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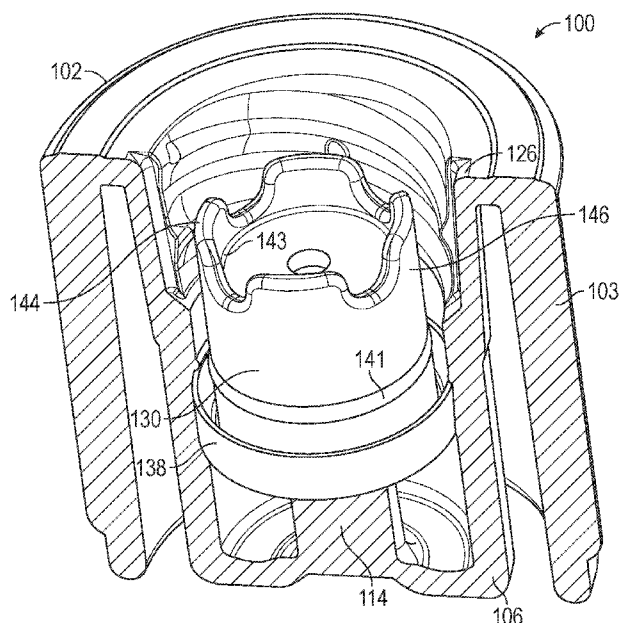


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A disinfecting device for a Luer-activated device having a septum is disclosed. The disinfecting device includes a cap, a plunger including a standoff and a face, and a disinfectant. When the Luer-activated device is secured to the disinfecting device, the Luer-activated devices engaged with the standoff but Luer-activated device septum does not contact the standoff or the face.

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DISINFECTING DEVICE FOR LUER-ACTIVATED DEVICES

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present disclosure relates to disinfecting devices for Luer-activated devices having a septum, such as needleless connectors.

BACKGROUND

During a hospital stay, many patients may require intravenous and/or arterial line therapy for delivery of treatments such as rehydration fluids, medications, nutrients, blood, and the like. There is often also a need to connect medical tubing to a variety of devices to facilitate the administration of such fluids to a patient. To allow the connection of tubing and components from different manufacturers of a variety of devices with one another, a standard connector type was developed. The connector type generally consists of a male connector or "port" being inserted into a female connector, whereby friction and/or a threading mechanism can keep the connectors together. For infusion or aspiration of fluids to or from an intravenous or arterial access line or device (*e.g.*, a catheter, an intravenous line set, an extension set stopcock, a syringe, a valve) this type of connector is known as a Luer fitting, a Luer connector, a Luer lock, or the like. The dimensions of Luer connectors can be found in ISO Standard 80369-7.

Some female connectors may further include a septum, which may also be referred to as a diaphragm or a displaceable piston. The septum can be moved from a closed position to an open position when a male Luer connector is attached but can spring back to the closed position when the male Luer connector is disconnected. This type of device is commonly called a needleless connector or a Luer-activated valve ("LAV") and devices including a such a Luer connector are referred to herein as Luer-activated devices ("LADs").

While LADs can simplify the administration of fluids by removing needles and reducing open port risks, it is still necessary to disinfect LADs prior to use. This is because outside features of the LAD can be exposed to touch and air contamination, contamination that can lead to undesirable patient outcomes, such as central line-associated bloodstream infections. Disinfection of LADs can be accomplished by a variety of methods, such as, for example, with a disinfecting wipe protocol or conveniently with a disinfecting port protector.

SUMMARY

The disclosed disinfecting device includes cap and a movable plunger in the cap, where the movable plunger contains a liquid, typically a disinfectant, within the cap. The disinfecting device is placed over a Luer-activated device. Actuation of the plunger displaces the liquid to contact the LAD. The plunger has a standoff that provides a surface for the face of the LAD to push against while recessing contact of the disinfecting device from contact with the septum of the LAD. In some instances, the LAD can leak if the plunger presses against the septum. Therefore, the standoff recesses contact with the septum and reduces fluid leakage.

In one aspect, a disinfecting device for a Luer-activated device having a septum, the disinfecting device comprises a cap, a plunger within the cap for retaining disinfectant. The cap comprises an inner wall defining an opening and an interior cavity. The plunger comprises a face, a hole, and a standoff projecting from the face in the direction of the opening. In one embodiment, the standoff is at a perimeter of the plunger. In one embodiment, there are a plurality of standoffs.

The plunger can move from a first position in the interior cavity to a second position in the interior cavity. When the disinfecting device is contacted by a portion of the Luer-activated device, the Luer-activated device engages with the standoffs to move the plunger to the second position

In one aspect, a disinfecting device for a Luer-activated device having a septum comprising:

a cap comprising:

an inner wall, wherein the inner wall defines an opening and an interior cavity, wherein the interior cavity has an interior cavity first portion proximate the opening and an interior cavity second portion proximate the interior cavity first portion, the interior cavity second portion including an interior cavity base, and wherein the interior cavity first portion is configured to receive and couple with a needleless connector;

a plunger comprising:

a face, wherein the face has a perimeter, a diameter, and a hole;
a standoff extending to a first height in the direction of the opening and generally orthogonal to a plane defined by the face, wherein the standoff is adjacent the face perimeter around the entire face perimeter;
an inner surface;

an outer surface; and
a skirt; and
a disinfectant;

wherein the plunger is configured to move from a first position in the interior cavity
5 to a second position in the interior cavity when the standoff is contacted by a portion of the
Luer-activated device, wherein the second position is closer to the interior cavity base than
the first position, and wherein the Luer-activated device septum does not contact the standoff
or the face when the plunger is in the second position.

In one aspect, the disinfecting device for a Luer-activated device having a septum
10 comprises:

a cap comprising:

an opening;
an inner wall defining an interior cavity having an interior cavity base
opposite from the opening;

15 a plunger within the interior cavity, the plunger comprising:

a face with a perimeter, wherein the perimeter of the face is adjacent to
the inner wall of the cap;
a collapsible wall;

20 a disinfectant in the interior cavity between the cavity base, the face of the
plunger and the collapsible wall;

a vent for fluid passage from the interior cavity to an atmosphere outside the
disinfecting device;

wherein the plunger is movable within the interior cavity from the opening
toward the interior cavity base.

25 Features and advantages of the present disclosure will be further understood upon
consideration of the detailed description as well as the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

30 **FIG. 1** shows an oblique view of a first embodiment of a disinfecting device of the
present disclosure, where the cap is shown as a cross section view and the plunger is shown
as a side view, the plunger positioned inside the cap in a pre-activation orientation.

FIG. 2 shows a cross section of the disinfecting device of **FIG. 1**.

FIG. 3 shows a cross section of the cap of the disinfecting device of **FIG. 1**.

FIG. 4 shows a side view of an embodiment of a center post of the disinfecting device of **FIG. 1**.

FIG. 5 shows a side view of a first embodiment of a plunger of a disinfecting device of the present disclosure.

5 **FIG. 6** shows a side view of a portion of second embodiment of a plunger of a disinfecting device of the present disclosure.

FIG. 7 shows a side view of a third embodiment of a plunger of a disinfecting device of the present disclosure.

10 **FIG. 8** shows a cross section of a Luer-activated device positioned above the opening of the plunger of **FIG. 7** positioned inside the cap in a pre-activation orientation.

FIG. 9 shows a cross section of the Luer-activated device of **FIG. 8** engaged with the plunger positioned inside the cap in a post-activation orientation and the LAD in a pressurized state.

15 **FIG. 10** shows a cross section of the Luer-activated device of **FIG. 5** engaged with the plunger positioned inside the cap in a post-activation orientation and the LAD in a pressurized state.

FIG. 11 shows a cross section of the Luer-activated device positioned above the opening of a forth embodiment of a plunger positioned inside of the cap in a pre-activation orientation.

20 **FIG. 12** shows a cross section of the Luer-activated device of **FIG. 11** engaged with the plunger positioned inside of the cap in a post-activation orientation and the LAD in a pressurized state.

25 Repeated use of reference characters in the specification and drawings is intended to represent the same or analogous features or elements of the disclosure. It should be understood that numerous other modifications and embodiments can be devised by those skilled in the art, which fall within the scope and spirit of the principles of the disclosure. The figures may not be drawn to scale.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

30 Luer-activated devices ("LADs") may be designed so that the septum of the LAD is flush with the face of the LAD when the LAD is in an unpressurized state. Pressure can build up when the LAD is used in an intravenous ("IV") fluid delivery line as part of a pump system or with a hand-held syringe, thus causing the septum of some LADs to protrude from

the face of the LAD. This condition is illustrated in **FIG. 8**, where the septum **60** is shown extending beyond the face of the LAD **50**. During use of the LAD, the length of the septum protrusion from the face of the LAD may increase and decrease in response to system pressure, *i.e.*, the length of the septum protrusion may dynamically change. It has been
5 observed that some LADs that dynamically change during use may leak, particularly when septum movement is restricted, for example, when restricted by use of a disinfecting cap.

Some disinfecting caps employ a movable plunger that contains liquid below the plunger before engagement of the cap to the LAD. After the cap is attached to the LAD, the plunger moves, displaces the disinfectant, and the disinfectant wets the face of the LAD. In
10 some cases, the movable plunger of these caps may exert residual force against the protruding septum of the LAD. It has been observed that an LAD experiencing an internal pressure condition may undesirably lead to leaks in the IV system and at the septum/cap interface. Though not wishing to be bound by a particular theory, it is believed that residual force in the disinfecting cap pushing back at the septum can impede travel of the septum and result in
15 such leaks. Thus, minimizing the force the cap and its components exert on the septum during a pressurized condition can reduce or eliminate leaking that can occur at the interface due to the changing length of the septum under pressure conditions.

Despite the presence of disinfecting caps currently in the market space, there is a need for disinfecting devices that can disinfect LADs that may dynamically change length during
20 their use while also reducing leaks that may occur when septum movement is restricted. The disinfecting devices described herein comprise features that address and reduce the fluid leakage that can occur when the disinfecting device engages with an LAD having a septum that protrudes beyond the face of the LAD when the LAD is subjected to internal pressure.

One such disinfecting device employs a plunger standoff that provides a surface for
25 the face of an LAD to push against when the LAD engages with the disinfecting device, which then prevents the LAD septum from contacting either the plunger standoff or the plunger face when the device is connected to the LAD. Thus, the septum is not contacted by the plunger at any time during the application or use of the disinfecting device with the LAD, even when the device is under pressure.

30 Another such disinfecting device employs a plunger that minimizes the built-up pressure in the device that results when the plunger is moving to the final activation position and eliminates septum contact with the plunger until the septum is at a high enough internal

pressure so that the cap cannot activate it. This device also minimizes friction of the plunger as it slides along the cap walls.

