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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

Boston Scientific Corp., et al.,

NO. C 02-01474 JW

Plaintiffs,

FIFTH CLAIM CONSTRUCTION ORDER;¹

v.

Cordis Corp.,

**ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING
IN PART CROSS-MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY
JUDGMENT ON INFRINGEMENT / NON-
INFRINGEMENT RE: DEFENDANT’S
TRUFILL DETACHABLE COIL SYSTEM AS
TO CLAIMS OF THE ‘385 AND ‘498 PATENTS**

Defendant.

I. INTRODUCTION

Boston Scientific Corporation and Target Therapeutics, Inc. (“Target”) (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) filed this action against Cordis Corporation (“Defendant”) alleging infringement of a number of patents relating to methods and devices for treating vascular medical problems. Presently before the Court are the parties’ cross-motions for summary judgment as to whether Defendant’s TRUFILL Detachable Coil System (“DCS”) infringes Claims of the ‘385 and ‘498 Patents.

The Court has conducted several hearings on these and other motions whereby the parties have been permitted to supplement their original papers. Based on the papers submitted to date and the arguments of counsel at the hearing, the Court issues its Fifth Claim Construction Order and GRANTS in part and DENIES in part Cross-Motions for Summary Judgment.

¹ With this Order, the Court adopts a convention it has been using in its other cases with respect to claim construction orders; namely, to give each order a numerical title based on its order of construction. This is the Fifth Claim Construction Order the Court has issued in this case since 2003.

II. BACKGROUND

On March 26, 2002, Plaintiffs filed a Complaint alleging that Defendant infringes U.S. Patents Nos. 5,895,385 (“the ‘385 Patent”), 6,010,498 (“the ‘498 Patent”), and 6,238,415 (“the ‘415 Patent”). At issue with respect to the present motions is whether Defendant’s DCS infringes claims of the ‘385 and ‘498 Patents.

A. The Patented Technology

The Court provides a brief summary of the relevant technology as disclosed with respect to the ‘385 and ‘498 Patents.² The prior art taught an extra-vascular approach for surgically occluding, and therefore treating, brain aneurysms. The approach had many risks because it is highly invasive and required general anesthesia. The prior art also taught an endo-vascular approach in which the aneurysm was entered through the use of a catheter. Under this approach, a balloon attached to the end of the catheter was introduced into the aneurysm, inflated, and detached, leaving it to occlude the aneurysm while preserving the parent artery. However, the balloon approach carried a risk that the aneurysm might rupture due to over-distension of the aneurysm.

The ‘385 and ‘498 Patents describe medical devices and methods directed to an endo-vascular approach for, *inter alia*, forming an occlusion inside an aneurysm, which avoids the risks involved with using other methods. These patents summarize the invention as follows:

An artery, vein, aneurysm, vascular malformation or arterial fistula is occluded through endovascular occlusion by the endovascular insertion of a platinum wire and/or tip into the vascular cavity. The vascular cavity is packed with the tip to obstruct blood flow or access of blood in the cavity such that the blood clots in the cavity and an occlusion is formed. The tip may be elongate and flexible so that it packs the cavity by being folded upon itself a multiple number of times, or may pack the cavity by virtue of a filamentary or fuzzy structure of the tip. The tip is then separated from the wire mechanically or by electrolytic separation of the tip from the wire. The wire and the microcatheter are thereafter removed leaving the tip embedded in the thrombus formed within the vascular cavity. Movement of wire in the microcatheter is more easily tracked by providing a radioopaque proximal marker on the microcatheter and a corresponding indicator marker on the wire. Electrothrombosis is

² A complete background of the technology is contained in the Court’s October 8, 2003 Claim Construction Order. (hereafter, “CC Order,” Docket Item No. 177.)

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1 facilitated by placing the ground electrode on the distal end of the microcatheter and flowing
2 current between the microcatheter electrode and the tip.

3 ('385 Patent, Abstract; '498 Patent, Abstract.)

4 **B. Prior Claim Construction and Motions**

5 In its October 7, 2003 Order, the Court construed claim terms of the '385 and '498 Patents.
6 In that Order, the Court found that "all methods of detachment (mechanical or electrolytic) claimed
7 in these patents are limited to a 'forceless letting go.'" (Id. at 6.) Specifically, the Court construed
8 "detachable" to mean "attached but capable of being detached or disconnected without any axial
9 force and without significant radial force" and "detaching" to mean "disconnecting without any axial
10 force and without any significant radial force." (Id. at 15.)

11 On March 15, 2004, both parties filed cross-motions for summary judgment as to whether
12 Cordis' DCS infringes Claims 7, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 22, 32, 35, and 38 of the '385 Patent and
13 Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, and 10 of the '498 Patent. (Docket Item Nos. 316, 326.) Plaintiffs' motion for
14 summary judgment also contained an invitation for the Court to reconsider its earlier ruling of the
15 meaning of detachment within the context of the two patents. Plaintiffs formalized this request in a
16 Motion for Reconsideration dated May 17, 2004. (Docket Item No. 492.)

17 In its July 26, 2004 Order, the Court granted Plaintiffs' Motion for Reconsideration because
18 it found that detachment did not require a "forceless letting go." (See Docket Item No. 592.)
19 Accordingly, the Court re-construed "detachable" to mean "attached but capable of being detached
20 or disconnected" and "detaching" to mean "disconnecting." (Id. at 12.) Since the Court's claim
21 construction changed, the Court permitted the parties to file supplemental briefs with respect to their
22 cross-motions for summary judgment, which allowed them to address issues left unresolved by the
23 Court's prior orders.³

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26 ³ (Plaintiffs' Supplemental Brief in Further Support of Motion for Summary Judgment of
27 Infringement, hereafter, "Plaintiffs' SB," Docket Item No. 639; Defendant's Supplemental Brief in
28 Support of its Motion for Summary Judgment, hereafter, "Defendant's SB," Docket Item No. 642.)

1 **C. The Allegedly Infringing Technology**

2 The accused Cordis DCS has a coil that is attached to a “delivery tube” via a “gripper.”
3 (Declaration of Amanda M. Kessel in Support of Plaintiffs’ Motion for Summary Judgment of
4 Infringement, hereafter, “Kessel Decl.,” Ex. 4 at CNV 0034441, Docket Item No. 307.) Like
5 embodiments of the invention disclosed in the ‘385 and ‘498 Patents, the DCS coil is made of
6 platinum, and it detaches to form an occlusion in a vascular cavity. (See id. at CNV 0034445.)

