

CLAIMS:

1. A valve holder assembly comprising:
a valve holder;
a prosthetic heart valve comprising a plurality of valve leaflets that control directional flow of blood through a heart, a stent structure having a plurality of commissure posts supporting the valve leaflets, the stent structure having a covering over the plurality of commissure posts and having a sewing ring at an inflow end of the stent structure, each of the plurality of commissure posts having a tip and a first suture loop attached to the covering at a location adjacent to or on the tip of the commissure post, wherein each first suture loop provides a passage for a suture to pass through between the covering and the first suture loop; and
a first deployment suture connecting the valve holder to the prosthetic heart valve, the first deployment suture attached to the valve holder, routed through the first suture loop, and back to the valve holder,
wherein the passage of each first suture loop is aligned perpendicular to the tip of the commissure post.
2. The valve holder assembly of claim 1, wherein the plurality of commissure posts comprises a first commissure post and a second commissure post and wherein the first deployment suture is attached to the valve holder, routed through the first suture loop of the first commissure post, routed through the first suture loop of the second commissure post, and back to the valve holder.
3. The valve holder assembly of claim 2, wherein the first deployment suture is attached to the valve holder, routed through the sewing ring, through the first suture loop of the first commissure post, through the first suture loop of the second commissure post, again through the sewing ring, and back to the valve holder.
4. The valve holder assembly of claim 3 further comprising a second deployment suture connecting the valve holder to the prosthetic heart valve, the second deployment suture attached to the valve holder, routed through the first suture loop of the second commissure post, and back to the valve holder.
5. The valve holder assembly of one of claims 2-4, further comprising a second suture loop of the second commissure post, wherein the first suture loop and the second suture loop are located end to end to provide two adjacent passages for a suture or sutures to pass through between the covering and the first and second suture loops.

6. The valve holder assembly of claim 5 further comprising a third deployment suture connecting the valve holder to the prosthetic heart valve, the third deployment suture attached to the valve holder, routed through the second suture loop of the second commissure post, and back to the valve holder.

7. The valve holder assembly of one of claims 1-6, wherein each commissure post has a second suture loop attached to the covering at a location adjacent to or on the tip of the commissure post, wherein the first and the second suture loops are located end to end to provide two adjacent passages for a suture or sutures to pass through between the covering and the first and the second suture loops.

8. The valve holder assembly of one of claims 1-4, wherein each commissure post has a second suture loop attached to the covering at a location adjacent to or on the tip of the commissure post, wherein the first and the second suture loops are aligned to provide a single aligned passage for a suture or sutures to pass through between the covering and the first and second suture loops.

9. The valve holder assembly of claim 8, wherein the second suture loop lays across the first suture loop.