Another such disinfecting device employs a plunger retained to the base of the cavity. The plunger further includes a side wall that collapses when a LAD device engages the surface of the standoffs. This device retains disinfecting solution within a cavity defined by the plunger and flexible side walls. The solution is retained within the cavity while the plunger is in a first position, and released through a hole when the plunger compresses and is moved to a second position.

Before any embodiments of the present disclosure are explained in detail, it is to be understood that the phraseology and terminology used herein is for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limiting. As used herein, the terms “including,” “comprising,” or “having” and variations thereof encompass the items listed thereafter and equivalents thereof, as well as additional items. All numerical ranges are inclusive of their endpoints and non-integral values between the endpoints unless otherwise stated.

Generally, the disinfecting devices of the present application comprise a cap, a plunger, and a disinfectant contained therein. The disinfecting device is configured to securely fit over an exposed portion of an externally threaded device, such as the Luer threading of an LAD, thus bringing the exposed portion of the LAD in contact with the disinfectant. When the device is attached to an LAD, the plunger slides down the device from a “pre-activation” position to the “final” position. During this movement, a disinfectant solution is forced through an opening in the plunger and acts to disinfect the LAD face. In order for this to happen, before use, the plunger should be maintained in a position such that planes defined by the top and bottom surfaces of the plunger remain parallel to planes defined by the top and bottom surfaces of the cap, as shown, for example, in **FIGS. 1** and **2**, so that the plunger is properly aligned and at the correct depth in the cap. During use, *i.e.*, activation, of the disinfecting device, the plunger desirably travels straight down into the cap, maintaining the parallel relationships of the planes defined by the plunger and the cap before activation.

The disinfectant can generally be any substance or material that cleans a device (*e.g.*, LAD) of bacterial and/or viral microorganisms and includes antibacterial and antifungal agents, antiseptic or antimicrobial agents, wide-spectrum disinfectants, and/or parasiticides, as well as combinations of such. Exemplary disinfectants include alcohols (*e.g.*, isopropyl

alcohol, ethanol), alcohols at various concentrations (*e.g.*, 70%/30% v/v isopropyl alcohol/water), chlorhexidine (*e.g.*, chlorhexidine gluconate, chlorhexidine acetate), povidone-iodine, hydrogen peroxide, soap, hydrochloric acid, chloroxylenol (“PMCX”), polyhexamethylene biguanide (“PHMB”), octenidine, benzalkonium chloride, and combinations thereof. The disinfecting device can remain on the LAD until ready to use, thus protecting the LAD from further contamination.

FIGS. 1 and 2 illustrate a first exemplary disinfecting device **100** of the present disclosure comprising a cap **102** and a plunger **130**. Referring to **FIG. 3**, the cap **102** comprises an inner wall **106** having an opening **109** to an interior cavity **110**. The interior cavity **110** includes an interior cavity first portion **160** proximate the opening **109** and an interior cavity second portion **170** proximate interior cavity first portion **160**. The cap **102** has an inner wall first surface **107** and an inner wall second surface **108** opposite the inner wall first surface **107**. In some embodiments, and as shown in **FIG. 3**, the cap **102** may include an outer wall **103** joined to the inner wall **106**, the outer wall **103** including an outer wall first surface **104** and an outer wall second surface **105** opposite the outer wall first surface **104**. The outer wall first surface **104** of the cap **102** optionally includes gripping features (not shown) that are spaced around the outer wall first surface **104** of the cap **102** to facilitate manual manipulation of the cap **102** during use.

A removable protective seal (not shown) can be applied across the opening **109** of the cap **102** to prevent loss of disinfectant in the assembled disinfecting device **100** and maintain sterility of the interior cavity **110** of the cap **102** prior to use. The seal (*e.g.*, a foil seal) can be secured across the opening **109** of the cap **102** by, for example, glue, solvent, or thermal bonding. In some embodiments, the seal may be configured for multiple disinfecting devices **100**, such as a strip of foil where individual disinfecting devices **100** can be peeled from the strip as needed. These strips of disinfecting devices **100** can be made conveniently accessible by hanging them, for example, from IV poles or IV sets in patient rooms and on medication carts.

The cap **102** shown in **FIG. 1** has a relatively cylindrical shape, but the cap **102** shape is not particularly limited as long as the coupling mechanism is configured to engage with the LAD. In some embodiments, at least a portion of the cap **102** may have a frustoconical shape. In other embodiments, at least a portion of the cap **102** may have a bulbous configuration (*e.g.*, rounded bottom). The cap **102** may be a unitary structure, as shown in **FIG. 1**, or made from two or more components joined together. For example, the

cap in **FIG. 1** could be made by joining a cylindrical-shaped inner wall, a cylindrical-shaped outer wall, and a circular, flat bottom together with glue, welding, solvent, threads, or other attachment mechanism.

The cap **102** can be made from a variety of materials, including plastic, glass, and metal. In some embodiments the cap **102** is made from a thermoplastic material. As used herein, the term “thermoplastic material” means a plastic material that has a softening or melting point and is substantially free of a three-dimensional crosslinked network resulting from the formation of covalent bonds between chemically reactive groups, *e.g.*, active hydrogen groups and free isocyanate groups. Examples of thermoplastic materials include, but are not limited to, thermoplastic polyalkylenes, thermoplastic polyurea, thermoplastic polyimide, thermoplastic polyamide, thermoplastic polyamideimide, thermoplastic polyester, thermoplastic polycarbonate, thermoplastic polysulfone, thermoplastic polyketone, thermoplastic polyethylene, thermoplastic polypropylene, thermoplastic polybutylene terephthalate, thermoplastic polyvinylchloride, thermoplastic acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, thermoplastic polyurethane and mixtures of thermoplastic compositions containing one or more thereof. In some embodiments, the cap **102** is made from high-density polyethylene (“HDPE”).

As further illustrated in **FIG. 3**, a coupling mechanism configured to engage with an externally threaded device, such as a LAD, is located on the inner wall second surface **108** in the interior cavity first portion **160** of the cap **102**. Coupling mechanisms suitable for use in embodiments of the present disclosure are known in the art and are described, for example, in U.S. Pat. App. 15/623,430 (Dombrowski *et al.*). The coupling mechanism may be unitary with the cap **102**, as illustrated in **FIGS. 1-3**, or a separate component that is joined to the inner surface of the cap **102** by, for example, glue or welding. The coupling mechanism may be made from the same material as the cap **102**, or a different material. In some embodiments, the cap **102** and coupling mechanism are made from HDPE.

The coupling mechanism comprises a thread **122** that originates proximate (*i.e.*, at or near) the opening **109** and spirals downward along the inner wall second surface **108** of the cap **102** to a predetermined depth into the interior cavity first portion **160**. The caps **102** of the present disclosure may optionally include a retention feature such as, for example, a lug **124**, to minimize or reduce premature disengagement of the coupling mechanism from the LAD. The cap **102** may further include a vent **126**, the vent **126** allowing for fluid exchange

between the interior cavity **110** and the atmosphere (*i.e.*, pressure release) as the disinfecting device **100** is attached to an LAD.

The length of the interior cavity first portion **160** is sufficient to accommodate a variety of LAD coupling mechanisms, *e.g.*, 0.2 inches (5 mm). It is understood that the length of the interior cavity first portion **160** may vary depending on the particular design of the cap **102**. As shown in **FIG. 3**, the interior cavity second portion **170** is proximate the interior cavity first portion **160** and includes a cavity base **112** and fluid well **111**. The interior cavity second portion **170** is typically devoid of thread **122**. To prevent IV line leakage and leakage from the septum/cap interface during use that may arise as a result of the plunger **130** contacting the cavity base **112**, it has been observed that a ratio of the length of the interior cavity first portion **160** to the interior cavity second portion **170** is desirably greater than 1:1 and less than 1:2. In some embodiments, the ratio of the length of the interior cavity first portion **160** to the interior cavity second portion **170** is in the range of 1:1.1 to 1:1.9, 1:1.2 to 1:1.9, 1:1.3 to 1:1.8, or 1:1.4 to 1:1.7. In some preferred embodiments, the ratio of the length of the interior cavity first portion **160** to the interior cavity second portion **170** is in the range of 1:1.5 to 1:1.7 (*e.g.*, 1:1.6).

The interior cavity second portion **170** may include a first alignment ring **118** and a second alignment ring **120**. Referring to **FIG. 3**, the alignment rings **118, 120** are positioned in the interior cavity second portion **170** such that they are located above and below the plunger skirt **138, 338** (described below) and function to help retain the plunger **130** in position, both vertically and concentrically, before activation with an LAD. In some embodiments the alignment rings **118, 120** may be full annular rings that project outward from the inner wall second surface **108** into the interior cavity **110** of the cap **102**. In some embodiments, the alignment rings **118, 120** may be annular rings, where each annular ring is subdivided into two or more segments that project outward from the inner wall second surface **108** into the interior cavity **110** of the cap **102**. As shown in **FIG. 8** the top of the plunger skirt **338** resides below and against the first alignment ring **118** and the skirt base **340** resides above and against the second alignment ring **120** before activation with an LAD. Thus, a two-point method is used to assist in keeping the plunger **130** concentric to the cap **102** and the plunger face **342** flat and at the correct depth with reference to the removable protective seal. The alignment rings **118, 120** keep the plunger **130** positioned concentrically along the longitudinal axis **A** and prevent the plunger **130** from moving from its pre-

activation position when the disinfecting device **100** is subjected to external vibrations, *e.g.*, during shipping.

In some embodiments, the cap **102** may include a post **114**. Referring to **FIG. 3**, the post **114** extends in the direction of the opening **109** from the cavity base **112** to a post end **115**. In some embodiments, the post **114** may become narrower, *i.e.*, taper, from a thickest dimension, *e.g.*, diameter, at the cavity base **112** to a thinnest dimension at the post end **115**. In some embodiments, the post **114** may further include one or more post vents **116**, as shown in **FIG. 4**. While not wishing to be bound to a particular theory, it is believed that the post vents **116** may minimize hydraulic pressure build-up under the plunger **130** while the plunger **130** is sliding downward, *i.e.*, toward the cavity base **112**, during activation with an LAD, thereby reducing hydraulic pressure and the resulting back pressure in the IV system which can lead to leakage. In some embodiments the post **114** may be formed as a unitary structure with the cap **102**. In some embodiments the post **114** may be formed as a separate component that is joined to the inner surface of the cap **102** by, for example, glue or welding. The post **114** may be made from the same material as the cap **102**, or a different material. In some embodiments, the cap **102** and the post **114** are made from HDPE.

Disinfecting devices **100** of the present disclosure further comprise a plunger **130**, **230**, **330**, **430**. The plunger **130**, **230**, **330**, **430** is movable within the cap **102** and forms the inner cavity **110** that contains the liquid disinfectant in the disinfecting device **100**.

