle while the clasps and paddles of the device remain fixed in this partially open position. This is another exemplary embodiment of permitting more flexibility of the native valve leaflets upon implantation of a prosthetic implant device to maintain a low pressure gradient between the atrium and ventricle.

[0176] In yet another exemplary embodiment, the device 100 is still implanted in a partially open position illustrated by Figures 42A and 42B, but the implanted device is configured to open further than partially open position as the native valve leaflets open during the cardiac cycle. This is yet another exemplary embodiment of permitting more flexibility of the native valve leaflets upon implantation of a prosthetic implant device to maintain a low-pressure gradient between the atrium and ventricle.

[0177] Referring now to Figures 43A-44B, an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device 100 secured to leaflet tissue, having inner clasps, 134, outer clasps 132, inner paddles 122, and outer paddles 120 is shown. Figure 43A illustrates a side cross-section schematic of an exemplary embodiment, where the

cross-section is taken through the center of the device. In this embodiment, there is no coaption spacer element. There can be a cap 114 on which the inner clasps 134 and outer clasps 132 are connected with a joint portion 138, on which the inner paddles are connected to with a joint portion 128, and on which the outer paddles are connected with a joint portion 124. Figure 43A illustrates the implantable prosthetic device in a closed position, with the leaflets also in a closed position. Each leaflet 20, 22 is secured between an inner clasp 134 and an outer clasp 132. The clasps can have barbs 136 that penetrate the leaflet tissue to further secure the leaflet in between the clasps. The inner and outer clasps 134, 132 can be pivotally or flexibly secured to the coaption element at a joint portion 138. The inner paddles 122 can each be connected to the coaption element by a flexible portion or joint portion 128, and the outer paddles 120 can each be connected to the cap 114 by a joint portion 124.

[0178] Figure 43B illustrates a cross-section of the device in Figure 43A, taken along line 43B-43B, looking in a downward direction, from the direction of the atrium towards the ventricle. In Figure 44B, the leaflets 20, 22 are secured between the inner and outer clasps 134, 132. The clasps 134, 132 and paddles 120, 122 are in a closed position. The leaflets are in a closed position, with the leaflets coapted together.

[0179] Figures 44A and 44B are representative of two embodiments. That is, Figures 44A and 44B illustrate both:

- a) An embodiment where the device moves from the closed position illustrated by Figures 43A and 43B to the partially open position illustrated by Figures 44A and 44B when the native valve opens and closes; and
- b) An embodiment where the device is implanted in the partially open position illustrated by Figures 44A and 44B.

[0180] In the first example, Figures 44A and 44B illustrate the device moved to a partially open position from the position shown in Figures 43A and 4B by the native valve leaflets. In the open position, the inner clasps 134, outer clasps 132, inner paddles 122, and outer paddles 120 are all pivoted at the joint portions

124, 128, 138 by the opening of the native valve leaflets. This position of the clasps and paddles can permit the leaflets to move more (as compared to the position of the closed device shown in Figures (43A and 43B), thereby increasing the effective orifice area and reducing the gradient in blood pressure between the ventricle and atrium.

- [0181] Figure 44B illustrates the cross-section of the device in the open position in Figure 44A, looking in a downward direction, from the atrium towards the ventricle. In Figure 44B, the leaflets 20, 22 remain secured between the inner and outer clasps. The leaflets are in an open position, and a central region of each of the leaflets remains connected to the clasps. The gap 26 between the leaflets is visible.
- [0182] The device 100 can be configured to be moved from the closed position (e.g. Figures 43A and 43B) to the partially open position (e.g. Figures 44A and 44B) in a wide variety of different ways. For example, in one exemplary embodiment the paddles 120, 122 can be biased to the closed position by one or more spring elements, but the biasing force is low enough to be overcome by the opening and closing of the native valve and partially open the paddles 120, 122. In another exemplary embodiment, the paddles 120, 122 are not biased to any position and can freely move between the closed position and the partially open position. In yet another exemplary embodiment, the paddles 120, 122 are closed, but the paddles are flexible enough to flex from a closed position to a position that is similar to the partially open position illustrated by Figures 44A and 44B. Any device configuration that reduces the constraints on the native valve leaflets by the device as the native valve moves from the closed state to the open state can be implemented.
- [0183] In the second example, Figure 44A illustrates an embodiment where the device 100 is implanted in partially open position. In one exemplary embodiment, the device is configured to remain fixed, once implanted, such that the inner clasps 134, outer clasps 132, inner paddles 122, and outer paddles 120 maintain the same position throughout the cardiac cycle. The leaflets will still open and close during the cardiac cycle while the clasps and paddles of the device remain fixed in this partially open position. This is another exemplary embodiment of permitting more flexibility of the native valve leaflets upon implantation of a

prosthetic implant device to maintain a low pressure gradient between the atrium and ventricle.

- [0184] In yet another exemplary embodiment, the device 100 is still implanted in a partially open position illustrated by Figures 44A and 44B, but the implanted device is configured to open further than the illustrated partially open position as the native valve leaflets open during the cardiac cycle. This is yet another exemplary embodiment of permitting more flexibility of the native valve leaflets upon implantation of a prosthetic implant device to maintain a low-pressure gradient between the atrium and ventricle.
- [0185] Referring now to Figures 45A-46B, an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device 100 secured to leaflet tissue 20, 22, having clasps 134, 132 and a coaption element 110, but no paddles is shown. Figure 45A illustrates a side cross-section schematic of an exemplary embodiment, where the cross-section is taken through the center of the device. Figure 45A illustrates the implantable prosthetic device in a closed position, with the clasps positioned to hold the leaflets secure against the coaption element. Each leaflet 20, 22 is secured between an inner clasp 134 and an outer clasp 132. The clasps can have barbs 136 that penetrate the leaflet tissue to further secure the leaflet in between the clasps. The inner and outer clasps 134, 132 can be pivotally secured to the coaption element at a joint portion 138. The coaption element can be of any of the embodiments described herein regarding size, shape, and material. The joint portions 138, can be positioned on the coaption element 110 or on the cap 114.
- [0186] Figure 45B illustrates a cross-section of the device in Figure 45A, taken along line 45B-45B, looking in a downward direction, from the atrium towards the ventricle. In Figure 45B, the leaflets 20, 22 are secured between the inner and outer clasps 134, 132, further secured by the barbs 136. The clasps 134, 132 are in a closed position. The leaflets are in a closed position, with the leaflets coapted together and in the center region of the leaflets, where positioned between the clasps, the leaflets are coapted around the coaption device.
- [0187] Figures 46A and 46B are representative of two embodiments. That is, Figures 46A and 46B illustrate both:

- a) An embodiment where the device moves from the closed position illustrated by Figures 45A and 45B to the partially open position illustrated by Figures 46A and 46B when the native valve opens and closes; and
- b) An embodiment where the device is implanted in the partially open position illustrated by Figures 46A and 46B.