7 The accused Cordis DCS delivery tube is a hollow tube that is filled with fluid before being
8 inserted into the body. (Declaration of Donald K. Jones in Support of Defendant’s Motion for
9 Summary Judgment of Noninfringement ¶¶ 4-5, hereafter, “Jones Decl.,” Docket Item No. 310.)
10 The method of detachment is accomplished by hydraulically expanding the gripper, which builds
11 pressure within the delivery tube and reduces the friction holding the coil in place. (Kessel Decl.,
12 Ex. 5 at CNV 0034464, Ex. 6 at CNV 00344628; Jones Decl. ¶ 5.)

13 Presently before the Court are the parties’ cross-motions for summary judgment as to
14 whether Cordis’ DCS infringes Claims 7, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 22, 32, 35, and 38 of the ‘385
15 Patent and Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, and 10 of the ‘498 Patent.

16 **III. STANDARDS**

17 **A. Standards and Procedures for Claims Construction**

18 **1. General Principles of Claim Construction**

19 Claim construction is a matter of law, to be decided exclusively by the Court. Markman v.
20 Westview Instruments, Inc., 517 U.S. 370, 387 (1996). When the meaning of a term used in a claim
21 is in dispute, the Court invites the parties to submit their respective proposed definitions and a brief,
22 outlining the basis for their proposals. In addition, the Court conducts a hearing to allow oral
23 argument of the respective proposed definitions. After the hearing, the Court takes the matter under
24 submission, and issues an Order construing the meaning of the term. The Court’s construction
25 becomes the legally operative meaning of the term that governs further proceedings in the case.
26 Vitronics Corp. v. Conceptoronic, Inc., 90 F.3d 1576, 1582 (Fed. Cir. 1996). The Court recognizes

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1 that claim construction is a fluid process, wherein the Court may consider a number of extrinsic
2 sources of evidence so long as they do not contradict the intrinsic evidence. However, the Court
3 acknowledges that greater weight should always be given to the intrinsic evidence. Phillips v. AWH
4 Corp., 415 F.3d 1303, 1324 (Fed. Cir. 2005).

5 **2. Construction from the View Point of an Ordinarily Skilled Artisan**

6 A patent’s claims define the scope of the patent: the invention that the patentee may exclude
7 others from practicing. Id. at 1312. The Court generally gives the patent’s claims their ordinary and
8 customary meaning. In construing the ordinary and customary meaning of a patent claim, the Court
9 does so from the viewpoint of a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, which
10 is considered to be the effective filing date of the patent application. Thus, the Court seeks to
11 construe the patent claim in accordance with what a person of ordinary skill in the art would have
12 understood the claim to have meant at the time the patent application was filed. This inquiry forms
13 an objective baseline from which the Court begins its claim construction. Id.

14 The Court proceeds from that baseline under the premise that a person of ordinary skill in the
15 art would interpret claim language not only in the context of the particular claim in which the
16 language appears, but also in the context of the entire patent specification, of which it is a part. Id.
17 at 1313. Additionally, the Court considers that a person of ordinary skill in the art would consult the
18 rest of the intrinsic record, including any surrounding claims, the drawings, and the prosecution
19 history—if it is in evidence. Id.; Teleflex, Inc. v. Fiosa N. Am. Corp., 299 F.3d 1313, 1324 (Fed.
20 Cir. 2002). In reading the intrinsic evidence, a person of ordinary skill in the art would give
21 consideration to whether the disputed term is a term commonly used in lay language, a technical
22 term, or a term defined by the patentee.

23 **3. Commonly Used Terms**

24 In some cases, disputed claim language involves a commonly understood term that is readily
25 apparent to the Court. In such a case, the Court considers that a person of ordinary skill in the art
26 would give to it its widely accepted meaning, unless a specialized definition is stated in the patent
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1 specification or was stated by the patentee during prosecution of the patent. In articulating the
2 widely accepted meaning of such a term, the Court may consult a general purpose dictionary.
3 Phillips, 415 F.3d at 1314.

4 **4. Technical Terms**

5 If a disputed term is a technical term in the field of the invention, the Court considers that
6 one of skill in the art would give the term its ordinary and customary meaning in that technical field,
7 unless a specialized definition is stated in the specification or during prosecution of the patent. In
8 arriving at this definition, the Court may consult a technical art-specific dictionary or invite the
9 parties to present testimony from experts in the field on the ordinary and customary definition of the
10 technical term at the time of the invention. Id.

11 **5. Defined Terms**

12 The Court acknowledges that a patentee is free to act as his or her own lexicographer.
13 Acting as such, the patentee may use a term differently than a person of ordinary skill in the art
14 would understand it, without the benefit of the patentee's definition. Vitronics Corp., 90 F.3d at
15 1582. Thus, the Court examines the claims and the intrinsic evidence to determine if the patentee
16 used a term with a specialized meaning.

17 The Court regards a specialized definition of a term stated in the specification as highly
18 persuasive of the meaning of the term as it is used in a claim. Phillips, 415 F.3d at 1316-17.
19 However, the definition must be stated in a clear words, which make it apparent to the Court that the
20 term has been defined. See id.; Vitronics Corp., 90 F.3d at 1582. If the definition is not clearly
21 stated or cannot be reasonably inferred, the Court may decline to construe the term pending further
22 proceedings. Statements made by the patentee in the prosecution of the patent application as to the
23 scope of the invention may be considered when deciding the meaning of the claims. Microsoft
24 Corp. v. Multi-Tech Systems, Inc., 357 F.3d 1340, 1349 (2004). Accordingly, the Court may also
25 examine the prosecution history of the patent when considering whether to construe the claim term
26 as having a specialized definition.

1 In construing claims, it is for the Court to determine the terms that require construction and
2 those that do not. See U.S. Surgical Corp. v. Ethicon, Inc., 103 F.3d 1554, 1568 (Fed. Cir. 1997).
3 Moreover, the Court is not required to adopt a construction of a term, even if the parties have
4 stipulated to it. Pfizer, Inc. v. Teva Pharmaceuticals, USA, Inc., 429 F.3d 1364, 1376 (Fed. Cir.
5 2005). Instead, the Court may arrive at its own constructions of claim terms, which may differ from
6 the constructions proposed by the parties.