A first embodiment of a plunger **130** suitable for use in embodiments of the present disclosure is shown in **FIGS. 1, 2, 5**, and **10**. Referring to **FIGS. 2** and **5**, the plunger **130** has a relatively cylindrical shape, but the plunger **130** shape is not particularly limited as long as it is configured to nest in the interior cavity **110** of the cap **102**. The plunger **130** has outer surface **132** and an inner surface **134** opposite the outer surface **132** and defining a recess **136**. The recess **136** is shown having a relatively cylindrical shape but the recess **136** shape is not particularly limited as long as it is configured to accommodate the post **114** of the cap **102** in embodiments where the post **114** is included. For example, in embodiments where the post **114** includes a taper, as described above, the plunger recess **136** would have a complementary taper, thereby guiding the plunger in a path parallel to a longitudinal axis **A** when the disinfecting device **100** is activated. The plunger **130** has a skirt **138** and a skirt base **140**. In some embodiments, the plunger may include a retaining rib **141**.

Referring to **FIG. 5**, the plunger **130** further includes a face **142** normal to longitudinal axis **A**. The face **142** includes a hole **148**, which may be in the center as shown a diameter **190**, and a perimeter **143** that abuts a standoff **146** at the base of the standoff inner wall **147** around the entire length of the perimeter **143**, *i.e.*, the perimeter is completely encircled by the standoff **146**. The hole **148** is shown as a single, circular aperture in the plunger face **142**, though different shapes and numbers of apertures for the hole **148** are contemplated. For example, in some embodiments the plunger face **142** can have an oval, square, rectangular, triangular, or irregular shape. In some embodiments, the face **142** may include two or more holes **148**.

Referring to **FIG. 2**, the standoff **146** extends in the direction of the opening **109** and generally parallel to longitudinal axis **A** from the face **142** to a crest **144** that defines a first height **180**. In some embodiments, the standoff **146** has a uniform first height **180** around the entire perimeter of the face **142** (not shown), *i.e.*, the perimeter is completely encircled by the standoff **146** having the uniform first height **180**. The first height **180** is selected such that it is sufficient to prevent the protruding septum of an LAD septum from contacting the plunger face **142** during activation, *i.e.*, after the LAD is attached to the disinfecting devices **100**.

The standoff **146** is configured to extend far enough from the face **142** to prevent the LAD septum from contacting the face **142** and to be thick enough such that the standoff **146** does not collapse under forces exerted by contact with surfaces of the LAD during activation. In some embodiments, the first height **180** can be 0.054 in to 0.062 in (1.37 mm to 1.57 mm) or preferably 0.056 in to 0.060 in (1.4 mm to 1.5 mm). In some embodiments, the standoff **146** has a first height **180** of 1.47 mm.

In some embodiments the standoff **146** may have thickness, *i.e.*, the distance from the standoff inner wall **147** to the outer surface **132**, that is uniform from the crest **144** to the base of the standoff **146**, *i.e.*, where the standoff **146** meets the face perimeter **143**. In some embodiments, the thickness of the standoff **146** may increase from the crest **144** to the base of the standoff **146**, thereby creating additional clearance space for the LAD septum during activation and minimizing surface contact between the LAD septum and the standoff **146**, which is desirable to facilitate disinfection, while also providing for a thicker base to better withstand crushing forces exerted by the LAD.

In some embodiments, and as shown in **FIGS. 5** and **6**, the standoff crest **144**, **244** may include a channel **154**, **254**. In embodiments where the standoff **146** has a uniform first

height **180** around the entire perimeter **143** of the face **142**, the standoff crest **144** desirably includes a plurality of channels **154** so that a path exists for disinfectant to travel as it is forced from the fluid well **111** to the space above the plunger face **142** as the disinfecting device **100** is activated by an LAD. In embodiments where the standoff **146**, **246** height varies around the face perimeter **143**, **243** it is also desirable for the standoff crest **144**, **244** to include channels **154**, **254** as it reduces the surface area of the LAD in contact with the standoff **146**, **246** and increases the surface area of the LAD in contact with disinfectant. In some embodiments and as shown in **FIGS. 5** and **6** the standoff crest **144**, **244** may have a radiused profile and contoured edges **145**, **245** as it reduces the surface area of the LAD in contact with the standoff crest **144**, **244** and increases the surface area of the LAD in contact with disinfectant.

In some embodiments, and as shown in **FIG. 2**, the standoff **146** has a first height **180** and a second height **182**, where the first height **180** is greater than the second height **182** and the transition from the first height **180** to the second height **182** is smoothly graduated, *i.e.*, not stepped. In embodiments of the present disclosure, the standoff **146** has a first height **180** that is at least 50% greater than, 100% greater than, 150% greater than, 200% greater than, 250% greater than, 300% greater than, 350% greater than, or 400% greater than the second height **182**. In some preferred embodiments, the standoff **146** has a first height **180** that is 300% to 400% greater than the second height **182**. In some embodiments, portions of the standoff **146** at the first height extend for at least 90%, at least 80%, at least 70%, at least 60%, or at least 50% of the length of the standoff crest **144**, **244**.

In a second embodiment of the plunger **230**, shown in **FIG. 6**, the transition from the first height **180** to the second height **182** may be achieved in a stepwise pattern, *e.g.*, from standoff **246** to standoff **246a** to standoff **246b** as the standoff **246** encircles the face perimeter **243**, providing structural integrity to the standoff **246** while minimizing contact between the standoff **246** and the LAD, thereby increasing the surface area of the LAD in contact with disinfectant. This embodiment of the standoff **146**, **246** may also prevent the standoff **246** from being bent during activation.

The plunger **130** shown in **FIGS. 1, 2, 5, 6**, and **10** is configured to move from a first position in the interior cavity **110**, as shown in **FIG. 2**, to a second position in the interior cavity **110** when the standoff **146** is contacted by a portion of the LAD **50** (*see FIG. 10*). Referring to **FIG. 10**, the second position is closer to the cavity base **112** than the first position and a portion of the disinfectant (not shown) thereby flows from the fluid well **111**

through the hole **148**, thus exposing surfaces of the LAD to the disinfectant. The portion of the LAD **50** that contacts the standoff **146** has a diameter **55** that is greater than the face diameter **190**, while the septum **60** has a diameter **65** that is less than the face diameter **190**. Thus, upon activation of the disinfecting device **100** with the LAD **50** the septum **60** does not
5 contact either the standoff or the face when the plunger is in the second position. In some embodiments, the face diameter **190** may be at least 1% greater, at least 2% greater, at least 3% greater, at least 4% greater, or at least 5% greater than the septum **60** diameter **65**. In some embodiments, the face diameter **190** may be less than 30% greater, less than 20% greater, less than 15% greater, less than 14% greater, or less than 13% greater than the
10 septum **60** diameter **65**. In some embodiments, the face diameter **190** may be 1% to 30%, greater, 2% to 20% greater, 3% to 15% greater, 4% to 14% greater, or 5% to 13% greater (*e.g.*, 9% to 11% greater) than the septum **60** diameter **65**. In some embodiments, the face diameter **190** may be at least 0.18 in to 0.19 in (4.57 mm - 4.83 mm), *e.g.*, 0.186 in (4.72 mm). Desirably in some embodiments, and as shown in **FIG. 10**, during activation the skirt
15 base **140** may not contact the cavity base **112**.

A third embodiment of a plunger **330** suitable for use in embodiments of the present disclosure is shown in **FIGS. 7 - 9**. The plunger **330** shares many of the same elements as the plungers **130**, **230** shown in **FIGS. 1, 2, 5, 6 and 10**, differing principally in the face **342** and standoff **346** configurations. Referring to **FIG. 7**, plunger **330** includes a skirt **338**,
20 retaining rib **341**, and standoffs **346** positioned around the perimeter **343** of the face **342**. Four standoffs **346** are shown in **FIG. 7**, though three standoffs **346** or more than four standoffs **346**, *e.g.*, five standoffs, are contemplated. As with the standoffs described above, the standoff crests **344** may have radiused profiles and contoured edges **345**. In some
embodiments, standoff crests **344** may further includes a channel (not shown). Generally, the
25 standoffs **346** have a height **380** that is less than that of the standoffs **130**, **230**, *i.e.*, less than 0.054 in (1.37 mm). Plunger **330** further includes face channels **350** adjacent the hole **348** and extending to the perimeter **343** between the standoffs **346** that allow disinfectant to flow in conditions where the LAD septum **60** is in contact with the face **342** during activation by
creating a fluid vent path and thus preventing pressure buildup. In some embodiments, the
30 channels **350** may terminate in a concavity **352** adjacent the perimeter **343**.

The plunger **330** shown in **FIGS. 7-9** is configured to move from a first position in the interior cavity **110**, as shown in **FIG. 8**, to a second position in the interior cavity **110** when the standoffs **346** are contacted by a portion of the LAD **50** (*see FIG. 9*). Referring to

FIG. 9, the second position is closer to the cavity base **112** than the first position and a portion of the disinfectant (not shown) thereby flows from the fluid well **111** through the hole **348**, thus exposing surfaces of the LAD to the disinfectant. As with the plunger embodiments described above, *i.e.*, **130** and **230**, upon activation of the disinfecting device **100** with the LAD **50**, the septum **60** does not contact the standoff **346** when the plunger is in the second position, *i.e.*, the diameter **390** is greater than the septum diameter **65**. Desirably in some embodiments, and as shown in **FIG. 9**, during activation there is a space **150** between the septum **60** and the plunger face **342** and the skirt base **340** does not contact the cavity base **112**. If, however, the septum **60** protrudes further toward the plunger face **342**, even contacting the face **342** due to system pressure, disinfectant still has a path to flow through the face channels **350** and concavities **352**, thus avoiding pressure build up at any stage of the engagement of the septum **60** with the plunger face **342** and preventing back pressure that can result in leaks. In such circumstances, during activation the gap between the skirt base **340** and the cavity base **112** is greater than 0 mm, thus avoiding pressure build up at any stage of the engagement of the septum **60** with the plunger face **342** and preventing back pressure that can result in leaks.

