Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. A valve repair device for repairing a native valve of a patient, the valve repair device comprising:

a central component;

a paddle coupled to the central component;

a gripping member having a movable arm;

wherein the gripping member and the paddle are movable to form a capture region for capturing a leaflet of the native valve;

an indicator having a fixed end coupled to the movable arm of the gripping member, a moving end, and a leaflet engaging portion;

wherein the fixed end and the moving end are disposed on a first side of the movable arm of the gripping member;

wherein the capture region is disposed on the second side of the movable arm of the gripping member;

wherein a portion of the leaflet engaging portion is disposed in the capture region when the gripping member is in a closed position, the paddle is in a closed position and the leaflet engaging portion engages the leaflet of the native valve in the capture region;

wherein the leaflet engaging portion of the indicator is configured to move further into the capture region when the gripping member is in the closed position, the paddle is in the closed position and the leaflet of the native valve is not disposed in the capture region; and

wherein the indicator is configured to push against the central component on the first side of the movable arm of the gripping member and be pressed to a flattened condition when the gripping member is in the closed position, the paddle is in the closed position and the leaflet of the native valve is disposed in the capture region at least a minimum insertion depth.

2. The valve repair device of claim 1 wherein the indicator is configured to pass through one or more of the paddle and the gripping member.

3. The valve repair device of claim 1, wherein the gripping member and the indicator each comprise a marker comprising a radiopaque material.

4. The valve repair device of claim 1, wherein the central component comprises a spacer.

5. The valve repair device of claim 1, wherein a fixed arm of the gripping member comprises a first beam, a second beam, and an engaging member between the first beam and the second beam.

6. The valve repair device of claim 5, further comprising a marker attached to the indicator.

7. The valve repair device of claim 1, wherein the indicator is formed from a portion of the gripping member, wherein the indicator is formed between outer beams of a movable arm of the gripping member or outside the outer beams of the gripping member, wherein the indicator comprises a twisted portion, and wherein the twisted portion comprises one or more twists between 0 degrees and 180 degrees.

8. A valve repair system for repairing a native valve of a patient, the valve repair system comprising:
a delivery system;
a valve repair device coupled to the delivery system, the valve repair device comprising:
a central component;
a paddle coupled to the central component;
a gripping member having a movable arm;
wherein the gripping member and the paddle are movable to form a capture region for capturing a leaflet of the native valve;
an indicator having a fixed end coupled to the movable arm of the gripping member, a moving end, and a leaflet engaging portion;

wherein the fixed end and the moving end are disposed on a first side of the movable arm of the gripping member;

wherein the capture region is disposed on the second side of the movable arm of the gripping member;

wherein a portion of the leaflet engaging portion is disposed in the capture region when the gripping member is in a closed position, the paddle is in a closed position and the leaflet engaging portion engages the leaflet of the native valve in the capture region;

wherein the leaflet engaging portion of the indicator is configured to move further into the capture region when the gripping member is in the closed position, the paddle is in the closed position and the leaflet of the native valve is not disposed in the capture region; and

wherein the indicator is configured to push against the central component on the first side of the movable arm of the gripping member and be pressed to a flattened condition when the gripping member is in the closed position, the paddle is in the closed position and the leaflet of the native valve is disposed in the capture region at least a minimum insertion depth.

9. The valve repair system of claim 8, wherein the indicator is configured to pass through one or more of the paddle and the gripping member.

10. The valve repair system of claim 8, wherein the gripping member and the indicator each comprise a marker comprising a radiopaque material.

11. The valve repair system of claim 8, wherein the gripping member and the indicator are made from a single piece of material.

12. The valve repair system of claim 8, wherein a fixed arm of the gripping member comprises a first beam, a second beam, and an engaging member between the first beam and the second beam.

13. The valve repair system of claim 12, further comprising a marker attached to the indicator.

14. The valve repair system of claim 8, wherein the indicator is formed from a portion of the gripping member, wherein the indicator is formed between outer beams of a movable arm of the gripping member or outside the outer beams of the gripping member, wherein the indicator comprises a twisted portion, and wherein the twisted portion comprises one or more twists between 0 degrees and 180 degrees.

15. An implantable device for treating a native valve of a patient, the implantable device comprising:

a gripping member;

a paddle, wherein the gripping member and paddle are movable to form a capture region for capturing a leaflet of the native valve;

an indicator coupled to the implantable device, wherein the indicator is movable to indicate whether the leaflet of the native valve is inserted into the capture region to at least a minimum insertion depth; and

wherein:

the indicator is configured to pass through one or more of the paddle and the gripping member;

the indicator is configured as an indicator arm comprising a fixed end and a moving end;

the fixed end of the indicator arm is coupled to a movable arm of the gripping member;

the fixed end and the moving end are disposed on a first side of the movable arm of the gripping member;

the indicator arm comprises a leaflet engaging member between the fixed end and the moving end;

the leaflet-engaging member is disposed on a second side of a movable arm of the gripping member;

the leaflet capture region is located on the second side of the movable arm; and

the leaflet engaging portion of the indicator is configured to move further into the capture region when the gripping member is in the closed position, the paddle is in the closed position and the leaflet of the native valve is not disposed in the capture region.

16. The implantable device of claim 15, wherein the indicator is configured to pass through at least one of a channel of the gripping member and a channel of the paddle.

17. The implantable device of any one of claims 15 to 16, wherein a fixed arm of the gripping member comprises a first beam, a second beam, and an engaging member between the first beam and the second beam.

18. The implantable device of any one of claims 15 to 17, further comprising a marker attached to the indicator.

19. The implantable device of any one of claims 15 to 18, wherein the indicator comprises a first arm portion and a second arm portion.

20. The implantable device of claim 19, wherein the first arm portion and the second arm portion are coupled with the moving end and are connected at a connection point at the fixed end.