7 **B. Summary Judgment**

8 The standard for summary judgment does not change in a patent case. Conroy v. Reebok
9 Int'l, Ltd., 14 F.3d 1570, 1575 (Fed. Cir. 1994). Summary judgment is proper “if the pleadings,
10 depositions, answers to interrogatories, and admissions on file, together with the affidavits, if any,
11 show that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to
12 judgment as a matter of law.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c). The purpose of summary judgment “is to
13 isolate and dispose of factually unsupported claims or defenses.” Celotex v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317,
14 323-24 (1986). The moving party “always bears the initial responsibility of informing the district
15 court of the basis for its motion, and identifying the evidence which it believes demonstrates the
16 absence of a genuine issue of material fact.” Id. at 323. The non-moving party must then identify
17 specific facts “that might affect the outcome of the suit under the governing law,” thus establishing
18 that there is a genuine issue for trial. Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e).

19 When evaluating a motion for summary judgment, the court views the evidence through the
20 prism of the evidentiary standard of proof that would pertain at trial. Anderson v. Liberty Lobby
21 Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 255 (1986). The court draws all reasonable inferences in favor of the non-
22 moving party, including questions of credibility and of the weight that particular evidence is
23 accorded. See, e.g., Masson v. New Yorker Magazine, Inc., 501 U.S. 496, 520 (1992). The court
24 determines whether the non-moving party’s “specific facts,” coupled with disputed background or
25 contextual facts, are such that a reasonable jury might return a verdict for the non-moving party.
26 T.W. Elec. Serv., 809 F.2d at 631. In such a case, summary judgment is inappropriate. Anderson,

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1 477 U.S. at 248. However, where a rational trier of fact could not find for the non-moving party
2 based on the record as a whole, there is no “genuine issue for trial.” Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v.
3 Zenith Radio, 475 U.S. 574, 587 (1986).

4 **C. Infringement**

5 “A determination of infringement requires a two-step analysis.” Terlep v. Brinkmann Corp.,
6 419 F.3d 1379, 1381 (Fed. Cir. 2005). First, the claim must be construed; second, the claim must be
7 compared to the “accused device or process.” Id. (citing Carroll Touch, Inc. v. Electro Mech. Sys.,
8 Inc., 15 F.3d 1573, 1576 (Fed. Cir. 1993)). While claim construction is an issue of law,
9 infringement is a question of fact. Id. (citing Markman v. Westview Instruments, Inc., 52 F.3d 967,
10 970-71 (Fed. Cir. 1995)). Due to the factual nature of the infringement inquiry, a court must take
11 great care in determining whether a patent is infringed by way of summary judgment. SRI Int’l v.
12 Matsushita Elec. Corp., 775 F.2d 1107 (Fed. Cir. 1985). However, summary judgment on the issue
13 is appropriate when the comparison of the properly construed claim with an uncontested description
14 of the accused device reflects an absence of a genuine issue of material fact. Chemical Eng’g Corp.
15 v. Essef Indus., Inc., 795 F.2d 1565 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

16 The moving party bears the burden of proving infringement or non-infringement by a
17 preponderance of the evidence. Mannesmann Demag Corp. v. Engineered Metal Products, Inc., 793
18 F.2d 1279, 1282 (Fed. Cir. 1986). To establish infringement, every limitation in a claim as
19 construed by the court must be infringed. Carroll Touch, 15 F.3d at 1576. Even if an accused
20 device does not literally infringe a claim limitation, it may nonetheless be found to infringe under
21 the doctrine of equivalents. Warner-Jenkinson Co. v. Hilton Davis Chemical Co., 520 U.S. 17
22 (1997).

23 **IV. DISCUSSION**

24 With respect to the parties’ cross-motions for summary judgment, Plaintiffs contend that on
25 the basis of undisputed evidence, the Defendant’s accused DCS device, literally infringes Claims 7,
26 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 22, 32, 35, and 38 of the ‘385 Patent and Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, and 10 of the
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1 '498 Patent, or that it infringes those Claims under the doctrine of equivalents. Defendant contends
2 that on the basis of undisputed evidence, the Plaintiffs cannot carry their burden to prove that the
3 accused DCS device infringes the asserted patent Claims literally or under the doctrine of
4 equivalents for two principal reasons: First, Defendant contends that Plaintiffs cannot prove that the
5 accused DCS device, literally or equivalently, infringes the "wire" limitation, which is contained in
6 each of the asserted Claims. Second, Defendant contends that in addition to no proof of
7 infringement of the "wire" limitation, Plaintiffs cannot prove that the DCS device infringes the "no
8 preferred geometric form" limitation of Claims 15 and 38 of the '385 Patent. The Court begins with
9 an examination of Claim 7 of the '385 Patent.

10 **A. Claim 7 of the '385 Patent**

11 **1. Construction of the Word "wire"**

12 As a preliminary matter, the Court finds that further construction of the term "wire" is
13 required.

14 Claim 7 provides:⁴

15 An apparatus for use in occluding a body cavity comprising:
16 a **wire**; and
17 a detachable elongate distal tip coupled to said wire, said elongate
distal tip being a relaxed coil capable of being multiply folded upon
itself.

18 The Court's last consideration of the meaning of the word "wire" in this case was in the
19 October 7, 2003 Order. In that Order, the Court construed the word "wire" as it is used in Claims 7,
20 8, 10, 15, 32, 35, and 38 of the '385 Patent and Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, and 10 of the '498 Patent to mean,
21 a "thin, flexible, continuous length of metal, usually of circular cross section." (CC Order at 9.)
22 Subsequent to the October 7, 2003 Order, the Court has considered the construction of "wire" and
23 other words and phrases in the Guglielmi family of patents in a case entitled: Regents v. Micro
24 Therapeutics, Inc., No. C-03-05669. Plaintiffs in this case were Third-Party Defendants in the
25 Regents case.

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27 ⁴ Unless otherwise indicated, all bold typeface is added by the Court for emphasis.

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In the August 24, 2005 Order in the Regents case, the Court stated:

The parties have agreed that the terms “guidewire” and “wire” should be construed synonymously for purposes of claim construction. This Court construes the term “wire” to mean “a thin, flexible, continuous length of metal, usually of circular cross-section that collectively includes both guidewires and tips and simply wires without distinct tip structures.”