A fourth embodiment of a plunger **430** in cap **402** suitable for use in embodiments of the present disclosure is shown in **FIGS. 11** and **12**. As described above, the cap **402** has an opening **409** and cavity base **412** forming an interior cavity **410**. The plunger **430** is in the interior cavity **410** of the cap **402**. In this embodiment, the plunger **430** includes a plunger face **442** and standoff **446**. In this embodiment, the plunger face **442** and standoff **446** includes the features and options as described above for engagement with the LAD **50** and LAD septum **60**. The difference in this embodiment, the plunger **430** includes a collapsible wall **435**. The collapsible wall **435** has an outer surface **432** opposite a inner surfaces **434**. The plunger **430** with the collapsible wall **435** and cavity base **412** define a recess **436** that holds disinfecting fluid within the plunger **430**. In this embodiment the recess **436** serves as the fluid well. Hole **448** passes from the recess **436** to the plunger face **442** to allow the liquid within the recess **436** to move out of the recess **436** to the plunger face **442** as described above in other embodiment. To prevent dislodgment of the plunger **430**, the plunger **430** is secured within the interior cavity **410**. In this embodiment, a first alignment ring **418** friction fits with the outer surface **432** of the collapsible wall **435** to secure the plunger **430** in the interior cavity **410**.

In this embodiment, the cavity base **412** functions to define the recess **436**. In other embodiment, a separate wall may connected to the collapsable wall **435** to form the recess **436** and be placed adjacent to the cavity base **412**. Similarly, in this embodiment, the collapsable wall **435** is placed within the cap **402**. In other embodiments, the collapsable wall **435** may for some or all of the cap **402**.

FIG. 11 shows the plunger **430** and the recess **436** in a first position with the collapsable wall **435** expanded.. **FIG. 12** shows the LAD **50** engaging with the disinfecting device **100** with the plunger **430** in a second position. In the second position, the standoff **446** is contacted by a portion of the LAD **50**, the plunger **430** is moved closer to the cavity base **412**, and the collapsable wall **435** is compressed. The downward movment of the plunger **430** reduces the recess **436** and forces disinfectant out of the recess **436** through the hole **448** and around the LAD **50**.

In this embodiment, the collapsable wall **435** functions as a bellows, *i.e.*, similar to an accordion. In other embodimet, the collapsable wall **435** could be any thin, flexible, or collapsable material. For example, the plunger **430** and/or collapsable wall **435** may be made of a soft material such as polyethylene, and blow molded into the shape of a bellows.

Similar to the description above for the other embodiments, the cap **402** may includes one or more inner wall vents **426**. The one or more inner wall vents **426** provide a channel for disinfectant to escape the interior cavity **410** and flow along the outside of the LAD **50** when the LAD **50** is threaded onto the cap **402**. Thus, the vents prevent pressure from building up within the interior cavity **410** and entering the LAD **50**.

As the LAD connects with the disinfecting device, it will be exposed to one or more disinfectants as described above. The disinfectant (not shown) can be a liquid, gel, or foam depending upon the desired configuration. Before activation, *i.e.*, before the disinfecting device is connected to the LAD, the disinfectant resides in the fluid well of the interior cavity below the plunger, which acts to contain the disinfectant in the interior cavity second portion proximate the cavity base. As the disinfecting device is threaded onto the LAD the plunger moves from a first position in the interior cavity to a second position in the interior cavity so that disinfectant flows from the fluid well through the hole, thus exposing surfaces of the LAD to the disinfectant.

Preferably, the plunger **130, 230, 330, 430** is made from a thermoplastic material, as described above for the cap **102**. In some embodiments, the cap **102** is formed from a

material having a higher flexural modulus than the plunger **130**. While not wishing to be bound to a particular theory, it is believed that when the cap **102** is formed from a material having a higher flexural modulus than the plunger **130, 230, 330, 430** upon activation with an LAD, *i.e.*, when the plunger **130, 230, 330** is moved downward toward the cavity base **112**, friction between the inner wall second surface **108** of the cap **102** and the plunger skirt **138, 238, 338** is reduced, allowing the plunger **130, 230, 330** to slide more freely, *i.e.*, with reduced opposing force, while the LAD septum is protruding under pressurization and until the plunger **130, 230, 330** reaches its final position. In the fourth embodiment, when the LAD engages the plunger **430** the plunger face **442** and standoffs **446** move downward from a first position to a second position, while the base **412** plunger remains affixed to the cavity base **412**. In some embodiments, the cap **102** is made of HDPE and the plunger **130, 230, 330, 430** is made of a blend of HDPE and linear low-density polyethylene ("LLDPE"). In some embodiments, the blend of HDPE and LLDPE forming the plunger **130, 230, 330, 430** comprises at least 15 wt.%, at least 20 wt.%, or at least 25 wt.% LLDPE. In some embodiments, the blend of HDPE and LLDPE forming the plunger **130, 230, 330, 430** comprises less than 45 wt.%, less than 40 wt.%, or less than 35 wt.% LLDPE. In some embodiments, the blend of HDPE and LLDPE forming the plunger **130** comprises 15 wt.% to 45 wt.%, 20 wt.% to 40 wt.%, or 25 wt.% to 35 wt.% (*e.g.*, 30 wt.%) LLDPE.

Disinfecting devices of the present disclosure may be fabricated according to methods known to those of ordinary skill in the relevant arts such as, for example, molding, pressing, casting, additive manufacturing (*e.g.*, three-dimensional printing, generic manufacturing), subtractive manufacturing (*e.g.*, machining, turning, milling, drilling), and combinations thereof. In some embodiments, the cap **102** may be fabricated as one, unitary piece and the plunger **130, 230, 330, 430** may be fabricated as a second, unitary piece. In some embodiments, components of the cap **102, 402** and/ or plunger **130, 230, 330, 430** may be fabricated separately and then joined together by a suitable means such as, for example, heating, gluing, soldering, welding, press fitting, cone fitting, snap fitting, sealing, and combinations thereof.

The disinfecting devices of the present application can be used on any LAD. In practice, the user removes the seal that covers the interior cavity of the cap and threads the cap onto the LAD until it is securely engaged. During the engagement process, the face or septum of the LAD is forced against the plunger, causing the plunger to move from a first

position to a second position, whereby disinfectant flows from the fluid well through the center hole, thus exposing surfaces of the LAD to the disinfectant

The embodiments described above and illustrated in the figures are presented by way of example only and are not intended as a limitation upon the concepts and principles of the present invention. As such, it will be appreciated by one having ordinary skill in the art that various changes in the elements and their configuration and arrangement are possible without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

Thus, the present document discloses, among other things, a disinfecting device and method of making and using such. Various features and advantages of the disinfecting device are set forth in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A disinfecting device for a Luer-activated device having a septum, the disinfecting device comprising:

a cap comprising:

an opening;

an inner wall defining an interior cavity having an interior cavity base opposite from the opening;

a plunger within the interior cavity, the plunger comprising:

a face with a perimeter, wherein the perimeter of the face is adjacent to the inner wall of the cap;

a standoff adjacent the perimeter of the face and extending in the direction of the opening;

a disinfectant in the interior cavity;

wherein the plunger is movable within the interior cavity from the opening toward the interior cavity base.

2. The disinfecting device of claim 1, wherein the interior cavity has an interior cavity first portion proximate the opening and an interior cavity second portion proximate the interior cavity first portion and proximate the interior cavity base.

3. The disinfecting device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cap comprises an outer wall.

4. The disinfecting device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the inner wall further includes a first alignment ring to frictionally engage with the plunger.

5. The disinfecting device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cap further comprises a post extending from the interior cavity base in the direction of the opening from the interior cavity base to a post end.

6. The disinfecting device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the face is entirely recessed from the standoff.

7. The disinfecting device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the face of the plunger comprises a hole through the face.

5 8. The disinfecting device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the disinfectant is in a fluid well between the cavity base and the face of the plunger.

9. The disinfecting device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the hole in the face connects the fluid well to the face adjacent the opening.

10 10. The disinfecting device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the plunger comprises a skirt is frictionally engaged with the inner wall of the cap.

11. The disinfecting device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein in the plunger
15 comprises a collapsible wall.

12. The disinfecting device of claim 11, wherein the fluid well is between the cavity base, the face of the plunger and the collapsible wall.

20 13. The disinfecting device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the standoff is adjacent the face perimeter around the entire face perimeter.

14. The disinfecting device of any one of the preceding claims, comprising a plurality of standoffs.

25 15. The disinfecting device of claim 14, wherein the plurality of standoffs comprise a standoff with a first height and a second standoff with a second height, and wherein the first height is greater than the second height.

30 16. The disinfecting device of claim 15, wherein the first height is at most 400% greater than the second height.

17. The disinfecting device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the plunger moves from a first position in the interior cavity to a second position in the interior cavity.

18. The disinfecting device of claim 17, wherein in the second position the standoff is contacted by the Luer-activated device and the Luer-activated device septum does not contact the standoff or the face.

19. The disinfecting device of claim 18, wherein the face has a diameter and the septum of the Luer-activated device has a diameter that is smaller than the diameter of the face.

20. The disinfecting device of any one of the preceding claims, further comprising a vent for fluid passage from the interior cavity to an atmosphere outside the disinfecting device.

21. A disinfecting device for a Luer-activated device having a septum, the disinfecting device comprising:

a cap comprising:

an inner wall, wherein the inner wall defines an opening and an interior cavity, wherein the interior cavity has an interior cavity first portion proximate the opening and an interior cavity second portion proximate the interior cavity first portion, the interior cavity second portion including an interior cavity base, and wherein the interior cavity first portion is configured to receive and couple with a needleless connector;

a plunger comprising:

a face, wherein the face has a perimeter, a diameter, and a hole;
a standoff extending to a first height in the direction of the opening and generally orthogonal to a plane defined by the face, wherein the standoff is adjacent the face perimeter around the entire face perimeter;

an inner surface;

an outer surface; and

a skirt; and

a disinfectant;

wherein the plunger is configured to move from a first position in the interior cavity to a second position in the interior cavity when the standoff is contacted by a portion of the Luer-activated device, wherein the second position is closer to the interior cavity base than the first position, and wherein the Luer-activated device septum does not contact the standoff or the face when the plunger is in the second position.

22. A disinfecting device for a Luer-activated device having a septum, the disinfecting device comprising:

a cap comprising:

an inner wall, wherein the inner wall defines an opening and an interior cavity, wherein the interior cavity has an interior cavity first portion proximate the opening and an interior cavity second portion proximate the interior cavity first portion, the interior cavity second portion including an interior cavity base, and wherein the interior cavity first portion is configured to receive and couple with a needleless connector;

a plunger retained to the cavity base by a retention feature, the plunger comprising:

a face, wherein the face has a center hole;

a standoff extending to a first height in the direction of the opening;

a collapsible wall defined by an outer surface and an inner surface;

a chamber defined by the collapsible wall; and

a disinfectant within the chamber;

wherein the plunger is configured to move from a first position in the interior cavity to a second position in the interior cavity when the standoff is contacted by a portion of the Luer-activated device, wherein in the second position the face is closer to the interior cavity base than the first position.

23. The disinfecting device of claim 21-22, wherein the cap comprises an outer wall.

24. The disinfecting device of claim 21-23, wherein the inner wall interior cavity second portion further includes a first alignment ring and a second alignment ring.

