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Summers

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[54] ARTIFICIAL SUPPORT FOR A BLOOD VESSEL

[75] Inventor: David P. Summers, Montgomery, Tex.

[73] Assignee: American BioMed, Inc., The Woodlands, Tex.

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[58] Field of Search 606/191, 198, 108; 623/1, 12

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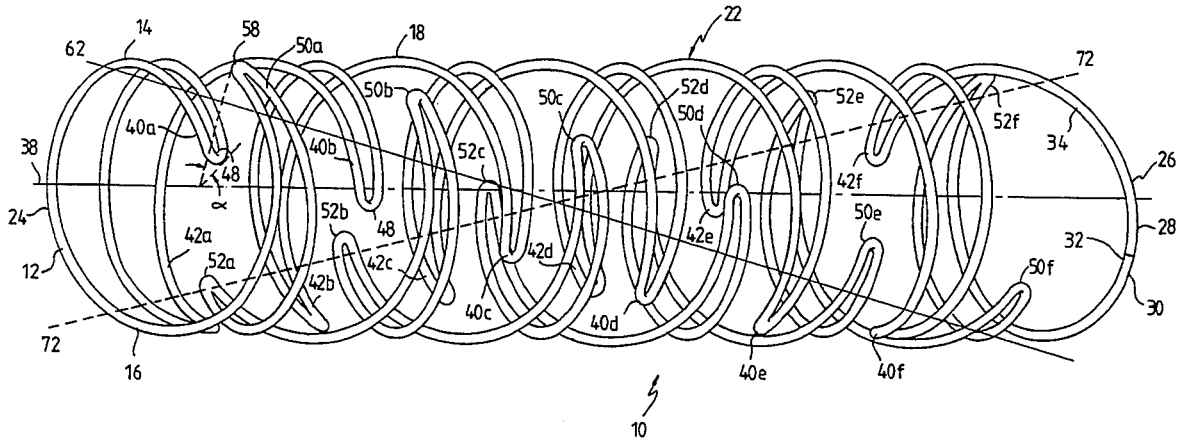
Primary Examiner—Michael H. Thaler

Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Marcella D. Watkins; David A. Rose

[57] ABSTRACT

A stent comprising a coil including a plurality of arcuate sections that alternate directions around a central axis, each arcuate section including a pair of curved turns joined by a cusp, and the cusps of adjacent arcuate sections intermeshing and defining at least one region of overlap, which in turn describes a helix around and along the length of the coil. In the preferred embodiment, there are two regions of overlap, which together describe a double helix. In another preferred embodiment, the stent is bifurcated so as to support a branched vessel or the like.

21 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets