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(54) **IMPLANTABLE PROSTHETIC VALVE**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **623/1.11; 623/1.13; 623/1.26; 623/2.11; 623/2.14; 623/2.15**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A valve prosthesis device is disclosed suitable for implantation in body ducts. The device comprises a support stent, comprised of a deployable construction adapted to be initially crimped in a narrow configuration suitable for catheterization through the body duct to a target location and adapted to be deployed by exerting substantially radial forces from within by means of a deployment device to a deployed state in the target location, and a valve assembly comprising a flexible conduit having an inlet end and an outlet, made of pliant material attached to the support beams providing collapsible slack portions of the conduit at the outlet. The support stent is provided with a plurality of longitudinally rigid support beams of fixed length. When flow is allowed to pass through the valve prosthesis device from the inlet to the outlet, the valve assembly is kept in an open position, whereas a reverse flow is prevented as the collapsible slack portions of the valve assembly collapse inwardly providing blockage to the reverse flow.

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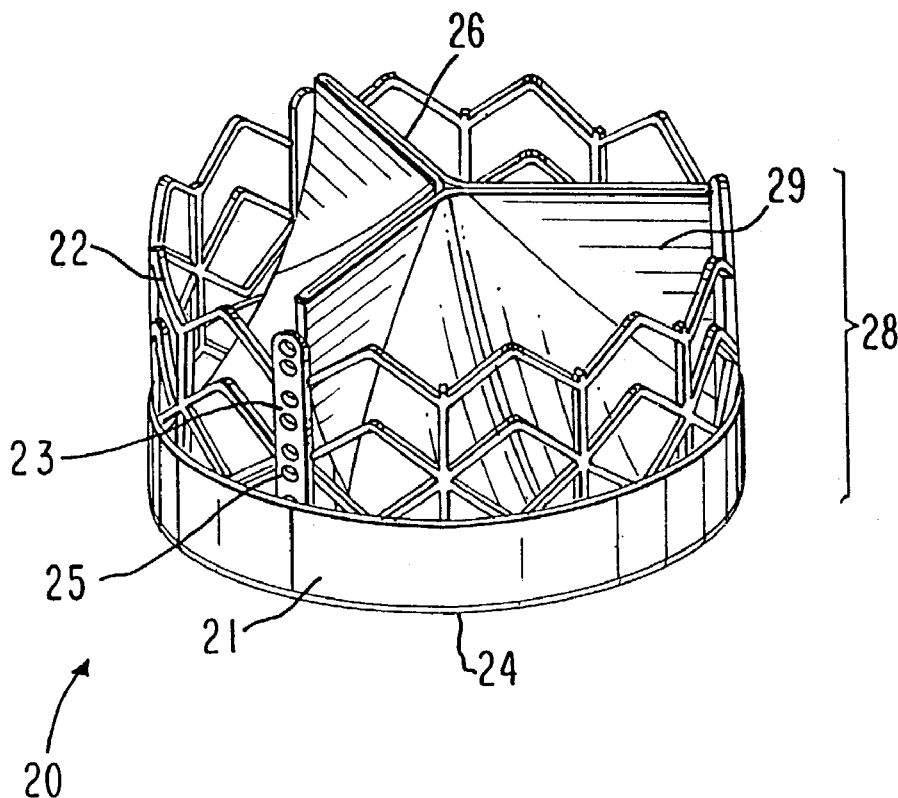
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**Related U.S. Application Data**