* * *

Further, both parties agree that the definition of “wire” should include “a thin, flexible, continuous length of metal, usually of circular cross-section.” This additional language is consistent with the term’s use in the specifications, the claims and the prosecution histories of the patents-in-suit. Therefore, this Court adds the parties’ agreed-upon language to the explicit definition set forth in the specification.⁵

Subsequently, in the March 2, 2007 Order of the same case, the Court determined that with respect to a particular Claim, a further definition of “guidewire” was required:

The Court construes “guidewire” as it is used in Claim 1 of the ‘136 Patent to mean: Part of an apparatus of the invention which is a thin, flexible, continuous length of metal, of circular cross-section which has a detachable tip.⁶

The specifications used by the Court as a basis for its construction in the Regents case describe a “wire” in materially the same way as the specifications of the ‘385 and ‘498 Patents involved in this case. Of primary importance to its construction is the following statement in each of the specifications:

The term “wire” should be understood to collectively include both guidewires and tips and simply wires without distinct tip structures.

(See e.g., ‘578 Patent, Col. 4:8-10; ‘385 Patent, Col. 4:5-12; ‘498 Patent, Col. 4:16-21)

In both the Court’s 2003 construction in this case and its 2005 construction in the Regents case, the Court construed “wire” as a “length of metal.” These definitions recognize that the ordinary and customary meaning attributed to “wire” is that it is a strand of metal. See WEBSTER’S NEW TWENTIETH CENTURY DICTIONARY, 2098 (2d ed. 1983). Nothing in the specification, including the claims, indicates explicitly or implicitly, that the inventors intended to impart a novel meaning to the composition of “wire.”

⁵ (See Docket Item No. 270.)

⁶ (See Docket Item No. 482.)

1 Accordingly, the Court adopts substantially the same definition of wire as was used in the
 2 Regents case. As used in Claims 7, 8, 10, 13, 15, 16, 17, 19, 22, 32, 35, and 38 of the '385 Patent
 3 and Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, and 10 of the '498 Patent, the term “wire” means: **a thin, flexible,**
 4 **continuous length of metal, usually of circular cross-section that collectively includes both a**
 5 **wire which has a detachable tip and simply a wire without distinct detachable tip structure.**
 6 **The language of each claim enumerated must be examined to determine if the wire which is**
 7 **claimed includes or does not include a detachable tip structure. Unless otherwise ordered, the**
 8 **words “wire” and “guidewire” are synonymous, in the enumerated Claims.**

9 2. Infringement Analysis

10 The Court proceeds to examine whether Defendant’s DCS infringes the “wire” limitation of
 11 Claim 7⁷ of the '385 Patent.⁸ Applying the above construction to Claim 7, it is clear from the
 12 language of the Claim that the inventors used the word “wire” to mean: a thin, flexible, continuous
 13 length of metal, usually of circular cross-section **without** a distinct detachable tip structure.⁹

14 a. Literal Infringement of “wire” Limitation

15 A finding of literal infringement requires that the asserted claims, as properly construed,
 16 cover or read on the accused device. Morton Int’l Inc. v. Cardinal Chem. Co., 5 F.3d 1464, 1468
 17 (Fed. Cir. 1993). A claim reads on an accused device only if the device embodies every limitation
 18 of the claim. Carroll Touch, Inc. v. Electro Mechanical Sys., Inc., 15 F.3d 1573 (Fed. Cir. 1993).
 19 For literal infringement, each limitation must read on an element of the accused device exactly; any
 20 deviation will preclude a finding of literal infringement. Lantech, Inc. v. Keip Mach. Co., 32 F.3d
 21 542, 547 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

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 23 ⁷ With respect to the “distal tip” limitation of Claim 7, Defendant does not dispute that the
 24 accused DCS device infringes that limitation.

25 ⁸ The Court defers consideration of whether the “wire” limitation of the other asserted
 26 Claims is infringed

27 ⁹ The inclusion of a detachable tip in the definition of “wire” in the first paragraph of Claim
 28 7 would render redundant the “detachable elongate distal tip” limitation contained in paragraph 2.

1 In its October 8, 2003 Order, the Court found a lack of support in the specification for
2 Plaintiffs' argument that the term "wire" should be defined to include a hollow object. (CC Order at
3 9.) Therefore, the Court did not adopt a definition of "wire" that would describe a "wire" as
4 "sometimes being hollow" in its construction. (*Id.*) The accused Cordis DCS contains a "hollow
5 delivery tube" that functions as a guidewire.¹⁰ (Jones Decl. ¶¶ 4, 22.) Since the accused DCS
6 delivery tube is hollow, the "wire" limitation does not read on the delivery tube exactly and without
7 deviation.

8 Accordingly, the Court finds that Defendant's DCS does not literally infringe the "wire"
9 limitation of Claim 7 of the '385 Patent.

10 **b. Infringement of "wire" Limitation Under Doctrine of Equivalents**

11 The doctrine of equivalents prevents "fraud on the patent," which is when an accused
12 infringer appropriates the benefit of the invention by making insubstantial changes that avoid the
13 literal scope of the claims. EMI Group North America, Inc. v. Intel Corp., 157 F.3d 887, 896 (Fed.
14 Cir. 1998.) The doctrine recognizes the constraints of patent claims by allowing a patentee to find
15 infringement against such a substantially equivalent invention. *Id.*

16 In this case, there are three issues raised by doctrine of equivalents analysis: (a) whether the
17 DCS delivery tube is substantially equivalent to a "wire," (b) whether DCS delivery tube may still
18 infringe under the doctrine of equivalents even if it performs an additional function, and (b) whether
19 a finding of equivalence would vitiate the meaning of "wire" in light of the Court's construction of
20 the claim term.

21 **i. substantial equivalence**

22 Defendant contends that its delivery tube does not infringe the "wire" limitation under the
23 doctrine of equivalents because it is not substantially equivalent to a "wire." (Defendant's SB at 4.)
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26 ¹⁰ The '385 and '498 Patents both note in their specifications that "[t]he term 'wire' should
27 be understood to collectively include both guidewires and tips and simply wires without distinct tip
structures." (See, e.g., '385 Patent, Col. 4:5-12.)

