Minimally Invasive Percutaneous Delivery System for a Whole-Heart Assist Device
Tech ID: 32501 / UC Case 2019-678-0

BRIEF DESCRIPTION
Researchers at UCI have developed a minimally invasive mechanism to help deliver and implant a cardiac assist device inside the body to help patients with heart failure.

SUGGESTED USES
- Delivery system for cardiac assist devices
- Guide, position, release, and secure a whole-heart assist device around the heart

FEATURES/BENEFITS
- Minimally invasive delivery mechanism
- Passive and active grip features help secure device to heart
- User-friendly controls to guide and release device

TECHNOLOGY DESCRIPTION
Successful delivery and implantation of medical devices into the body is a crucial for effective and positive outcomes. Specifically, implanting cardiac assist devices commonly require open heart surgery which is time-intensive, invasive, and requires a lengthy recovery period. Replacement of heart valves can require open heart surgery, however, more minimally invasive procedures using a catheter mechanism for device delivery are becoming more common.

Investigators at UCI have previously developed a whole-heart assist device comprised of an implantable, flexible sleeve that wraps externally around the intact heart to provide additional pumping for heart failure patients. The UCI team has designed a minimally invasive, percutaneous delivery system to guide, position, release and secure the cardiac device around the heart, similar to the catheter mechanism for delivering heart valve replacements. The cardiac sleeve device is collapsed and attached to rod-like delivery arms that are contained within a delivery sheath. After making a small incision along the skin near the pericardium (the sac surrounding the heart), the sheath is inserted. Manual controls near the backend of the sheath allow for advancing of the delivery arms. As the delivery arms advance, the cardiac sleeve moves out of the sheath and expands for placement around the heart. Passive grip features along the basal and apical rings of the sleeve secure positioning around the heart; additional help is provided from active grip features and suture mechanisms that can be triggered when the device released. This unique delivery system allows doctors to implant these flexible cardiac assist devices in a minimally invasive way and offers heart failure patients alternatives to intensive surgeries.

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT
Description, procedure, and drawings of delivery system are outlined.

PATENT STATUS
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Patent Pending

ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGIES BY THESE INVENTORS
Percutaneous Heart Valve Delivery System Enabling Implanted Prosthetic Valve Fracture
Growth-Accommodating Transcatheter Pulmonary Valve System
Mitochondrial Transplantation to alter energy metabolism
Mitochondrial Transplantation for Treating Mitochondrial Cardiomyopathy
Real-time 3D Image Processing Platform for Visualizing Blood Flow Dynamics
Method for Synchronizing a Pulsatile Cardiac Assist Device with the Heart
Automated Histological Image Processing tool for Identifying and Quantifying Tissue Calcification
Simple, User-friendly Irrigator Device for Cleaning the Upper Aerodigestive Tract and Neighboring Areas
Automated 3D Reconstruction of the Cardiac Chambers From MRI of Ultrasound