[0188] In the first example, Figures 46A and 46B illustrate the device moved to a partially open position from the position shown in Figures 45A and 45B by the native valve leaflets. In the open position, the inner clasps 134 and outer clasps 132 are pivoted at the joint portions 138 by the opening of the native valve leaflets. This position of the clasps can permit the leaflets to move more (as compared to the position of the closed device shown in Figures (45A and 45B), thereby increasing the effective orifice area and reducing the gradient in blood pressure between the ventricle and atrium.

[0189] Figure 46B illustrates the cross-section of the device in the open position in Figure 46A, taken along line 46B-46B, looking in a downward direction, from the atrium towards the ventricle. In Figure 46B, the leaflets 20, 22 remain secured between the inner and outer clasps. The leaflets are in an open position, and a central region of each of the leaflets remains connected to the clasps and coapted around the coaption element 110. The gap 26 between the leaflets is visible.

[0190] The device 100 can be configured to be moved from the closed position (e.g. Figures 45A and 45B) to the partially open position (e.g. Figures 46A and 46B) in a wide variety of different ways. For example, in one exemplary embodiment the clasps 132, 134 can be biased to the closed position by one or more spring elements, but the biasing force is low enough to be overcome by the opening and closing of the native valve and partially open the paddles 120, 122. In another exemplary embodiment, the clasps 132, 134 are not biased to any position and can freely move between the closed position and the partially open position. In yet another exemplary embodiment, the clasps 132, 134 are closed, but the clasps are flexible enough to flex from a closed position to a position that is similar to the partially open position illustrated by Figures 46A and 46B. Any device configuration that reduces the constraints on the native valve leaflets by the

device as the native valve moves from the closed state to the open state can be implemented.

- [0191] In the second example, Figure 46A illustrates an embodiment where the device 100 is implanted in partially open position. In one exemplary embodiment, the device is configured to remain fixed, once implanted, such that the inner clasps 134 and outer clasps 132 maintain the same position throughout the cardiac cycle. The leaflets will still open and close during the cardiac cycle while the clasps of the device remain fixed in this partially open position. This is another exemplary embodiment of permitting more flexibility of the native valve leaflets upon implantation of a prosthetic implant device to maintain a low pressure gradient between the atrium and ventricle.
- [0192] In yet another exemplary embodiment, the device 100 is still implanted in a partially open position illustrated by Figures 46A and 46B, but the implanted device is configured to open further than the illustrated partially open position as the native valve leaflets open during the cardiac cycle. This is yet another exemplary embodiment of permitting more flexibility of the native valve leaflets upon implantation of a prosthetic implant device to maintain a low-pressure gradient between the atrium and ventricle.
- [0193] Referring now to Figures 47A-48B, another exemplary embodiment is illustrated. In this embodiment, the device 500 can have a wide variety of different shapes and sizes. Referring to 47A and 47B, the coaption element 510 functions as a gap filler in the valve regurgitant orifice, such as the gap 26 in the mitral valve MV illustrated by Figure 6. Because the coaption element 510 is deployed between two opposing valve leaflets 20, 22, the leaflets will not coapt against each other in the area of the coaption element 510, but coapt against the coaption element 510 instead. This reduces the distance the leaflets 20, 22 need to be approximated. A reduction in leaflet approximation distance can result in several advantages. For example, the coaption element and resulting reduced approximation can facilitate repair of severe mitral valve anatomies, such as large gaps in functional valve disease (see for example, Figure 6). Since the coaption element reduces the distance the native valves have to be approximated, the stress in the native valves can be reduced or minimized. Shorter approximation distance of the valve leaflets 20, 22 can require less

approximation forces which can result in less tension of the leaflets and less diameter reduction of the valve annulus. The smaller reduction of the valve annulus (or no reduction of the valve annulus) can contribute to less reduction in valve orifice area. As a result, the coaption element can reduce the transvalvular gradients.

- [0194] Referring now to Figures 47A and 47B, in exemplary embodiments having a paddle frame, clasps, biasing members, and a coaption element, the biasing members 524 conform to the shape of the coaption element 510. In one example, if the coaption element 510 is wider than the biasing members 524, a distance (gap) between the opposing leaflets 20, 22 can be created by the device 500. Referring to the exemplary embodiment illustrated in Figures 47A and 47B, the paddles 522, 520 surround the coaption element 510. Thus, when the leaflets 20, 22 are coapted against the coaption element 510, the leaflets 20, 22 fully surround or “hug” the coaption element 510 in its entirety, thus small leaks on the medial and lateral aspects of the coaption element 510 can be prevented.
- [0195] Referring to Figures 47A and 47B, because biasing members 524 of the paddle frames 520, 522 conform to the shape of the coaption element 510, the valve leaflets 20, 22 can be coapted completely around the coaption element by the biasing member 524, including on the lateral and medial aspects 601, 603 of the coaption element 510. This coaption of the leaflets 20, 22 against the lateral and medial aspects of the coaption element 510 would seem to contradict the statement above that the presence of a coaption element 510 minimizes the distance the leaflets need to be approximated. However, the distance the leaflets 20, 22 need to be approximated is still minimized if the coaption element 510 is placed precisely at a regurgitant gap and the regurgitant gap is less than the width (medial – lateral) of the coaption element 510.
- [0196] Figure 47A illustrates the geometry of the coaption element 510 and the paddle frame elements (inner paddle 522, outer paddle 520, and biasing member 524) from a cross-section view, taken from cross-section farther toward a forward facing side view rather than from the center. In this cross-section, offset from the center of the device, the leaflets 20, 22 are shown to be wrapped around the coaption element. In the center, the leaflets 20, 22 are positioned between the inner clasp 134 and outer clasp 132 on each side of the device. As can be seen in

this view, the coaption element 510 has a tapered shape being smaller in dimension in the area closer to where the inside surfaces of the leaflets 20, 22 are required to coapt and increase in dimension as the coaption element extends toward the atrium. The anatomy of the leaflets 20, 22 is such that the inner sides of the leaflets coapt at the free end portions and the leaflets 20, 22 start receding or spreading apart from each other. The leaflets 20, 22 spread apart in the atrial direction, towards the annulus where the leaflets are attached. The depicted native valve geometry is accommodated by a tapered coaption element geometry. Still referring to Figure 47A, the tapered coaption element geometry, in conjunction with the illustrated biasing component 524 which biases the paddles 522, 520 (toward the valve annulus) can help to achieve coaptation on the lower end of the leaflets, reduce stress, and minimize transvalvular gradients.

