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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES** [US/US]; 391 Technology Way, Suite 199, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27101 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BRANCH, Charles, L., Jr.** [US/US]; P.O. Box 320, Advance, North Carolina

27006 (US). **EICKMAN, John, P.** [US/US]; 925 Lyndhurst Court, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27103 (US).

(74) Agent: **MYERS BIGEL SIBLEY & SAJOVEC, P.A.**; P.O. Box 37428, Raleigh, North Carolina 27627 (US).

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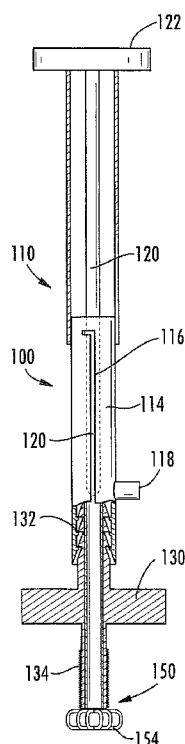


FIG. 5B

(57) Abstract: A subdural drainage system includes (a) a subdural drainage device having an opening formed therethrough, said subdural drainage device having an upper portion, a body portion, and a lower portion; (b) a housing having an upper portion and lower portion, with said housing connected to said subdural drainage device; said housing movable between (i) a first configuration and (ii) a second configuration; and (c) a stylet positioned inside said housing, said stylet having an upper portion and a lower portion and configured such that said stylet is moved between (i) a withdrawn position with said stylet withdrawn from a portion of said subdural evacuation port device, and (ii) an extended position with said stylet extending through said subdural drainage device such that blockages are disrupted in the subdural drainage device when said housing is moved between said first and second housing configurations; and (e) an external drain opening formed on either said subdural drainage device or said housing.



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SUBDURAL DRAINAGE CATHETER WITH FLOW RESTORATION MECHANISM

Related Applications

[0001] This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/116,525 filed November 20, 2008, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety as if fully set forth herein.

Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention concerns medical devices in general, and particularly concerns devices for the treatment of subdural hematoma.

Background of the Invention

[0003] Subdural hematomas continue to be a challenging set of pathology for neurosurgeons given today's aging population. Patients with symptomatic subacute and chronic subdural hematomas are frequently elderly and commonly have multiple coexisting medical conditions. Typically patients present after a remote history of trauma, though often trivial, with progressive neurologic deficits including hemiparesis, gait instability, and cognitive decline to name a few. Ramachandran R, Thimmappa H. "Chronic subdural hematomas – causes of morbidity and mortality." Surg Neurol 2007;67:367-373. The mortality rate for this pathology even with treatment, often cited at a range of 2-6%, is significant given the frequency of symptomatic presentation. Sucu HK, Gokmen M, Ergin A, Bezircioglu, Gokemn A. "Is there a way to avoid surgical complications of twist drill craniostomy for evacuation of a chronic subdural hematoma." Acta Neurochir (Wien) 2007;149:597-599; Ernestus RI, Beldzinski P, Lanfermann H, Klug N. "Chronic subdural hematoma: Surgical treatment and outcome in 104 patients." Surg Neurol 1997;48:220-225;

Mellergard P, Wisten O. "Operations and re-operations for chronic subdural haematomas during a 25-year period in a well defined population.: Acta Neurochir (Wien) 1996; 138:708-713; and Merlicco G, Pierangeli E, di Padova PL. "Chronic subdural hematomas in adults: prognostic factors." Analysis of 70 cases. Neurosurg Rev 1995;18:247-251. Multiple treatment modalities have been described and advocated in the literature. The most extreme is a standard craniotomy under general anesthesia for hematoma evacuation and membrane removal, if present. Alternatively, isolated or multiple bur holes may be drilled to permit hematoma irrigation and removal. More recently, placement of a tangential drainage catheter within the subdural space via a twist-drill craniostomy had been practiced typically under monitored sedation, but catheter obstruction and cessation of flow is often encountered.