25. The disinfecting device of claim 21-24, wherein the interior cavity contains a disinfectant selected from the group consisting of isopropanol, ethanol, chlorhexidine gluconate, 4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenol, povidone iodine, and combinations thereof.

5

26. The disinfecting device of claim 21-25, wherein the disinfecting cap comprises high-density polyethylene, linear low-density polyethylene, and combinations thereof.

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27. The disinfecting device of claim 21-26, wherein the cap has a higher flexural modulus than the plunger.

28. The disinfecting device of claim 21-27, wherein the plunger is a blend of high-density polyethylene and linear low-density polyethylene.

15

29. The disinfecting device of claim 21-28, wherein the body further comprises a post extending in the direction of the opening from the interior cavity base to a post end, and wherein the post end does not contact the plunger inner surface when the plunger is in the second position.

20

30. The disinfecting device of claim 21-29, wherein the plunger further comprises a retaining rib.

31. The disinfecting device of claim 21-30, comprising a plurality of standoffs.

25

32. The disinfecting device of claim 21-31, wherein the standoff height varies around the face perimeter.

33. The disinfecting device of claim 21-32, wherein the standoff height varies around the face perimeter from a first height to a second height, and wherein the first height is greater than the second height.

5 34. The disinfecting device of claim 33, wherein the first height is at most 400% greater than the second height.

35. The disinfecting device of claim 21-33, wherein the standoff comprises a standoff crest and wherein the standoff crest includes a channel.

10

36. The disinfecting device of claim 35, wherein the standoff crest is radiused.

37. The disinfecting device of claim 21-36, further comprising a vent for fluid passage from the interior cavity to an atmosphere outside the disinfecting device.

15

38. The disinfecting device of claim 37, wherein the vent is on the inner wall of the cap.

39. The disinfecting device of claim 21-38, wherein the cap further comprises a post extending in the direction of the opening from the interior cavity base to a post end.

20

40. The disinfecting device of claim 38, wherein the post includes a vent.

41. A disinfecting device for a Luer-activated device having a septum, the disinfecting device comprising:

25

a cap comprising:

an opening;

an inner wall defining an interior cavity having an interior cavity base opposite from the opening;

a plunger within the interior cavity, the plunger comprising:

a face with a perimeter, wherein the perimeter of the face is adjacent to the inner wall of the cap;

a collapsible wall;

5 a disinfectant in the interior cavity between the cavity base, the face of the plunger and the collapsible wall;

a vent for fluid passage from the interior cavity to an atmosphere outside the disinfecting device;

wherein the plunger is movable within the interior cavity from the opening toward the interior cavity base.