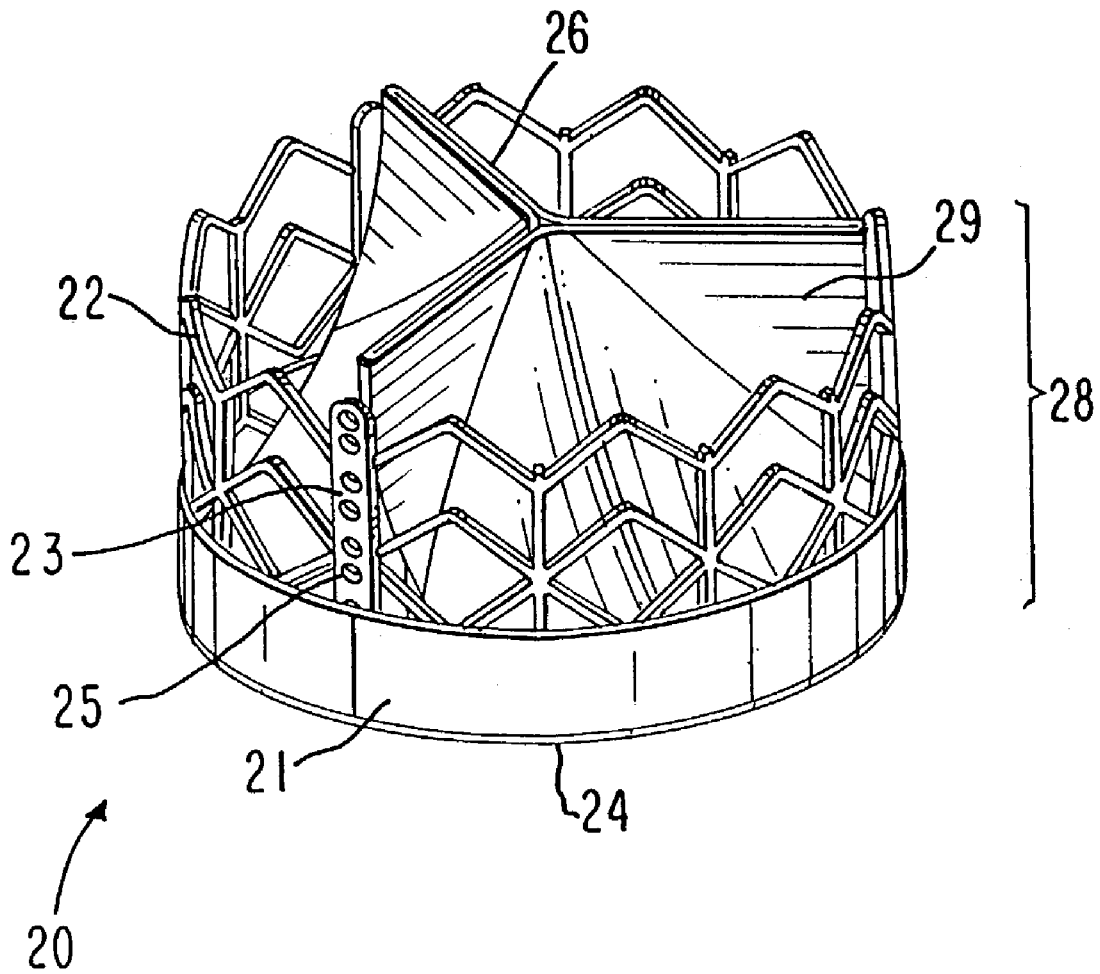
(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/975,750, filed on Oct. 11, 2001.