[0004] A subdural evacuation port system (or "SEPS") available from Medtronic, Inc., Minneapolis, MN, has seen recent use. As illustrated in **Figure 1**, a SEPS device **10** is essentially a hollow screw placed in the skull **20** which communicates with the subdural space **22** and is attached to closed system suction device (not shown). Asfora WT, Schwebach L. "A modified technique to treat chronic and subacute subdural hematoma: technical report." Surg Neurol 2003;59:329-332. While the device **10** has appeared more successful than the tangential subdural catheter technique and can be performed without general anesthesia, it is potentially complicated by portal obstruction prior to adequate hematoma evacuation.

[0005] Indeed, recent experience of one surgical group with the SEPS device indicates that approximately one third of patients treated had less than half of the hematoma volume evacuated. This subsequently resulted in approximately one quarter of the patients requiring an additional surgical procedure to adequately evacuate the hematoma due to inability to restore drainage of fluid through this system after it became occluded. One could open the system to clear occlusions by insert a trochar, but this potentially breaks sterility, and insertion of a trochar or other tool raises the potential of injuring underlying brain tissue. Hence, there is a need for new devices for the treatment of subdural hematoma.

Summary of the Invention

[0006] According to some embodiments of the present invention, a subdural drainage system includes (a) a subdural drainage device having an opening formed therethrough, said subdural drainage device having an upper portion, a body portion, and a lower portion; (b) a housing having an upper portion and lower portion, with said housing connected to said subdural drainage device; said housing movable between (i) a first configuration and (ii) a

second configuration; and (c) a stylet positioned inside said housing, said stylet having an upper portion and a lower portion and configured such that said stylet is moved between (i) a withdrawn position with said stylet withdrawn from a portion of said subdural evacuation port device, and (ii) an extended position with said stylet extending through said subdural drainage device such that blockages are disrupted in the subdural drainage device when said housing is moved between said first and second housing configurations; and (d) an external drain opening formed on either said subdural drainage device or said housing.

[0007] In some embodiments, a subdural drainage apparatus for use with a catheter support includes (a) a subdural catheter configured to be connected to said catheter support; said subdural catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, with said subdural catheter having a drain lumen formed therein; and with said distal end deformable and having subdural drain openings formed therein, said drain openings in fluid communication with said drain lumen; (b) a sealed housing having an upper portion and lower portion, with said housing lower portion connected to said catheter support upper portion; at least a portion of said sealed housing being movable between (i) a first configuration and (ii) a second configuration; and (c) a stylet positioned inside said housing, said stylet having an upper portion and a lower portion and configured such that said stylet is moved between (i) a withdrawn position with said stylet withdrawn from a portion of said subdural catheter, and (ii) an extended position with said stylet extending through said subdural catheter such that said stylet lower portion engages and deforms said catheter distal end to disrupt blockages therein when said housing is moved between said first and second housing configurations; and (d) an external drain opening in fluid communication with said subdural catheter.

[0008] The present invention is explained in greater detail in the drawings herein and the specification set forth below. All United States Patent references cited herein are to be incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0009] **Figure 1A (Comparative)** is a subdural evacuating port system (SEPS) device.

[0010] **Figure 1B (Comparative)** is the subdural evacuation port system (SEPS) device of **Figure 1A** positioned such that a threaded portion thereof is twisted into the skull and the notched ended is attached to silastic tubing connected to a self-suction bulb.

[0011] **Figure 2A (Comparative)** is a perspective view illustrating an exemplary placement of an INTEGRA drainage catheter within the subdural space.

[0012] **Figure 2B (Comparative)** is a perspective view of the distal end of the catheter of **Figure 2A** illustrating the expandable “mushroom-shaped” head with multiple apertures which may be deformed by deploying a stylet through the catheter to clear obstruction of the system.

[0013] **Figure 3** is a digital photograph of a subdural drainage system according to some embodiments of the present invention in which a three-way stopcock allows for inline access to the subdural catheter for deployment of the stylet to clear obstruction from the system.

