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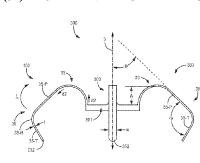


FIG. 3A

(57) Abstract: A fixation mechanism of an implantable medical device is formed by a plurality of tines fixedly mounted around a perimeter of a distal end of the device. Each tine may be said to include a first segment fixedly attached to the device, a second segment extending from the first segment, and a third segment, to which the second segment extends. When the device is loaded in a lumen of a delivery tool and a rounded free distal end of each tine engages a sidewall that defines the lumen, to hold the tines in a spring-loaded condition, the first segment of each tine, which has a spring-biased pre-formed curvature, becomes relatively straightened, and the third segment of each tine, which is terminated by the free distal end, extends away from the axis of the device at an acute angle.

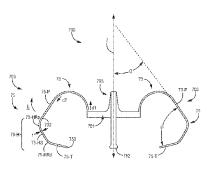


FIG. 6A

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