- [0197] Referring to Figure 47B, a schematic atrial view depicts the paddle frames (which would not actually be visible from a true atrial view), conforming to the spacer geometry. The opposing leaflets 20, 22 (the ends of which would also not be visible in the true atrial view) being approximated by the paddles, to fully surround or “hug” the coaption element 510.
- [0198] Referring again to Figure 47B, the coaption element 510 can take a wide variety of different shapes. In one exemplary embodiment, when viewed from the top (and/or sectional views from the top), the coaption element has an oval shape or an elliptical shape. The oval or elliptical shape can allow the additional biasing components 524 to conform to the shape of the coaption element and/or can reduce lateral leaks.
- [0199] As mentioned above, the coaption element 510 can reduce tension of the opposing leaflets by reducing the distance the leaflets need to be approximated to the coaption element 510 at the positions 601, 603. The reduction of the distance of leaflet approximation at the positions 601, 603 can result in the reduction of leaflet stresses and gradients. In addition, as is also explained above, the native valve leaflets 20, 22 can surround or “hug” the coaption element in order to prevent lateral leaks. In one exemplary embodiment, the geometrical characteristics of the coaption element can be designed to preserve and augment these two characteristics of the device 500.

- [0200] In one exemplary embodiment, the valve repair device 500 and its coaption element 510 are designed to conform to the geometrical anatomy of the valve leaflets 20, 22. To achieve valve sealing, the valve repair device 500 can be designed to coapt the native leaflets to the coaption element, completely around the coaption element, including at the medial 601 and lateral 603 positions of the coaption element 510. Additionally, a reduction on forces required to bring the leaflets into contact with the coaption element 510 at the positions 601, 603 can minimize leaflet stress and gradients.
- [0201] Figures 48A and 48B illustrate the device of Figures 47A and 47B where the pair of paddles 522, 520 are in a partially open position. The clasps 532, 534 are moved with the pair of paddles 520, 522 relative to the coaption element 510 to the illustrated partially open position. In Figure 48A, the cross-section view is taken farther toward a forward facing side of the device rather than from the center. In this cross-section, offset from the center of the device, the leaflets 20, 22 are shown to be positioned surrounding the coaption element and coapted along their edges along the length of the leaflets not occupied by the coaption element. In the center, not seen from the point of view in Figure 48A, the leaflets 20, 22 are positioned between the inner clasp 534 and outer clasp 532 on each side of the device. The clasps and paddles can be connected to the coaption element and/or cap as in the exemplary embodiments described herein. The clasps and paddles are pivoted away from the coaption element in the open position illustrated in Figure 48A.
- [0202] Figure 48B illustrates a top-down view of the device shown in Figure 48A. A schematic atrial view depicts the paddle frames (which would not actually be visible from a true atrial view), and the clasps (which would not be visible from a true atrial view), in an open position. The opposing leaflets 20, 22 (the ends of which would also not be visible in the true atrial view) are each held between an inner clasp 534 and an outer clasp 532. In this view, the leaflets are open to permit blood flow from the left atrium to the left ventricle.
- [0203] The coaption element 510 can take a wide variety of different shapes. In one exemplary embodiment, when viewed from the top (and/or sectional views from the top), the coaption element has an oval shape or an elliptical shape. The oval

or elliptical shape can allow the biasing members 524 to conform to the shape of the coaption element and/or can reduce lateral leaks.

- [0204] The open position illustrated in Figures 48A and 48B depicts an embodiment where the clasps 534, 532, paddles 522, 520, and biasing member 524 on each side of the device can open and close throughout the cardiac cycle. In this embodiment, Figures 48A and 48B illustrate the clasps, paddles, and biasing elements in the “open” position, which occurs during ventricular diastole when the mitral valve leaflets are in an open position to permit blood flow from the left atrium to the left ventricle.
- [0205] Figures 48A and 48B are also representative of an embodiment where the clasps and paddles remain in an open position during the cardiac cycle. In this embodiment, Figures 48A and 48B illustrate the device and mitral valve leaflets during ventricular diastole. In this embodiment, when the leaflets close such as during systole, the clasps and paddles can remain in an “open” position. Figures 48C and 48D illustrate the embodiment having fixed open clasps and paddles (i.e. the device itself is fixed in an open position), with closed leaflets during systole. When the leaflets close, the inner and outer clasps 134, 132 and inner and outer paddles 522, 520, remain in an open position. The central region of each of the leaflets remains fixed between the inner and outer clasps, and the sides of the leaflets approximate the coaption element 510 as illustrated in Figure 48C. The leaflets are closed and a greater portion of the leaflets are coapted together, to the opposing leaflet edge and to the coaption element. As with the other exemplary embodiments described herein, the paddles and/or clasps can be made of a shape memory material or can be mechanically locked open.
- [0206] Figure 48D represents a top-down view of the device shown in Figure 48C. A schematic atrial view depicts the paddle frames (which would not actually be visible from a true atrial view), and the clasps (of which the outer clasps would not be visible in a true atrial view), in an open position. The opposing leaflets 20, 22 (the ends of which would also not be visible in the true atrial view) are each held between an inner clasp 534 and an outer clasp 532. In this view, the leaflets 20, 22 are “closed” and approximated to the coaption element 510, to prevent blood flow from the left atrium to the left ventricle.

- [0207] In yet another exemplary embodiment, the device 500 is still implanted in a partially open position illustrated by Figures 48A and 48B, but the implanted device is configured to open further than the illustrated partially open position as the native valve leaflets open during the cardiac cycle. This is yet another exemplary embodiment of permitting more flexibility of the native valve leaflets upon implantation of a prosthetic implant device to maintain a low-pressure gradient between the atrium and ventricle.
- [0208] Referring now to Figures 49A-50B, exemplary embodiments of an implantable prosthetic device 500 are illustrated, having inner and outer paddles 522, 520, inner and outer clasps 534, 532, and a coaption device 510. The coaption device, paddles, clasps, and frame of the device in Figure 49A can have the same characteristics as that of the embodiment described with respect to Figure 47A, but does not have the biasing component that applies a force to close the paddles 522, 520 and attached clasps in the direction towards the coaption element. In this and other exemplary embodiments without an additional biasing component, the paddles and/or clasps can be made of a shape memory material or can be otherwise biased in a closed position toward the center of the device and/or coaption element. In the embodiment of a shape memory metal, the paddles and/or clasps can be set so that they are biased toward the closed position, and open when the force of the blood flow on the leaflets forces the leaflets open. Thus, the force provided by the paddles and/or clasps (or by the biasing component, depending on the embodiment) that holds the clasps shut can be overcome by the pressure of blood on the leaflets during diastole to open the device 500 and the native valve leaflets. The force to close the device, provided by the elements of the device itself and/or the force of the pressure of the blood (during the systolic contraction of the ventricle), is great enough, to close the device closed during systole.
- [0209] Figure 49A illustrates the geometry of the coaption element, taken from a cross-section farther toward a forward facing side view rather than from the center. In this cross-section, offset from the center of the device, the leaflets 20, 22 are shown to be wrapped around the coaption element. In the center, the leaflets 20, 22 are positioned between the inner clasp 534 and outer clasp 532 on each side of the device. As can be seen in this view, the coaption element 510 has a tapered

shape being smaller in dimension in the area closer to where the inside surfaces of the leaflets 20, 22 are required to coapt and increase in dimension as the coaption element extends toward the atrium. The depicted native valve geometry is accommodated by a tapered coaption element geometry.