[0014] **Figures 4A-4D** are side cut away views illustrating various configurations of catheter distal end portions according to some embodiments of the present invention.

[0015] **Figures 5A-5C** are side cut away views illustrating a subdural drainage system according to some embodiment of the present invention utilizing a locking groove.

[0016] **Figure 6** is a schematic illustration of drainage system of **Figure 5** as placed on a subject.

[0017] **Figures 7A-7B** are side cut away views of a subdural drainage system with a housing in an extended position (**Figure 7A**) and a collapsed position (**Figure 7B**) according to some embodiments of the present invention in which the housing is formed of flexible tube.

[0018] **Figures 8A-8B** are side cut away views of a subdural drainage system with a housing in an extended position (**Figure 8A**) and a collapsed position (**Figure 8B**) according to some embodiments of the invention in which the housing is spring loaded.

[0019] **Figures 9A-9B** are side cut away views of a subdural drainage system with a housing in an extended position (**Figure 9A**) and a collapsed position (**Figure 9B**) according to some embodiments of the invention in which the housing is spring loaded.

[0020] **Figures 10A-10B** are side cut away views of a subdural drainage system with a housing in an extended position (**Figure 10A**) and a collapsed position (**Figure 10B**) according to some embodiments of the invention in which the stylet is configured to clear obstructions within the drainage port.

Detailed Description of Embodiments of the Invention

[0021] The present invention now will be described hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings and examples, in which embodiments of the invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein. Rather, these embodiments are

provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of the invention to those skilled in the art.

[0022] Like numbers refer to like elements throughout. In the figures, the thickness of certain lines, layers, components, elements or features may be exaggerated for clarity.

[0023] The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting of the invention. As used herein, the singular forms "a," "an" and "the" are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms "comprises" and/or "comprising," when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof. As used herein, the term "and/or" includes any and all combinations of one or more of the associated listed items. As used herein, phrases such as "between X and Y" and "between about X and Y" should be interpreted to include X and Y. As used herein, phrases such as "between about X and Y" mean "between about X and about Y." As used herein, phrases such as "from about X to Y" mean "from about X to about Y."

[0024] Unless otherwise defined, all terms (including technical and scientific terms) used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention belongs. It will be further understood that terms, such as those defined in commonly used dictionaries, should be interpreted as having a meaning that is consistent with their meaning in the context of the specification and relevant art and should not be interpreted in an idealized or overly formal sense unless expressly so defined herein. Well-known functions or constructions may not be described in detail for brevity and/or clarity.

[0025] It will be understood that when an element is referred to as being "on," "attached" to, "connected" to, "coupled" with, "contacting," etc., another element, it can be directly on, attached to, connected to, coupled with or contacting the other element or intervening elements may also be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being, for example, "directly on," "directly attached" to, "directly connected" to, "directly coupled" with or "directly contacting" another element, there are no intervening elements present. It will also be appreciated by those of skill in the art that references to a structure or feature that is disposed "adjacent" another feature may have portions that overlap or underlie the adjacent feature.

[0026] Spatially relative terms, such as "under," "below," "lower," "over," "upper"

and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe one element or feature's relationship to another element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the figures. It will be understood that the spatially relative terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in use or operation in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures. For example, if the device in the figures is inverted, elements described as "under" or "beneath" other elements or features would then be oriented "over" the other elements or features. Thus, the exemplary term "under" can encompass both an orientation of "over" and "under." The device may be otherwise oriented (rotated 90 degrees or at other orientations) and the spatially relative descriptors used herein interpreted accordingly. Similarly, the terms "upwardly," "downwardly," "vertical," "horizontal" and the like are used herein for the purpose of explanation only unless specifically indicated otherwise.

[0027] It will be understood that, although the terms "first," "second," etc. may be used herein to describe various elements, these elements should not be limited by these terms. These terms are only used to distinguish one element from another. Thus, a "first" element discussed below could also be termed a "second" element without departing from the teachings of the present invention. The sequence of operations (or steps) is not limited to the order presented in the claims or figures unless specifically indicated otherwise.

