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(54) Title: EXPANDABLE PROSTHETIC HEART VALVE WITH FLATTENED APICES

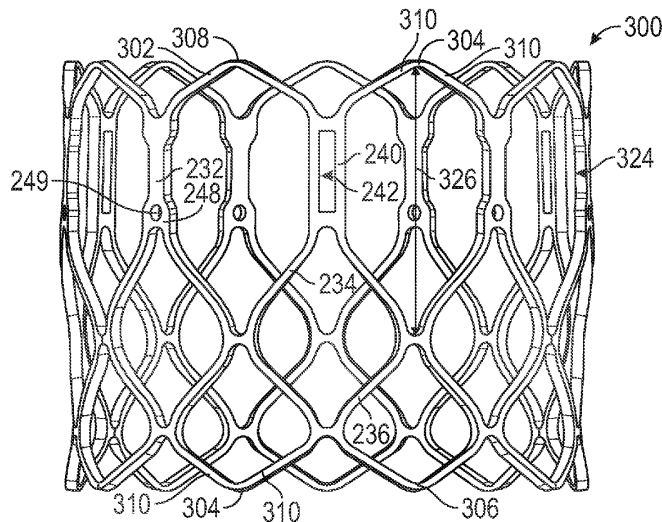


FIG. 5

(57) Abstract: A prosthetic heart valve including a radially expandable and compressible annular frame is disclosed. The frame includes a plurality of interconnected struts defining a plurality of rows of cells arranged between an inflow end and an outflow end of the frame, the interconnected struts comprising a plurality of outflow struts defining the outflow end and a plurality of inflow struts defining the inflow end. The frame further includes a plurality of apex regions formed at the inflow end and the outflow end, each apex region curving between two angled strut portions and forming one of the outflow struts or one of the inflow struts with the two angled strut portions. Each apex region has a narrowed width and a length that extends along at least 25% of a total length of the outflow strut or inflow strut, the narrowed width smaller than a width of the two angled strut portions.

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