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(54) **SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR ACTIVITY LEVEL PACING**

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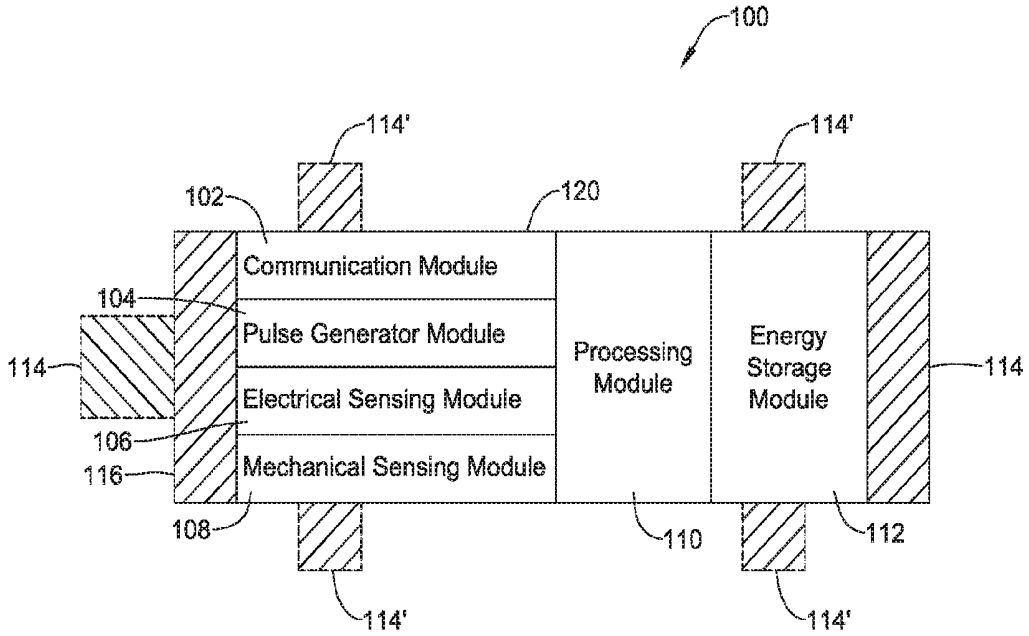
(57) **ABSTRACT**

Systems, devices, and methods for pacing a heart of a patient are disclosed. An illustrative method may include determining a motion level of the patient using a motion sensor of an implantable medical device secured relative to a patient's heart, and setting a pacing rate based at least in part on the patient's motion level. The patient's motion level may be determined by, for example, comparing the motion level sensed by the motion sensor during a current heart beat to a motion level associated with one or more previous heart beats. Noise may occur in the motion level measurements during those heart beats that transition between an intrinsically initiated heart beat and pace initiated heart beat. Various techniques may be applied to the motion level measurements to help reduce the effect of such noise.



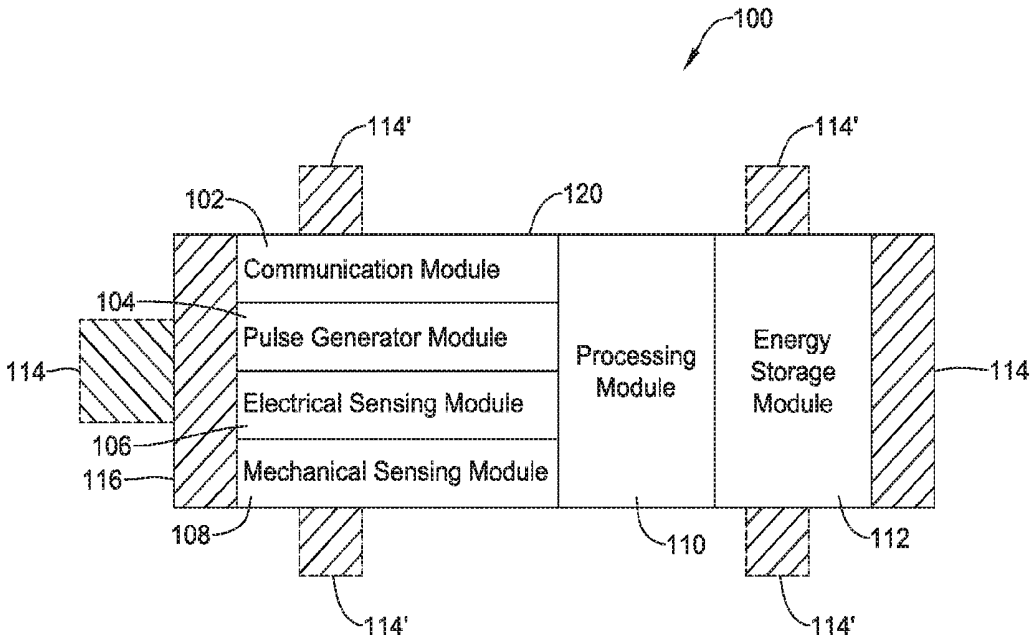

100
114'
114'
102
120
Communication Module
104
Pulse Generator Module
Electrical Sensing Module
106
116
Mechanical Sensing Module
108
Processing Module
Energy Storage Module
114
114
110
112
114'
114'

Figure 1

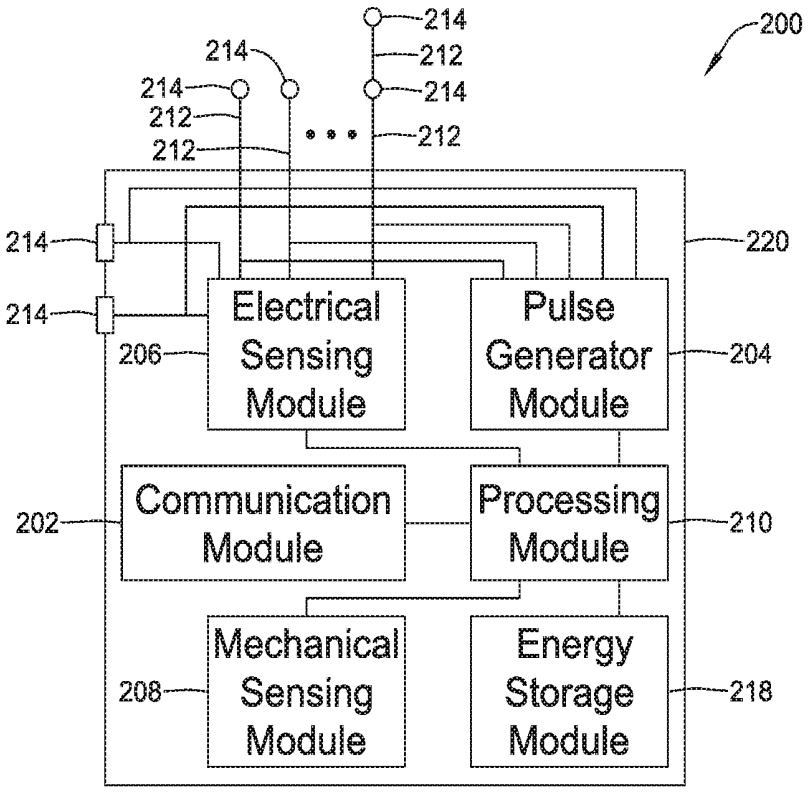

214
214
212
214
214
212
212
212
200
214
214
220
206
Electrical Sensing Module
Pulse Generator Module
204
202
Communication Module
Processing Module
210
208
Mechanical Sensing Module
Energy Storage Module
218

