

Title (en)

LESS INVASIVE DEVICES AND METHODS FOR TREATMENT OF CARDIAC VALVES

Title (de)

WENIGER INVASIVE VORRICHTUNGEN UND VERFAHREN ZUM BEHANDELN VON HERZKLAPPEN

Title (fr)

DISPOSITIFS ET PROCEDES MOINS INVASIFS POUR LE TRAITEMENT DES VALVULES CARDIAQUES

Publication

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Application

**EP 96916756 A 19960530**

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Abstract (en)

[origin: WO9639942A1] Device and methods are provided for less invasive surgical treatment of cardiac valves whereby the need for a gross thoracotomy or median sternotomy is eliminated. In one aspect of this invention, a delivery system (10) for a cardiac valve prosthesis such as an annuloplasty ring (90) or prosthetic valve (262) includes an elongated handle (28) configured to extend into the heart through an intercostal space from outside of the chest cavity, and a prosthesis holder (100) attached to the handle for releasably holding a prosthesis. The prosthesis holder (100) is attached to the handle (28) in such a way that the holder (100), prosthesis (90) and handle (28) have a profile with a height smaller than the width of an intercostal space when the adjacent ribs are unretracted, preferably less than about 30 mm. In a further aspect, the invention provides a method for repairing or replacing a heart valve which includes the steps of introducing a prosthesis (262) through an intercostal space and through a penetration in a wall of the heart, and securing the prosthesis (262) to an interior wall of the heart, wherein each step is carried out without cutting, removing, or significantly retracting the ribs or sternum.

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