- [0210] Referring to Figure 49B, a schematic atrial view depicts the paddles 522, 520 and the inner and outer clasps 534, 532 (the outer clasps 532 would not actually be visible from a true atrial view), with a central region of each leaflet positioned in between the inner and outer clasps. The sides of the leaflets are not grasped or fixed in between any component of the device and when in a closed position, such as during ventricular systole, surround or “hug” the coaption element and can conform to the geometry of the coaption element.
- [0211] Figures 50A and 50B illustrate the device of Figures 49A and 49B where the pair of paddles 522, 520 are in a partially open position. The clasps 532, 534 are moved with the pair of paddles 520, 522 to the coaption element 510 to the illustrated partially open position. In Figure 50A, a cross-section is taken farther toward a forward facing side of the device, rather than from the center to show the positions of the valve leaflets in front of the device, rather than the portion of the leaflets that is secured by the clasps. In this cross-section, offset from the center of the device, the leaflets 20, 22 are open to permit blood flow from the left atrium to the left ventricle, with the coaption element in the middle of the valve. In the center, as seen from the point of view in Figure 50B, the leaflets 20, 22 are positioned between the inner clasp 534 and outer clasp 532 on each side of the device. The clasps can be connected to the coaption element and/or cap as in the exemplary embodiments described herein. The clasps are pivoted away from the coaption element by the paddles in the open position illustrated in Figure 50A.
- [0212] Figure 50B illustrates a top-down view of the device shown in Figure 50A. A schematic atrial view depicts the inner and outer paddles 522, 520, the inner and outer clasps 534, 532 (the outer clasps 532 would not be visible from a true atrial view, but included in this figure for reference), and coaption element 510, with a central region of each leaflet positioned in between the inner and outer clasps in an open position. The opposing leaflets 20, 22 (the ends of which would not be visible in a true atrial view) are each held between an inner clasp 534 and an

outer clasp 532. In this view, the leaflets are open to permit blood flow from the left atrium to the left ventricle.

- [0213] The partially open position illustrated in Figures 50A and 50B depicts an embodiment where the paddles can open and close throughout the cardiac cycle. In this embodiment, Figures 50A and 50B illustrates the paddles in the “open” position, which occurs during ventricular diastole when the mitral valve leaflets are in an open position to permit blood flow from the left atrium to the left ventricle. As such, the paddles 520, 522 of the device 500 open and close with the opening and closing of the native valve leaflets during the cardiac cycle in one exemplary embodiment.
- [0214] In another exemplary embodiment, when the leaflets close such as during systole, the paddles can remain in an “open” position. Figures 50C and 50D illustrate the embodiment having paddles deployed in a fixed partially open condition, with closed leaflets during systole. When the leaflets close, the paddles 524, 524 remain in the deployed partially open position. The central region of each of the leaflets remains fixed between the inner and outer clasps, and the sides of the leaflets approximate the coaption element 510 as illustrated in Figure 50C. The leaflets are closed and a greater portion of the leaflets are coapted together and to the coaption element.
- [0215] Figure 50D represents a top-down view of the device shown in Figure 50C. A schematic atrial view depicts the paddles in the deployed, partially open position of Figure 50C. The opposing leaflets 20, 22 are each held between an inner clasp 534 and an outer clasp 532. In this view, the leaflets 20, 22 are closed and approximated to the coaption element 510, to prevent blood flow from the left atrium to the left ventricle. As such, the native valve leaflets open and close in the cardiac cycle and the deployed device remains in a deployed, partially open position.
- [0216] In yet another exemplary embodiment, the device 500 is still implanted in a partially open position illustrated by Figures 50A and 50B, but the implanted device is configured to open further than the illustrated partially open position as the native valve leaflets open during the cardiac cycle. This is yet another exemplary embodiment of permitting more flexibility of the native valve leaflets

upon implantation of a prosthetic implant device to maintain a low-pressure gradient between the atrium and ventricle.

- [0217] Referring now to Figures 51A-52B, exemplary embodiments of an implantable prosthetic device 500 are illustrated, where the device has inner and outer clasps 534, 532, inner and outer paddles 522, 520, and an additional biasing member 524 on each side. The clasps, and paddles of the device in Figure 51A can have the same characteristics as that of the embodiment described with respect to Figure 47A, but does not have the coaption element for the leaflets to conform to when the mitral valve is in a closed position. The anatomy of the leaflets 20, 22 is such that the inner sides of the leaflets coapt and the leaflets 20, 22 start receding or spreading apart from each other. The leaflets 20, 22 spread apart in the atrial direction, until each leaflet meets with the mitral annulus.
- [0218] Figures 51A and 51B illustrate an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device in a closed position, during ventricular systole when the mitral valve leaflets are closed.
- [0219] Figure 51A illustrates the geometry of the clasps 534, 532, paddles 522, 520 and biasing members 524, taken from a cross-section farther toward a forward facing side view rather than from the center. The leaflets 20, 22 are approximated together, and conform to the geometry of the biasing members 524 in this cross-section, which is offset from the center of the device 500. In the center, the leaflets 20, 22 are positioned between the inner clasp 534 and outer clasp 532 on each side of the device.
- [0220] Referring now to Figure 51B, a schematic atrial view depicts the inner and outer clasps 534, 532 (the outer clasps 532 would not be visible from a true atrial view) and paddles 522, 520 (in the closed device, closed leaflet configuration, the outer paddles would not be visible from a true atrial view), with a central region of each leaflet fixed between the inner and outer clasps. The sides of the leaflets are not grasped or fixed in between any component of the device and when in a closed position, such as during ventricular systole, close toward and approximate each other, closer together near the edges of the leaflets than at the portion of the leaflets closer to the annulus. The biasing members 524 can provide a force

pushing the clasps to the closed position shown in Figures 51A and 51B, assisting in approximating the center region of the leaflets together.