Figure 2

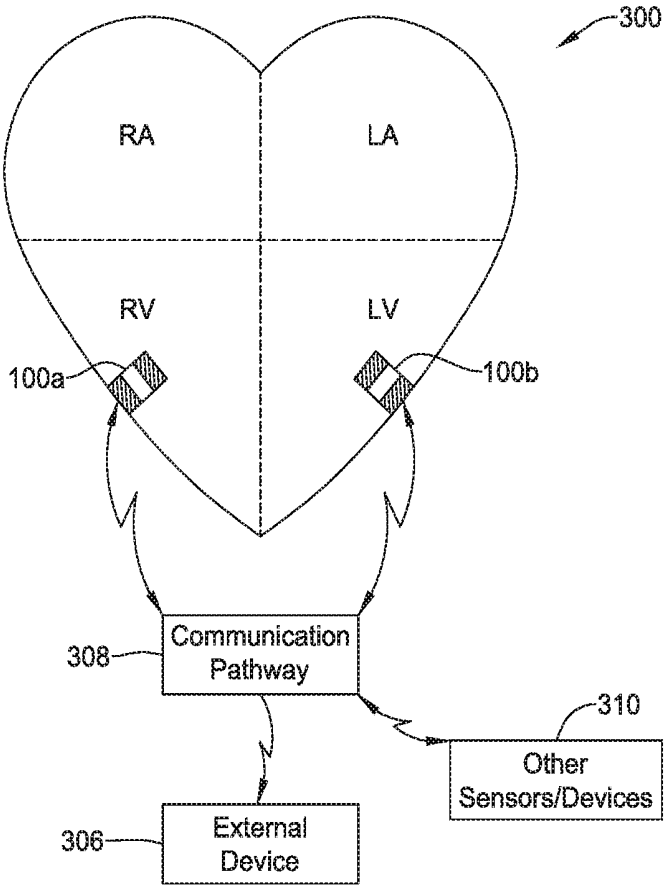

300
RA
LA
RV
LV
100a
100b
308
Communication Pathway
310
Other Sensors/Devices
306
External Device

Figure 3

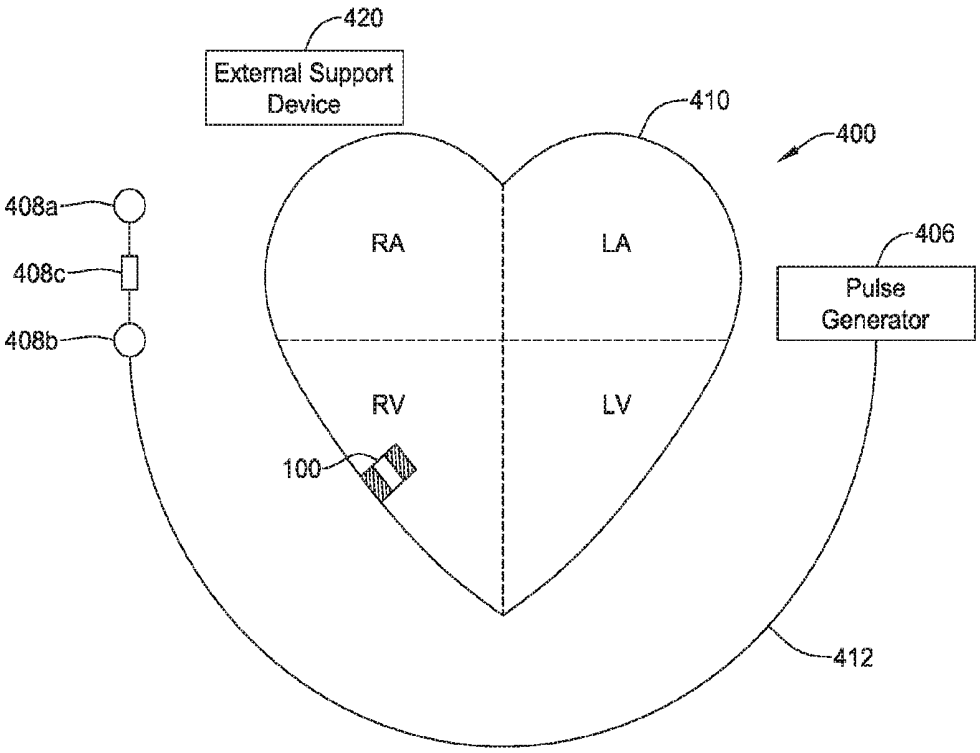

420
External Support Device
410
400
408a
408c
408b
RA
LA
406
Pulse Generator
RV
LV
100
412

Figure 4

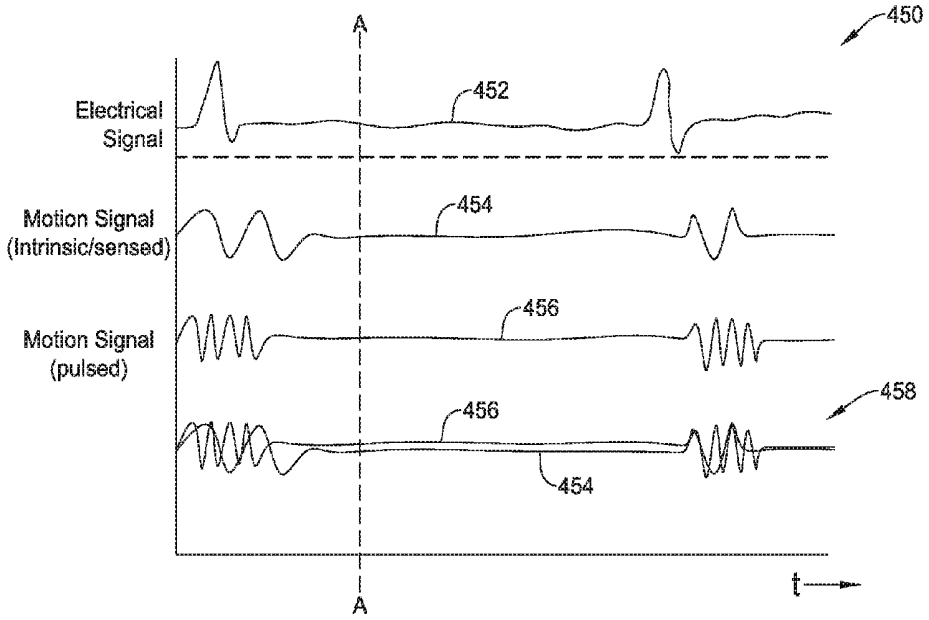

450
A
Electrical Signal
452
Motion Signal (Intrinsic/sensed)
454
Motion Signal (pulsed)
456
458
456
454
A
t

FIG. 5

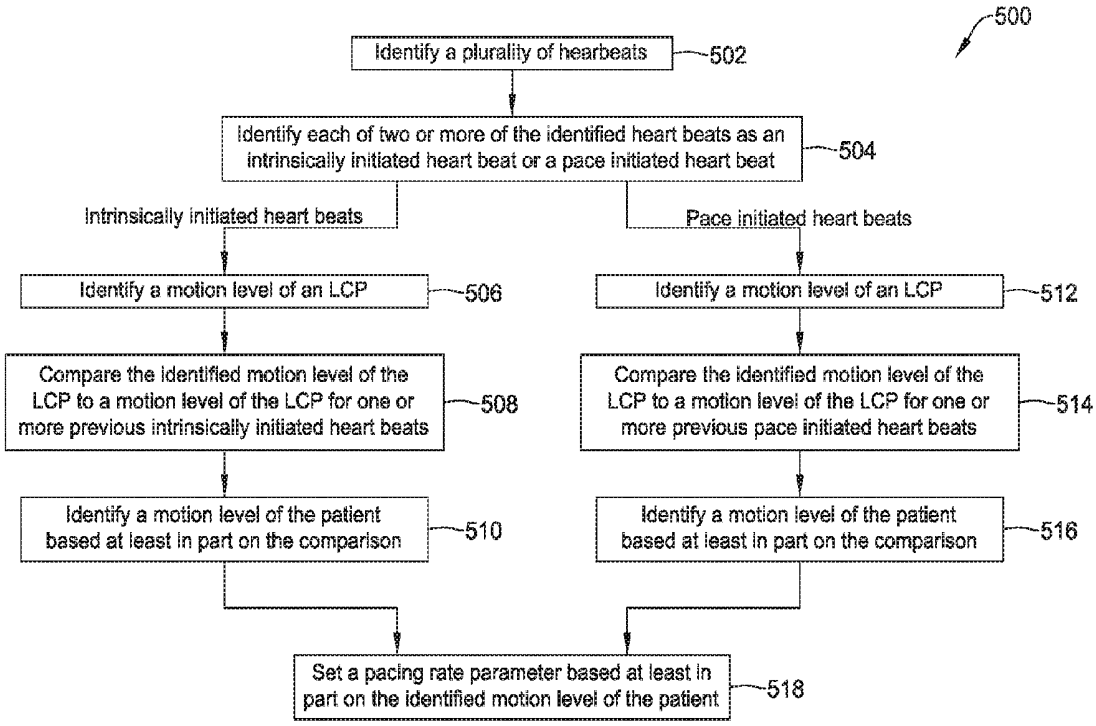

500
Identify a plurality of hearbeats
502
Identify each of two or more of the identified heart beats as an intrinsically initiated heart beat or a pace initiated heart beat
504
Intrinsically initiated heart beats
Pace initiated heart beats
Identify a motion level of an LCP
506
Identify a motion level of an LCP
512
Compare the identified motion level of the LCP to a motion level of the LCP for one or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats
508
Compare the identified motion level of the LCP to a motion level of the LCP for one or more previous pace initiated heart beats
514
Identify a motion level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison
510
Identify a motion level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison
516
Set a pacing rate parameter based at least in part on the identified motion level of the patient
518

FIG. 6

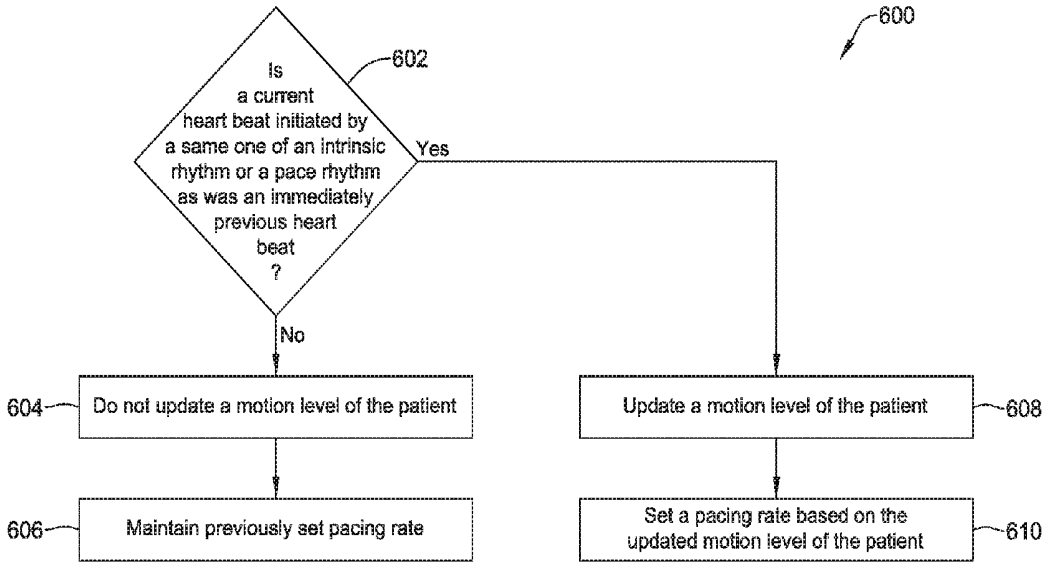

600
602
Is a current heart beat initiated by a same one of an intrinsic rhythm or a pace rhythm as was an immediately previous heart beat ?
Yes
No
604
Do not update a motion level of the patient
606
Maintain previously set pacing rate
608
Update a motion level of the patient
610
Set a pacing rate based on the updated motion level of the patient

FIG. 7

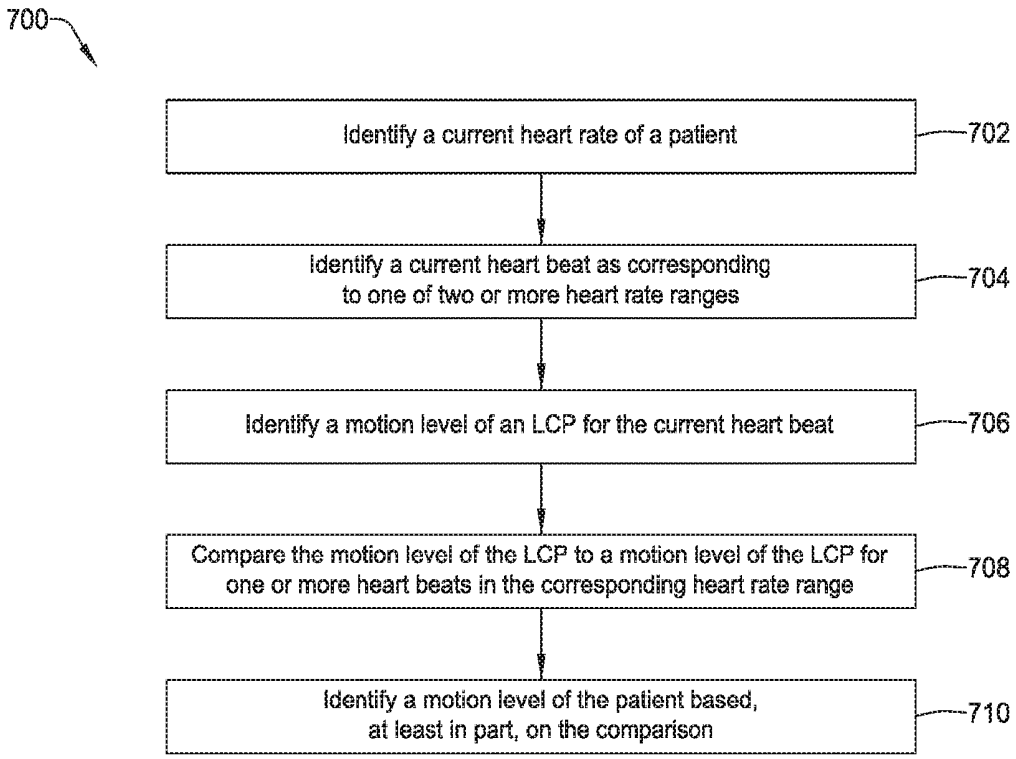

700
Identify a current heart rate of a patient
702
Identify a current heart beat as corresponding to one of two or more heart rate ranges
704
Identify a motion level of an LCP for the current heart beat
706
Compare the motion level of the LCP to a motion level of the LCP for one or more heart beats in the corresponding heart rate range
708
Identify a motion level of the patient based, at least in part, on the comparison
710

FIG. 8

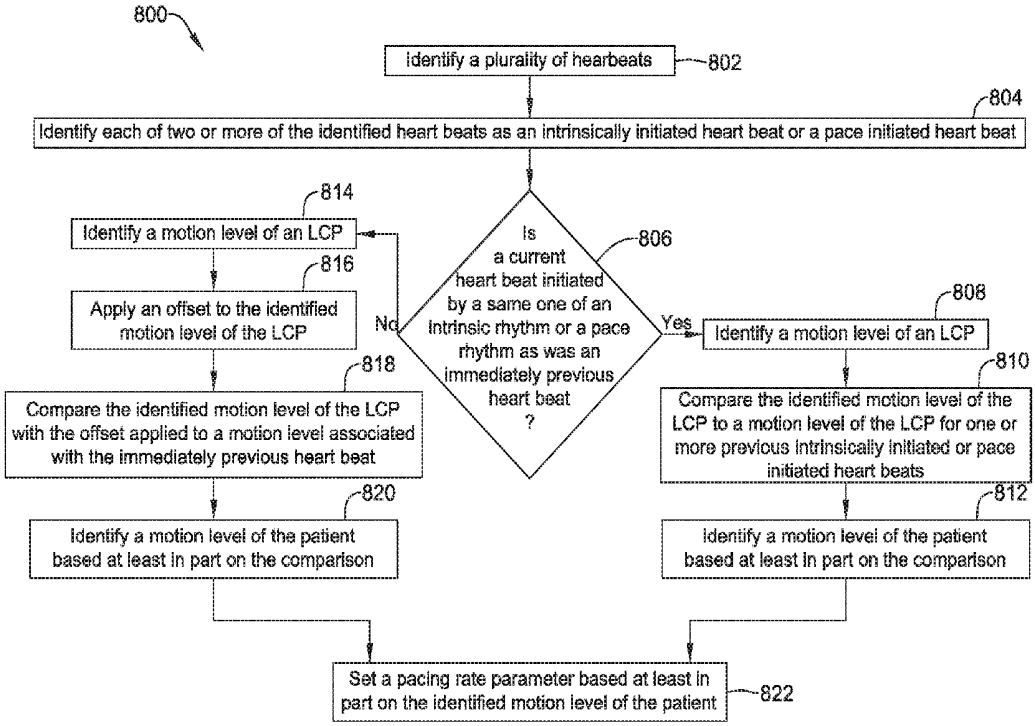

800
identify a plurality of hearbeats
802
804
Identify each of two or more of the identified heart beats as an intrinsically initiated heart beat or a pace initiated heart beat
814
Identify a motion level of an LCP
816
Apply an offset to the identified motion level of the LCP
818
Compare the identified motion level of the LCP with the offset applied to a motion level associated with the immediately previous heart beat
820
Identify a motion level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison
Is a current heart beat initiated by a same one of an intrinsic rhythm or a pace rhythm as was an immediately previous heart beat ?
806
No
Yes
808
Identify a motion level of an LCP
810
Compare the identified motion level of the LCP to a motion level of the LCP for one or more previous intrinsically initiated or pace initiated heart beats
812
Identify a motion level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison
Set a pacing rate parameter based at least in part on the identified motion level of the patient
822

FIG. 9

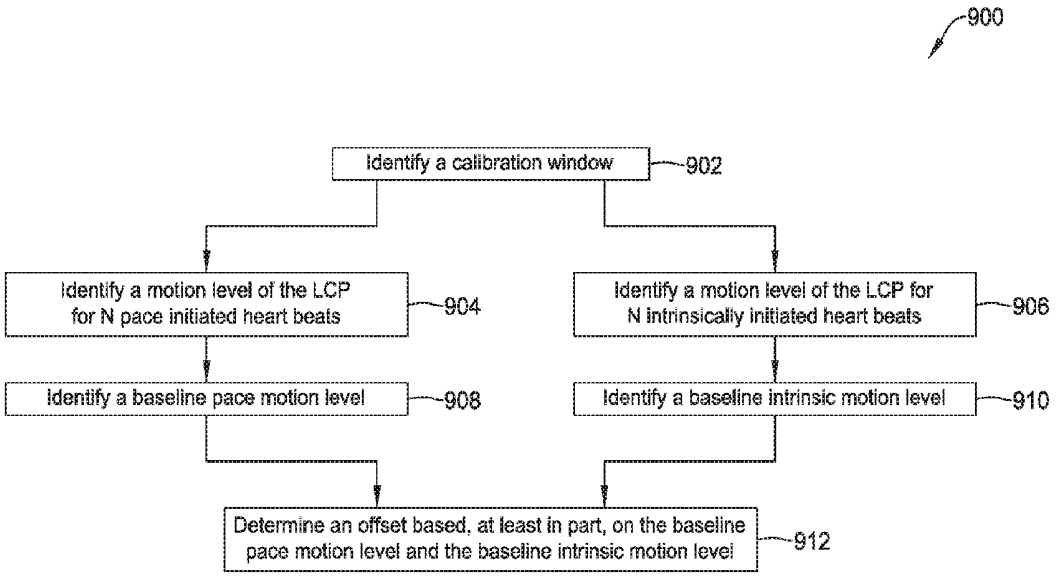

900
Identify a calibration window
902
Identify a motion level of the LCP for N pace initiated heart beats
904
Identify a motion level of the LCP for N intrinsically initiated heart beats
906
Identify a baseline pace motion level
908
Identify a baseline intrinsic motion level
910
Determine an offset based, at least in part, on the baseline pace motion level and the baseline intrinsic motion level
912