1 For an element of an accused device to be substantially equivalent to a claim limitation, it
 2 must not substantially change the way in which the function of the claimed invention is performed.
 3 Wolverine World Wide, Inc. v. Nike, Inc., 38 F.3d 1192, 1196 (1994). A patentee may prove
 4 substantial equivalence by showing that an element of the accused device “performs substantially
 5 the same function in substantially the same way to obtain the same result” as the claim limitation.
 6 Id.; Graver Tank & Mfg. Co. v. Linde Air Products Co., 339 U.S. 605, 608 (1950). This test, called
 7 the function-way-result test, forms the baseline for analysis of equivalence because “if two devices
 8 do the same work in substantially the same way, and accomplish substantially the same result, they
 9 are the same, even though they differ in name, form or shape.” Id.

10 The primary **function** of the “wire” limitation of Claim 7 of the ‘385 Patent is to act as a
 11 “pusher,” of the distal tip, which is coupled to it. The **way** it performs that function is through its
 12 flexibility and trackability when used in the vascular system of the body. The **result** is delivery and
 13 accurate placement of the attached tip at or in the intended site in the body.

14 The function of the “wire” is confirmed by the specification, which states that the wire is for
 15 “disposing the [distal portion] into the vascular cavity.” (‘385 Patent, Col. 4:47-52.) Plaintiffs’
 16 expert also notes in his declaration that the “wire” functions as a pusher because it is “a structure
 17 used to push an implant through a catheter and position it at [the] desired occlusion site.”
 18 (Declaration of Dr. Charles Strother in Support of Plaintiffs’ Motion for Reconsideration ¶ 16,
 19 hereafter, “Strother Decl.,” Docket Item No. 319.)

20 Defendant does not dispute that one of the primary functions of the accused DCS device is to
 21 act as a “pusher.” Rather, Defendant represented to the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) that
 22 the DCS delivery tube has the “combined functionality of a guidewire and a mini infusion
 23 microcatheter” and that its “pushability and trackability” are comparable to that of a guidewire.¹¹
 24 (Kessel Decl., Ex. 6 at CNV 0034626; Jones Decl., Ex. 4 at CNV 0034442.) Further, in a statement
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 27 ¹¹ The specifications of the ‘385 Patent specifically notes “[t]he term ‘wire’ should be
 understood to collectively include . . . guidewires.” (‘385 Patent, Col. 4:5-12.)

1 to the FDA regarding the “delivery system” of the DCS, Defendant notes that the delivery tube is
 2 designed to function in the same way as a wire.¹² Thus, the DCS performs its function as a pusher
 3 by mimicking the flexibility and trackability of a “wire” and the intended result is identical to that of
 4 the patented invention, delivery and accurate positioning of a distal tip to which it is coupled.

5 **ii. additional functionality**

6 Defendant contends that its delivery tube does not infringe the “wire” limitation under the
 7 doctrine of equivalents because an additional essential function of the “wire” is to “transmit force or
 8 energy” to the implant. (Defendant’s SB at 2; Supplemental Declaration of John M. Collins in
 9 Support of Defendant Cordis’ Motion for Summary Judgment of Noninfringement ¶¶ 12-14, Docket
 10 Item No. 643.) Defendant contends that the DCS delivery tube performs this function in a
 11 substantially different way from a “wire.” (Defendant’s SB at 6.)

12 First, Claim 7 does not disclose a function of the “wire” with respect to detachment.
 13 Although that function might be relevant to other patent claims, at most, the “transmission of force
 14 or energy” is an additional function performed by the DCS device. “Infringement under the doctrine
 15 [of equivalents] does not vanish merely because the accused device performs functions in addition to
 16 those performed by the claimed device.” Miles Laboratories, Inc. v. Shandon Inc., 997 F.2d 870,
 17 877 (Fed. Cir. 1993). If a defendant has appropriated the material features of the patent,
 18 infringement will be found even when those features have been supplemented and modified so as to
 19 constitute an improvement. See Atlas Powder Co. v. E.I. du Pont De Nemours & Co., 750 F.2d
 20 1569, 1579 (Fed. Cir. 1984); Ryco, Inc. v. Ag-Bag Corp., 857 F.2d 1418, 1427 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

21 Second, to the extent the specification discloses a function of the “wire” with respect to
 22 detachment, there is no support in the specification for Defendant’s description of that function, i.e.,
 23

24
 25 ¹² Defendant stated that the DCS device “was designed to mimic the coil pushing
 26 performance of Target’s GDC delivery wire” (Kessel Decl., Ex. 5 at CNV 0034462) and that
 27 “[b]oth DCS and GDC utilize a stiff proximal section for excellent pushability and kink resistance,”
 and “a flexible distal section for excellent trackability in tortuous anatomy.” Id. Although
 infringement may not be based on a product-to-product comparison, reliance on Defendant’s
 statement about the functionality of its device as a “wire” is proper.

1 “transmission of force or energy.” Claim 7 does contain a limitation that the “distal tip” must be
2 “detachable.” Even if a requirement that a tip be detachable is inherent, the Claim does not limit
3 “detachable” in any way which would require the wire to function to “transmit force or energy.”
4 Nor is there any disclosure in the specification of a requirement that the “wire” transmit force or
5 energy.¹³ Thus, the Court need not analyze whether the DCS functions in the same way as a “wire”
6 to transmit force or energy.

7 If the Court were to regard a **function** of the “wire” limitation in Claim 7 as facilitating
8 detachment, the **way** it must be regarded as doing so is by “mechanical or electrical detachment.”¹⁴
9 The **result** is to accurately place the implant in the body cavity. Defendant’s delivery tube performs
10 substantially the **same function**, by similarly facilitating detachment. It accomplishes detachment
11 substantially the **same way** because it uses mechanical detachment. Mechanical force is applied by
12 expanding the gripper, which builds pressure within the delivery tube and reduces the friction
13 holding the coil in place. (Kessel Decl., Ex. 5 at CNV 0034464, Ex. 6 at CNV 00344628; Jones
14 Decl. ¶ 5.) While the DCS creates this force hydraulically using fluid inside its delivery tube, the
15 combination of more than one element or step to perform a single function does not avoid
16 infringement under the doctrine of equivalents. The accused DCS device achieves the **same result**
17 as the “wire,” namely detachment of the implant. The DCS’s hydraulic mechanism of detachment
18 may constitute an improvement on Claim 7 of the ‘385 Patent; however, the improvement does not
19 dispel infringement under the doctrine of equivalents.

