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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: RELEASABLY SECURABLE NEEDLE AND HANDLE SYSTEM AND METHOD

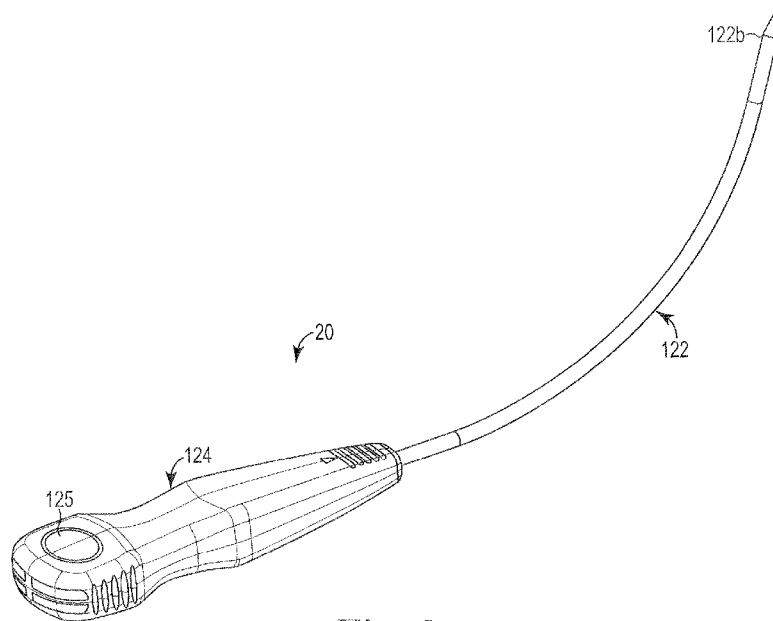


Fig. 9

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a handle assembly and trocar needle attachment mechanism, system and method for sling implantation. The handle assembly is selectively attachable and detachable with the needle to facilitate retropubic, or "inside-out," sling implantation procedures. The handle assembly can include a handle body portion and a release sleeve in certain embodiments. The needle can be curved, and can include a proximal end portion and a distal end portion. The proximal end includes a tip that can be releasably secured in the handle assembly. In certain embodiments, the tip can include one or more circumferential indents, grooves or angled surfaces and a bulbous end portion.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(8) - A61F 5/48 (2013.01)

USPC - 600/37

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) - A61B 17/04; A61F 2/00, 2/02, 5/48 (2013.01)

USPC - 600/29, 30, 37; 606/151

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
CPC- A61F 2/0045 (2013.01)

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

Patbase, Google Patents, Google Scholar

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ----	US 2004/0144395 A1 (EVANS et al) 29 July 2004 (29.07.2004) entire document	1-18
Y		19-23
Y	US 2002/0099259 A1 (ANDERSON et al) 25 July 2002 (25.07.2002) entire document	19-23

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"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

"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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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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