- [0221] Referring now to Figures 52A and 52B, the device of Figures 51A and 51B is illustrated as being in a partially open configuration. In this example, the paddles, and biasing components of the device are in an open position, and the leaflets are open as occurs during ventricular diastole, is illustrated. In Figure 52A, the coaption element 510 and the biasing members 524 from a cross-sectional view, taken from a cross-section farther toward a forward facing side view rather than from the center. In this cross-section, offset from the center of the device, the side regions of leaflets 20, 22 are shown. In the center, not seen from the point of view in Figure 52A, the leaflets 20, 22 are positioned between the inner clasp 534 and outer clasp 532 on each side of the device. The clasps, paddles, and biasing members can be connected to the cap 514 or other distal portion of the device 500. The clasps and paddles are pivoted away from the coaption element in the open position illustrated in Figure 52A.
- [0222] Figure 52B illustrates a top-down view of the device shown in Figure 52A. A schematic atrial view depicts the inner and outer paddles 522, 520 (which would not be visible from a true atrial view), the inner and outer clasps 534, 532 (the outer clasps would not be visible from a true atrial view but are added here for a better understanding of the device), and biasing members 524, in an open position. The opposing leaflets 20, 22 (the ends of which would also not be visible in the true atrial view) are each held between an inner clasp 534 and an outer clasp 532. In Figure 52B, the leaflets are open as in ventricular diastole so that blood flows from the left atrium to the left ventricle.
- [0223] The open position of the device 500 illustrated in Figures 52A and 52B depicts the open position of an embodiment where the clasps and paddles can open and close throughout the cardiac cycle along with the native valve leaflets 20. The open position can occur during ventricular diastole, where the mitral valve leaflets are in an open position to permit blood flow from the left atrium to the left ventricle. Figures 52A and 52B are the open device position and open leaflets of. The closed device and closed leaflets are illustrated in Figures 51A and 51B.

- [0224] Figures 52A and 52B are also representative of another embodiment where the clasps and paddles are deployed in a fixed, partially open position that is maintained during the cardiac cycle. In this embodiment, Figures 52A and 52B illustrate the device and mitral valve leaflets during ventricular diastole, where blood flows from the atrium to the ventricle.
- [0225] Figures 52C and 52D illustrate the device of Figures 52A and 52B according to the exemplary embodiment where the device remains in a partially open position throughout the cardiac cycle, even when the leaflets are closed as occurs during ventricular systole. In this embodiment, when the leaflets close, the inner and outer clasps 534, 532 and inner and outer paddles 522, 520, remain in an open position. As explained above with respect to other embodiments described herein, the leaflets close due to the force applied to the leaflets from the blood pressure in the ventricle, and the force applied by the additional biasing members 524. The central region of each of the leaflets remains fixed between the inner and outer clasps, and the sides of the leaflets approximate each other as illustrated in Figure 52D.
- [0226] In yet another exemplary embodiment, the device 500 is still implanted in a partially open position illustrated by Figures 52A and 52B, but the implanted device is configured to open further than the illustrated partially open position as the native valve leaflets open during the cardiac cycle. This is yet another exemplary embodiment of permitting more flexibility of the native valve leaflets upon implantation of a prosthetic implant device to maintain a low-pressure gradient between the atrium and ventricle.
- [0227] Referring now to Figures 53A-54B, exemplary embodiments of an implantable prosthetic device 500 are illustrated, having inner and outer clasps 534, 532, and paddles 522, 520 around the clasps for attachment of the clasps to a central cap region of the implantable prosthetic device. The clasps, and paddles of the device in Figure 53A can have the same characteristics as that of the embodiment described with respect to Figure 47A, but does not have a coaption element or additional biasing component to hold the clasps in a closed position. In another exemplary embodiment, the clasps and/or paddles can be wider than illustrated in Figures 53A-54B. In another exemplary embodiment, the width of each of the clasps and/or paddles can vary along the length of each of the clasps/paddles. By

providing these variations in width of the clasps and/or paddles, a greater surface area for the leaflet to contact is provided. The wider clasps and/or paddles, and varying width clasps and/or paddles can be a feature in any of the embodiments described herein.

- [0228] Figures 53A and 53B illustrate an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device in a closed position, during ventricular systole when the mitral valve leaflets are closed.
- [0229] Figure 53A illustrates the geometry of the paddles 522, 520, taken from a cross-section farther toward a forward facing side view rather than from the center. In this cross-section, offset from the center of the device, the leaflets 20, 22 are shown approximated together. In the center, the leaflets 20, 22 are positioned between the inner clasp 534 and outer clasp 532 on each side of the device.
- [0230] Referring now to Figure 53B, a schematic atrial view depicts the inner and outer clasps 534, 532 (the outer clasps 532 would not actually be visible from a true atrial view), with a central region of each leaflet fixed between the inner and outer clasps. The sides of the leaflets are not grasped or fixed in between any component of the device and when in a closed position, such as during ventricular systole, approximate each other, at the edges of the leaflets rather than at the portion of the leaflets closer to the annulus. The leaflets are approximated together during systole by the force of the blood pressure in the ventricle against the ventricular surface of the leaflets.
- [0231] Referring now to Figures 54A and 54B, the device of Figures 53A and 53B is illustrated as being in a partially open configuration. In the example illustrated by Figures 54A and 54B, the paddles are in the partially open position and the leaflets are open due to the blood flow during ventricular diastole, is illustrated. In Figure 54A, a cross-section view of the device farther toward a forward facing side, rather than through the center, is illustrated. In this cross-section, offset from the center of the device, the side regions of leaflets 20, 22 are shown, and they are positioned apart from each other. In the center, as shown in Figure 54B, the leaflets 20, 22 are positioned between the inner clasp 534 and outer clasp 532 on each side of the device. The paddles can be connected to the cap 514 or other distal portion of the device 500. The paddles and attached clasps are

pivoted away from the coaption element in the open position illustrated in Figure 54A.