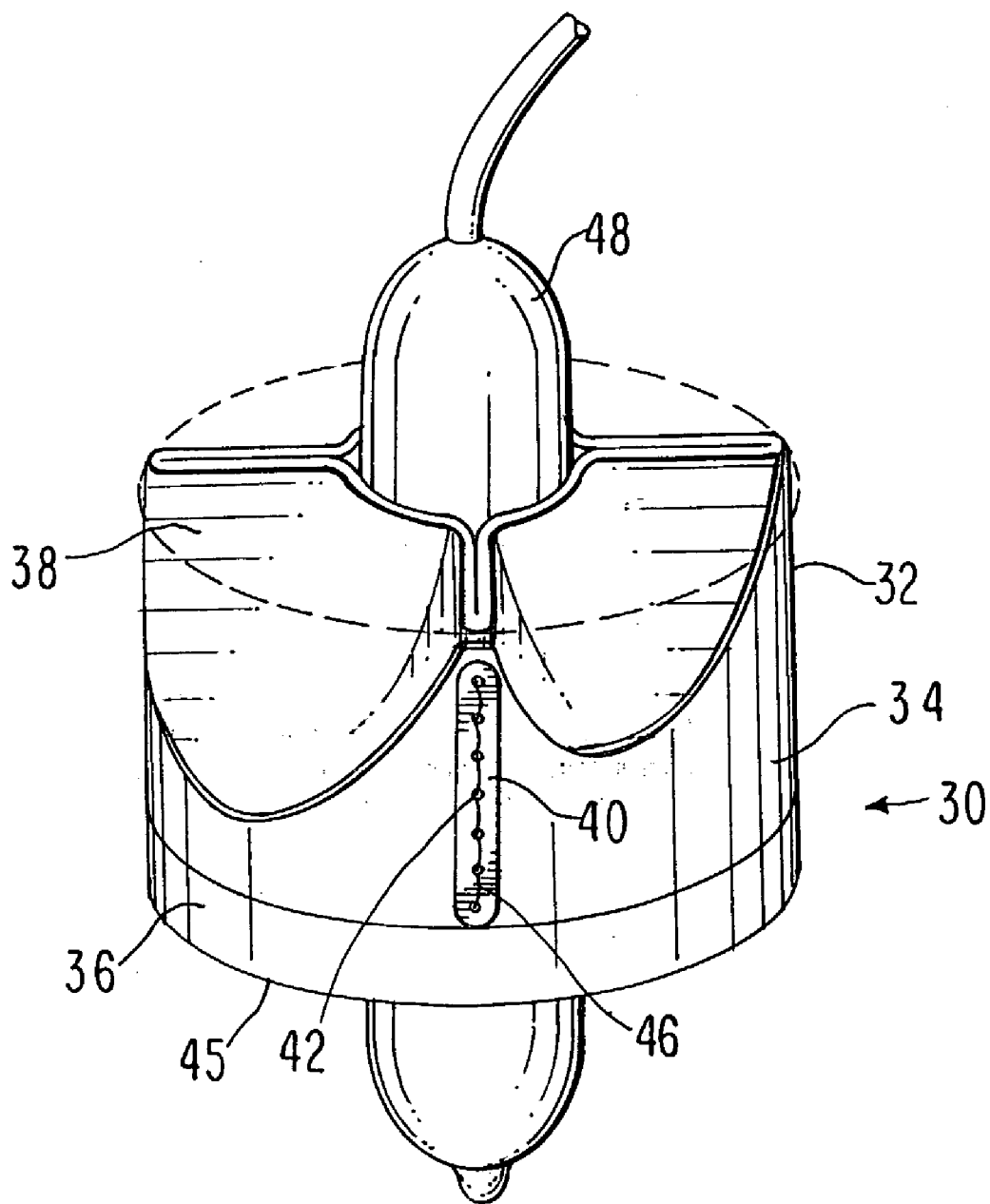
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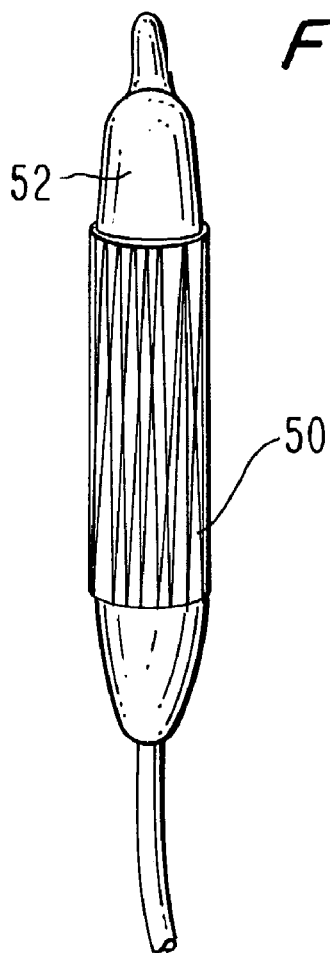
*FIG. 1*