FIG. 10

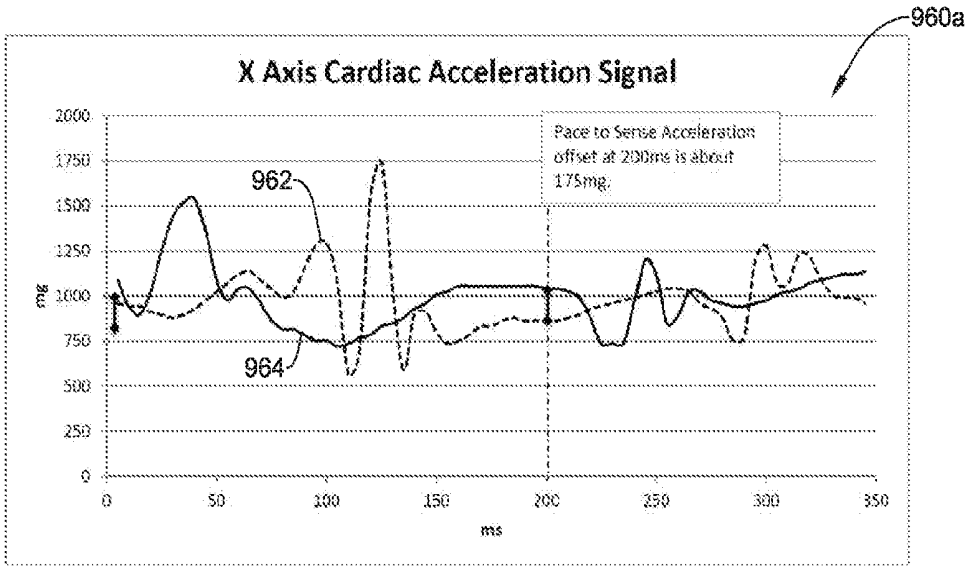

960a
X Axis Cardiac Acceleration Signal
Pace to Sense Acceleration offset at 200ms is about 175mg.
962
964
mg
ms
2000
1750
1500
1250
1000
750
500
250
0
0
50
100
150
200
250
300
350

FIG. 11A

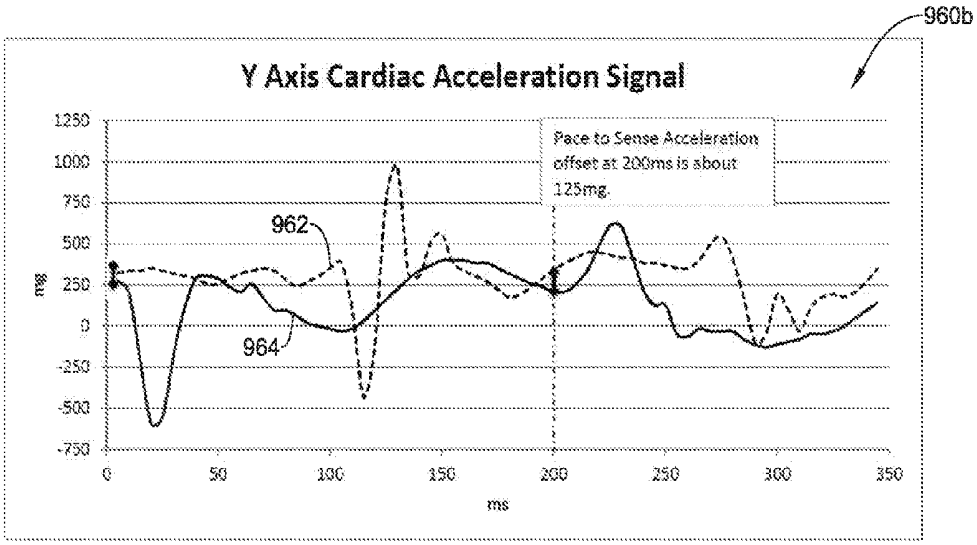

960b
Y Axis Cardiac Acceleration Signal
Pace to Sense Acceleration offset at 200ms is about 125mg.
962
964
mg
ms
1250
1000
750
500
250
0
-250
-500
-750
0
50
100
150
200
250
300
350

FIG. 11B

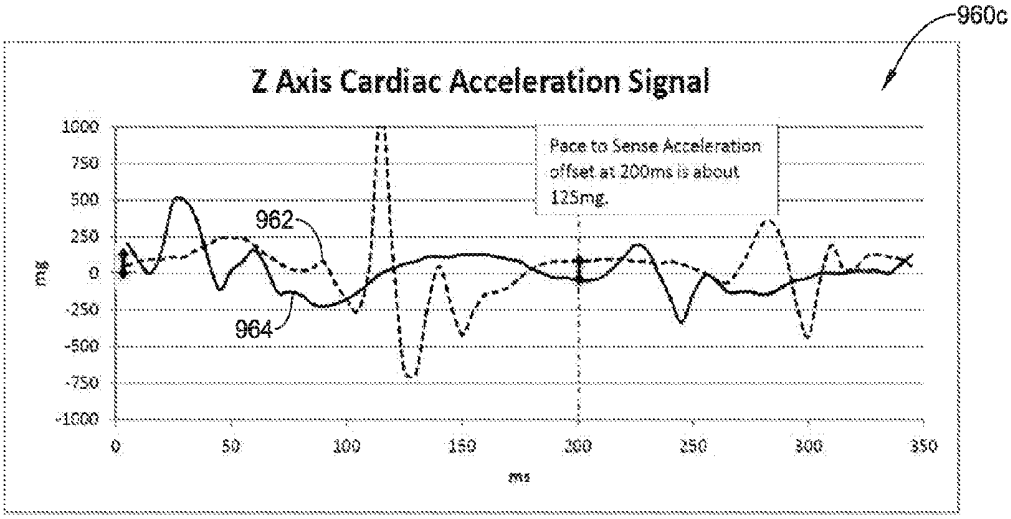

960c
Z Axis Cardiac Acceleration Signal
Pace to Sense Acceleration offset at 200ms is about 125mg.
962
964
mg
ms
1000
750
500
250
0
-250
-500
-750
-1000
0
50
100
150
200
250
300
350

FIG. 11C

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR ACTIVITY LEVEL PACING

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 62/415,132 filed on Oct. 31, 2016, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0002] The present disclosure generally relates to systems, devices, and methods for delivering pacing therapy to a patient, and more particularly, to systems, devices, and methods for modulating pacing therapy based on an activity level of the patient.

BACKGROUND

[0003] Pacing instruments can be used to treat patients suffering from various heart conditions that result in a reduced ability of the heart to deliver sufficient amounts of blood to a patient's body. These heart conditions may lead to rapid, irregular, and/or inefficient heart contractions. To help alleviate some of these conditions, various devices (e.g., pacemakers, defibrillators, etc.) can be implanted in a patient's body. Such devices may monitor and provide electrical stimulation to the heart to help the heart operate in a more normal, efficient and/or safe manner. In some cases, such devices may modulate delivered pacing therapy based on a patient's activity level, which is sometime referred to as rate responsive pacing.

SUMMARY

[0004] The present disclosure generally relates to systems, devices, and methods for delivering pacing therapy to a patient, and more particularly, to systems, devices, and methods for modulating pacing therapy based on an activity level of the patient.

[0005] In an illustrative embodiment, an implantable medical device (IMD) implantable within a patient's heart may comprise two or more sensors including a motion sensor, and a controller operatively coupled to the two or more sensors. The controller may identify a plurality of heart beats using one or more of the sensors, each of the plurality of heart beats having a systole phase and diastole phase. The controller may further identify each of two or more of the plurality of heart beats as an intrinsically initiated heart beat or a pace initiated heart beat. Then, for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, the controller may identify a motion level of the IMD using the motion sensor (e.g. accelerometer) during the systole phase of the intrinsically initiated heart beat, and compare the identified motion level of the IMD to a motion level of the IMD identified for one or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats, and may further identify a motion level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison. For a pace initiated heart beat, the controller may identify a motion level of the IMD using the motion sensor during the systole phase of the pace initiated heart beat, and compare the identified motion level of the IMD to a motion level of the IMD identified for one or more previous pace initiated heart beats, and may identify the motion level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison. Based, at least in part, on the identified motion level of the patient, the controller may set a pacing rate parameter for the IMD.

[0006] Additionally, or alternatively to the first illustrative embodiment, for an intrinsically initiated heart beat that immediately follows a pace initiated heart beat, the controller may be configured to not identify the motion level of the patient based on that heart beat.

[0007] Additionally, or alternatively, in any of the above embodiments with respect to the first illustrative embodiment, for a pace initiated heart beat that immediately follows an intrinsically initiated heart beat, the controller may be configured to not update the motion level of the patient based on that heart beat.

[0008] Additionally, or alternatively, in any of the above embodiments with respect to the first illustrative embodiment, for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, the controller may be configured to compare the identified motion level of the IMD to the motion level of the IMD previously identified for an immediately preceding heart beat if the immediately preceding heart beat was an intrinsically initiated heart beat, and if the immediately preceding heart beat was a pace initiated heart beat, then either not identify the motion level of the IMD using the motion sensor during the systole phase of the intrinsically initiated heart beat or ignore the identified motion level of the IMD.

[0009] Additionally, or alternatively, in any of the above embodiments with respect to the first illustrative embodiment, for a pace initiated heart beat, the controller may be configured to compare the identified motion level of the IMD to the motion level of the IMD previously identified for an immediately preceding heart beat if the immediately preceding heart beat was a pace initiated heart beat, and if the immediately preceding heart beat was an intrinsically initiated heart beat, then either not identify a motion level of the IMD using the motion sensor during the systole phase of the pace initiated heart beat or ignore the identified motion level of the IMD.

[0010] Additionally, or alternatively, in any of the above embodiments with respect to the first illustrative embodiment, the controller may be configured to for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, compare the identified motion level of the IMD to an average motion level of the IMD that is an average of the motion levels of the IMD identified for two or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats, and for a pace initiated heart beat, compare the identified motion level of the IMD to an average motion level of the IMD that is an average of the motion levels of the IMD identified for two or more previous pace initiated heart beats.

[0011] Additionally, or alternatively, in any of the above embodiments with respect to the first illustrative embodiment, wherein for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, the average motion level of the IMD is a weighted average, and for a paced initiated heart beat, the average motion level of the IMD is a weighted average.

[0012] Additionally, or alternatively, in any of the above embodiments with respect to the first illustrative embodiment, wherein the two or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats and the two or more previous pace initiated heart beats all fall within a moving time window that extends back a predetermined amount of time.

[0013] Additionally, or alternatively, in any of the above embodiments with respect to the first illustrative embodiment, the controller may be configured to identify a current

heart rate of the patient's heart and identify a current heart beat as corresponding to one of two or more heart rate ranges based at least in part on the identified current heart rate. Further, for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, the controller may compare the identified motion level of the IMD to a motion level of the IMD identified for one or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats that have been identified as corresponding to the same heart rate range, and to identify a motion level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison. For a pace initiated heart beat, the controller may compare the identified motion level of the IMD to a motion level of the IMD identified for one or more previous pace initiated heart beats that have been identified as corresponding to the same heart rate range, and to identify a motion level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison.

[0014] Additionally, or alternatively, in any of the above embodiments with respect to the first illustrative embodiment, the controller may be configured to identify each of the plurality of heart beats as an intrinsically initiated heart beat, a pace initiated heart beat or a fusion heart beat; and wherein for a fusion heart beat, not identify the motion level of the patient based on that heart beat.

[0015] Additionally, or alternatively, in any of the above embodiments with respect to the first illustrative embodiment, the motion sensor comprises a three-axis accelerometer, and another of the two or more sensors comprises two or more electrodes that are configured to sense electrical signals of the patient's heart.

[0016] Additionally, or alternatively, in any of the above embodiments with respect to the first illustrative embodiment, the IMD is a leadless cardiac pacemaker.

[0017] In another illustrative embodiment, a method for identifying an activity level of a patient using a motion sensor implanted within the patient's heart comprises identifying a plurality of heart beats, each of the plurality of heart beats having a systole phase and diastole phase, and identifying each of two or more of the plurality of heart beats as an intrinsically initiated heart beat or a pace initiated heart beat. For an intrinsically initiated heart beat, the method comprises identifying a motion level of the IMD using the motion sensor during the systole phase of the intrinsically initiated heart beat, and comparing the identified motion level of the IMD to a motion level of the IMD identified for one or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats and identifying the activity level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison. For a pace initiated heart beat, the method comprises identifying a motion level of the IMD using the motion sensor during the systole phase of the pace initiated heart beat, and comparing the identified motion level of the IMD to a motion level of the IMD identified for one or more previous pace initiated heart beats and identifying the activity level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison.

[0018] Additionally, or alternatively, the second illustrative embodiment may further comprise, wherein for an intrinsically initiated heart beat that immediately follows a pace initiated heart beat, not identifying the activity level of the patient based on that heart beat.

[0019] Additionally, or alternatively, to any of the above embodiments with respect to the second illustrative embodiment, wherein for a pace initiated heart beat that immediately follows an intrinsically initiated heart beat, not identifying the activity level of the patient based on that heart beat.

[0020] Additionally, or alternatively, to any of the above embodiments with respect to the second illustrative embodiment, pacing the patient's heart at a pacing rate, wherein the pacing rate is based at least in part on the identified activity level of the patient.

[0021] In yet another illustrative embodiment, a leadless cardiac pacemaker (LCP) implantable within a patient's heart comprises a housing, two or more electrodes secured relative to the housing, the two or more electrodes are configured to sense electrical signals of the patients heart, an accelerometer situated inside of the housing, and circuitry situated inside of the housing and operatively coupled to the two or more electrodes and the accelerometer. The circuitry may identify a plurality of heart beats using the two or more electrodes, each of the plurality of heart beats having a systole phase and diastole phase, and may further identify each of two or more of the plurality of heart beats as an intrinsically initiated heart beat or a pace initiated heart beat. For an intrinsically initiated heart beat, the circuitry may identify a motion level of the LCP using the accelerometer during the systole phase of the intrinsically initiated heart beat, and compare the identified motion level of the LCP to a motion level of the LCP identified for one or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats but not any of the previous pace initiated heart beats, and identify an activity level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison. The circuitry may then pace the patient's heart at a pacing rate that is based at least in part on the identified activity level of the patient.

[0022] Additionally, or alternatively, to the third illustrative embodiment, for an intrinsically initiated heart beat that immediately follows a pace initiated heart beat, the circuitry may be configured to not identify the activity level of the patient based on that heart beat.

[0023] Additionally, or alternatively, to any of the above embodiments with respect to the third illustrative embodiment, for a pace initiated heart beat, the circuitry may be further configured to identify a motion level of the LCP using the accelerometer during the systole phase of the pace initiated heart beat, and compare the identified motion level of the LCP to a motion level of the LCP identified for one or more previous pace initiated heart beats but not any of the previous intrinsically initiated heart beats, and identify the activity level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison.