- [0232] Figure 54B illustrates a top-down view of the device shown in Figure 54A. A schematic atrial view depicts the paddles 522, 520 (which would not actually be visible from a true atrial view), and the inner and outer clasps 534, 532 (the outer clasps would not be visible from a true atrial view), in an open position. The opposing leaflets 20, 22 (the ends of which would also not be visible in the true atrial view) are each held between an inner clasp 534 and an outer clasp 532. In Figure 54B, the leaflets are open as in ventricular diastole so that blood can flow from the left atrium to the left ventricle.
- [0233] The open position of the device 500 illustrated in Figures 54A and 54B depicts the open position of an embodiment where the clasps can open and close throughout the cardiac cycle. In this embodiment, Figures 54A and 54B illustrate when the clasps of the device are in the open position. The open position can occur during ventricular diastole, when the mitral valve leaflets are in an open position to permit blood flow from the left atrium to the left ventricle. Figures 54A and 54B the open device position and open leaflets that correspond to diastole. The closed device and closed leaflet that correspond to ventricular systole are illustrated in Figures 53A and 53B. As such, the paddles of the device open and close with the native valve leaflets during the cardiac cycle.
- [0234] Figures 54A and 54B are also representative of an embodiment where the clasps and paddles are deployed in and remain fixed in a partially open position during the cardiac cycle. In this embodiment, Figures 54A and 54B illustrate the device and mitral valve leaflets during ventricular diastole.
- [0235] Figures 54C and 54D illustrate the device of Figures 54A and 54B when the leaflets are in closed, as occurs during ventricular systole. In this embodiment, when the leaflets close, the paddles remain in an open position. The leaflets close due to the force applied to the leaflets from the blood pressure in the ventricle. The central region of each of the leaflets remains fixed between the inner and outer clasps, and the sides of the leaflets approximate each other.

- [0236] Referring now to Figure 55, another exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device is illustrated. Figure 55 illustrates a device 500A formed from a continuous strip of a braided or woven material, such as braided or woven nitinol wire. The device 500A can be configured to open and close with the native valve leaflets, can be configured to be deployed with the paddles in a partially open position and the paddles remain fixed in the deployed, partially open position during the cardiac cycle, and/or be configured to be deployed with the paddles in a partially open position and the paddles open further from the partially open position and return to the deployed position during the cardiac cycle in any of the manners described above with respect to any of the other devices described above.
- [0237] Referring to Figure 55A, the continuous strip 501A is attached to a collar 511D, a cap 514A, and clasps 530C. In the illustrated embodiment, the coaption element 510A, hinge portions 521A, 523A, 525A, outer paddles 520A, and inner paddles 522A are formed from the continuous strip 501A. The continuous strip 501A may be a single layer of material or may include two or more layers. In certain embodiments, portions of the device 500A have a single layer of the strip of material 501A and other portions are formed from multiple overlapping or overlying layers of the strip of material 501A. For example, Figure 55 shows the coaption element 510A and inner paddles 522A formed from multiple overlapping or overlying layers of the strip of material 501A. Consequently, the coaption element 510A and inner paddle 522A have an increased stiffness relative to the outer paddles 520A that are formed from a single layer of material 501A. The single continuous strip of material 501A can start and end in various locations of the device 500A. The ends of the strip of material 501A can be in the same location or different locations of the device 500A. For example, in the illustrated embodiment of Figure 55, the strip of material begins and ends in the location of the inner paddles 522.
- [0238] The clasps 530C can comprise attachment or fixed portions 532C, arm or moveable portions 534C, barbs 536C, and joint portions 538C. The attachment or fixed portions 532C can be coupled to the inner paddles 522A in various ways such as with sutures, adhesive, fasteners, welding, stitching, swaging, friction fit

and/or other means for coupling with the joint portions 538C disposed proximate the coaption element 510A.

- [0239] The moveable portions 534C can pivot or flex relative to the fixed portions 532C between an open configuration (e.g., Figure 49A) and a closed configuration (Figures 50A). In some embodiments, the clasps 530C can be biased to the closed configuration. In the open configuration, the fixed portions 532C and the moveable portions 534C pivot or flex away from each other such that native leaflets can be positioned between the fixed portions 532C and the moveable portions 534C. In the closed configuration, the fixed portions 532C and the moveable portions 534C pivot or flex toward each other, thereby clamping the native leaflets between the fixed portions 532C and the moveable portions 534C. The fixed arms 532C remain substantially stationary when the moveable arms 534C are opened to open the barbed clasps 530C and expose the barbs 536C. The barbed clasps 530C are opened by applying tension to actuation lines 516A attached to the moveable arms 534C, thereby causing the moveable arms 534C to pivot or flex on the joint portions 538C.
- [0240] The device 500A in Figure 55 is shown in a closed position. From the side, the device 500A has a generally inverted trapezoidal shape that is rounded and tapers toward the distal portion 507A of the device 500A.
- [0241] In the closed configuration of the device 500A, the inner paddles 522A are disposed between the outer paddles 520A and the coaption element 510A. In some embodiments, the device 500A includes clasps or gripping members 530C that can be opened and closed to grasp the native leaflets 20, 22 of the mitral valve MV. The clasps 530C are attached to and move with the inner paddles 522A and are disposed between the inner paddles 522A and the coaption element 510A.
- [0242] The embodiment shown in Figure 55 can be used according to any of the exemplary embodiments described herein. That is, the device can open with the opening of the leaflets, for example as illustrated in Figure 50A. The device can also remain in a partially open position during the cardiac cycle, as illustrated in Figures 50A-50D, for example. Further, the device can be implanted with the paddles partially open and the paddles can move back and forth between the

deployed position and a further open position with the cardiac cycle. Further, the device can be made of a flexible material such as that described herein with respect to Figures 59A-59B.

- [0243] The device 500A illustrated in Figure 55, shown in a closed position, can also pivot open, due to flexible regions 525A and 521A. As with the other embodiments described above, when the mitral valve leaflets are closed, the device 500A is in a closed position as shown in Figure 55. The device in Figure 55 can be in an open position (not shown) when the leaflets are open such as during ventricular diastole. The device of Figure 55 can also remain in an open configuration throughout the cardiac cycle. In such an embodiment, the leaflets coapt together during systole, as illustrated with respect to other embodiments described herein (see for example Figures 50C-50D).
- [0244] Referring now to Figures 56A and 56B, an Intra-Commissural view of a native mitral valve and exemplary embodiments of an implantable prosthetic device are illustrated. The shapes and size of the paddles and the coaption element affect the reduction of stress on the leaflets due to the coaption. To both coapt the valve leaflets 20, 22 against the coaption element 510 and reduce the stress applied to the valve leaflets 20, 22 by the coaption element 510 and/or the outer and inner paddles 520, 522 (inner paddles 522 not visible), the coaption element 510 can have a round or rounded shape. The round shape of the coaption element and/or the illustrated fully rounded shape of each paddle will distribute the stresses on the leaflets 20, 22 across a large, curved engagement area 607. For example, in Figure 56A, the force on the leaflets 20, 22 by the paddles is spread along the entire rounded length of the paddles, as the leaflets 20 try to open during the diastole cycle.
- [0245] Referring now to Figure 56B, another exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device implanted on a mitral valve, shown from an Intra-Commissural view, is illustrated. The embodiment of Figure 56B can have outer paddles 520 and inner paddles (not visible in the perspective view of Figures 56A and 56B) with a smaller surface area than in Figure 56A. For example, the height H of the paddles can be less than 75% of the length (from end to annulus) of the native valve leaflets 20, 22, such as less than 50% of the length of the native valve leaflets, such as less than 25% of the length of the native valve leaflets.