10

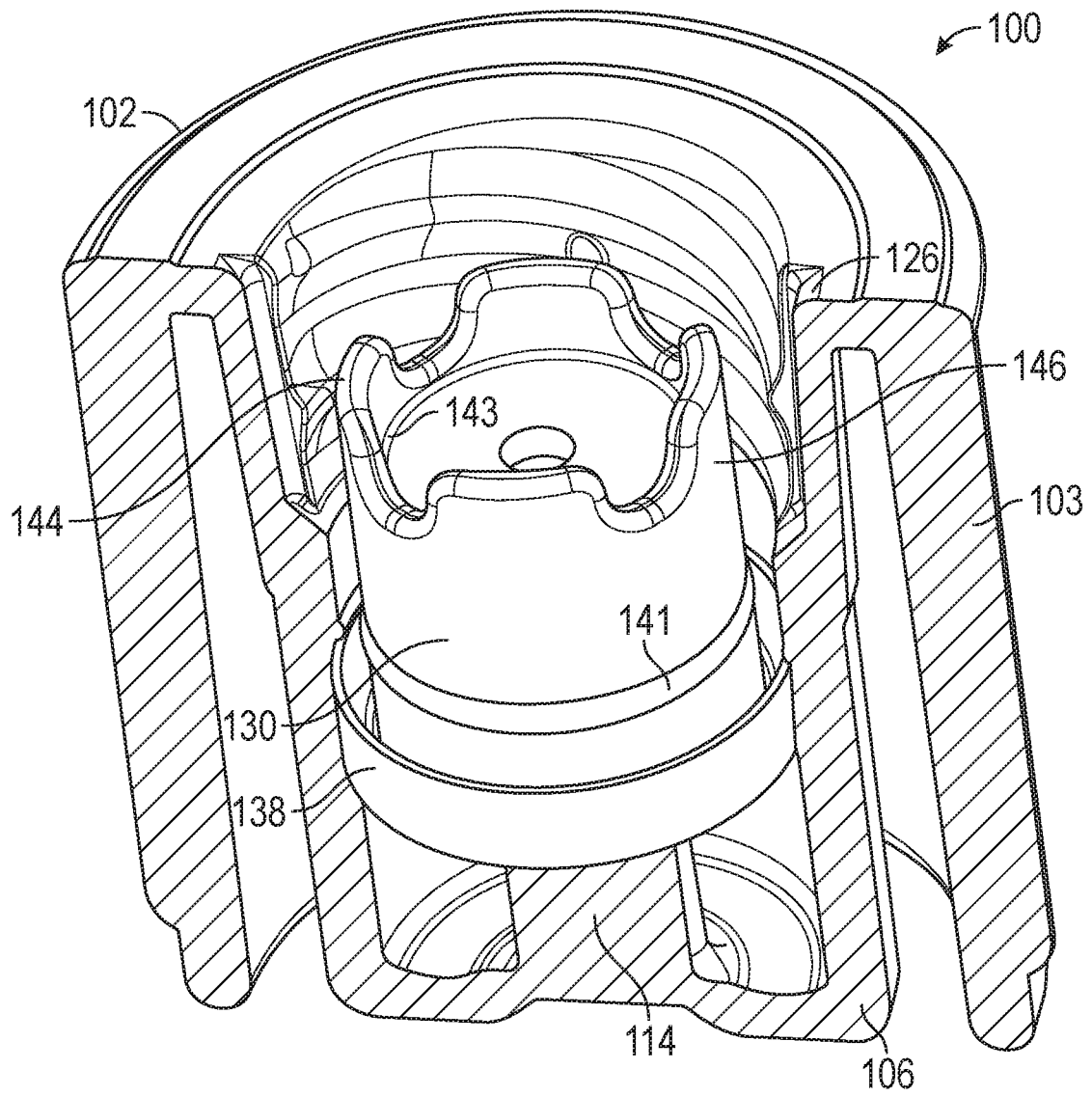


FIG. 1

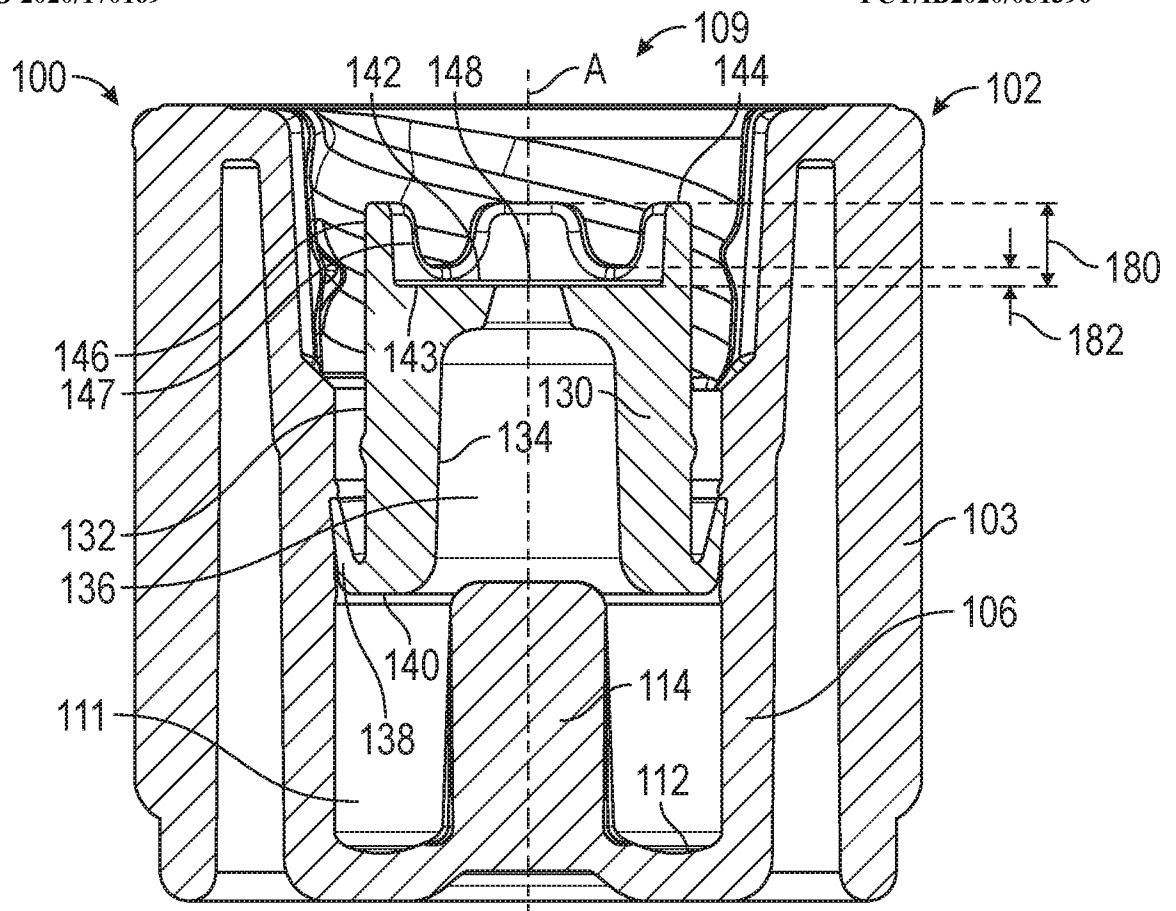


FIG. 2

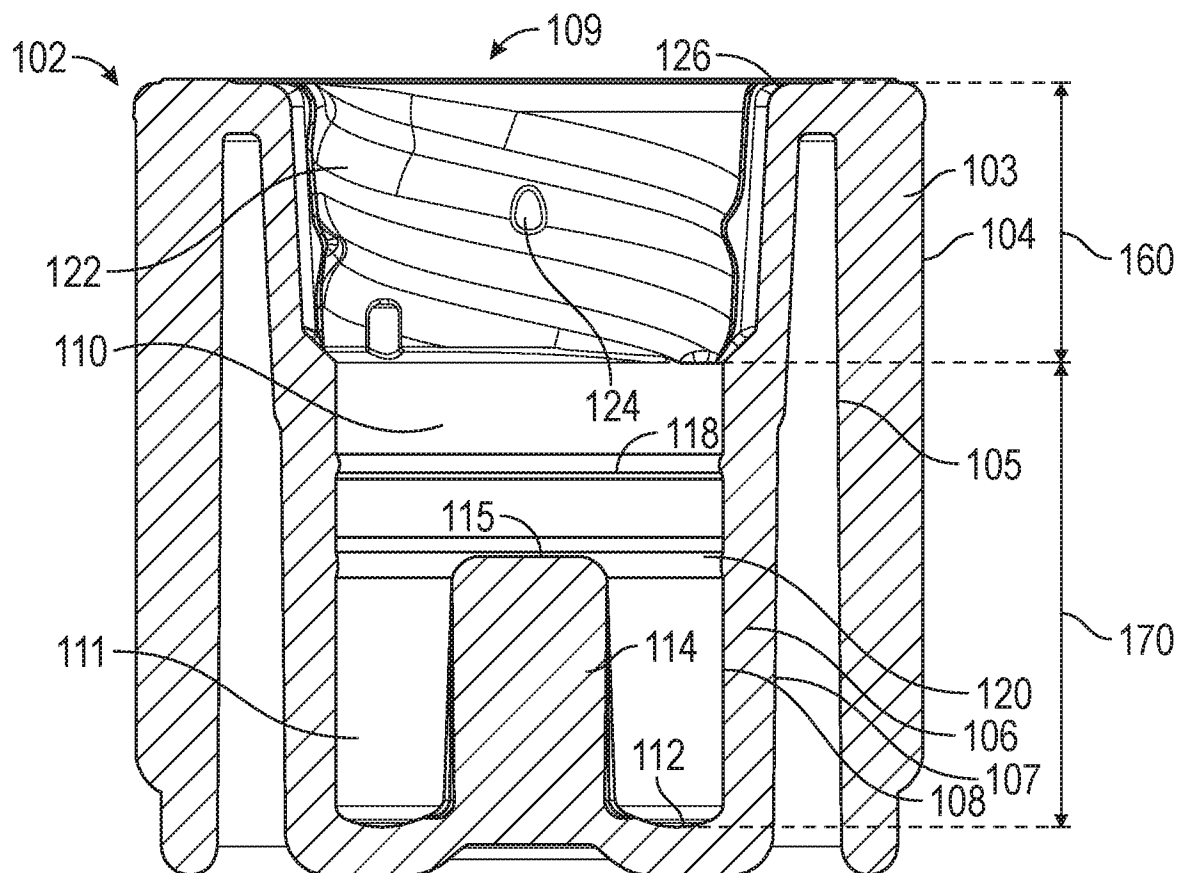


FIG. 3

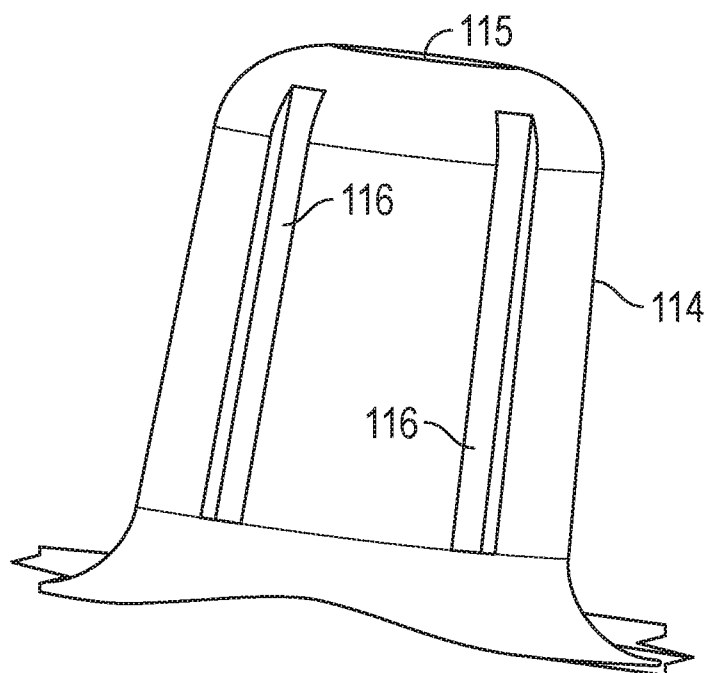


FIG. 4

