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;

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

an indicator that is configured to move into the capture region when the gripping member is in a closed position, the paddle is in a 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 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 paddle includes an inner paddle portion and an outer paddle portion, wherein at least a portion of the indicator is disposed between the inner paddle portion and the outer paddle portion 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 the minimum insertion depth.

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

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

6. 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.

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

8. The valve repair device of claim 1, wherein the indicator is configured as an indicator arm and comprises a fixed end and a moving end.

9. 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.

10. 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;

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

an indicator that is configured to move into the capture region when the gripping member is in a closed position, the paddle is in a 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 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.

11. The valve repair system of claim 10, wherein the indicator is configured to pass through one or more of the paddle and the gripping member.

12. The valve repair system of claim 10, wherein the paddle includes an inner paddle portion and an outer paddle portion, wherein at least a portion of the indicator is disposed between the inner paddle portion and the outer paddle portion 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 the minimum insertion depth.

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

14. The valve repair system of claim 10, wherein the gripping member and the indicator are made from a single piece of material.

15. The valve repair system of claim 10, 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.

16. The valve repair system of claim 15, further comprising a marker attached to the indicator.

17. The valve repair system of claim 10, wherein the indicator is configured as an indicator arm and comprises a fixed end and a moving end.

18. The valve repair system of claim 10, 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.

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

a gripper arm;

wherein the gripper arm is movable to form an opening or capture region for receiving a native leaflet of the native valve; and

a leaflet depth indicator comprising a first electrode and a second electrode, wherein the first electrode and the second electrode provide electrical signals to indicate whether a leaflet of the native valve is inserted into the opening to a particular insertion depth.

20. The valve repair device of claim 19, wherein the electrical signals comprises an intracardiac electrocardiogram signal or a bioimpedance signal.