Further, the coaption element 510 can be smaller than the paddle as illustrated in Figure 56A. For example, the width (across the native valve leaflet) of the coaption element can be less than 75% of the width (also across the native valve leaflet) of the coaption element, for example, the width of the coaption element can be less than 50% of the width of the paddles, for example, the width of the coaption element can be less than 25% of the width of the paddles. The smaller profiles of the paddles and the coaption element affect the force on the leaflets during the cardiac cycle. The reduction in the engagement area 607 of the paddles and the coaption element on the leaflets permits larger openings between the leaflets during diastole, especially toward the native valve annulus, and therefore increases the effective orifice area as well as leaflet mobility. This is illustrated by arrows 5601 which indicates a broader opening between the leaflets near the valve annulus 24.

[0246] Referring now to Figures 57A-58B, schematics of an exemplary implantable prosthetic device are illustrated. The schematics in Figure 57A-58B can be applied to any of the exemplary embodiments described herein. Figures 57A and 58A illustrate a cross-section taken from the center of an implantable prosthetic device. In Figure 57A, leaflets 20, 22 are each held in place between an inner clasp 134 and an outer clasp 132. Figure 57A illustrates barbs 136 on the outer clasps. Barbs are optional and can be positioned on one or more of the outer clasp or the inner clasp. Barbs on the outer clasp 132 connect to the ventricular side of the leaflets 20, 22. Barbs on the inner clasp 134 (not illustrated) connect to the atrial side of the leaflets 20, 22. The barbs can be on the inner clasp 134 in any of the embodiments described herein, including the embodiments illustrated in Figures 59A-61D. The clasps are held together by a base 571, which can be a cap such as cap 114 illustrated in Figure 11, for example.

[0247] Figure 57B illustrates a cross-section of the schematic in Figure 57A, taken along line 57B-57B, from an atrial view looking downward. In Figure 57B, the leaflets are closed, and therefore coapted together. The central region of each leaflet is captured between an inner clasp 134 and outer clasp 132, and further fixed in position by barbs 136. The leaflets 20, 22 surround the base 571, such that the base will substantially block regurgitant blood flow during ventricular systole.

- [0248] Figure 58A shows a schematic illustration of an exemplary embodiment of Figure 57A where the clasps 132, 134 of the implantable prosthetic device 100 have pivoted to a partially open position with the movement of the native valve leaflets, while maintaining their grip on the native valve leaflets. Figure 58A is taken from a cross-section view through the middle of the device. Leaflets 20, 22 are each captured and held between inner clasps 134 and outer clasps 132.
- [0249] Figure 58B illustrates a cross-section of the schematic in Figure 58A, taken along line 58B-58B, from an atrial view looking downward. The leaflets are open, as occurs during ventricular diastole, and the leaflets are connected to the base 571 along the same width of leaflet tissue that is captured in the clasps. When the native valve is open, the blood flows through the openings of the native valve on each side of the base 571.
- [0250] Referring now to Figures 59A and 59B, a schematic of an exemplary embodiment of an implantable prosthetic device having flexible clasps is shown. In Figure 59A, the leaflets 20, 22 are held in place between an inner clasp 134 and an outer clasp 132. Barbs 136 as described according to other exemplary embodiments herein are optional. The clasps are connected to a base 571. This embodiment has a closed clasp position and a partially flexed open clasp position. In the closed clasp position, the clasps and leaflets are positioned as in the schematics of Figure 57A (and Figure 57B). Figures 59A and 59B show the partially flexed open clasp position and the open position leaflets. In this figure, the clasps can be made of a flexible material. For example, nitinol can be used, with a shape set in the closed configuration, but are flexible enough to flex to the closed position during the cardiac cycle. The flexible clasps (and/or flexible paddles) can be used in place of clasps and paddles that pivoting about joints. Flexibility can also be added by forming the paddles and/or clasps out of a Nitinol braid structure, and/or by laser cutting openings in the paddles and/or clasps.
- [0251] Figure 59B illustrates a cross-section of the schematic in Figure 59A, taken along line 59B-59B and looking down from an atrial point of view. In this open position, the leaflets are open, as occurs during ventricular diastole. The central region edges of the leaflets are approximated toward the base 571 and held in place by the clasps while the rest of the leaflet tissue opens and closes during the cardiac cycle. Here, open leaflets permit blood flow from the left atrium to the

left ventricle. In Figures 59A and 59B, the leaflets are open as in ventricular diastole. The leaflets can be approximated to the base in the open configuration, and still permit an effective orifice area sufficient to maintain a low pressure gradient. In an embodiment with a coaption element, the leaflets can be approximated to the coaption element. As illustrated in Figure 59B, the leaflets are held between the clasps 134, 132 in a central region of each leaflet, and the leaflets are open in regions where they are not held by the clasps. The open leaflets permit blood to flow from the left atrium to the left ventricle. The effective orifice area in this embodiment, as with the other exemplary embodiments described herein, maintains a low pressure gradient between the left atrium and the left ventricle, of less than or equal to 5 mm Hg. In certain exemplary embodiments, there can be a coaption element, in which case the leaflets can be approximated to the coaption element (such as shown in Figures 47A and 47B for example). In still other exemplary embodiments, there can be paddles, and/or biasing components. Each combination of features described herein can be used in a flexible clasp embodiment, where one or more of the components are flexible and permit the clasp to move to the partially flexed open position and close instead of relying on joints to move the clasps to a partially open position and a closed position.

[0252] Referring now to Figures 60A-61B, schematics of an exemplary embodiment are illustrated in which an actuation shaft 605 is used to adjust the distance D between each pair of clasps, where a pair of clasps includes an inner clasp 134 and an outer clasp 132. The actuation shaft 605 can be a shaft, or a wire, or any other actuating means known in the art. The actuation shaft 605 is connected to a base 571, which can have arms 606. The base can be an adjustable base and can be made of a flexible material. In Figure 60A, the actuation shaft 605 has not yet been actuated, and the clasps and base arms 606 are in a compact position where the distance D has not yet been expanded. The leaflets 20, 22 are held in place between inner and outer clasps, 134, 132 respectively, with optional barbs 136 further holding the leaflet tissue in place between each inner and outer clasp.

[0253] Figure 60B illustrates a top-down cross-section view taken from line 60B-60B in Figure 60A. The shaft 605 is connected to a base 571 which has extendable arms

606. The arms 606 can be in a flexed position when the device is in a compact position, as in Figures 60A and 60B. In Figure 60B, the leaflets are in a closed position.