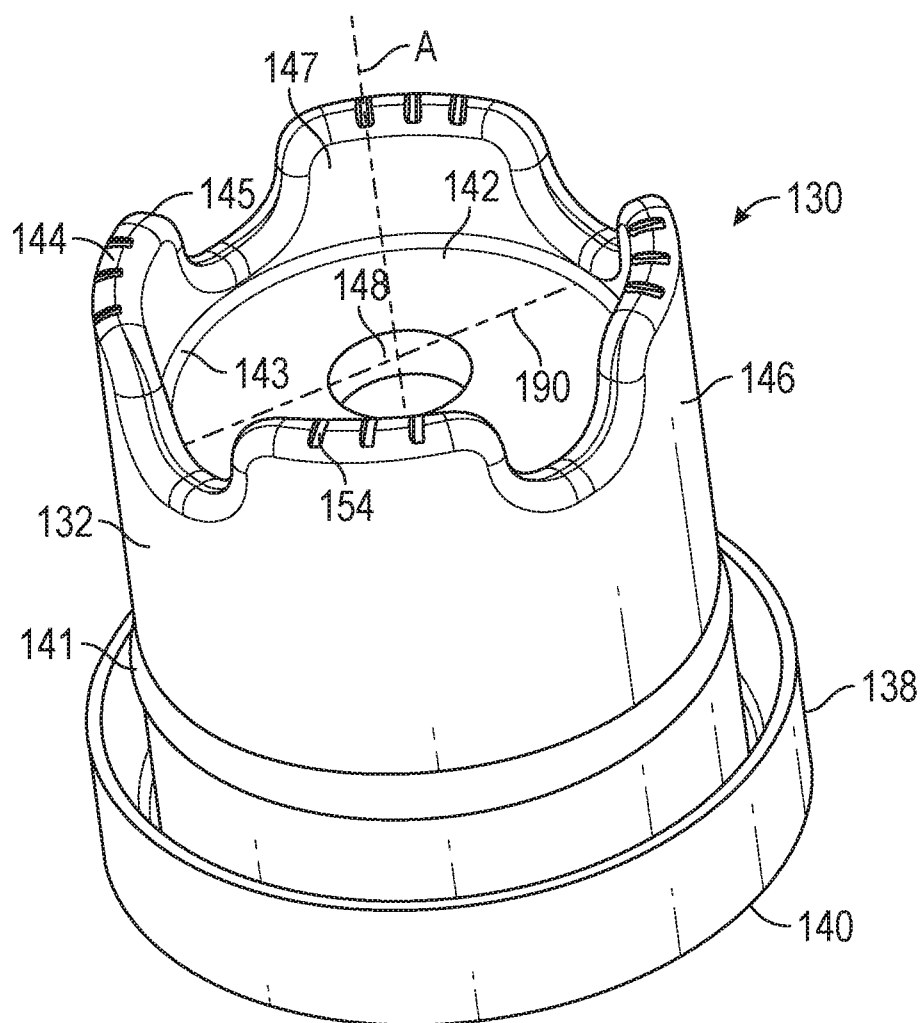


FIG. 5

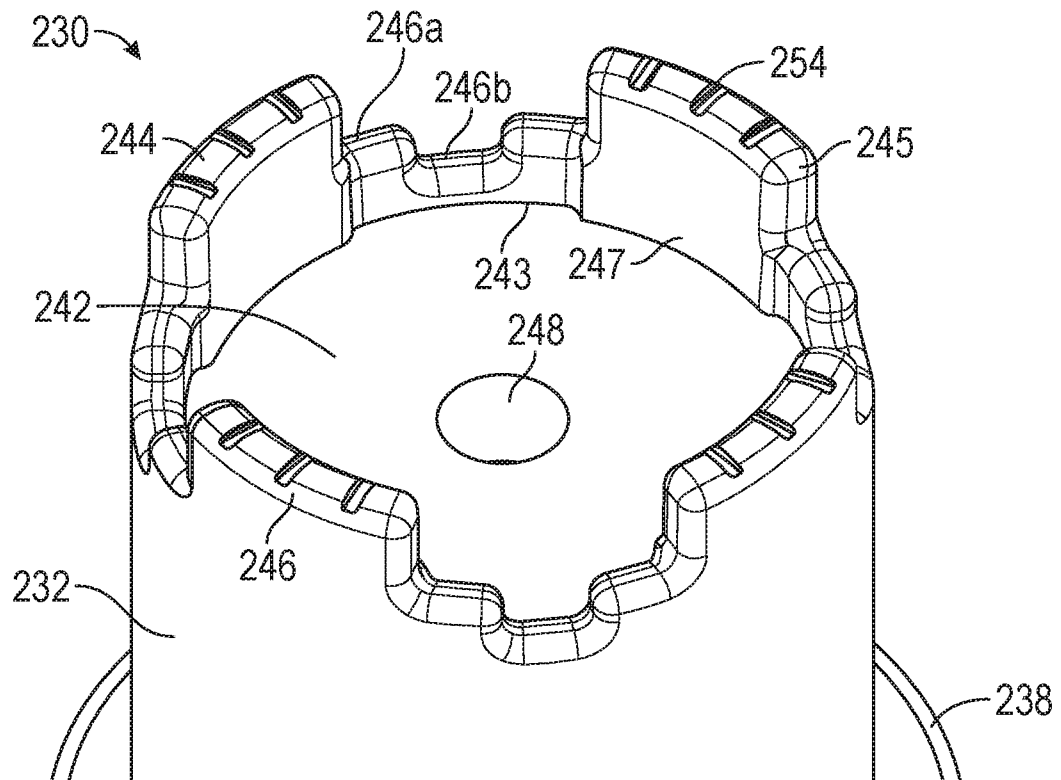


FIG. 6

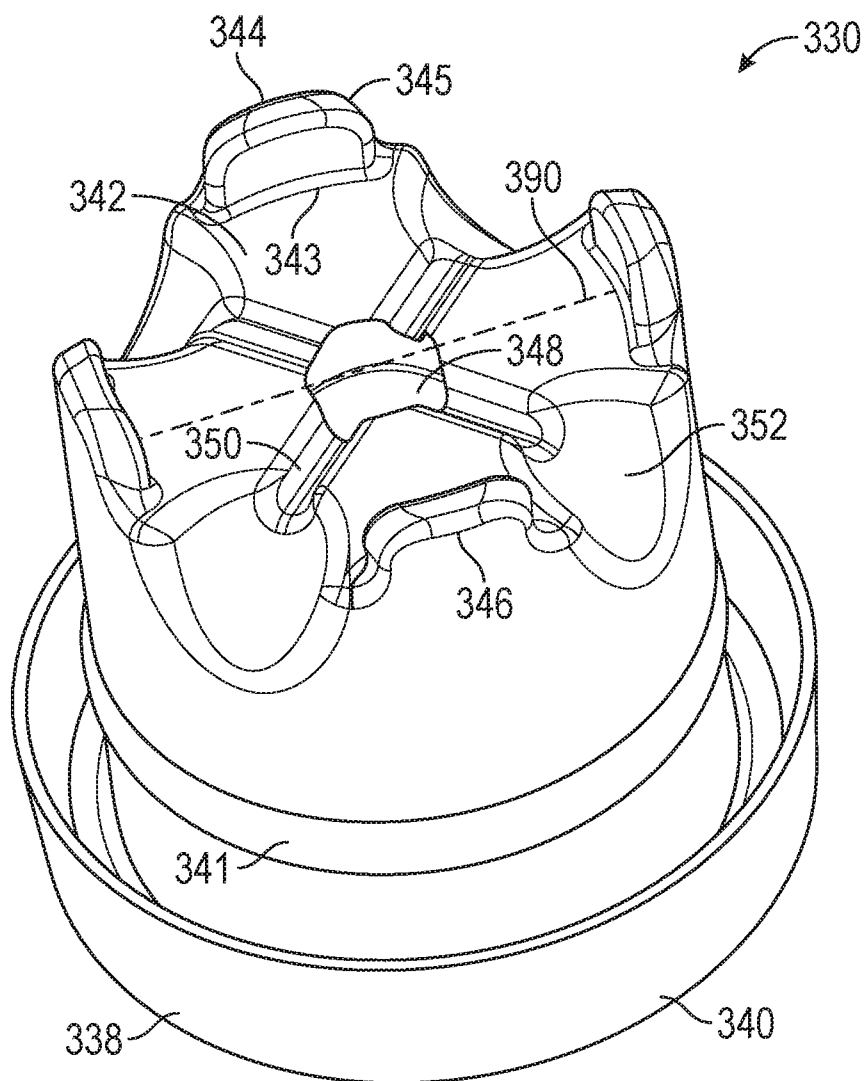


FIG. 7

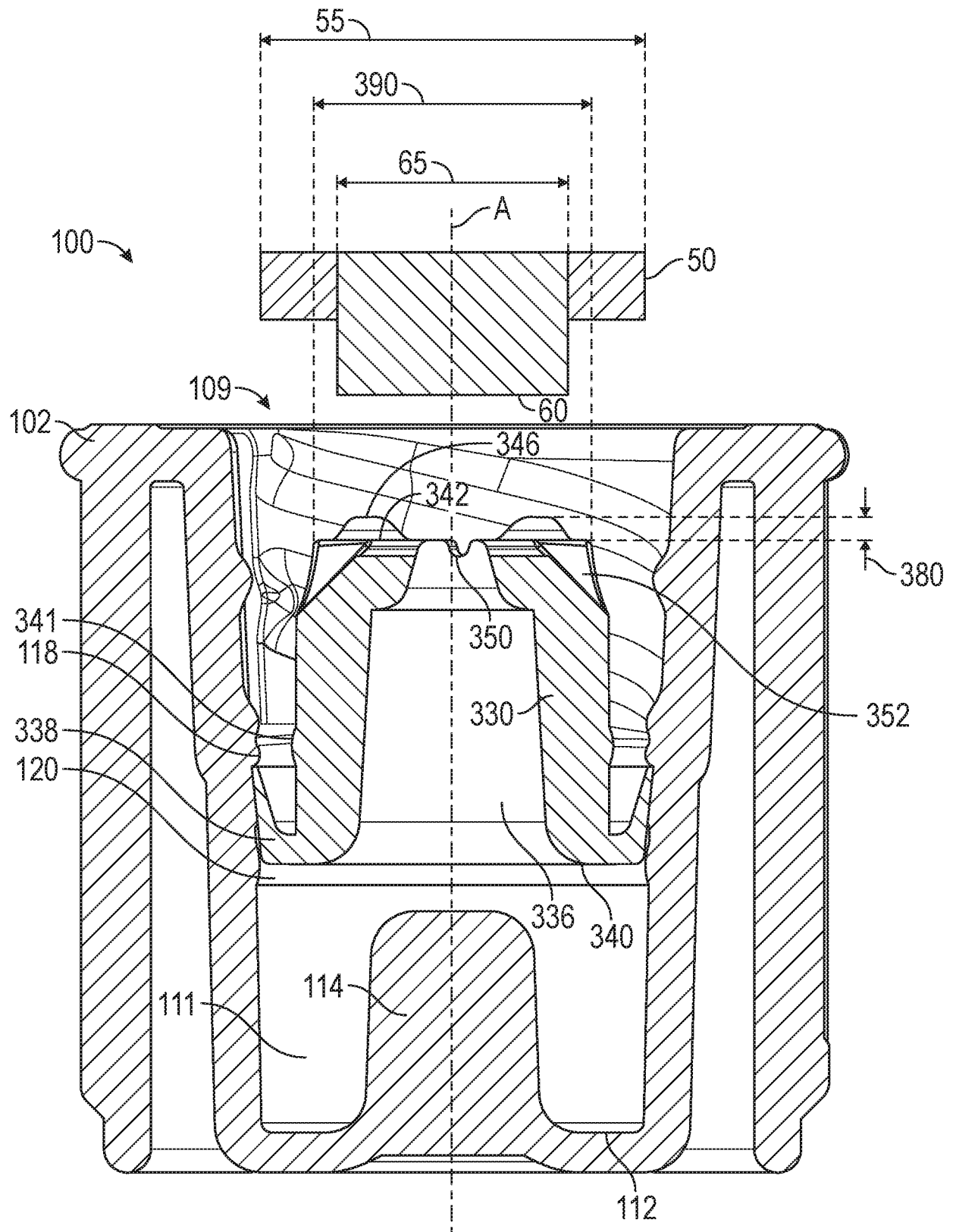


FIG. 8

