CLAIMS

1. A system for use with tissue of a heart of a subject, the system comprising:

a guide assembly, transluminally advanceable to the heart, and comprising:

a guide frame, deployable at a site within the heart,

a guide rail, and

multiple fasteners, each defining a closed loop through which the guide rail is threaded such that the fasteners hold the guide rail around the guide frame such that the guide rail is positionable along the tissue;

an implant; and

a tool, configured to position the implant along the tissue, guided by the guide rail, and to secure the implant to the tissue in a manner in which the implant becomes coupled to the guide frame,

wherein the one or more fasteners are unlockable within the heart, such that the guide frame becomes decouplable from the implant.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the guide frame is configured to be deployed within an atrioventricular valve of the heart.

3. The system according to any one of claims 1-2, wherein the guide rail is held, by the fasteners, in an arc around at least part of the guide frame.

4. The system according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the guide rail is radiopaque.

5. The system according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the guide assembly comprises a rod that extends along the guide frame, and wherein, for at least one of the fasteners, the rod maintains the fastener in the closed loop.

6. The system according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the implant comprises a helical member, implantable along the tissue by rotation of the helical member.

7. The system according to claim 6, wherein the helical member has an axial length of 5-12 cm.

8. The system according to claim 6, wherein the helical member has a sharpened tip.

9. The system according to claim 6, wherein the helical member defines a central channel, and the implant is implantable along the tissue while the guide rail extends along the central channel.

10. The system according to claim 9, wherein the guide rail is configured such that, while the implant remains implanted along the tissue with the guide rail extending along the central channel, the guide rail is axially slidable proximally through and out of the central channel.

11. The system according to claim 10, further comprising a contraction member, extending coaxially through a channel defined by the guide rail, the guide rail being axially slidable (i) proximally through and out of the central channel, and (ii) proximally over and along the contraction member, leaving the contraction member within the central channel.

12. The system according to claim 11, further comprising a stopper coupled to a distal end of the contraction member, such that tension applied to the contraction member longitudinally contracts the helical member, by the stopper inhibiting sliding of the contraction member through the central channel.

13. The system according to claim 12, wherein the stopper is a first stopper, and wherein the system further comprises a second stopper, configured to lock the tension in the contraction member by being coupled to the contraction member proximally from the helical member.

14. The system according to claim 9, wherein the helical member defines a series of turns, and wherein the implant is implantable along the tissue by screwing the helical member along a surface of the tissue such that a part each of the turns becomes embedded in the tissue and another part of each of the turns is disposed outside of the tissue.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein the guide rail is configured to limit a depth of penetration of the helical member into the tissue.

16. The system according to claim 9, further comprising a stopper coupled to a distal end of the guide rail, such that tension applied to the guide rail longitudinally contracts the helical member, by the stopper inhibiting the guide rail from sliding proximally through the central channel.

17. The system according to claim 16, wherein the stopper is a first stopper, and wherein the system further comprises a second stopper, configured to lock the tension in the guide rail by being coupled to the guide rail proximally from the helical member.

18. The system according to claim 16, wherein the tissue is tissue of an annulus of a valve of the heart, and the implant is configured such that, after the implant has been implanted along the tissue, contraction of the helical member contracts the tissue of the annulus.

19. The system according to claim 6, wherein the helical member is sufficiently flexible to follow the guide rail along the tissue.

20. The system according to claim 6, wherein the helical member has a constant pitch.