[0024] Additionally, or alternatively, to any of the above embodiments with respect to the third illustrative embodiment, for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, the circuitry may be configured to compare the identified motion level of the LCP to an average motion level of the LCP that is an average of the motion levels of the LCP identified for two or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats, and for a pace initiated heart beat, the circuitry may be configured to compare the identified motion level of the LCP to an average motion level of the LCP that is an average of the motion levels of the LCP identified for two or more previous pace initiated heart beats, wherein the two or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats and the two or more previous pace initiated heart beats all fall within a moving time window that extends back a predetermined amount of time.

[0025] The above summary is not intended to describe each embodiment or every implementation of the present disclosure. Advantages and attainments, together with a more complete understanding of the disclosure, will become apparent and appreciated by referring to the following description and claims taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0026] The disclosure may be more completely understood in consideration of the following description of various illustrative embodiments in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

[0027] FIG. **1** is a schematic block diagram of an illustrative leadless cardiac pacemaker (LCP) according to one embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0028] FIG. **2** is a schematic block diagram of another illustrative medical device that may be used in conjunction with the LCP of FIG. **1**;

[0029] FIG. **3** is a schematic diagram of an exemplary medical system that includes multiple LCPs and/or other devices in communication with one another;

[0030] FIG. **4** is a schematic diagram of a system including an LCP and another medical device, in accordance with another embodiment of the present disclosure;

[0031] FIG. **5** depicts a graph showing a cardiac electrical signal and illustrative motion sensor signal tracings for both an intrinsically initiated heart beat and a pace initiated heart beat;

[0032] FIG. **6** depicts a schematic flow diagram of an illustrative technique for setting a pacing rate parameter for an LCP;

[0033] FIG. **7** depicts a schematic flow diagram of an illustrative technique for setting a pacing rate parameter for an LCP;

[0034] FIG. **8** depicts a schematic flow diagram of an illustrative technique for setting a pacing rate parameter for an LCP utilizing heart rate range classifications;

[0035] FIG. **9** depicts a schematic flow diagram of an illustrative technique for setting a pacing rate parameter for an LCP utilizing an offset;

[0036] FIG. **10** depicts a schematic flow diagram of an illustrative technique for setting a pacing rate parameter for an LCP utilizing a calibration window; and

[0037] FIGS. **11A-11C** depict graphs of illustrative averaged raw accelerometer data for a plurality of heart beats.

[0038] While the disclosure is amenable to various modifications and alternative forms, specifics thereof have been shown by way of embodiment in the drawings and will be described in detail. It should be understood, however, that the intention is not to limit aspects of the disclosure to the particular illustrative embodiments described. On the contrary, the intention is to cover all modifications, equivalents, and alternatives falling within the spirit and scope of the disclosure.

DESCRIPTION

[0039] The following description should be read with reference to the drawings in which similar elements in different drawings are numbered the same. The description and the drawings, which are not necessarily to scale, depict illustrative embodiments and are not intended to limit the scope of the disclosure.

[0040] This disclosure describes systems, devices, and methods for modifying delivery of pacing pulses according to a motion level of a patient. For example, devices of the present disclosure may be configured to determine a motion level of a patient. The devices may then adjust the rate of delivery of pacing pulses in accordance with the determined motion level. As one example, the devices may slow the delivery rate of pacing pulses during periods of lower patient motion relative to a delivery rate of pacing pulses during periods of higher patient motion.

[0041] FIG. **1** is a conceptual schematic block diagram of an implantable medical device (IMD), such as an illustrative leadless cardiac pacemaker (LCP) that may be implanted on the heart or within a chamber of the heart and may operate to sense physiological signals and parameters and deliver one or more types of electrical stimulation therapy to the heart of the patient. Example electrical stimulation therapy may include bradycardia pacing, rate responsive pacing therapy, cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT), anti-tachycardia pacing (ATP) therapy and/or the like. The disclosed concepts may be implemented in other IMDs and/or other devices including, but not limited to, pacemakers with leads, defibrillators, and/or other implantable or non-implantable devices.

[0042] As can be seen in FIG. **1**, LCP **100** may be a compact device with all components housed within LCP **100** or directly on housing **120**. In some instances, LCP **100** may include communication module **102**, pulse generator module **104**, electrical sensing module **106** (e.g., including one or more electrical sensors), mechanical sensing module **108** (e.g., including one or more mechanical sensors), processing module **110** (e.g., a controller including memory and one or more processors), energy storage module **112**, and electrodes **114**, **114'**. Via circuitry, the electrodes **114**, **114'** may be part of and/or may be in communication with (e.g., operatively coupled to) the communication module **102**, the pulse generator module **104**, electrical sensing module **106**, the mechanical sensing module **108**, the processing module **110**, and/or the energy storage module **112**.

[0043] As depicted in FIG. **1**, LCP **100** may include electrodes **114**, which can be secured relative to housing **120** and electrically exposed to tissue and/or blood surrounding LCP **100**. Electrodes **114** may generally conduct electrical signals to and/or from LCP **100** and the surrounding tissue and/or blood. Such electrical signals may include communication signals, electrical stimulation pulses, and intrinsic cardiac electrical signals, to name a few. Intrinsic cardiac electrical signals may include electrical signals generated by the heart and may be represented by an electrocardiogram (ECG). The electrodes may be considered a sensor capable of sensing each of a plurality of heart beats.

[0044] Electrodes **114** may include one or more biocompatible conductive materials such as various metals or alloys that are known to be safe for implantation within a human body. In some instances, electrodes **114** may be generally disposed on either end of LCP **100** and may be in electrical communication with one or more of modules **102**, **104**, **106**, **108**, and **110**. In embodiments where electrodes **114** (e.g., two or more electrodes **114**) are secured directly to housing **120**, an insulative material may electrically isolate the electrodes **114** from adjacent electrodes, housing **120**, and/or other parts of LCP **100**. In some instances, some or all of electrodes **114** may be spaced from housing **120** and connected to housing **120** and/or other components of LCP **100**

through connecting wires. In such instances, the electrodes **114** may be placed on a tail (not shown) that extends out away from the housing **120**.

[0045] As shown in FIG. **1**, in some embodiments, LCP **100** may include electrodes **114'**. Electrodes **114'** may be in addition to electrodes **114**, or may replace one or more of electrodes **114**. Electrodes **114'** may be similar to electrodes **114** except that electrodes **114'** are disposed on the sides of LCP **100**. In some cases, electrodes **114'** may increase the number of electrodes by which LCP **100** may deliver communication signals and/or electrical stimulation pulses, and/or may sense intrinsic cardiac electrical signals, communication signals, and/or electrical stimulation pulses.

[0046] Electrodes **114** and/or **114'** may assume any of a variety of sizes and/or shapes, and may be spaced at any of a variety of spacings. For example, electrodes **114** may have an outer diameter of two to twenty millimeters (mm). In other embodiments, electrodes **114** and/or **114'** may have a diameter of two, three, five, seven millimeters (mm), or any other suitable diameter, dimension and/or shape. Example lengths for electrodes **114** and/or **114'** may include, for example, one, three, five, ten millimeters (mm), or any other suitable length. As used herein, the length is a dimension of electrodes **114** and/or **114'** that extends away from the outer surface of the housing **120**. In some instances, at least some of electrodes **114** and/or **114'** may be spaced from one another by a distance of twenty, thirty, forty, fifty millimeters (mm), or any other suitable spacing. The electrodes **114** and/or **114'** of a single device may have different sizes with respect to each other, and the spacing and/or lengths of the electrodes on the device may or may not be uniform.

[0047] In the embodiment shown, communication module **102** may be electrically coupled to electrodes **114** and/or **114'** and may be configured to deliver communication pulses to tissues of the patient for communicating with other devices such as sensors, programmers, other medical devices, and/or the like. Communication signals, as used herein, may be any modulated signal that conveys information to another device, either by itself or in conjunction with one or more other modulated signals. In some embodiments, communication signals may be limited to sub-threshold signals that do not result in capture of the heart yet still convey information. The communication signals may be delivered to another device that is located either external or internal to the patient's body. In some instances, the communication may take the form of distinct communication pulses separated by various amounts of time. In some of these cases, the timing between successive pulses may convey information. Communication module **102** may additionally be configured to sense for communication signals delivered by other devices, which may be located external or internal to the patient's body.

[0048] Communication module **102** may communicate to help accomplish one or more desired functions. Some example functions include delivering sensed data, using communicated data for determining occurrences of events such as arrhythmias, coordinating delivery of electrical stimulation therapy, and/or other functions. In some cases, LCP **100** may use communication signals to communicate raw information, processed information, messages and/or commands, and/or other data. Raw information may include information such as sensed electrical signals (e.g. a sensed ECG), signals gathered from coupled sensors, and the like. In some embodiments, the processed information may include signals that have been filtered using one or more signal processing techniques. Processed information may also include parameters and/or events that are determined by the LCP **100** and/or another device, such as a determined heart rate, timing of determined heartbeats, timing of other determined events, determinations of threshold crossings, expirations of monitored time periods, accelerometer signals, activity level parameters, blood-oxygen parameters, blood pressure parameters, heart sound parameters, and the like. Messages and/or commands may include instructions or the like directing another device to take action, notifications of imminent actions of the sending device, requests for reading from the receiving device, requests for writing data to the receiving device, information messages, and/or other messages commands.

[0049] In at least some embodiments, communication module **102** (or LCP **100**) may further include switching circuitry to selectively connect one or more of electrodes **114** and/or **114'** to communication module **102** in order to select which electrodes **114** and/or **114'** that communication module **102** delivers communication pulses. It is contemplated that communication module **102** may be communicating with other devices via conducted signals, radio frequency (RF) signals, optical signals, acoustic signals, inductive coupling, and/or any other suitable communication methodology.

[0050] Where communication module **102** generates electrical communication signals, communication module **102** may include one or more capacitor elements and/or other charge storage devices to aid in generating and delivering communication signals. In the embodiment shown, communication module **102** may use energy stored in energy storage module **112** to generate the communication signals. In at least some examples, communication module **102** may include a switching circuit that is connected to energy storage module **112** and, with the switching circuitry, may connect energy storage module **112** to one or more of electrodes **114/114'** to generate the communication signals.

[0051] As shown in FIG. **1**, a pulse generator module **104** may be electrically connected to one or more of electrodes **114** and/or **114'**. Pulse generator module **104** may be configured to generate electrical stimulation pulses and deliver the electrical stimulation pulses to tissues of a patient via one or more of the electrodes **114** and/or **114'** in order to effectuate one or more electrical stimulation therapies. Electrical stimulation pulses as used herein are meant to encompass any electrical signals that may be delivered to tissue of a patient for purposes of treatment of any type of disease or abnormality. For example, when used to treat heart disease, the pulse generator module **104** may generate electrical stimulation pacing pulses for capturing the heart of the patient, i.e. causing the heart to contract in response to the delivered electrical stimulation pulse. In some of these cases, LCP **100** may vary the rate at which pulse generator module **104** generates the electrical stimulation pulses, for example in rate adaptive pacing. In other embodiments, the electrical stimulation pulses may include defibrillation/cardioversion pulses for shocking the heart out of fibrillation or into a normal heart rhythm. In yet other embodiments, the electrical stimulation pulses may include anti-tachycardia pacing (ATP) pulses. It should be understood that these are just some examples. When used to treat other ailments, the

pulse generator module **104** may generate electrical stimulation pulses suitable for neurostimulation therapy or the like.

[0052] Pulse generator module **104** may include one or more capacitor elements and/or other charge storage devices to aid in generating and delivering appropriate electrical stimulation pulses. In at least some embodiments, pulse generator module **104** may use energy stored in energy storage module **112** to generate the electrical stimulation pulses. In some particular embodiments, pulse generator module **104** may include a switching circuit that is connected to energy storage module **112** and may connect energy storage module **112** to one or more of electrodes **114/114'** to generate electrical stimulation pulses.

[0053] LCP **100** may include an electrical sensing module **106**. Electrical sensing module **106** may be configured to sense intrinsic cardiac electrical signals conducted from electrodes **114** and/or **114'** to electrical sensing module **106**. For example, electrical sensing module **106** may be electrically connected to one or more electrodes **114** and/or **114'** and electrical sensing module **106** may be configured to receive cardiac electrical signals conducted through electrodes **114** and/or **114'** via a sensor amplifier or the like. In some embodiments, the cardiac electrical signals may represent local information from the chamber in which LCP **100** is implanted. For instance, if LCP **100** is implanted within a ventricle of the heart, cardiac electrical signals sensed by LCP **100** through electrodes **114** and/or **114'** may represent ventricular cardiac electrical signals. The electrical sensing module **106** may, in some cases, be configured to identify each of a plurality of heart beats as an intrinsically initiated heart beat or a pace initiated heart beat.

[0054] Further, LCP **100** may include a mechanical sensing module **108**. Mechanical sensing module **108** may include, or be electrically connected to, various sensors, such as accelerometers, including multi-axis accelerometers such as two- or three-axis accelerometers, gyroscopes, including multi-axis gyroscopes such as two- or three-axis gyroscopes, blood pressure sensors, heart sound sensors, piezoelectric sensors, blood-oxygen sensors, and/or other sensors which measure one or more physiological parameters of the heart and/or patient. Mechanical sensing module **108**, when present, may gather signals from the sensors indicative of the various physiological parameters.

[0055] Both electrical sensing module **106** and mechanical sensing module **108** may be connected to processing module **110** and may provide signals representative of the sensed cardiac electrical signals and/or physiological signals to processing module **110**. Although described with respect to FIG. **1** as separate sensing modules, in some embodiments, electrical sensing module **106** and mechanical sensing module **108** may be combined into a single module. In at least some examples, LCP **100** may only include one of electrical sensing module **106** and mechanical sensing module **108**. In some cases, any combination of the processing module **110**, electrical sensing module **106**, mechanical sensing module **108**, communication module **102**, pulse generator module **104** and/or energy storage module may be considered a controller of the LCP **100**.

[0056] Processing module **110** may be configured to direct the operation of LCP **100** and may, in some embodiments, be termed a controller. For example, processing module **110** may be configured to receive cardiac electrical signals from electrical sensing module **106** and/or physiological signals from mechanical sensing module **108**. Based on the received signals, processing module **110** may, for example, adjust the rate of pacing based on the activity level of the patient (e.g. rate adaptive pacing). When so provided, processing module **110** may monitor one or more physiological parameters of the patient which may indicate a need for an increased heart rate (e.g. due to increased metabolic demand) and increase the rate at which pulse generator module **104** generates electrical stimulation pulses. Determining an activity level of the patient using a motion sensor (e.g. accelerometer) of the mechanical sensing module **108** of the LCP **100** can be challenging because the motion detected by the motion sensor not only includes the activity level of the patient but also the motion of the beating heart. FIGS. **6-10** describes illustrative methods for aiding in rate responsive pacing using a motion sensor (e.g. accelerometer) in an LCP.