[0028] In some embodiments, a sealed housing with a movable stylet therein may be connected to a subdural drainage device. The housing may have two configurations, such as an extended configuration and a collapsed configuration, so that the stylet is in a withdrawn position (*i.e.*, withdrawn from at least a portion of the subdural evacuation port) when the housing is in the extended configuration and the stylet is in an extended position extending through the at least a portion of the subdural drainage device when the housing is in the collapsed configuration. As described herein, when the stylet moves with respect to the subdural drainage device (such as between a withdrawn and extended position), the stylet may disrupt blockages formed in the subdural drainage device.

[0029] Thus, the sealed housing may provide a sealed enclosure when the catheter or subdural drainage device is in position on a subject patient. Obstructions may be cleared without requiring removal of a subdural catheter or subdural drainage device.

[0030] According to some embodiments of the present invention, the subdural drainage device comprises a catheter that may be provided in the sealed housing together with the stylet. The stylet is moved between a withdrawn position (*i.e.*, withdrawn from at least a portion of the catheter) and an extended position extending through the subdural catheter when the housing is moved between the two housing configurations. As described

herein, when the stylet is in the extended position, the stylet may engage and/or deform the catheter distal end to disrupt blockages therein. In some embodiments, a catheter support may be provided on a distal end of the housing for securing the housing/catheter in position on a subject patient.

[0031] As illustrated in **Figures 2A-2C**, a subdural drainage device, such as a subdural catheter **50** (e.g., Integra, Plainsboro, New Jersey), includes a catheter body **52** and a "mushroom-shaped" distal end **54**. A stylet **56** may be inserted through the catheter body **52** to move the distal end from a flattened or relaxed configuration as shown in **Figure 2B** to an extended or stretched position as shown in **Figure 2C**. In this configuration, deformation of the distal end **54** may allow for clearance of obstructions within the catheter as well as the subdural space.

[0032] As shown in **Figure 3**, the subdural catheter **50** is connected to a three-way stopcock **30** and a self-suction bulb **40**. The stopcock **30** can include at least one inline port **32**, which can be accessed to deploy the stylet **56** through the subdural catheter body **52** in order to clear occlusion within the catheter **50** and/or to deform the catheter distal end **54** as well as dislodge obstructions within the subdural space. Thus, in some embodiments, the catheter distal end **54** may be deformed by a stylet **56** so as to dislodge or reduce clots and other obstructions that may form in the catheter distal end **54** and/or body **52**. Accordingly, the need for removing the catheter **50** to clear obstructions is reduced, which may improve the quality of patient care. In some embodiments, the catheter **50** and stylet **56** may be enclosed in a sterile, sealed housing such that clotting and/or obstructions in the catheter may be reduced without compromising the sterility of the catheter **50**. Moreover, secondary neurosurgical interventions may be reduced, and consequently, additional procedures, including more invasive surgery performed under general anesthesia, may be reduced. The drainage systems and catheters disclosed herein may further reduce intensive care unit (ICU) and hospital stays, and reduce the overall financial burden of treatment for this often difficult pathology in a typically elderly population with multiple coexisting medical conditions. The system of **Figure 3** has been used in two patients (ages 75 and 89) with positive results. The ability to safely re-establish flow for the drainage of subacute and chronic subdural fluid collections following initial obstruction of the system has been successfully demonstrated (both clinically and radiographically). It is believed that, without the features of this system, the patients likely would have required additional operative intervention to adequately evacuate the hematomas and decompress the cerebrum to relieve the persistent neurologic deficit.

