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(54) **Title:** DEVICES AND METHODS OF COMMISSURE FORMATION FOR PROSTHETIC HEART VALVE

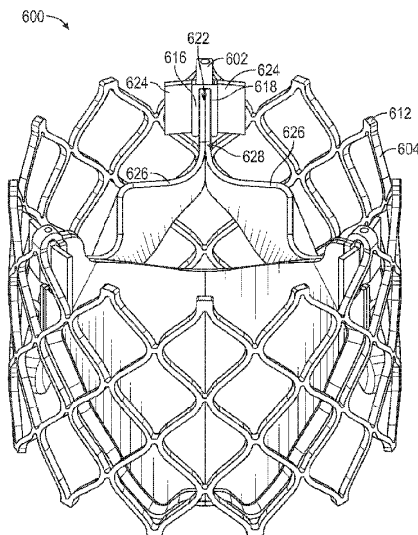


FIG. 66

(57) **Abstract:** A prosthetic heart valve includes an annular frame including a plurality of strut members that is radially collapsible and expandable. A leaflet structure is situated within the frame, and includes a plurality of leaflets having opposing commissure tab portions on opposite sides of the leaflet. Each commissure tab portion is paired with an adjacent commissure tab portion of an adjacent leaflet to form one or more commissures. A commissure support element is positioned at each of the commissures, and comprise a first member and a second member that are separable from each other and configured to receive leaflets therebetween. The first and second members are detached from the frame and spaced radially inwardly from the frame such that the members contact the leaflets radially inward from the frame and limit movement of the leaflets so that they articulate at a location that is spaced radially inwardly from the frame.

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