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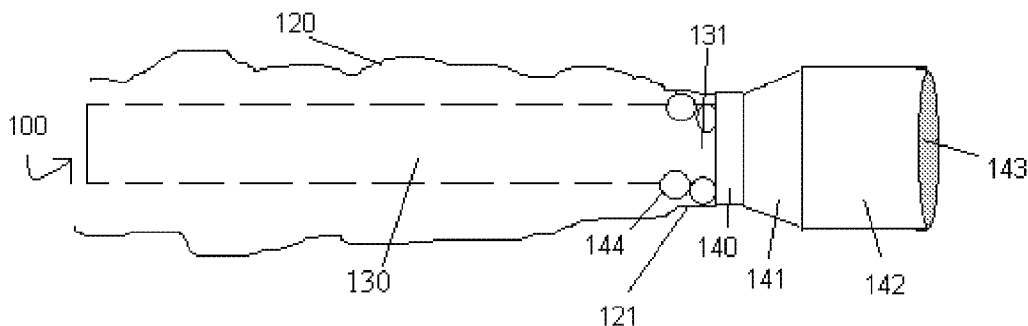
- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
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(54) Title: CATHETER ASSEMBLY WITH VENTS



(57) Abstract: A catheterization device with vents is disclosed which serves to prevent a build-up of air pressure within a closed protective sheath. The vents may be in the form of small openings and may be situated at the distal portion of the catheterization device. The small openings may optionally be covered. They may be on the protective sheath itself or they may be on a distal terminus body connected to the protective sheath. Sample openings include an attached valve which connects the inside of the protective sheath with the external environment, a gas permeable membrane, or a slitted membrane forming 4 flaps.

WO 2008/046022 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC(8) - A61M 5/00 (2008.01)
 USPC - 604/171
 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC(8) - A61M 5/00 (2008.01)
 USPC - 604/171

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
 604/171, 93.01, 172;

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
 PubWEST(USPT,PGPB,EPAB,JPAB); Google Scholar
 Search Terms Used: urinary catheter, sheath, vent, sleeve, cover, exhaust, environment, lubrication

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3,937,220 A (COYNE) 10 February 1976 (10.02.1976) Entire document, especially FIG. 1, col 3, ln 3-55 and col 4, ln 3-12.	1, 2, 4-8, 10, 12-17 & 19
Y		3, 9, 11, 18 and 20
Y	US 2004/0087921 A1 (GULDFELDT et al.) 06 May 2004 (06.05.2004) para[0013] - para[0020] and para[110].	3, 9, 11 and 18
Y	US 2006/0025753 A1 (KUBALAK et al.) 02 February 2006 (02.02.2006) para[0007] and para[0073].	20

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C:

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

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