CLAIMS

1. A system comprising:

an implant, comprising:

an implant body;

a gripper, coupled to the implant body;

an elastic pouch:

having a first part and a second part, the first part being coupled to the gripper,

stretchable into a stretched state in which the pouch defines a stretched distance between the first part and the second part, and

having a contracted state toward which the pouch is elastically biased, and in which the pouch defines a contracted distance between the first part and the second part, the contracted distance being smaller than the stretched distance; and

an elongate member, having a first end portion coupled to the implant body, a middle portion extending (i) from the first end portion, along at least a portion of the implant, (ii) into the pouch at the first part, and (iii) through the pouch to the second part of the pouch, the elongate member terminating at the second part of the pouch, to which a second end of the elongate member is fastened; and

an adjustment-facilitating tool reversibly couplable to the second part of the pouch, such that while coupled to the second part, application of a proximally-directed force to the adjustment-facilitating tool transitions the pouch to the stretched state by pulling the second part of the pouch and the second end of the elongate member away from the gripper,

wherein, in at least one state of the gripper, the middle portion is slidable through the gripper and into the pouch.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the second end of the elongate member is fastened to the second part of the pouch such that, in at least the one state of the gripper, stretching of the pouch into the stretched state pulls the middle portion through the gripper and into the pouch.

3. The system according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the first part of the pouch defines an opening into the pouch, and wherein in the at least one state of the gripper, the middle portion is slidable through the gripper and into the pouch via the opening.

4. The system according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein in a second state of the gripper, the gripper inhibits sliding of the middle portion through the gripper and out of the pouch.

5. The system according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the at least one state of the gripper includes a unidirectional state in which the gripper facilitates sliding of the middle portion through the gripper in a first direction that is into the pouch, and inhibits sliding of the middle portion through the gripper in a second, opposite direction that is out of the pouch.

6. The system according to claim 5, wherein the gripper has an unlocked state in which the gripper facilitates sliding of the middle portion through the gripper in the first direction and in the second direction.

7. The system according to claim 5, wherein the gripper comprises one or more wheels that, in the unidirectional state, grip the middle portion, each of the one or more wheels configured to rotate in only one rotational direction.

8. The system according to any one of claims 1-7, wherein the at least one state of the gripper includes:

an unlocked state in which the gripper facilitates sliding of the middle portion through the gripper in a first direction that is into the pouch, and in a second, opposite direction that is out of the pouch, and

a locked state in which the gripper inhibits sliding of the middle portion through the gripper in the first direction and in the second direction.

9. The system according to claim 8, further comprising an unlocker, configured to maintain the gripper in the unlocked state, the gripper configured to automatically transition into the locked state upon removal of the unlocker from the gripper.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein the gripper comprises a jaw that, in the locked state, clamps onto the middle portion, and the unlocker maintains the gripper in the unlocked state by inhibiting the jaw from clamping onto the elongate member.

11. The system according to any one of claims 9 and 10, wherein:

the system further comprises a guide member that defines the unlocker at a distal end of the guide member,

the adjustment-facilitating tool comprises a tensioning element that is reversibly couplable to the pouch, such that while coupled to the pouch, application of a proximally-directed force to the tensioning element stretches the pouch into the stretched state, and

the adjustment-facilitating tool is advanceable along the guide member to the implant subsequent to implantation of the implant.

12. The system according to any one of claims 1-10, wherein the adjustment-facilitating tool comprises a tensioning element that is reversibly couplable to the pouch, such that while coupled to the pouch, application of a proximally-directed force to the tensioning element stretches the pouch into the stretched state.

13. The system according to claim 12, further comprising a guide member, reversibly coupled to the implant, wherein the adjustment-facilitating tool is advanceable along the guide member to the implant subsequent to implantation of the implant.

14. The system according to claim 12, wherein the adjustment-facilitating tool further comprises a pressing element, slidably coupled to the tensioning element such that, while the tensioning element is coupled to the pouch, application of a distally-directed force to the pressing element presses the pressing element against the implant.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein the pressing element maintains coupling between the tensioning element and the pouch, and withdrawal of the pressing element decouples the tensioning element from the pouch.

16. The system according to claim 14, wherein the pressing element is disposed coaxially around the tensioning element.

17. The system according to claim 14, wherein the tensioning element is disposed coaxially around the pressing element.

18. The system according to claim 14, wherein the pressing element is slidably coupled to the tensioning element such that, while the tensioning element is coupled to the pouch, application of the distally-directed force to the pressing element presses the pressing element against at least one of the implant body, the gripper, and an inner surface of the pouch.

19. The system according to any one of claims 11-18, wherein the implant further comprises a coupling that is attached to the pouch, and to which the adjustment-facilitating tool is reversibly couplable.

20. The system according to any one of claims 1-19, wherein the gripper comprises a plurality of teeth that provide a gripping surface configured to grip the middle portion.

21. The system according to any one of claims 1-20, wherein the pouch is coupled to the gripper by the first part of the pouch being coupled to the gripper.

22. The system according to any one of claims 1-21, configured such that stretching the pouch into the stretched state contracts the implant body.

23. The system according to any one of claims 1-21, wherein the implant body comprises a fabric sleeve that defines a circumferential wall that defines a lumen, wherein the first end portion of the elongate member extends along the sleeve, and wherein the implant body and the pouch are configured such that stretching the pouch into the stretched state longitudinally contracts the sleeve.

24. The system according to claim 23, further comprising a plurality of anchors, wherein each anchor of the plurality of anchors:

comprises a tissue-coupling element and a tool-engaging head fastened to one end of the tissue-coupling element, and

is configured to be intracorporeally delivered into the lumen of the sleeve, and to anchor the sleeve to tissue of a subject by the tissue-coupling element being driven through the circumferential wall and into the tissue.

25. The system according to claim 8, further comprising an unlocker comprising a filament, wherein the filament is reversibly coupled to the unlocker, and wherein tensioning of the filament transitions the gripper to the unlocked state.

26. The system according to any one of claims 1-24, further comprising an unlocker, and wherein:

the gripper comprises a jaw that, in a locked state, clamps onto the middle portion, and

the unlocker comprises a filament, reversibly coupled to the jaw such that tensioning of the filament can transition the gripper into the unlocked state by pulling the jaw away from the middle portion and into the locked state by reducing tension on the filament.