[0057] In some cases, the processing module **110** may determine occurrences and types of arrhythmias and other determinations such as whether LCP **100** has become dislodged. Processing module **110** may further receive information from communication module **102**. In some embodiments, processing module **110** may additionally use such received information to determine occurrences and types of arrhythmias and/or and other determinations such as whether LCP **100** has become dislodged. In still some additional embodiments, LCP **100** may use the received information instead of the signals received from electrical sensing module **106** and/or mechanical sensing module **108**—for instance if the received information is deemed to be more accurate than the signals received from electrical sensing module **106** and/or mechanical sensing module **108** or if electrical sensing module **106** and/or mechanical sensing module **108** have been disabled or omitted from LCP **100**.

[0058] After determining an occurrence of an arrhythmia, processing module **110** may control pulse generator module **104** to generate electrical stimulation pulses in accordance with one or more electrical stimulation therapies to treat the determined arrhythmia. For example, processing module **110** may control pulse generator module **104** to generate pacing pulses with varying parameters and in different sequences to effectuate one or more electrical stimulation therapies. As one example, in controlling pulse generator module **104** to deliver bradycardia pacing therapy, processing module **110** may control pulse generator module **104** to deliver pacing pulses designed to capture the heart of the patient at a regular interval to help prevent the heart of a patient from falling below a predetermined threshold.

[0059] For ATP therapy, processing module **110** may control pulse generator module **104** to deliver pacing pulses at a rate faster than an intrinsic heart rate of a patient in an attempt to force the heart to beat in response to the delivered pacing pulses rather than in response to intrinsic cardiac electrical signals. Once the heart is following the pacing pulses, processing module **110** may control pulse generator module **104** to reduce the rate of delivered pacing pulses down to a safer level. In Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy (CRT), processing module **110** may control pulse generator module **104** to deliver pacing pulses in coordination with another device to cause the heart to contract more efficiently. In cases where pulse generator module **104** is capable of generating defibrillation and/or cardioversion pulses for defibrillation/cardioversion therapy, processing module **110** may control pulse generator module **104** to generate such

defibrillation and/or cardioversion pulses. In some cases, processing module **110** may control pulse generator module **104** to generate electrical stimulation pulses to provide electrical stimulation therapies different than those examples described above.

[0060] Aside from controlling pulse generator module **104** to generate different types of electrical stimulation pulses and in different sequences, in some embodiments, processing module **110** may also control pulse generator module **104** to generate the various electrical stimulation pulses with varying pulse parameters. For example, each electrical stimulation pulse may have a pulse width and a pulse amplitude. Processing module **110** may control pulse generator module **104** to generate the various electrical stimulation pulses with specific pulse widths and pulse amplitudes. For example, processing module **110** may cause pulse generator module **104** to adjust the pulse width and/or the pulse amplitude of electrical stimulation pulses if the electrical stimulation pulses are not effectively capturing the heart. Such control of the specific parameters of the various electrical stimulation pulses may help LCP **100** provide more effective delivery of electrical stimulation therapy.

[0061] In some embodiments, processing module **110** may further control communication module **102** to send information to other devices. For example, processing module **110** may control communication module **102** to generate one or more communication signals for communicating with other devices of a system of devices. For instance, processing module **110** may control communication module **102** to generate communication signals in particular pulse sequences, where the specific sequences convey different information. Communication module **102** may also receive communication signals for potential action by processing module **110**.

[0062] In further embodiments, processing module **110** may control switching circuitry by which communication module **102** and pulse generator module **104** deliver communication signals and/or electrical stimulation pulses to tissue of the patient. As described above, both communication module **102** and pulse generator module **104** may include circuitry for connecting one or more electrodes **114** and/**114'** to communication module **102** and/or pulse generator module **104** so those modules may deliver the communication signals and electrical stimulation pulses to tissue of the patient. The specific combination of one or more electrodes by which communication module **102** and/or pulse generator module **104** deliver communication signals and electrical stimulation pulses may influence the reception of communication signals and/or the effectiveness of electrical stimulation pulses. Although it was described that each of communication module **102** and pulse generator module **104** may include switching circuitry, in some embodiments, LCP **100** may have a single switching module connected to the communication module **102**, the pulse generator module **104**, and electrodes **114** and/or **114'**. In such embodiments, processing module **110** may control the switching module to connect modules **102**/**104** and electrodes **114**/**114'** as appropriate.

[0063] In some embodiments, processing module **110** may include a pre-programmed chip, such as a very-large-scale integration (VLSI) chip or an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC). In such embodiments, the chip may be pre-programmed with control logic in order to control the operation of LCP **100**. By using a pre-programmed chip, processing module **110** may use less power than other programmable circuits while able to maintain basic functionality, thereby potentially increasing the battery life of LCP **100**. In other instances, processing module **110** may include a programmable microprocessor or the like. Such a programmable microprocessor may allow a user to adjust the control logic of LCP **100** after manufacture, thereby allowing for greater flexibility of LCP **100** than when using a pre-programmed chip. In still other embodiments, processing module **110** may not be a single component. For example, processing module **110** may include multiple components positioned at disparate locations within LCP **100** in order to perform the various described functions. For example, certain functions may be performed in one component of processing module **110**, while other functions are performed in a separate component of processing module **110**.

[0064] Processing module **110**, in additional embodiments, may include a memory circuit and processing module **110** may store information on and read information from the memory circuit. In other embodiments, LCP **100** may include a separate memory circuit (not shown) that is in communication with processing module **110**, such that processing module **110** may read and write information to and from the separate memory circuit. The memory circuit, whether part of processing module **110** or separate from processing module **110**, may be volatile memory, non-volatile memory, or a combination of volatile memory and non-volatile memory.

[0065] Energy storage module **112** may provide a power source to LCP **100** for its operations. In some embodiments, energy storage module **112** may be a non-rechargeable lithium-based battery. In other embodiments, the non-rechargeable battery may be made from other suitable materials. In some embodiments, energy storage module **112** may include a rechargeable battery. In still other embodiments, energy storage module **112** may include other types of energy storage devices such as capacitors or super capacitors.

[0066] To implant LCP **100** inside a patient's body, an operator (e.g., a physician, clinician, etc.), may fix LCP **100** to the cardiac tissue of the patient's heart. To facilitate fixation, LCP **100** may include one or more anchors **116**. The one or more anchors **116** are shown schematically in FIG. **1**. The one or more anchors **116** may include any number of fixation or anchoring mechanisms. For example, one or more anchors **116** may include one or more pins, staples, threads, screws, helix, tines, and/or the like. In some embodiments, although not shown, one or more anchors **116** may include threads on its external surface that may run along at least a partial length of an anchor member. The threads may provide friction between the cardiac tissue and the anchor to help fix the anchor member within the cardiac tissue. In some cases, the one or more anchors **116** may include an anchor member that has a cork-screw shape that can be screwed into the cardiac tissue. In other embodiments, anchor **116** may include other structures such as barbs, spikes, or the like to facilitate engagement with the surrounding cardiac tissue.

[0067] In some examples, LCP **100** may be configured to be implanted on a patient's heart or within a chamber of the patient's heart. For instance, LCP **100** may be implanted within any of a left atrium, right atrium, left ventricle, or right ventricle of a patient's heart. By being implanted

within a specific chamber, LCP **100** may be able to sense cardiac electrical signals originating or emanating from the specific chamber that other devices may not be able to sense with such resolution. Where LCP **100** is configured to be implanted on a patient's heart, LCP **100** may be configured to be implanted on or adjacent to one of the chambers of the heart, or on or adjacent to a path along which intrinsically generated cardiac electrical signals generally follow. In these examples, LCP **100** may also have an enhanced ability to sense localized intrinsic cardiac electrical signals and deliver localized electrical stimulation therapy. In embodiments where LCP **100** includes an accelerometer, LCP **100** may additionally be able to sense the motion of the cardiac wall to which LCP **100** is attached.

[0068] FIG. **2** depicts an embodiment of another device, medical device (MD) **200**, which may operate to sense physiological signals and parameters and deliver one or more types of electrical stimulation therapy to tissues of the patient. In the embodiment shown, MD **200** may include a communication module **202**, a pulse generator module **204**, an electrical sensing module **206**, a mechanical sensing module **208**, a processing module **210**, and an energy storage module **218**. Each of modules **202**, **204**, **206**, **208**, and **210** may be similar to and/or different than modules **102**, **104**, **106**, **108**, and **110** of LCP **100** in one or more manners. Additionally, energy storage module **218** may be similar to and/or different than energy storage module **112** of LCP **100** in one or more manners. However, in some embodiments, MD **200** may have a larger volume within housing **220** than a volume of LCP **100**. In such embodiments, MD **200** may include a larger energy storage module **218** and/or a larger processing module **210** capable of handling more complex operations than processing module **110** of LCP **100**.

[0069] While MD **200** may be another leadless device such as shown in FIG. **1**, in some instances MD **200** may include leads, such as leads **212**. Leads **212** may include electrical wires that conduct electrical signals between electrodes **214** and one or more modules located within housing **220**. In some cases, leads **212** may be connected to and extend away from housing **220** of MD **200**. In some embodiments, leads **212** may be implanted on, within, or adjacent to a heart of a patient. Leads **212** may contain one or more electrodes **214** positioned at various locations on leads **212** and various distances from housing **220**. Some leads **212** may only include a single electrode **214**, while other leads **212** may include multiple electrodes **214**. Generally, electrodes **214** may be positioned on leads **212** such that when leads **212** are implanted within the patient, one or more of the electrodes **214** are positioned to perform a desired function. In some cases, the one or more of the electrodes **214** may be in contact with the patient's cardiac tissue. In other cases, the one or more of the electrodes **214** may be positioned subcutaneously but adjacent the patient's heart.

[0070] MD **200** may also include one or more electrodes **214** not disposed on a lead **212**. For example, one or more electrodes **214** may be connected directly to housing **220**.

[0071] The electrodes **214** may conduct intrinsically generated electrical cardiac signals to leads **212**. Leads **212** may, in turn, conduct the received electrical cardiac signals to one or more of the modules **202**, **204**, **206**, and **208** of MD **200**.

[0072] In some cases, MD **200** may generate electrical stimulation signals, and leads **212** may conduct the generated electrical stimulation signals to electrodes **214**. Electrodes **214** may then conduct the electrical stimulation signals to the cardiac tissue of the patient (either directly or indirectly).

[0073] Leads **212**, in some embodiments, may additionally contain one or more sensors, such as accelerometers, blood pressure sensors, heart sound sensors, blood-oxygen sensors, and/or other sensors which are configured to measure one or more physiological parameters of the heart and/or patient. In such embodiments, mechanical sensing module **208** may be in electrical communication with leads **212** and may receive signals generated from such sensors.

[0074] While not required, in some embodiments MD **200** may be an implantable medical device. In such embodiments, housing **220** of MD **200** may be implanted in, for example, a transthoracic region of the patient. Housing **220** may generally include any of a number of known materials that are safe for implantation in a human body and may, when implanted, hermetically seal the various components of MD **200** from fluids and tissues of the patient's body. In such embodiments, leads **212** may be implanted at one or more various locations within the patient, such as within the heart of the patient, adjacent to the heart of the patient, adjacent to the spine of the patient, or any other desired location.

[0075] In some embodiments, MD **200** may be an implantable cardiac pacemaker (ICP). In these embodiments, MD **200** may have one or more leads, for example leads **212**, which are implanted on or within the patient's heart. The one or more leads **212** may include one or more electrodes **214** that are in contact with cardiac tissue and/or blood of the patient's heart. MD **200** may be configured to sense intrinsically generated cardiac electrical signals and determine, for example, one or more cardiac arrhythmias based on analysis of the sensed signals. MD **200** may be configured to deliver CRT, ATP therapy, bradycardia therapy, and/or other therapy types via leads **212** implanted within the heart. In some embodiments, MD **200** may additionally be configured to provide defibrillation/cardioversion therapy.

[0076] In some instances, MD **200** may be an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (ICD). In such embodiments, MD **200** may include one or more leads implanted within a patient's heart. MD **200** may also be configured to sense electrical cardiac signals, determine occurrences of tachyarrhythmias based on the sensed electrical cardiac signals, and deliver defibrillation and/or cardioversion therapy in response to determining an occurrence of a tachyarrhythmia (for example by delivering defibrillation and/or cardioversion pulses to the heart of the patient). In other embodiments, MD **200** may be a subcutaneous implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (SICD). In embodiments where MD **200** is an SICD, one of leads **212** may be a subcutaneously implanted lead. In at least some embodiments where MD **200** is an SICD, MD **200** may include only a single lead which is implanted subcutaneously but outside of the chest cavity, however this is not required.

[0077] In some embodiments, MD **200** may not be an implantable medical device. Rather, MD **200** may be a device external to the patient's body, and electrodes **214** may be skin-electrodes that are placed on a patient's body. In such embodiments, MD **200** may be able to sense surface electrical signals (e.g. electrical cardiac signals that are generated by the heart or electrical signals generated by a device implanted within a patient's body and conducted through the body to the skin). MD **200** may further be

configured to deliver various types of electrical stimulation therapy, including, for example, defibrillation therapy via skin-electrodes **214**.

[0078] FIG. **3** illustrates an embodiment of a medical device system and a communication pathway through which multiple medical devices **100***a*, **100***b*, **306**, and/or **310** of the medical device system may communicate. In the embodiment shown, medical device system **300** may include a first LCP **100***a* and a second LCP **100***b*, external medical device **306**, and other sensors/devices **310**.

[0079] External device **306** may be a device disposed external to a patient's body, as described previously with respect to MD **200**. In at least some examples, external device **306** may represent an external support device such as a device programmer, as will be described in more detail below.

[0080] Other sensors/devices **310** may be any of the devices described previously with respect to MD **200**, such as ICPs, ICDs, and SICDs. Other sensors/devices **310** may also include various diagnostic sensors that gather information about the patient, such as accelerometers, blood pressure sensors, or the like. In some cases, other sensors/devices **310** may include an external programmer device that may be used to program one or more devices of system **300**.