20 Accordingly, the Court finds that Defendant’s contention regarding additional functionality
21 does not overcome the substantial equivalency of the DCS delivery tube and the “wire” limitation of
22 Claim 7 of the ‘385 Patent.

23

24 ¹³ Only one embodiment of the invention is accomplished by the wire transmitting force or
25 energy: the embodiment employing an electrolytic detachment mechanism. The ‘385 and ‘498
26 Patents also disclose mechanical detachment.

27 ¹⁴ A requirement of “mechanical” detachment means that force or energy is involved.
28 However, there is no disclosure that mechanical force or energy must be transmitted by the “wire.”

1 example, permit the escape of steam, a feature that was relevant to the invention in Hoganas. Id.
2 The Federal Circuit then affirmed a finding of non-infringement under the doctrine equivalents. Id.
3 at 955. It did so, in part, because “[a] conclusion that a solid fiber is equivalent to a hollow
4 ‘straw-shaped’ element would eviscerate the plain meaning of that phrase.” Id. However, the
5 Federal Circuit also made findings that prosecution history estoppel applied, and that the accused
6 device did not function in the same way as the “straw-shaped” limitation.

7 This case is distinguishable from Hoganas. First, there is no issue of prosecution history
8 estoppel. Second, the Court finds that the DCS delivery tube functions in a substantially similar way
9 to a “wire.” Finally, the specifications and the claims of the ‘385 and ‘498 Patents make no mention
10 of a requirement for a solid or non-hollow “wire.”

11 In sum, the Court finds that the DCS delivery tube: (1) performs substantially the same
12 function as a “wire” because it allows delivery and accurate positioning of a distal portion at a
13 desired location within the body; (2) performs that function in substantially the same way as a
14 “wire” because it mimics the “pushability” and “trackability” of a guidewire or delivery wire; and
15 (3) accomplishes the same result as a “wire” because it allows for placement of the distal portion so
16 as to form an occlusion in a body cavity. (Strother Decl. ¶ 12.)

17 Accordingly, Plaintiffs are entitled to partial summary judgment that the accused DCS device
18 infringes Claim 7 of the ‘385 Patent under the doctrine of equivalents.

19 **B. Claim 15 of the ‘385 Patent**

20 Claim 15 states:

21 In an apparatus having **a wire for forming an occlusion** in a body cavity having a
22 fluid flowing therein, the improvement comprising:

23 a deformable object temporally coupled to said wire for disposition
24 into said cavity having no preferred geometric form when disposed
25 into said cavity, said deformable object substantially impeding
26 movement of said fluid in said cavity to thereby form said occlusion,
27 whereby said cavity is occluded by said object.

28 Claim 15 is written in a “Jepson” format. A Jepson format is one in which the preamble
describes prior art and then claims an “improvement” over the prior art. Dow Chemical Co. v.

1 Sumitomo Chemical Co., 257 F.3d 1364, 1368 (Fed. Cir. 2001). When a Jepson format is used, the
 2 preamble is a limitation because it defines, in part, structural limitations of the claimed invention.
 3 See Epcos Gas Sys., Inc. v. Bauer Compressors, Inc., 279 F.3d 1022, 1029 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

4 The preamble to Jepson-type Claim 15 recites a “wire” as a structural limitation and recites a
 5 functional limitation of the “wire,” i.e., “for forming an occlusion.” Thus, the construction of the
 6 word “wire” as used in Claim 15 must include a capability of the “wire” itself to “form” an
 7 occlusion. The Court’s construction of the word “wire” allows the “wire” to perform this function if
 8 the Court applies the construction which includes the tip. However, the body of the claim introduces
 9 an ambiguity. The Claim recites “a deformable object temporally coupled to said wire for
 10 disposition into said cavity.” The structure that meets this limitation is also the distal tip. Thus,
 11 Claim 15 is arguably ambiguous in that it discloses coupling a tip (deformable object) to a wire
 12 which already has a tip. The Court defers further consideration of Claim 15, pending any further
 13 proceedings that the parties may wish to initiate with respect to the arguable ambiguity.

14 **C. Claim 38 of the ‘385 Patent**

15 **1. Construction of Claim 38**

16 The motions with respect to Claim 38 of the ‘385 Patent require construction of the phrases:
 17 “a deformable object;” “having no preferred geometric form when disposed into said cavity;” and
 18 “capable of being multiply folded upon itself.”

19 Claim 38 of the ‘385 Patent provides:

20 In a method for forming an occlusion in a body cavity having a fluid flowing therein by
 21 disposing a wire at least adjacent to said body cavity, the improvement comprising:
 22 disposing **a deformable object** into said cavity having **no preferred**
 23 **geometric form** when disposed into said cavity, said deformable
 24 object **capable of being multiply folded upon itself**, said deformable
 25 object substantially impeding movement of said fluid in said cavity to
 26 thereby form said occlusion, whereby said cavity is occluded by said
 27 object.

28 All of the highlighted phrases are limitations on the “object” which must be used to practice
 the claimed method. Two of these phrases has been previously construed by the Court.

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a. “a deformable object”

In its October 7, 2003 Order, the Court construed the word deformable as follows:

The Court construes “deformable object” to mean “an object that can assume a different shape or form.” This is the plain and ordinary meaning of the disputed terms.

(CC Order at 19.) In the written description, the inventors discuss the phrase “a deformable object” in the context of a description of an embodiment and depict in Figure 1 of the drawings a “coil” which is “easily deformed:”

Although prebiased to form a cylindrical or conical envelope, secondary coil 28 is extremely soft and its overall shape is **easily deformed**. When inserted within the microcatheter (not shown), secondary coil 28 is **easily straightened** to lie axially within the microcatheter. Once disposed out of the tip of the microcatheter, secondary coil 28 **forms the shape shown in FIG. 1 and may similarly be loosely deformed** to the interior shape of the aneurysm.

(‘385 Patent, Col. 7:54-61.)

Upon reconsideration, the Court finds nothing in the specification, including the claims, which indicates explicitly or implicitly that the inventors intended to impart a novel meaning to “deformable.” The record contains no evidence that “deformable” has a peculiar meaning in the field of art encompassed by the ‘385 Patent. The Court concludes that the meaning which would have been attributed to this word by those of ordinary skill in the relevant art at the time of invention is its ordinary and customary meaning.