[0033] The catheter distal end may take any of a variety of configurations, including but not limited to the configurations illustrated in **Figure 4A-4D**. In particular, **Figure 4A** illustrates a catheter **60** with a catheter body **62** and a generally mushroom-shaped distal end **64**. **Figure 4B** illustrates a catheter **70** with a catheter body **72** and a generally wheel-shaped distal end **74**. **Figure 4C** illustrates a catheter **80** with a catheter body **82** and a generally spherical-shaped distal end **84**. **Figure 4D** illustrates a catheter **90** with a catheter body **92** and a generally pear-shaped distal end **94**. Accordingly, any suitable shape may be used including mushroom-shaped, spherical-shaped, oval-shaped, pear-shaped, wheel-shaped, radial shaped, kidney-shaped, *etc.* In some embodiments, the distal ends **64**, **74**, **84**, **94** include one or more drain openings or fenestrations **64a**, **74a**, **84a**, **94a** therein for draining the subdural space. The distal end **64**, **74**, **84**, **94** is typically deformable, by action of the stylet discussed below, and configured so that deformation of the distal end **64**, **74**, **84**, **94** deforms the openings or fenestrations **64a**, **74a**, **84a**, **94a**, and/or the drain lumen therein, so that occlusions therein may be broken or dislodged by deformation of the distal end **64**, **74**, **84**, **94** with the stylet, as described herein. However, in some embodiments, the catheter distal end may be a simple lumen open end with the fenestrations **64a**, **74a**, **84a**, **94a** omitted.

[0034] The distal ends **64**, **74**, **84**, **94** may be configured with a bumper portion or stopper **64b**, **74b**, **84b**, **94b** against which the distal tip of the stylet can abut and press against to deform the distal end of the catheter. The distal ends **64**, **74**, **84**, **94** of the catheter **60**, **70**, **80**, **90** may be configured to engage, enclose or contain the stylet, with the bumper portions **64b**, **74b**, **84b**, **94b** blocking the stylet tip from directly contacting underlying brain tissue, serving to reduce the possibility of damage to underlying brain tissue by direct contact with the stylet.

[0035] Although the catheter distal ends **64**, **74**, **84**, **94** are illustrated with respect to bumper portions **64b**, **74b**, **84b**, **94b** for containing the stylet, it should be understood that the stylet may be adhered to or mounted on a portion of a catheter distal end, such as distal ends **64**, **74**, **84**, **94**, such that the stylet may be positioned through a catheter body throughout a surgical procedure. The stylet may be mounted to the catheters **60**, **70**, **80**, **90** at various points including the distal ends **64**, **74**, **84**, **94**, the opposite proximal ends of the catheters **60**, **70**, **80**, **90**, the housing or combinations thereof.

[0036] The present invention is described in greater detail in the following non-limiting Examples.

EXAMPLE 1

Stylet Housing with Telescoping Body

[0037] As illustrated in **Figures 5A-5C**, a subdural drainage system **100** includes a telescoping housing **110** and a subdural drainage device or catheter **150** in the housing **110**. The housing **110** has two telescoping members **112, 114**, a channel lock **116**, a drain opening **118** and a lower opening **119**. A stylet **120** is enclosed by the housing **110** and attached to a handle member **122**.

[0038] The lower opening **119** may be configured to be secured on a skull of a subject, or as shown in **Figure 5B**, a catheter support **130** having an upper portion **132** connected to the housing lower opening **119** and a lower portion **134** may be used. The catheter support lower portion **134** is configured to be secured in a skull of a subject.

[0039] As illustrated, housing **110** is movable between an extended configuration (**Figures 5A-5B**) and a collapsed configuration (**Figure 5C**). In the extended configuration shown in **Figures 5A-5B**, the stylet **120** is withdrawn from at least a portion of the catheter **150**. In the collapsed configuration shown in **Figure 5C**, the stylet **120** extends through the catheter, engages the catheter distal end **154**, and deforms the distal end **154** to dislodge obstructions and/or reduce clotting.