[0081] Various devices of system **300** may communicate via communication pathway **308**. For example, LCPs **100***a* and/or **100***b* may sense intrinsic cardiac electrical signals and may communicate such signals to one or more other devices **100***a*/**100***b*, **306**, and **310** of system **300** via communication pathway **308**. In one embodiment, one or more of devices **100***a*/**100***b* may receive such signals and, based on the received signals, determine an occurrence of an arrhythmia. In some cases, device or devices **100***a*/**100***b* may communicate such determinations to one or more other devices **306** and **310** of system **300**. In some cases, one or more of devices **100***a*/**100***b*, **306**, and **310** of system **300** may take action based on the communicated determination of an arrhythmia, such as by delivering a suitable electrical stimulation to the heart of the patient. One or more of devices **100***a*/**100***b*, **306**, and **310** of system **300** may additionally communicate command or response messages via communication pathway **308**. The command messages may cause a receiving device to take a particular action whereas response messages may include requested information or a confirmation that a receiving device did, in fact, receive a communicated message or data.

[0082] It is contemplated that the various devices of system **300** may communicate via pathway **308** using RF signals, inductive coupling, optical signals, acoustic signals, or any other signals suitable for communication. Additionally, in at least some embodiments, the various devices of system **300** may communicate via pathway **308** using multiple signal types. For instance, other sensors/device **310** may communicate with external device **306** using a first signal type (e.g. RF communication) but communicate with LCPs **100***a*/**100***b* using a second signal type (e.g. conducted communication). Further, in some embodiments, communication between devices may be limited. For instance, as described above, in some embodiments, LCPs **100***a*/**100***b* may communicate with external device **306** only through other sensors/devices **310**, where LCPs **100***a*/**100***b* may send signals to other sensors/devices **310**, and other sensors/devices **310** relay the received signals to external device **306**.

[0083] In some cases, the various devices of system **300** may communicate via pathway **308** using conducted communication signals. Accordingly, devices of system **300** may have components that allow for such conducted communication. For instance, the devices of system **300** may be configured to transmit conducted communication signals (e.g. a voltage and/or current waveform punctuated with current and/or voltage pulses, referred herein as electrical communication pulses) into the patient's body via one or more electrodes of a transmitting device, and may receive the conducted communication signals via one or more electrodes of a receiving device. The patient's body may "conduct" the conducted communication signals from the one or more electrodes of the transmitting device to the electrodes of the receiving device in the system **300**. In such embodiments, the delivered conducted communication signals may differ from pacing pulses, defibrillation and/or cardioversion pulses, or other electrical stimulation therapy signals. For example, the devices of system **300** may deliver electrical communication pulses at an amplitude/pulse width that is sub-threshold. That is, the communication pulses have an amplitude/pulse width designed to not capture the heart. In some cases, the amplitude/pulse width of the delivered electrical communication pulses may be above the capture threshold of the heart, but may be delivered during a refractory period of the heart and/or may be incorporated in or modulated onto a pacing pulse, if desired.

[0084] Additionally, unlike normal electrical stimulation therapy pulses, the electrical communication pulses may be delivered in specific sequences which convey information to receiving devices. For instance, delivered electrical communication pulses may be modulated in any suitable manner to encode communicated information. In some cases, the communication pulses may be pulse width modulated and/or amplitude modulated. Alternatively, or in addition, the time between pulses may be modulated to encode desired information. In some cases, a predefined sequence of communication pulses may represent a corresponding symbol (e.g. a logic "1" symbol, a logic "0" symbol, an ATP therapy trigger symbol, etc.). In some cases, conducted communication pulses may be voltage pulses, current pulses, biphasic voltage pulses, biphasic current pulses, or any other suitable electrical pulse as desired.

[0085] FIG. **4** depicts an illustrative medical device system **400**. For example, system **400** may include multiple devices that are implanted within a patient and are configured to sense physiological signals, determine occurrences of cardiac arrhythmias, and deliver electrical stimulation to treat detected cardiac arrhythmias. In some embodiments, the devices of system **400** may be configured to determine occurrences of dislodgment of one or more devices of system **400**. In FIG. **4**, an LCP **100** is shown fixed to the interior of the right ventricle of the heart **410**, and a pulse generator **406** is shown coupled to a lead **412** having one or more electrodes **408***a*-**408***c*. In some cases, pulse generator **406** may be part of a subcutaneous implantable cardioverter-defibrillator (SICD), and the one or more electrodes **408***a*-**408***c* may be positioned subcutaneously adjacent the heart. LCP **100** may communicate with the SICD, such as via communication pathway **308**. The locations of LCP **100**, pulse generator **406**, lead **412**, and electrodes **408***a-c* depicted in FIG. **4** are just exemplary. In other embodiments of system **400**, LCP **100** may be positioned in the left ventricle, right atrium, or left atrium of the heart, as desired.

In still other embodiments, LCP **100** may be implanted externally adjacent to heart **410** or even remote from heart **410**.

[0086] Medical device system **400** may also include external support device **420**. External support device **420** can be used to perform functions such as device identification, device programming and/or transfer of real-time and/or stored data between devices using one or more of the communication techniques described herein, or other functions involving communication with one or more devices of system **400**. As one example, communication between external support device **420** and pulse generator **406** can be performed via a wireless mode, and communication between pulse generator **406** and LCP **100** can be performed via a conducted communication mode. In some embodiments, communication between LCP **100** and external support device **420** is accomplished by sending communication information through pulse generator **406**. However, in other embodiments, communication between the LCP **100** and external support device **420** may be via a communication module.

[0087] FIG. **4** only illustrates one example embodiment of a medical device system that may be configured to operate according to techniques disclosed herein. Other example medical device systems may include additional or different medical devices and/or configurations. For instance, other medical device systems that are suitable to operate according to techniques disclosed herein may include additional LCPs implanted within the heart. Another example medical device system may include a plurality of LCPs with or without other devices such as pulse generator **406**, with at least one LCP capable of delivering defibrillation therapy. Still another example may include one or more LCPs implanted along with a transvenous pacemaker and with or without an implanted SICD. In yet other embodiments, the configuration or placement of the medical devices, leads, and/or electrodes may be different from those depicted in FIG. **4**. Accordingly, it should be recognized that numerous other medical device systems, different from system **400** depicted in FIG. **4**, may be operated in accordance with techniques disclosed herein. As such, the embodiment shown in FIG. **4** should not be viewed as limiting in any way.

[0088] In some embodiments, LCP **100** may be configured to operate in one or more modes. Within each mode, LCP **100** may operate in a somewhat different manner. For instance, in a first mode, LCP **100** may be configured to sense certain signals and/or determine certain parameters from the sensed signals. In a second mode, LCP **100** may be configured to sense at least some different signals and/or determine at least some different parameters than in the first mode. In at least one mode, LCP **100** may be configured to determine a motion level of a patient and modulate delivery of electrical stimulation therapy based on the determined motion level of the patient. For ease of description, a mode that includes LCP **100** being configured to determine a motion level of a patient and modulate delivery of electrical stimulation therapy based on the determined motion level of the patient may be called a motion sensing mode. Other modes may include one or more programming and/or therapy modes, and it may be possible for LCP **100** to be engaged in multiple modes concurrently.

[0089] In some embodiments, LCP **100** may include a therapy mode where LCP **100** operates as a pacemaker and delivers electrical stimulation therapy, such as electrical stimulation pulses, to a heart to drive a specific heart rate for the patient. LCP **100** may be configured to modulate the rate at which LCP **100** delivers electrical stimulation therapy in order to drive different heart rates for the patient. For instance, LCP **100** may be configured to deliver electrical stimulation in a rate-adaptive manner, as described herein. In at least some of these embodiments, LCP **100** may include a motion sensing mode, which may be a specific therapy mode or may modify a therapy mode. In the motion sensing mode, LCP **100** may modulate the rate of delivery of electrical stimulation therapy based on a determined motion level of the patient.

[0090] In some cases, the LCP **100** may determine the motion level of the patient using a motion sensor (e.g. accelerometer) in the LCP **100**. Determining an activity level of the patient using a motion sensor (e.g. accelerometer) in the LCP **100** can be challenging because the motion detected by the motion sensor not only includes the activity level of the patient but also the motion of the beating heart. Moreover, the motion level of the beating heart may be different for intrinsically initiated heart beats versus pace initiated heart beats.

[0091] It has been found that a level of noise in a motion level of a patient (e.g. activity level) may be present when sequential heart beats switch or transition from an intrinsically initiated heart beat to a pace initiated heart and/or switches or transitions from a pace initiated heart beat to an intrinsically initiated heart beat. When adjusting a pacing therapy (e.g., an electrical stimulation therapy) based, at least in part, on a motion level of a patient (e.g. activity level), such noise may result in elevating a patient's heart rate when it is not needed and/or may result in not elevating the patient's heart rate when it is needed. Noise in motion level measurements by a motion sensor in the LCP **100** when heart beats are transitioning between an intrinsically initiated heart beat and a pace initiated heart beat are illustrated in the traces of FIG. **5**. FIG. **5** depicts a graph **450** showing a number of signal traces from a motion sensor (e.g. accelerometer) of the LCP **100** when LCP **100** is attached to a wall of a patient's heart. The x-axis of graph **450** is time, t. Electrical signal **452** is an illustrative cardiac electrical signal (e.g., depicting heart beats) sensed by electrodes of the LCP **100**. Motion signal **454** is an example signal sensed by an accelerometer of the mechanical sensing module **108** of the LCP **100** assuming two consecutive intrinsically initiated heart beats. Motion signal **456** is an example signal sensed by an accelerometer of the mechanical sensing module **108** of the LCP **100** assuming two consecutive pace initiated heart beats. Motion signals **454**, **456** illustrate motion level measurements of the LCP **100**. Tracing **458** shows the example motion signals **454** and **456** plotted to show their relative amplitudes over time. The example signal traces in FIG. **5** may be taken using an LCP **100** while the patient is in a relative static position (e.g. little or no patient activity).

[0092] Line A-A in FIG. **5** represents a time at which readings from a mechanical sensing module **108** (e.g., from a motion sensor thereof) may be taken. In some cases, a time associated with line A-A may be relative to an identified heart beat in electrical signal **452**. In one example, line A-A may be set at a predetermined time after a heart beat has been detected, such as 50 milliseconds (ms), 100 ms, 150 ms, 200 ms, 250 ms, 300 ms, and/or other time period therebetween, greater than 300 ms, or less than 50 ms. In

some cases, it may be desirable to consistently take measurements from the mechanical sensing module **108** during one of the systole and diastole phases of the cardiac cycle. For example, a measurement may be taken from mechanical sensing module **108** while the heart of a patient is in the systole phase (e.g., while the heart is contracting) and the acceleration of the heart may be substantially constant. It one example, taking measurements from the mechanical sensing module **108** at or at about 200 ms after a heart beat is initiated can result in a measurement during a systole phase of the cardiac cycle and while the heart is in substantial constant acceleration (e.g., constant contraction and relatively flat in FIG. **5**).

[0093] As can be seen from trace **458** in FIG. **5**, motion signals **454** and **456** have different values at line A-A. This difference between motions signals **454** and **456** at line A-A may be considered to be a graphical representation of "noise" in the measurements taken from the mechanical sensing module **108** when sequential heart beats are not initiated by the same one of an intrinsic rhythm and a pace rhythm. The techniques herein may be utilized, individually and/or in combination, to help correct for this "noise" when determining whether to modify a pacing therapy in response to a motion level of a patient.

[0094] In rate-adaptive pacing, a motion level for an LCP **100** (e.g., an IMD) may be determined for every heart beat. Then, a motion level of a patient (e.g., an activity level) in which the LCP **100** is implanted may be identified by comparing a motion level of the LCP **100** for a current heart beat to one or more motion levels associated with one or more previous heart beats. The difference may be attributed to the activity level of the patient. However, when heart beats transition between heart beats initiated by different rhythms (e.g., an intrinsic rhythm and a pace rhythm), the aforementioned "noise" may occur resulting in larger than expected changes in motion levels of the LCP **100** that may inaccurately indicate a rise in activity level of a patient and unnecessarily raising a pacing rate of the heart.

[0095] FIG. **6** depicts an illustrative method **500** for setting a pace rate parameter of an LCP **100** implanted in a patient's heart based, at least in part, on an identified motion level of the patient. In illustrative method **500**, a plurality of heart beats may be identified **502**, for example, by the electrical sensing module **106** of the implanted LCP **100**. The processing module **110** of the LCP **100**, or other processing module (e.g., located at or remote from the LCP), may identify **504** whether the identified heart beats were intrinsically initiated or pace initiated. The processing module **110** may distinguish intrinsically initiated heart beats, pace initiated heart beats and fusion beats by analyzing the morphology of the electrical signal **452** of the heart beat, the morphology of motion signal **454**, **456**, and/or using any other suitable technique. In some cases, the electrical signal **452** may be compared to an electrical signal template for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, an electrical signal template for a pace initiated heart beats and an electrical signal template for a fusion beat, and to identify which electrical signal template the electrical signal **452** most closely matches. Likewise, the motion signal may be compared to a motion signal template for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, a motion signal template for a pace initiated heart beats and a motion signal template for a fusion beat, and to identify which motion signal template the motion signal most closely matches. These are just examples.

[0096] For intrinsically initiated heart beats, the processing module **110** may identify **506** a motion level measurement from the mechanical sensing module **108** (e.g., from a motion sensor thereof) of the LCP **100** (e.g., an IMD) and compare **508** the identified motion level of the LCP **100** for a current intrinsically initiated heart beat to a motion level of the LCP **100** for one or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats. The motion level measurement may be taken during the systole phase of the cardiac cycle, but this is not required. Based, at least in part on the comparison, the processing module **110**, or other processing module, may identify **510** a motion level of the patient in which the LCP **100** is implanted. Based, at least in part on the identified motion level of the patient, the processing module **110**, or other processing module, may set **518** a pacing rate parameter for the LCP **100**.