The ordinary and customary meaning attributed to “deformable” is capable of being changed in shape as by pressure or stress. See WEBSTER’S NEW TWENTIETH CENTURY DICTIONARY, 477 (2d ed. 1983). In its previous construction, the Court included the ability to changed in “form.” The Court withdraws that word from its construction and now adopts a construction of **“a deformable object”** as: **a flexible object, which is capable of assuming a different shape.**

b. “having no preferred geometric form when disposed into said cavity”

The phrase “having no preferred geometric form when disposed into said cavity” has not been previously construed by the Court. There are several aspects of the phrase which require consideration.

1 First, the plain and ordinary meaning of the word “geometric” is to have a regular form
2 according to the rules or principles of geometry. See WEBSTER’S NEW TWENTIETH CENTURY
3 DICTIONARY, 765 (2d ed. 1983). Nothing in the specification indicates that the inventors intended
4 any specialized meaning of “geometric.” Therefore, the Court uses the ordinary and customary
5 meaning in its construction of the subject phrase. Second, with respect to the phrase “no preferred
6 geometric form,” it is clear that the inventors intended to impose a negative limitation, i.e., that a
7 feature (a preferred geometric form when disposed into said cavity) not be present in the “object.”

8 The word “preferred” is a commonly used word, with a variety of meanings depending upon
9 the context in which it is used, among which are: to set above something else in one’s liking,
10 opinion, etc.; to hold in greater esteem; to incline toward. See WEBSTER’S NEW TWENTIETH
11 CENTURY DICTIONARY, 1419 (2d ed. 1983). Closely analogous words are: predilection, inclination,
12 predisposition, and bias. Further, a “preference” connotes someone making a choice of one thing
13 over another. The issue becomes whether, in the method disclosed in Claim ‘385, the phrase “no
14 preferred” refers to the lack of preferences of the practitioner of the method, or whether the phrase
15 refers to a characteristic of the “object” being used to perform the method.

16 The Court questions the permissibility of a claim limitation that relies on the subjective
17 preference of a person who is performing a method. However, assuming for sake of analysis that it
18 is permissible to disclose as a claim limitation that a device not have a user’s preferred “geometric
19 form when disposed,” the patent documents must clearly indicate from among which group of
20 alternative forms the absence must be judged, otherwise the claim is arguably indefinite. The
21 specification does not teach what preferred geometric form a practitioner might not prefer when the
22 implant is disposed in a cavity. Therefore, the Court declines to adopt a practitioner-based definition
23 of “no preferred geometric form when disposed” because it would make the claim ambiguous and
24 therefore arguably indefinite.

25 In addition, the phrase “preferred geometric form” or its opposite could be used to describe
26 an innate characteristic of an object. In this context, “preferred geometric form when disposed”
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1 would be a description of an object having and exhibiting a predetermined or an innate physical
 2 shape when deployed. The shape would be “preferred” in the sense that the object would have been
 3 fabricated in a fashion to exhibit a particular geometric shape and the object retains and exhibits that
 4 shape after it has been deployed unless force is applied to deform the object from its “preferred”
 5 geometric shape. Depending on the amount of force applied, even while the device is being
 6 subjected to force, it may retain its preferred geometric form and may “attempt” to assume its pre-
 7 deformed shape.¹⁵ In the same context, an object having “no preferred geometric form when
 8 disposed” would be one which exhibited no innate physical shape when deployed. The Court
 9 examines the specification of the ‘385 Patent for any discussion of “no preferred geometric form
 10 when disposed in [a] cavity” and the function of that limitation.

11 In the specification, the inventors do not use the phrase “no preferred geometric form when
 12 disposed in [a] cavity.” However, there is discussion of the function of the deformability and
 13 conformability of occlusive coils. In their description of prior art, the inventors criticize balloon
 14 embolization because the method requires the cavity to conform to the shape of the balloon. The
 15 inventors’ state that an **ideal device** is one which adapted itself to the irregular shape of the cavity:

16 Furthermore, **an ideal embolizing agent should adapt itself to the irregular shape**
 17 **of the internal walls of the aneurysm.** On the contrary, in a balloon embolization
 18 the aneurysmal wall must conform to the shape of the balloon. This may not lead to a
 19 satisfactory result and further increases the risk of rupture.

20 (‘385 Patent, Col. 2:5-10.) Thus, one of skill in the art would have understood that one of the
 21 reasons the inventors would include a limitation of “no preferred geometric form when disposed”

22 ¹⁵ For example, one commonly understood device which has a preferred geometric form is a
 23 spring. A spring is commonly understood to be a device such as a length of metal that returns to its
 24 original form after being forced out of shape. See WEBSTER’S NEW TWENTIETH CENTURY
 25 DICTIONARY, 1760 (2d ed. 1983). Thus, a spring-loaded hinge contains a circular coil of wire which
 26 may be in a relaxed state while the door is closed. When the door is pushed opened, the geometric
 27 form permits the spring to absorb the force and store energy by tightening its coils. When the door-
 28 opening force is released, the geometric coil structure of the spring causes it to return to its original
 state, closing the door in the process

The hypothetical spring device highlights the importance of defining the function which the
 device performs or must not perform when construing the limitation “no preferred geometric form
 when disposed in [a] cavity.”

1 would be to have an occlusive implant which adapts itself to the irregular shape of the internal walls
 2 of the body cavity as opposed to one which applies force to the internal walls of the cavity and
 3 reshapes the cavity to a preferred geometric shape of the implant.

