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(71) Applicant: **DISENO Y DESARROLLO MEDICO, S.A. DE C.V.** [MX/MX]; San Louis Potosi 96, Colonia Roma Sur, Mexico, D.F. 06700 (MX).

(72) Inventors: **VONDERWALDE FREIDBERG, Carlos**; 6231 Dakota Drive, Richmond, British Columbia V7C 4X5 (CA). **CAPUANO, Daniel**; Villa de San Marcos 31, Colonia Lomas de las Palmas, Huixquilucan, México 52720 (US).

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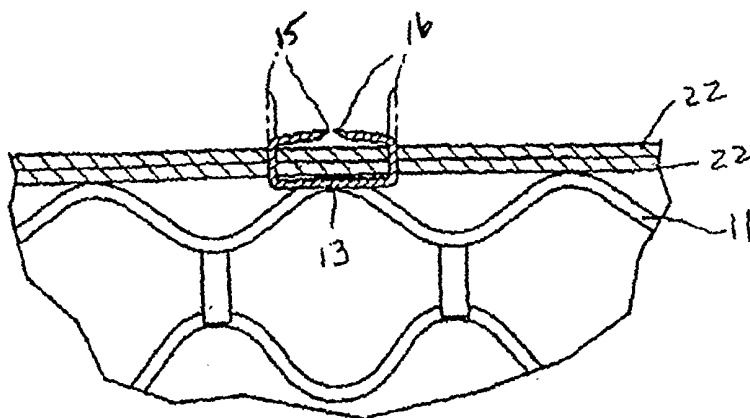
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(54) Title: STENT WITH COVER CONNECTORS



(57) Abstract: A stent suitable for maintaining the patency of a bodily lumen, generally comprising a tubular body configured to facilitate connection of a cover thereto. A stent assembly of the invention generally comprises a stent having cover connectors in contact with a cover to secure the cover to a surface of the stent. The invention also comprises methods of securing a cover to a stent. In a first embodiment, the cover connector on an expandable tubular body has a first section, a second section, and a third section between the first and

second sections. The connector has an open configuration, and a closed configuration in which the first section has at least one bend and the second section has at least one bend, so that the first and second sections are bent together and are directed towards the third section there between. In a second embodiment, a cover connector is secured to an end of the expandable tubular body, and is configured to fold from an open configuration to a closed configuration in which the connector extends toward a midpoint of the tubular body between the first and second ends of the tubular body and contacts a cover located between the cover connector and a surface of the stent, to secure the cover thereto.



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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
WPI Data, EPO-Internal

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