

A STENT WITH A NEGATIVE SPRING CONSTANT

ABSTRACT

The present invention is directed to bistable cells and their use in stents. An expandable stent is formed from a plurality of bistable cells wherein the cells are characterized by a negative spring constant and have a plurality of stable configurations, including a first stable configuration with a first stable collapsed diameter suitable for transluminal delivery and a second stable configuration with a second stable diameter suitable to restore and maintain vessel patency. The bistable cells may comprise arcuate or multi-link segments.