[0097] For pace initiated heart beats, the processing module **110** may identify **512** a motion level measurement from the mechanical sensing module **108** for the LCP **100** (e.g., an IMD) and compare **514** the identified motion level of the LCP **100** for a current pace initiated heart beat to a motion level of the LCP **100** for one or more previous pace initiated heart beats. Based, at least in part on the comparison, the processing module **110**, or other processing module, may identify **516** a motion level of the patient in which the LCP **100** is implanted. Based, at least in part on the identified motion level of the patient, the processing module **110**, or other processing module, may set **518** a pacing rate parameter for the LCP **100**.

[0098] In some cases, and as discussed above with respect to rate-adaptive pacing, comparing the identified motion level of the LCP **100** for a current heart beat to a motion level of the LCP **100** for a previous heart beat may include determining a difference between the compared motion levels. Then, based on this difference, the processing module **110** of the LCP **100** may set or update the motion level of the patient (e.g. activity level) and thus, set or update a pacing rate parameter for the LCP **100**. In one example, the value of the motion level of the patient may be an absolute value of the difference between the motion level corresponding to a current heart beat and the motion level corresponding to the previous heart beat, but other relationships are contemplated. This general process, along with others, for comparing motion levels of the LCP **100** associated with different heart beats and determining a motion level of a patient may be utilized in the various techniques discussed herein.

[0099] Alternatively, or in addition to, comparing **508**, **514** a motion level of an LCP **100** (e.g., an IMD) for a current heart beat to a motion level of the LCP **100** for an immediately previous heart beat, the processing module **110** may compare the motion level of an LCP **100** for a current heart beat to an average of motion levels of the LCP **100** for N previous heart beats (e.g., two or more previous heart beats) that were initiated by a same rhythm (e.g., intrinsic rhythm or pace rhythm) as is the current heart beat. The average of motion levels of the LCP **100** for N previous heart beats may be a straight average, a weighted average (e.g., where motion levels associated with one or more previous heart beats is weighted greater than another motion level associated with a heart beat), and/or one or more other average of motion levels. In other instances, the motion level of the LCP **100** may be compared to one or more other statistical analyses related to motion levels of the LCP **100** associated

with previous heart beats. The comparison may then be used to determine a motion level of a patient and/or used to set a pacing rate for the LCP **100**.

[0100] The number of N previous heart beats may be determined by a sliding or moving time window that extends back a predetermined amount of time or a predetermined number of beats from a current heart beat. In one example, there may be a predetermined amount of time, t, before the current heart beat and seven (7) heart beats occur during the time t. Of these seven heart beats, four may be intrinsically initiated heart beats and three may be pace initiated heart beats. Thus, if the current heart beat is an intrinsically initiated heart beat, a motion level associated with the current heart beat may be compared to an average of the four motion levels associated with the four intrinsically initiated heart beats within time t. If the current heart beat is a pace initiated heart beat, a motion level associated with the current heart beat may be compared to an average of the three motion levels associated with the three pace initiated heart beats within time t. A predetermined time t may be any time less than one (1) second, a time between one (1) second and three (3) minutes, a time between one (1) second and two (2) minute, one (1) second and one (1) minute, or any time greater than three (3) minutes.

[0101] If no heart beats occurring within the sliding or moving window were initiated by a same rhythm type (e.g., intrinsic or pace) as the current heart beat, then a motion level of the LCP **100** associated with the current heart beat may not be compared to a motion level associated with a heart beat or one or more other actions may be taken. In such instances, a motion level of a patient may not be updated and a pace rate for the LCP **100** may not be updated or re-set in response to the current heart beat.

[0102] Although the sliding or moving window is discussed with respect to averaging motion levels associated with previous heart beats initiated in the same manner as a current heart beat, the sliding or moving window may be utilized in other circumstances and/or without averaging motion levels within the window. For example, the processing module **110** may compare a motion level of the LCP **100** to a motion level of the LCP **100** associated with one previous and similarly initiated heart beat within the sliding or moving window. That is, all motion levels associated with previous similarly initiated heart beats outside of the sliding or moving window may be dropped and a motion level associated with a current heart beat may be compared to a motion level associated with the most recent similarly initiated heart beat within the window. Additionally or alternatively, if there are no previous similarly initiated heart beats within the sliding or moving window, a second or further sliding or moving window (e.g., having a longer duration than the first sliding or moving window) may be utilized. In such cases, an average of the motion levels associated with the previous similarly initiated heart beats in the second or further sliding or moving window may be compared to the motion level of the current heart, but this is not required.

[0103] In some cases, the LCP **100** may skip setting a pacing rate based, at least in part, on a motion level of the patient associated with a most recent heart beat and instead, maintain the previously established pacing rate for the most recent heart beat. For example, if a most recent heart beat is identified as an intrinsically initiated heart beat or a pace initiated heart beat and is directly after (e.g., immediately after or sequentially follows) a heart beat initiated by the same type of rhythm, then the LCP **100** may set a pacing rate based, at least in part, on a motion level of the patient associated with the most recent heart beat, as discussed with respect to illustrative method **500**. However, in the example, if a most recent heart beat is initiated by a different type of rhythm than an immediately previous heart beat, the LCP **100** may maintain the pace rate previously established, and essentially ignore the most recent heart beat.

[0104] FIG. **7** depicts an illustrative method **600** for determining whether to update a motion level of a patient (e.g. activity level) based on a current heart beat and thus, update the set pacing rate. Illustrative method **600** may be carried out by the processing module **110** of the LCP and may be used individually or in combination with the other techniques and processes described herein.

[0105] As shown in FIG. **7**, illustrative method **600** may include determining **602** whether a currently identified heart beat is initiated by a same one of an intrinsic rhythm or a pace rhythm as was an immediately previous heart beat. If the currently identified heart beat is not initiated by a same one of an intrinsic rhythm or a pace rhythm as was an immediately previous heart beat, then the LCP **100** may skip updating **604** a motion level of the patient for the current heart beat. In some cases, not updating **604** a motion level of the patient may include either not identifying a motion level of the LCP **100** for a current heart beat or ignoring an identified motion level of the LCP **100** for the current heart beat. As a result, a previously set pacing rate for the patient may be maintained **606**. In some cases, instead of maintaining **606** a previously set pacing rate for the patient, the processing module **110** may take one or more steps to change the pacing rate based on one or more parameters other than a motion level of the patient.

[0106] In illustrative method **600**, if the currently identified heart beat is initiated by a same one of an intrinsic rhythm or a pace rhythm as was an immediately previous heart beat, then the LCP **100** may update **608** a motion level of the patient. In one example, a motion level of a patient may be updated by the processing module **110** or other processing module by identifying a motion level of the LCP **100** from the mechanical sensing module **108** (e.g. from accelerometer signal), comparing the identified motion level of the LCP **100** to a motion level of the LCP **100** for the immediately previous heart beat and determining a motion level of the patient based, at least in part, on the comparison, but this is not required and other techniques may be utilized. Once the motion level of the patient has been updated, the LCP **100** may update (e.g., set) **610** a pacing rate based, at least in part, on the updated motion level of the patient.

[0107] In some instances, a fusion initiated heart beat may occur. A fusion initiated heart beat is a heart beat in which a pace rhythm and an intrinsic rhythm of the heart occur at the same or close to the same time and cause a fusion heart beat. If a currently identified heart beat is a fusion initiated heart beat, then the LCP **100** may skip updating a motion level of a patient for the current heart beat. In some cases, not updating or identifying a motion level of the patient may include either not identifying a motion level of the LCP **100** for the current heart beat or ignoring an identified motion level of the LCP **100** for the current heart beat. As a result, a previously set pacing rate for the patient may be maintained. In some cases, instead of maintaining a previously set pacing rate for the patient, the processing module **110**

may take one or more steps to change the pace rate based on one or more parameters other than a motion level of the patient.

[0108] FIG. **8** depicts an illustrative method **700** that may be effected by the processing module **110** of the LCP **100** and may be used individually or in combination with the other techniques and processes described herein. In illustrative method **700**, a current heart rate of a patient may be identified **702** and based, at least in part, on the identified heart rate, a current heart beat may be identified **704** as corresponding to a particular heart rate range of two or more heart rate ranges. The heart rate ranges may be determined in any manner. In one example, a first heart rate range may be indicative of a resting activity level for a patient, a second heart rate range may be indicative of an active activity level for the patient (e.g. walking), and a third heart rate range may be indicative of a strenuous activity level of the patient (e.g. running). Additionally, in some cases, the heart beats identified as corresponding to each heart rate range may be further classified as being either intrinsically or pace initiated. For a current heart beat intrinsically initiated or pace initiated, a motion level of an LCP **100** may be identified **706** and the motion level may be compared **708** to a motion level of the LCP **100** for one or more similarly initiated heart beats in the corresponding heart rate range. Then, a motion level of the patient may be identified **710** based, at least in part on the comparison.

[0109] In some cases, rather than ignoring a motion level of a current heart beat when the current heart beat is not initiated by the same intrinsic or pace rhythm, it is contemplated that an offset may be applied. The offset may be applied to correct for the "noise" in a motion level measurement taken for the current heart beat that results from the current heart beat not being initiated by the same intrinsic rhythm or pace rhythm than the immediately previous heart beat (e.g., see the offset at line A-A between motion signal **454** and motion signal **456** of FIG. **5**). An illustrative method **800** is shown in FIG. **9** for using an offset for determining a motion level of a patient even for heart beats that transition from an intrinsic rhythm to a pace rhythm, and visa-versa.

[0110] The illustrative method **800** includes identifying **802** a plurality of heart beats and identifying **804** each of two or more of the identified heart beats as being an intrinsically initiated heart beat or a pace initiated heart beat. The processing module **110** of the LCP **100** may then determine **806** if a current heart beat is initiated by a same one of an intrinsic rhythm or a pace rhythm of the immediately previous heart beat. In illustrative method **800**, if a current heart beat is initiated by a same one of an intrinsic rhythm or a pace rhythm of the immediately previous heart beat, the processing module **110** may identify **808** a motion level of the LCP **100** (e.g., an IMD) using a motion sensor (e.g. accelerometer) of the mechanical sensing module **108** and compare **810** the identified motion level of the LCP **100** to a motion level of the LCP **100** corresponding to one or more previous and similarly initiated (e.g., either intrinsically initiated or pace initiated) heart beats. In some cases, and similar to as discussed above, the motion level corresponding to the measurement from the motion sensor of the mechanical sensing module **108** may be taken during the systole phase of a cardiac cycle, but this is not required. Based, at least in part, on the comparison **810**, the processing module **110** may identify **812** a motion level of the patient and set **822** a pacing rate parameter for the LCP **100** based, at least in part, on the identified motion level of the patient.

[0111] In illustrative method **800**, if a current heart beat is initiated by a different one of an intrinsic rhythm or a pace rhythm of the immediately previous heart beat, the processing module **110** may identify **814** a motion level of the LCP **100** (e.g., an IMD) using a motion sensor (e.g. accelerometer) of the mechanical sensing module **108** and apply 816 an offset to the identified motion level. In one example, the offset may represent the offset at line A-A between motion signal **454** and motion signal **456** of FIG. **5**. The identified motion level of the LCP **100** for the current heart beat with the offset applied may then be compared **818** to a motion level of the LCP **100** corresponding to the immediately previous heart beat. In some cases, and similar to that discussed above, the motion level corresponding to the measurement from the motion sensor of the mechanical sensing module **108** may be taken during the systole phase of a cardiac cycle, but this is not required. Based, at least in part, on the comparison **818**, the processing module **110** may identify **820** a motion level of the patient and set a pacing rate parameter for the LCP **100** based, at least in part, on the identified motion level of the patient.

[0112] One illustrative method for determine the offset is shown in FIG. **10**. Illustrative method **900** of FIG. **10** may be utilized to determine the offset to be applied to a motion level of a current heart beat on a transition from a heart beat that was initiated by a different rhythm (e.g., an intrinsic rhythm or a pace rhythm). To determine the offset, the processing module **110** of the LCP **100** or other processing module may identify **902** a calibration window. In some cases, the calibration window may cover a time period or window in which N pace initiated heart beats occur and in which N intrinsically initiated heart beats occur. The illustrative method **900** may include identifying **904** a motion level of the LCP **100** (e.g., an IMD) for N pace initiated heart beats using a motion sensor of the mechanical sensing module **108** and identifying **906** a motion level of the LCP **100** for N intrinsically initiated heart beats using the motion sensor of the mechanical sensing module **108**. N may be one, two, or a greater number of heart beats. The N heart beats for a particular rhythm type (e.g., intrinsic or pace) may be consecutive heart beats or may be separated by one or more heart beats initiated by the other rhythm type. In some cases, to obtain N consecutive pace initiated heart beats, it may be necessary to raise the pacing rate to a particular level above a current intrinsic heart rate (e.g., 5-30 beats per minute over the current intrinsic heart rate, 10-20 beats per minute over the current intrinsic heart rate, and/or a different level above the current intrinsic heart rate). In some cases, to obtain N consecutive intrinsically initiated heart beats, it may be necessary to lower the pacing rate to a particular level below a current intrinsic heart rate (e.g., 5-10 beats per minute below the current intrinsic heart rate and/or a different level below the current intrinsic heart rate). In some cases, the measurements taken by the motion sensor of the mechanical sensing module **108** for each of the N heart beats may be taken during the systole phase of the cardiac cycle, but this is not required.

[0113] From the identified motion levels for the N pace initiated heart beats, the processing module **110** may identify a baseline pace motion level. Similarly, from the identified motion levels for the N intrinsically initiated heart beats, the processing module **110** may identify a baseline intrinsic

motion level. Based, at least in part, on the baseline pace motion level and the baseline intrinsic motion level, the processing module **110** may determine an offset that may be applied to motion levels associated with heart beats initiated by a rhythm that is different than a rhythm that initiated an immediately previous heart beat.

[0114] The baseline pace motion level and/or the baseline intrinsic motion level may be identified in any manner. In one example, the motion levels of the LCP **100** associated with the N pace initiated heart beats may be averaged to obtain the baseline pace motion level. Similarly, in an example, the motion levels of the LCP **100** associated with the N intrinsic initiated heart beats may be averaged to obtain the baseline intrinsic motion level. In addition or as an alternative to averaging of the motion levels associated with the heart beats, other analyses may be performed on the identified motion levels. For example, motion levels detected for older heart beats may be weighted less than the motion levels detected of more recently heart beats.

