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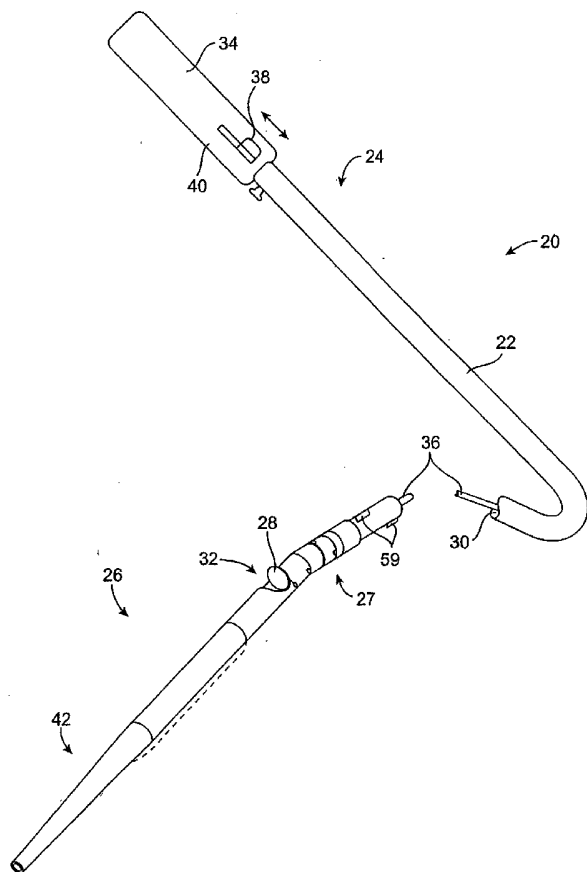
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR CUTTING TISSUE



(57) Abstract: A method of removing material from a blood flow lumen generally includes providing a device having a cutting element and an opening, advancing the device through the blood flow lumen to a site where material is to be removed, forcing the opening toward a wall of the site where material is to be removed, and moving the cutting element and the opening so that material in the blood flow lumen is cut by the cutting element and directed into the opening for removal as the cutting element and opening are moved through the blood flow lumen. In some embodiments, the device may be deflected or bent to force the opening toward a wall to remove material. The cutting element may be rotatable. In some embodiments, the cutting element is movable between retracted and deployed positions for advancing the device to a site for treatment and for removing material, respectively.

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 606/159, 170, 180; 604/22; 600/104 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,634,464 (JANG et al.) 3 June 1997 (03.06.1997), column 3, lines 6-7; Fig. 11; Fig. 13.	1-6
X	US 5,372,601 (LARY) 13 December 1994 (13.12.1994), column 7 line 63 to column 8 line 3; Fig. 3; Fig. 6	7, 9, 15, and 16
X	US 6,475,226 B1 to (BELEF et al.) 5 November 2002 (05.11.2002); Fig. 24A; Fig. 24B; column 24 lines 46-57	25-28
X	US 4,966,604 (REISS) 30 October 1990 (30.10.1990), Figures 1-4; column 4 line 41	7-12 and 15-17
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Y		19-24
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
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