[0040] As illustrated, the channel lock **116** of the stylet housing **110** is an L-shaped channel formed in the lower housing member **114**. The stylet **120** has a tab protruding therefrom that is contained but travels within the channel lock **116**. Rotation of the handle member **122** rotates the stylet **120** from a locked to unlocked position by moving the tab from the horizontal to vertical portion of the channel lock **116** and permits the telescoping housing members **112, 114** to collapse, extending the stylet **120** into the catheter **150** and deforming the catheter distal end **154**. Note that, while the stylet **120** is shown positioned entirely outside the catheter when the housing **110** is in its extended position, the stylet **120** could be contained within the catheter **150** when in the extended position, so long as components are appropriately dimensioned so that collapsing of the housing **110** effectively deforms the catheter distal end **154**. Moreover, the channel lock **116** may be omitted and/or other locking configurations can be used. In some embodiments, a locking mechanism may be used to substantially prevent the stylet **120** from extending into the subdural space. For example, the channel lock **116** may be sized and configured such that the stylet **120** is held in position by the channel lock **116** such that the stylet is substantially prevented from extending beyond the catheter **150** and/or into the subdural space.

[0041] **Figure 6** shows the system **100** installed on the skull **160** of a subject, with a bulb suction device **170** attached to the external drain **118** to serve as a drain reservoir.

EXAMPLE 2

Stylet Housing formed from Flexible Polymer

[0042] As illustrated in **Figures 7A-7B**, a subdural drainage system **200** includes a housing **210** that encloses a stylet **220**. The housing **210** includes a collapsible tubular member **212**, a stopper **216**, a drain opening **218**, a handle **222** and a catheter support **230**. The collapsible member **212** is connected to the catheter support **230** at a threaded upper portion **232** of the catheter support **230**. A lower portion **234** of the catheter support **230** is configured to be secured in the skull of a subject. A subdural drainage device, such a catheter **250**, has a catheter body **252** and a distal end **254** that is positioned in the catheter support **234** such that the catheter distal end **254** extends away from the lower portion **234** of the catheter support **230**.

[0043] As illustrated, the collapsible tubular member **212** is movable between an extended configuration (**Figure 7A**) in which the stylet **220** is withdrawn from at least a portion of the catheter **250** and a collapsed configuration (**Figure 7B**) in which the stylet **220** extends through the catheter **250** to engage the distal end **254** to deform the distal end **254** and dislodge obstructions and/or reduce clotting.

[0044] The collapsible tubular member **212** as illustrated is accordion-pleated. However, any suitable collapsible configuration may be used. In some embodiments, the tubular member **212** is formed of a flexible material, such as flexible silicone tubing. A conventional tube clamp (not shown) may optionally be provided outside and around the tube to lock the stylet in place by "pinching" the stylet. Alternatively, the tube can be biased in the extended position and/or spring-loaded. Although the stylet **220** is shown in **Figure 7A** as being generally withdrawn from the catheter **250** in **Figure 7A**, it should be understood that in some embodiments, the stylet **220** may extend into a portion of or through the entire length of the catheter body **250**. In some embodiments, the stylet **220** has a diameter that is sufficiently smaller than the catheter **250** such that fluid may flow from a subdural space, through the catheter, and exit from the catheter drain **218**.

EXAMPLE 3

Housing with Internal Biasing Member

[0045] As illustrated in **Figures 8A-8B**, a subdural drainage system **300** includes a housing **310** and a subdural drainage device or catheter **350** in the housing **310**. The catheter includes a body **352** and a deformable distal end **354**. The housing **310** encloses a stylet **320**.

The housing includes a drain opening **318**, a lower portion **319**, an actuator or button **322** and a biasing member or spring **324**. The lower portion **319** may be connected to a connecting member or catheter support (not shown) for providing a connection portal to the skull of a subject or the lower portion **319** may be connected directly to a skull of a subject (*e.g.*, the lower portion **319** may include a threaded portion for connecting to a skull of a subject) to provide fluid communication to the drain opening **318** (which may be in turn connected to a fluid reservoir (not shown)).