4 The inventors did not use the phrase “geometric form” in the specification to describe an
 5 embodiment of an occlusive object. However, as noted above, the inventors do discuss an occlusive
 6 coil which is prebiased to form “a cylindrical or conical envelop,” but when deployed deforms to the
 7 interior shape of the aneurysm:

8 Although **prebiased to form a cylindrical or conical envelope**, secondary coil 28 is
 9 extremely soft and its overall shape is easily deformed. When inserted within the
 10 microcatheter (not shown), secondary coil 28 is easily straightened to lie axially
 11 within the microcatheter. Once disposed out of the tip of the microcatheter, secondary
 12 coil 28 forms the shape shown in FIG. 1 and may similarly **be loosely deformed to**
 13 **the interior shape of the aneurysm.**

14 (‘385 Patent, Col. 7:54-61.) One of skill in the art would have understood that the inventors are
 15 describing a coil embodiment of an occlusive implant which, before deployment, might exhibit a
 16 pre-biased geometric form, namely a cylindrical or conical envelop. However, the coil embodiment
 17 would easily straighten when inserted into and while being moved through a microcatheter. As the
 18 coil is disposed out of the tip of the microcatheter, initially it would assume its pre-biased cylindrical
 19 or conical shape. However, similarly to the way it would straighten to conform itself to the shape of
 20 the microcatheter, as it encounters the walls of the aneurysm, the coil embodiment would loosely
 21 deform itself from its pre-biased geometric envelop to instead assume a shape based on the interior
 22 walls of the aneurysm.

23 In every apparatus claim of the ‘385 Patent which describes an occlusive tip and in every
 24 method claim in which a tip was used, the inventors state that the tip is “relaxed,” with “no memory
 25 of a predisposed shape” other than a “simple helical” (conical) shape.¹⁶ Thus, one of skill in the art

26 ¹⁶ See e.g., Claim 1: “. . . wherein said separable distal tip section has **no memory of its**
 27 **predisposed shape other than at most a relaxed simple helical shape. . .;**”

28 Claim 14: “said elongate tip portion being a **relaxed coil having no substantial memory of**
 29 **its predisposed shape other than at most a relaxed simple helical shape. . .;**”

30 Claim 24: “a detachable elongate distal tip portion coupled to and extending from said wire
 31 for a predetermined lineal extent, said detachable elongate distal tip portion being adapted to being

1 would have understood that the inventors used the phrase “no preferred geometric form” to mean
2 that when the “object” (tip) is deployed into the body cavity it assumes a shape based on the shape
3 of the cavity and its deployed shape is not a geometric pattern which has been deliberately
4 manufactured into it.

5 Therefore, the Court construes the term “**a deformable object . . . having no preferred**
6 **geometric form when disposed into said cavity**” to mean: **a flexible object, which is capable of**
7 **deforming itself, and which does not exhibit a predetermined regular shape when placed into**
8 **the cavity.**

9 c. “capable of being multiply folded upon itself”

10 In its August 21, 2006 Order, the Court construed the subject phrase as follows:

11 The Court construes (i) “capable of being multiply folded upon itself” to mean
12 “capable of being folded upon itself more than one time.”

13 The Court maintains that construction in this case.

14 **2. Infringement Analysis**

15 Having now construed Claim 38, the Court proceeds to consider the proffered evidence with
16 respect to infringement of Claim 38 by the accused DCS coil.

17 Defendant presents declaration testimony of Donald Jones, a principle engineer employed by
18 Defendant. Jones testified that the DCS coil is “prebiased” to take a “preferred geometric form”
19 when it is deployed in a body cavity. (Declaration of Donald K. Jones in Support of Defendant’s
20 Supplemental Brief ¶ 4, Docket Item No. 644.) However, the declaration also states that at times,
21 “the DCS coils may not be able to assume completely their prebiased shape or form.” (*Id.*) This

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23 packed into said body cavity to form said occlusion in said body cavity, said elongate distal tip
24 portion including a first flexible, **shapeless segment having substantially no memory of its**
25 **predisposition shape other than at most a relaxed, simple helical shape** for disposition into said
cavity and a second segment for coupling said first segment to said wire, said second segment being
adapted to be electrolyzed upon application of current. . .”

26 Claim 24: “A **method for forming an occlusion** within a body cavity having fluid disposed
27 therein comprising the steps of . . . disposing a relaxed wire into said body cavity, said relaxed wire
having **no substantial memory of its predisposed shape other than at most a relaxed, simple**
helical shape...”

1 ambiguity is further obscured by Defendant’s “Product Information Portfolio,” which notes that its
2 coils “thanks to their softness and shape offer an excellent conformability to the aneurysm shape.”
3 (See Declaration of Roland H. Schwillinski in Support of Plaintiffs’ Reply in Further Support of Its
4 Motion for Summary Judgment, Ex. 1 at CNV 0050874, Docket Item No. 393.)

5 Plaintiffs contend that Jones’ declaration testimony is also contradicted by his own
6 admission when he was deposed as the Defendant’s Rule 30(b)(6) witness. (Plaintiffs’ Further
7 Reply Brief in Support of Motion for Summary Judgment at 7, Docket Item No. 654.) While Mr.
8 Jones stated that “the coils themselves take a random path” to give a three dimensional shape, he
9 also noted that the coil “is shaped in a fashion that gives it a predetermined shape.” (Kessel Decl.,
10 Ex. 11 at 145.) Thus, it remains unclear whether the DCS coil has a preferred geometric form when
11 disposed inside a body cavity.

12 Accordingly, the Court finds that, without more, there is a triable issue of fact as to whether
13 the DCS coil infringes the “no preferred geometric form” limitation of Claim 38 of the ‘385 Patent.
14 Since the Court has construed Claim 38 in this Order, this construction was not considered by the
15 parties’ experts. The parties are invited, if they wish, to renew their motions with respect to Claim
16 38 with supplemental declarations from their respective experts.

17 **V. CONCLUSION**

18 The Court DENIES Defendant’s Motion for Summary Judgment.

19 The Court GRANTS Plaintiffs’ Motion for Summary Judgment that Defendant infringes
20 Claim 7 of the ‘385 Patent under the doctrine of equivalents.

21 Pending further proceedings based upon this Order, the Court DENIES, without prejudice to
22 being renewed Plaintiffs’ Motion for Summary Judgment that Defendant infringes Claims 15, 16,
23 17, 19, 22, and 38 of the ‘385 Patent.

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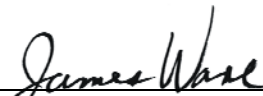
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1 The Court DEFERS ruling at this time on Motions addressed to Claims 8, 10, 13, 32, and 35
2 of the '385 Patent and Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, and 10 of the '498 Patent. The Court invites the parties to
3 make a separate motion addressed to these Claims in light of this Order.

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Dated: January 18, 2008



JAMES WARE
United States District Judge

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15 **Dated: January 18, 2008**

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk

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By: /s/ JW Chambers
Elizabeth Garcia
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