[0115] FIGS. **11**A-**11**C show graphs **960***a*, **960***b*, **960***c*, which represent an average of motion level signals from different axes, x-axis, y-axis, and z-axis, respectively, generated by a motion sensor, such as a three-axis accelerometer, of LCP **100** for each of N pace initiated heart beats and N intrinsically initiated heart beats, where LCP **100** is attached to a wall of a patients' heart. Signal **962**, shown in a dashed line in graphs **960***a*-**960***c*, represents an average of accelerometer magnitude signals (e.g., a baseline motion level signal) for N pace initiated heart beats on the respective axis. Signal **964**, represented in a solid line, represents an average of accelerometer magnitude signals (e.g., a baseline motion level signal) for N intrinsically initiated heart beats.

[0116] In the example depicted in FIGS. **11**A-**11**C, an offset may be selected by determining a difference between signal **962** and **964** at a predetermined time in each graph and using the greatest difference at the predetermined time as the offset. Alternatively, the least difference at the predetermined time may be utilized as the offset. Alternatively, the difference of each axis may be averaged to determine the offset. In yet another example, one or more other analyses may be performed to determine the offset. As shown in the example of FIGS. **11**A-**11**C, a pre-determined time may be 200 ms, at line A-A, after a heart beat has been identified. In the example, at 200 ms, the signals **962** and **964** have a difference of 175 units on the x-axis (FIG. **11**A), 125 units on the y-axis (FIG. **11**B), and 125 units on the z-axis (FIG. **11**C). With this example, the processing module **110** or other module may select the difference of the x-axis as the offset because it is the greatest difference between signals **962** and **964** at 200 ms out from when a heart beat was initiated.

[0117] The calibration window discussed above may be identified in accordance with a predetermined time period and may begin in response to a signal from a device external to the LCP **100** or other signal. Alternatively, or in addition, a calibration window may be identified by the LCP **100** or other device after N consecutive pace initiated heart beats and/or after N consecutive intrinsically initiated heart beats, where N may be the same number or a different number of pace initiated heart beats and intrinsically initiated heart beats.

[0118] In some cases, a calibration window may be selected based on a patient activity level. In one example, a calibration window may be selected to occur while a patient in which the LCP **100** is implanted is performing no activity or is at a low activity level. Illustratively, no activity or a low activity level may include the patient sitting down, lying down, in a standing position, in a particular pose, and/or in one or more static or substantially static position.

[0119] In some cases, a calibration window may be automatically initiated to start an offset determination process (e.g., such as method **900**). For example, the LCP **100** may detect when the patient is in a particular position or posture and may automatically initiate a calibration window. In some cases, the LCP **100** may detect that a motion level or activity level of the patient has crossed (e.g., fallen below or exceeded) a threshold level of motion or activity for a predetermined length of time, and then initiate a calibration window. Further, and in some cases, the LCP **100** may only automatically initiate a calibration window if it detects communication with an external device in addition to detecting that the patient is in a particular position or posture, but this is not required. Alternatively or additionally, the LCP **100** may only automatically initiate a calibration window if it detects a certain time of day. Such automatic initiation of a calibration window may allow the LCP **100** to update the offset over time to account for changing conditions.

[0120] In some cases, the LCP **100** may be configured to detect one or more positions or postures (e.g., N positions or postures) of a patient in which the LCP **100** has been implanted. This may allow the LCP **100** to: 1) create a library of offsets for different positions or postures of the patient; and 2) apply the offsets for different positions or postures when the patient is in a corresponding position or posture. For each posture or position of the patient, the processing module **110** or other processing module may identify a calibration window. During each calibration window, the processing module **110** or other processing module may identify a motion level of the LCP **100** (e.g., an IMD) using a motion sensor of the mechanical sensing module **108** for N intrinsically initiated heart beats and identify a motion level of the LCP **100** using the motion sensor for N pace initiated heart beats, where the respective N heart beats may be two or more heart beats and may or may not be consecutive heart beats. Further, measurements from the motion sensor may be taken during the systole phase of the cardiac cycle, but this is not required.

[0121] Based on the identified motion levels of the LCP **100** for the pace initiated heart beats, the processing module **110** or other processing module may identify a baseline pace motion level for the identified patient posture or position. Similarly, based on the identified motion levels of the LCP **100** for the intrinsic initiated heart beats, the processing module **110** or other processing module may identify a baseline intrinsic motion level for the identified patient posture or position. Then, in a manner similar to as discussed above with respect to method **900**, the processing module may determine an offset for the identified posture or position of the patient based, at least in part, on the baseline intrinsic motion level and the baseline pace motion level for the identified posture or position.

[0122] The offsets corresponding to the various patient postures or positions may then be saved in a library in memory of the LCP **100** (e.g., memory of the processing module **110** or other memory) and/or in memory external to the LCP **100**. Then, when a heart beat that is initiated by a different rhythm (e.g., intrinsic rhythm or pace rhythm) than an immediately previous rhythm is identified, the LCP **100** may identify the patient's posture or position and apply a

posture or position specific offset to the motion level of an LCP **100** for the current heart beat prior to or after comparing the motion level to a motion level of the LCP **100** for the immediately previous heart beat.

[0123] Those skilled in the art will recognize that the present disclosure may be manifested in a variety of forms other than the specific embodiments described and contemplated herein. For instance, as described herein, various embodiments include one or more modules described as performing various functions. However, other embodiments may include additional modules that split the described functions up over more modules than that described herein. Additionally, other embodiments may consolidate the described functions into fewer modules.

[0124] Although various features may have been described with respect to less than all embodiments, this disclosure contemplates that those features may be included on any embodiment. Further, although the embodiments described herein may have omitted some combinations of the various described features, this disclosure contemplates embodiments that include any combination of each described feature. Accordingly, departure in form and detail may be made without departing from the scope and spirit of the present disclosure as described in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. An implantable medical device (IMD) implantable within a patient's heart, the IMD comprising:

two or more sensors including a motion sensor;

a controller operatively coupled to the two or more sensors, the controller configured to:

identify a plurality of heart beats using one or more of the sensors, each of the plurality of heart beats having a systole phase and diastole phase;

identify each of two or more of the plurality of heart beats as an intrinsically initiated heart beat or a pace initiated heart beat;

for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, identify a motion level of the IMD using the motion sensor, and compare the identified motion level of the IMD to a motion level of the IMD identified for one or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats, and identify a motion level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison;

for a pace initiated heart beat, identify a motion level of the IMD using the motion sensor, and compare the identified motion level of the IMD to a motion level of the IMD identified for one or more previous pace initiated heart beats, and identify the motion level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison; and

set a pacing rate parameter based at least in part on the identified motion level of the patient.

2. The IMD of claim **1**, wherein for an intrinsically initiated heart beat that immediately follows a pace initiated heart beat, the controller is configured to not identify the motion level of the patient based on that heart beat.

3. The IMD of claim **1**, wherein for a pace initiated heart beat that immediately follows an intrinsically initiated heart beat, the controller is configured to not update the motion level of the patient based on that heart beat.

4. The IMD of claim **1**, wherein for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, the controller is configured to:

compare the identified motion level of the IMD to the motion level of the IMD previously identified for an immediately preceding heart beat if the immediately preceding heart beat was an intrinsically initiated heart beat; and

if the immediately preceding heart beat was a pace initiated heart beat, then either not identify the motion level of the IMD using the motion sensor during the systole phase of the intrinsically initiated heart beat or ignore the identified motion level of the IMD.

5. The IMD of claim **1**, wherein for a pace initiated heart beat, the controller is configured to:

compare the identified motion level of the IMD to the motion level of the IMD previously identified for an immediately preceding heart beat if the immediately preceding heart beat was a pace initiated heart beat; and

if the immediately preceding heart beat was an intrinsically initiated heart beat, then either not identify a motion level of the IMD using the motion sensor during the systole phase of the pace initiated heart beat or ignore the identified motion level of the IMD.

6. The IMD of claim **1**, wherein the controller is configured to:

for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, compare the identified motion level of the IMD to an average motion level of the IMD that is an average of the motion levels of the IMD identified for two or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats; and

for a pace initiated heart beat, compare the identified motion level of the IMD to an average motion level of the IMD that is an average of the motion levels of the IMD identified for two or more previous pace initiated heart beats.

7. The IMD of claim **6**, wherein:

for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, the average motion level of the IMD is a weighted average; and

for a paced initiated heart beat, the average motion level of the IMD is a weighted average.

8. The IMD of claim **6**, wherein the two or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats and the two or more previous pace initiated heart beats all fall within a moving time window that extends back a predetermined amount of time.

9. The IMD of claim **1**, wherein the controller is configured to:

identify a current heart rate of the patient's heart;

identify a current heart beat as corresponding to one of two or more heart rate ranges based at least in part on the identified current heart rate;

for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, compare the identified motion level of the IMD to a motion level of the IMD identified for one or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats that have been identified as corresponding to the same heart rate range, and to identify a motion level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison; and

for a pace initiated heart beat, compare the identified motion level of the IMD to a motion level of the IMD identified for one or more previous pace initiated heart beats that have been identified as corresponding to the same heart rate range, and to identify a motion level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison.

10. The IMD of claim **1**, wherein the controller is configured to:

identify each of the plurality of heart beats as an intrinsically initiated heart beat, a pace initiated heart beat or a fusion heart beat; and

wherein for a fusion heart beat, not identify the motion level of the patient based on that heart beat.

11. The IMD of claim **1**, wherein the motion sensor comprises a three-axis accelerometer, and another of the two or more sensors comprises two or more electrodes connected to circuitry that is configured to sense electrical signals of the patient's heart.

12. The IMD of claim **1**, wherein the IMD is a leadless cardiac pacemaker.

13. A method for identifying an activity level of a patient using a motion sensor implanted within the patient's heart, the method comprising:

identifying a plurality of heart beats, each of the plurality of heart beats having a systole phase and diastole phase;

identifying each of two or more of the plurality of heart beats as an intrinsically initiated heart beat or a pace initiated heart beat;

for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, identifying a motion level of the IMD using the motion sensor, and comparing the identified motion level of the IMD to a motion level of the IMD identified for one or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats and identifying the activity level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison; and

for a pace initiated heart beat, identifying a motion level of the IMD using the motion sensor, and comparing the identified motion level of the IMD to a motion level of the IMD identified for one or more previous pace initiated heart beats and identifying the activity level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison.

14. The method of claim **13**, wherein for an intrinsically initiated heart beat that immediately follows a pace initiated heart beat, not identifying the activity level of the patient based on that heart beat.

15. The method of claim **13**, wherein for a pace initiated heart beat that immediately follows an intrinsically initiated heart beat, not identifying the activity level of the patient based on that heart beat.

16. The method of claim **16**, further comprising:

pacing the patient's heart at a pacing rate, wherein the pacing rate is based at least in part on the identified activity level of the patient.

17. A leadless cardiac pacemaker (LCP) implantable within a patient's heart, the LCP comprising:

a housing;

two or more electrodes secured relative to the housing, the two or more electrodes are configured to sense electrical signals of the patients heart;

an accelerometer situated inside of the housing;

circuitry situated inside of the housing and operatively coupled to the two or more electrodes and the accelerometer, the circuitry is configured to:

identify a plurality of heart beats using the two or more electrodes, each of the plurality of heart beats having a systole phase and diastole phase;

identify each of two or more of the plurality of heart beats as an intrinsically initiated heart beat or a pace initiated heart beat;

for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, identify a motion level of the LCP using the accelerometer during the systole phase of the intrinsically initiated heart beat, and compare the identified motion level of the LCP to a motion level of the LCP identified for one or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats but not any of the previous pace initiated heart beats, and identify an activity level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison;

pace the patient's heart at a pacing rate that is based at least in part on the identified activity level of the patient.

18. The LCP of claim **17**, wherein for an intrinsically initiated heart beat that immediately follows a pace initiated heart beat, the circuitry is configured to not identify the activity level of the patient based on that heart beat.

19. The LCP of claim **17**, wherein the circuitry is further configured to:

for a pace initiated heart beat, identify a motion level of the LCP using the accelerometer during the systole phase of the pace initiated heart beat, and compare the identified motion level of the LCP to a motion level of the LCP identified for one or more previous pace initiated heart beats but not any of the previous intrinsically initiated heart beats, and identify the activity level of the patient based at least in part on the comparison.

20. The LCP of claim **19**, wherein the circuitry is configured to:

for an intrinsically initiated heart beat, compare the identified motion level of the LCP to an average motion level of the LCP that is an average of the motion levels of the LCP identified for two or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats;

for a pace initiated heart beat, compare the identified motion level of the LCP to an average motion level of the LCP that is an average of the motion levels of the LCP identified for two or more previous pace initiated heart beats; and

the two or more previous intrinsically initiated heart beats and the two or more previous pace initiated heart beats all fall within a moving time window that extends back a predetermined amount of time.

* * * * *

专利名称(译)	用于活动级别调步的系统和方法		
公开(公告)号	US20180117339A1	公开(公告)日	2018-05-03
申请号	US15/797932	申请日	2017-10-30
[标]申请(专利权)人(译)	心脏起搏器股份公司		
申请(专利权)人(译)	心脏起搏器，INC.		
当前申请(专利权)人(译)	心脏起搏器，INC.		
[标]发明人	HUELSKAMP PAUL KANE MICHAEL J		
发明人	HUELSKAMP, PAUL KANE, MICHAEL J. JUFFER, LANCE ERIC		
IPC分类号	A61N1/365 A61B5/11 A61B5/00 A61N1/375 A61N1/372		
CPC分类号	A61N1/36542 A61B5/1116 A61B5/1118 A61B5/686 A61B5/7217 A61N1/36535 A61N1/3756 A61N1/37512 A61N1/37288 A61B2560/0223 A61B2562/0219 A61N1/3706		
优先权	62/415132 2016-10-31 US		
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外部链接	Espacenet USPTO		

摘要(译)

公开了用于对患者心脏起搏的系统，装置和方法。说明性方法可包括使用相对于患者心脏固定的可植入医疗装置的运动传感器确定患者的运动水平，以及至少部分地基于患者的运动水平设定起搏速率。可以通过例如将在当前心跳期间由运动传感器感测的运动水平与与一个或多个先前心跳相关联的运动水平进行比较来确定患者的运动水平。在那些在本征启动的心跳和起搏心跳之间转换的心跳期间，运动水平测量中可能出现噪声。可以将各种技术应用于运动水平测量以帮助减少这种噪声的影响。