WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for deploying a cutter member, said method comprising:

introducing a capture catheter into a heart chamber adjacent to the valve leaflets on one side of a clip;

introducing a transfer catheter into the heart chamber adjacent to the valve leaflets on another side of the clip;

deploying a cutting element from the transfer catheter to the capture catheter, wherein deploying the cutter element comprises steering a tip of at least one of the capture catheter and the transfer catheter to bring tips of both catheters into proximity, wherein deploying the cutter member comprises one of:

engaging a magnetic element on the capture catheter against a magnetic element on the cutting member and drawing the cutting member past the valve,

engaging a loop on the capture catheter over a free end on the cutting member and drawing the cutting member past the valve, or

deploying the cutting element further comprises bringing the tips of the capture catheter and the transfer catheter together to form a path past the valve and advancing the cutting member through the path.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein the heart chamber is the left atrium and the heart valve is a mitral valve.

3. A method as in claim 1, wherein the heart chamber is the left ventricle and the heart valve is a mitral valve.

4. A method as in claim 1, wherein the heart chamber is the right atrium and the heart valve is a tricuspid valve.

5. A method as in claim 1, wherein the heart chamber is the right ventricle and the heart valve is a tricuspid valve.

6. A method as in claim 1, further comprising delivering radiofrequency current to the cutting member.

7. A system for excising an implanted clip approximating opposed valve leaflets in a heart valve, said system comprising:

a capture catheter configured to be introduced into a heart chamber adjacent to the valve leaflets on one side of the clip, the capture catheter comprises a magnetic distal tip;

a transfer catheter configured to be introduced into the heart chamber adjacent to the valve leaflets on another side of the clip; and

a cutting member configured to be deployed from the transfer catheter to the capture catheter to place the cutting element against tissue of at least one of the valve leaflets to excise the clip, wherein the cutting member is carried by the transfer catheter and has a magnetic element exposed at a distal end of the transfer catheter so that manipulation of the catheter positions within a heart chamber allows the capture catheter to capture the cutting member.

8. A system as in claim 7, wherein at least one of the capture catheter and the transfer catheter has a steerable distal tip.

9. A system as in claim 7, wherein each of the capture catheter and the transfer catheter has a steerable distal tip.

10. A system as in claim 7, further comprising a clip removal catheter having a distal end configured to engage and capture the clip

11. A system as in claim 7, wherein the cutting member comprises a radiofrequency electrode for energized cutting of valve tissue.

12. A system as in claim 7, wherein the cutting member comprises a mechanically abrasive or sharpened edge for mechanically cutting valve tissue.

13. A system as in claim 7, wherein the cutting member comprises a cutting zone delineated by radiopaque markers.

14. A system as in claim 7, further comprising a delivery sheath configured to introduce the capture catheter and the transfer catheter to the heart chamber.

15. A system as in claim 14, wherein the delivery sheath has a lumen sized to simultaneously accommodate both the capture catheter and the transfer catheter.

16. A system as in claim 7, wherein the delivery sheath comprises a transseptal sheath.

17. A system as in claim 7, wherein the delivery sheath comprises a transapical sheath