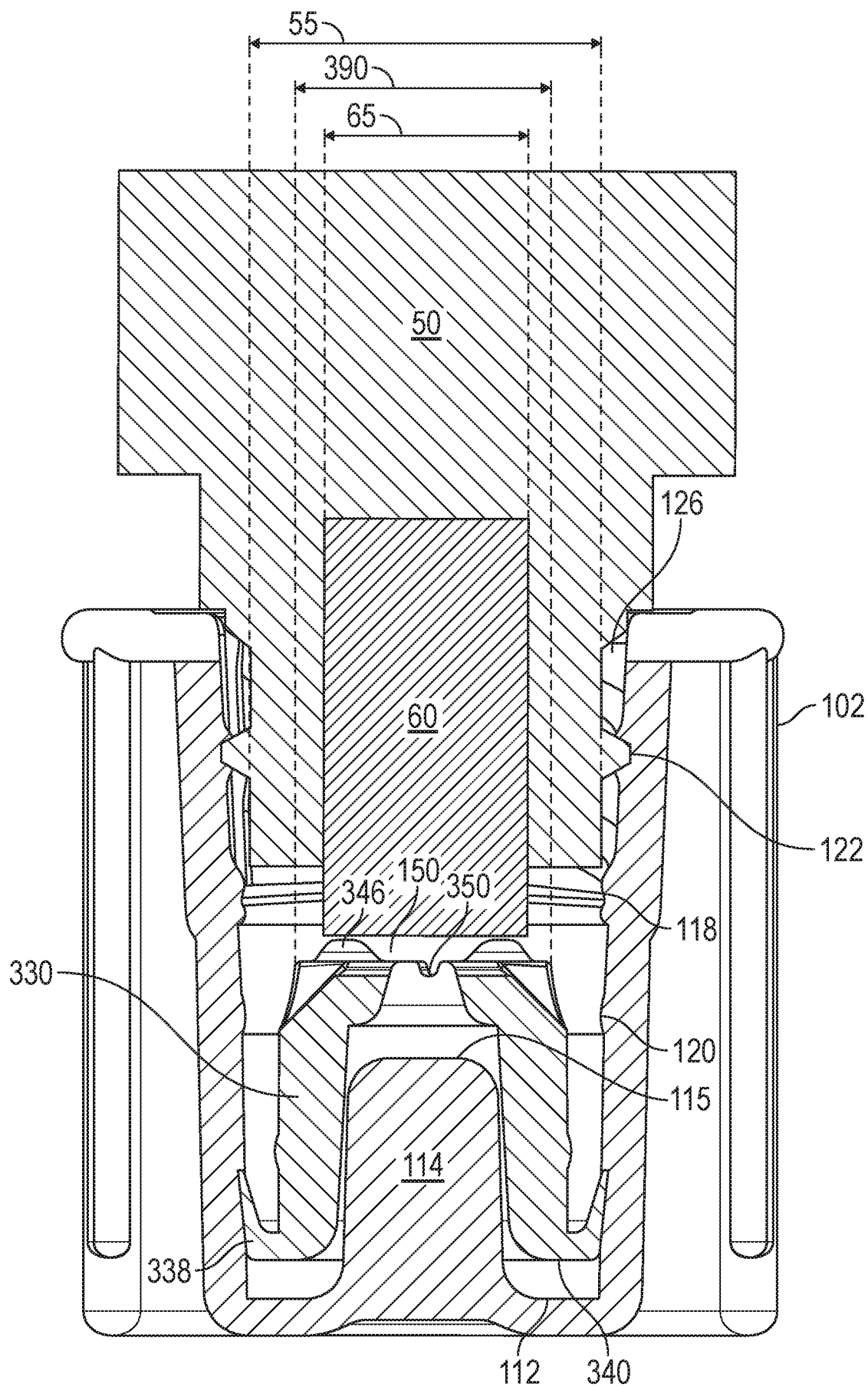


FIG. 9

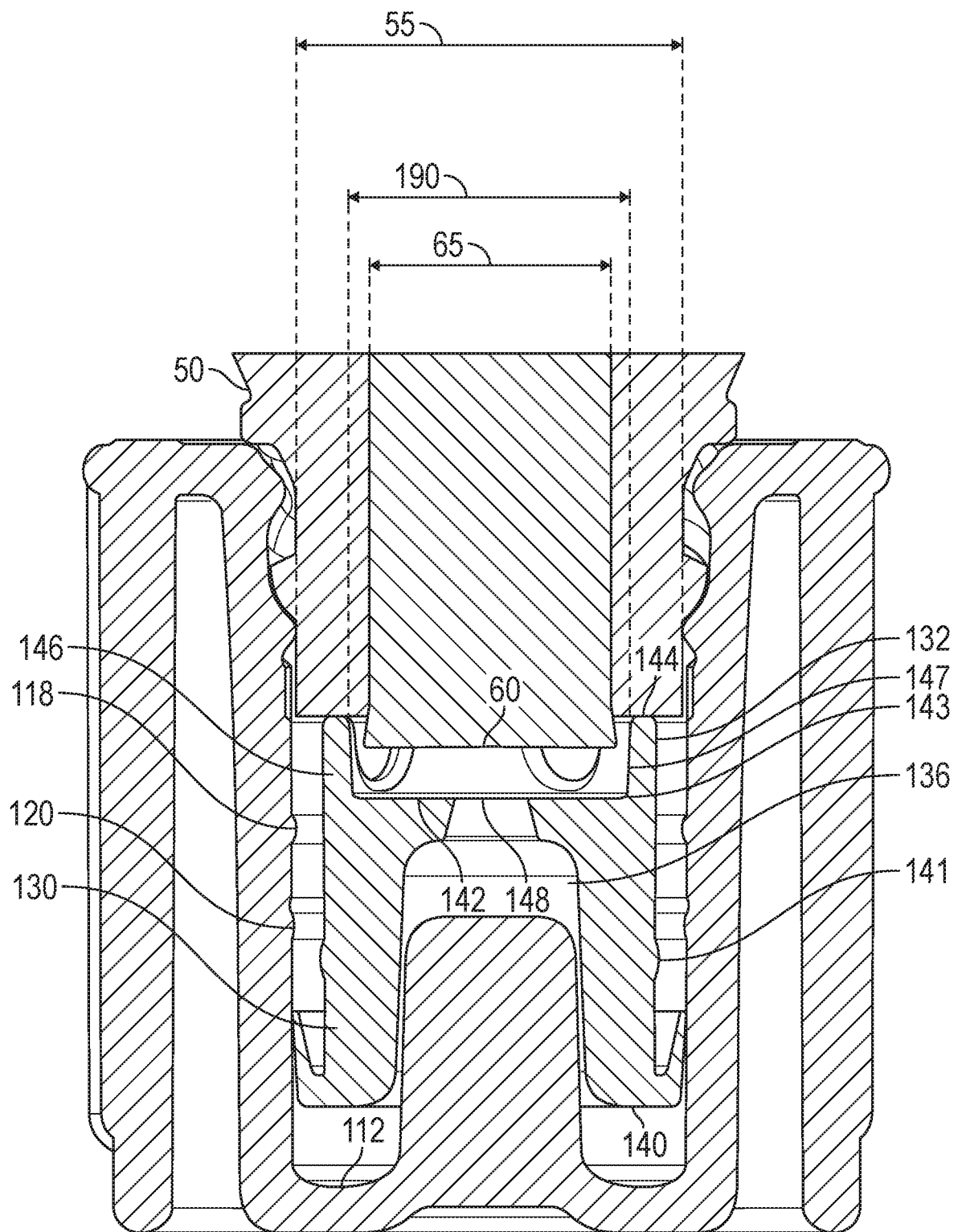


FIG. 10

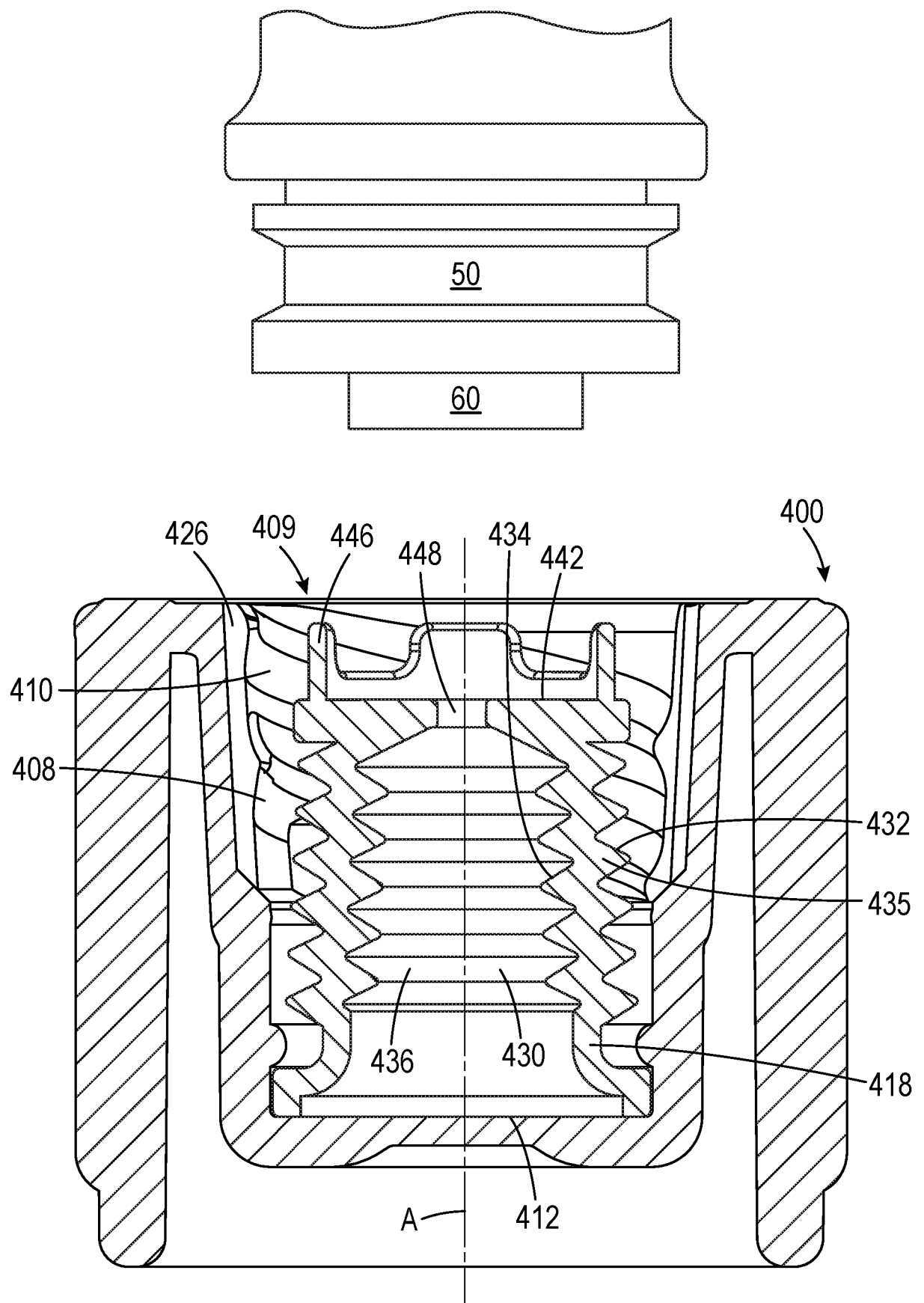


FIG. 11

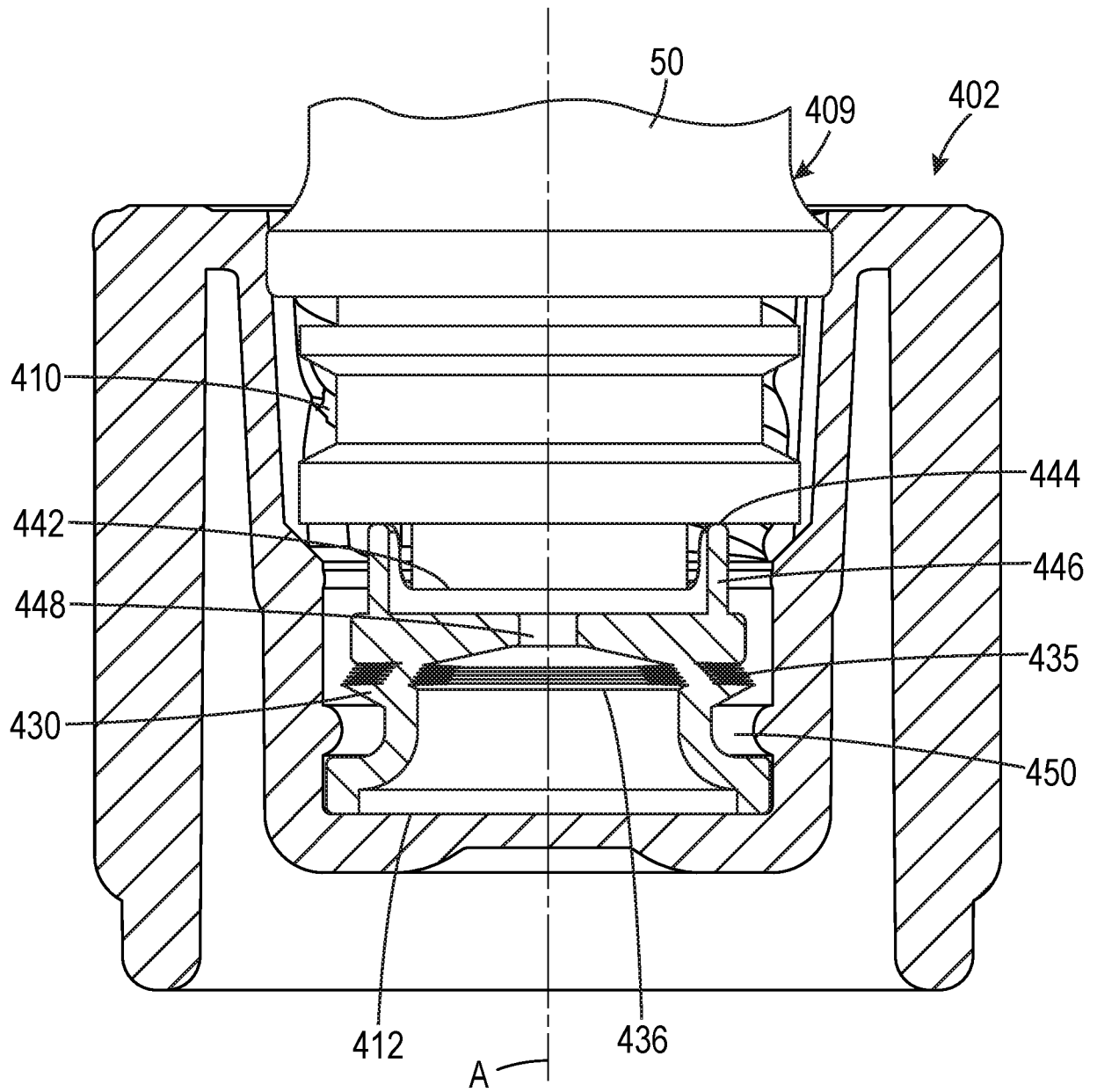


FIG. 12