[0254] Referring to Figures 61A and 61B, an expanded position of the exemplary embodiment is shown. The actuation shaft 605 has been actuated to expand the distance between each pair of clasps. In the expanded position, the extendable arms 606 are straightened from the curved configuration in the compact position of Figure 60A. Figure 61B illustrates a top-down cross-section view of the schematic shown in Figure 61A, taken along line 61B-61B. In Figure 61B, each leaflet 20, 22 is held between an inner clasp 134 and an outer clasp 132. The central region of the leaflets can be coapted to the arms 606 of the device, held in place by the clasps and optional barbs 136. The device can remain in the expanded configuration as the leaflets open and close. In Figures 61A and 61B, the device is in an actuated, expanded position, in a closed position, such that the clasps and leaflets are closed.

[0255] Referring to Figures 61C and 61D, the device illustrated by Figures 61A and 61B is shown with the clasps expanded apart, the clasps partially pivoted (or flexed) open and the native leaflets are open, as with occur during diastole. Figure 61C shows the clasps pivoted in a radial outward direction. Illustrated in Figures 61C and 61D, the leaflets are held in place in between the inner and outer clasps. The ends of the leaflets are held in place around the base of the device, in the center region of each leaflet, shown in Figure 61D. The sides of the leaflets are open in this illustration. The adjustability of this device permits the opening between the leaflets during diastole to be adjusted. This can accommodate different size heart valves and gaps between native leaflets that cause regurgitation. This size adjustment can also be used to optimize the effective orifice area to result in a low pressure gradient after the device is fully implanted.

[0256] The inventions disclosed herein can be embodied on a wide variety of different valve repair devices. Referring now to Figures 62 and 63, an exemplary embodiment of a device 600 operable by a coupler to adjust the distance between the clasps is illustrated, having inner clasps 634, paddles 632, and a coupler 610,

such as that described in U.S. Application Serial No. 15/868,890, filed on January 9, 2018, which is incorporated by reference in its entirety herein.

- [0257] Referring to Figure 62, the device can have a shaft 609, and a coupler 610 configured to move along the shaft. The coupler 610 is mechanically connected to the paddles 632, such that movement of the coupler 610 along the shaft 609 causes the paddles to move between an open position and a closed position. In this way, the coupler 610 serves as a means for mechanically coupling the outer clasps 632 to the shaft 609 and, when moving along the shaft 609, for causing the outer clasps 632 to move between their open and closed positions. In one exemplary embodiment, the coupler is free to slide up and down on the shaft, allowing the paddles 632 and clasps to move closer together (See Figure 63) and farther apart (See Figure 62) with the beating of the heart.
- [0258] In certain embodiments, the paddles 634 are connected to the base assembly 604, such that the inner clasps can be moved to adjust the width of the opening 614 between the outer paddles 632 and the inner clasps 634. Inner clasps 634 can also have barbed portions 636 on a region thereon, to improve attachment to the leaflets 20, 22. Such a device can be used to grasp leaflet tissue as in the other exemplary embodiments described herein, and can remain open once implanted, or the clasps can open and close with the cardiac cycle.
- [0259] Referring now to Figure 63, the coupler 610 has been moved to bring the clasps closer toward the center of the device. The coupler can be fixed in a position as shown In Figure 62, or it can move between the "partially open device" position in Figure 62 and the "closed device" position illustrated in Figure 63 to open and close the clasps of the device with the cardiac cycle as in other exemplary embodiments described herein.
- [0260] Referring now to Figures 64 and 65, an exemplary embodiment of a device having anchors 204 and a spacer member 202 is illustrated, such as that described in U.S. provisional application serial no. 62/659,253, incorporated by reference in its entirety herein. The illustrations in Figures 64 and 65 are taken from a bottom point of view taken from within a ventricle, when the device 200 is implanted on the leaflets of a mitral valve. In this embodiment, the anchors 204 can move radially outwardly relative to the spacer member 202 to a partially

open configuration during ventricular diastole such that the native mitral valve has a single orifice, as shown in Figure 65. The anchors 204 can move radially inwardly relative to the spacer member 202 to a closed configuration during ventricular systole such that the native leaflets 608 coapt together and/or against the prosthetic device 200 to prevent or reduce mitral regurgitation, as shown in Figure 64. As the anchors 204 open and close during the natural cardiac cycles, the clasps 206 can retain the native leaflets 20, 22 against the anchors 204, as shown in Figures 64-65.

[0261] Configuring the prosthetic device 200 in this manner allows the native leaflets 20, 22 to move naturally upon implantation. This can, for example, promote antegrade blood flow during ventricular diastole, while still reducing or preventing retrograde blood flow during ventricular systole. It can also reduce or prevent native tissue damage to the native leaflets. Over time, endothelialization can form a tissue bridge between the anchoring paddles and the spacer member.

[0262] While various inventive aspects, concepts and features of the disclosures may be described and illustrated herein as embodied in combination in the exemplary embodiments, these various aspects, concepts, and features may be used in many alternative embodiments, either individually or in various combinations and sub-combinations thereof. Unless expressly excluded herein all such combinations and sub-combinations are intended to be within the scope of the present application. Still further, while various alternative embodiments as to the various aspects, concepts, and features of the disclosures—such as alternative materials, structures, configurations, methods, devices, and components, alternatives as to form, fit, and function, and so on—may be described herein, such descriptions are not intended to be a complete or exhaustive list of available alternative embodiments, whether presently known or later developed. Those skilled in the art may readily adopt one or more of the inventive aspects, concepts, or features into additional embodiments and uses within the scope of the present application even if such embodiments are not expressly disclosed herein.

[0263] Additionally, even though some features, concepts, or aspects of the disclosures may be described herein as being a preferred arrangement or method, such description is not intended to suggest that such feature is required or necessary

unless expressly so stated. Still further, exemplary or representative values and ranges may be included to assist in understanding the present application, however, such values and ranges are not to be construed in a limiting sense and are intended to be critical values or ranges only if so expressly stated.

[0264] Moreover, while various aspects, features and concepts may be expressly identified herein as being inventive or forming part of a disclosure, such identification is not intended to be exclusive, but rather there may be inventive aspects, concepts, and features that are fully described herein without being expressly identified as such or as part of a specific disclosure, the disclosures instead being set forth in the appended claims. Descriptions of exemplary methods or processes are not limited to inclusion of all steps as being required in all cases, nor is the order that the steps are presented to be construed as required or necessary unless expressly so stated. The words used in the claims have their full ordinary meanings and are not limited in any way by the description of the embodiments in the specification.