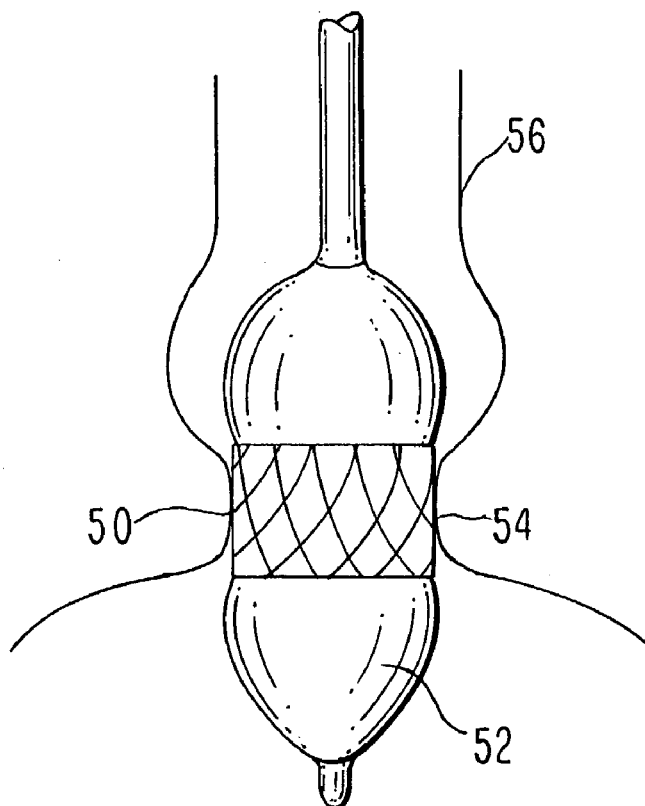


**FIG. 2**

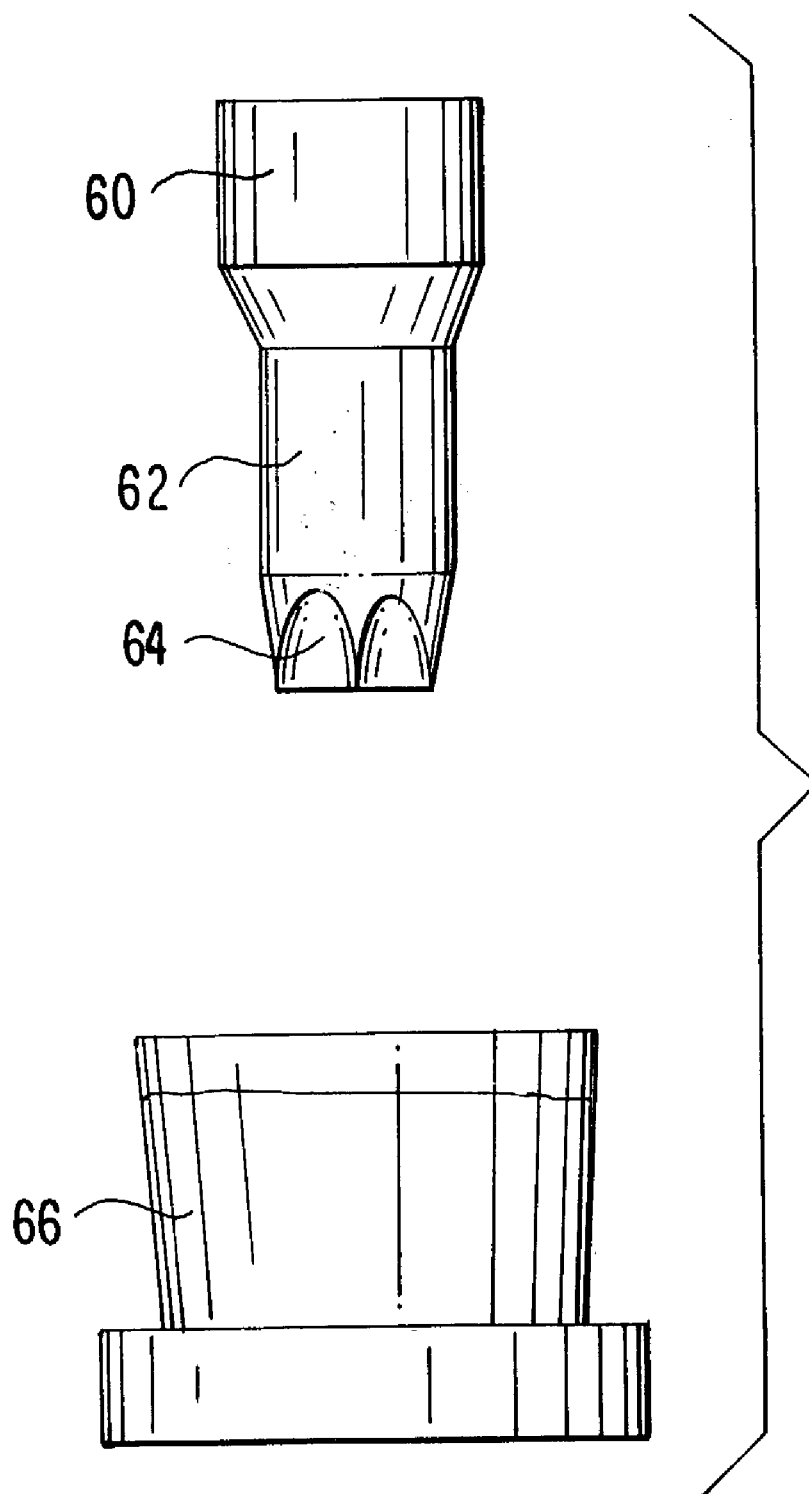
**FIG. 3**



**FIG. 4**



**FIG. 5**



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