[0046] The button **322** is biased by the spring **324** in the extended position as shown in **Figure 8A**. The button **322** is connected to the stylet **320**, and the stylet **320** extends through the catheter body **352** and the distal end **354** when the button **322** is in the extended configuration. When the button **322** is pressed into the housing collapsed configuration as shown in **Figure 8B**, the stylet **320** is moved with respect to the catheter **350** such that they stylet **320** engages and/or deforms the catheter distal end **354** as shown in **Figure 8B**. In some embodiments, the stylet **316** is connected or adhered to the catheter distal end **354**.

EXAMPLE 4

Housing with Internal Biasing Member

[0047] As illustrated in **Figures 9A-9B**, a subdural drainage system **400** includes a housing **410** and a subdural drainage device or catheter **450** in the housing **410**. The housing includes an upper portion **412**, a stylet **420**, a drain opening **418**, an actuator button **422**, a biasing member or spring **424** and a catheter support **430**. The catheter support **430** includes an upper portion that is connected to the housing portion **412** and a lower portion **434** that is configured to be connected to a skull of a subject. The drain opening **418** may be connected to a fluid reservoir. The catheter **450** includes a body **452** and a distal end **454**.

[0048] The button **422** is connected to the stylet **420**, and the spring **424** biases the stylet **420** and button **422** in the extended configuration as shown in **Figure 9A**. As shown in **Figure 9B**, when the button **422** is compressed or collapsed, the stylet **420** moves to extend through the catheter **450** and deform the catheter distal end **454** to dislodge obstructions and/or reduce clotting.

EXAMPLE 5

Housing with Stylet

[0049] As illustrated in **Figures 10A-10B**, in some embodiments a separate catheter member may be omitted. As illustrated, a subdural drainage system **500** includes a housing

510 having an upper portion and a subdural drainage device or port **530**. The housing **510** includes a drainage opening **518**, a lower end **519**, a stylet **520**, telescoping members **522** and a biasing member, such as spring **524**. The subdural drainage port **550** includes an upper portion that connects to or is integrally formed with the housing **510**. The lower portion **519** is configured to connect to the skull of a subject. However, the lower portion **519** may be configured to connect with a separate drainage port.

[0050] The spring **524** biases the stylet **520** in the withdrawn position as shown in **Figure 10A**. When the telescoping member **522** is pressed, the stylet **520** extends through the subdural drainage port **550** and removes or reduces any clots and/or obstructions therein. In some embodiments, the diameter of the stylet **520** is sufficiently large such that it extends substantially across the diameter of the interior region of the port **550**.

[0051] In some embodiments, the interior diameter of the subdural drainage device or port **550** is about 4-5 mm and the diameter of the stylet is slightly smaller, such as about 3.5-4.5 mm, so as to physically remove clotting and/or obstructions in the port **550**. However, any suitably sized subdural drainage device and stylet may be used. It should be understood that various dimensions and/or relative proportions of the system may be modified. For example, although the housing **510** is illustrated as a telescoping housing, it should be understood that other configurations may be used to move the stylet **520**, including reduced profile configurations.

[0052] Numerous variations of the foregoing will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Although embodiments of the invention are illustrated with a housing that is removably engaged to the subdural drainage device (*e.g.*, the catheter, catheter support and/or subdural drainage port), it should be understood that the subdural drainage device and housing may be permanently connected and/or provided as an integrated unit. For example, although the catheter support and housing (*e.g.*, the catheter supports **130**, **230** and **430** and the corresponding housing **110**, **210** and **410** in **Figures 5A-5C**, **Figures 7A-7B** and **Figures 9A-9B**, respectively) are illustrated as separate members, the catheter support and housing could be integrated and formed as a single unitary member. Moreover, the housings **110**, **210**, **310**, **410** and **510** and drainage ports **118**, **218**, **318**, **418** and **518** may also be formed as a single member. In addition, various configurations may be used to move the stylet, including configurations that may provide a reduced housing profile.

[0053] Although the drainage opening is illustrated as a part of the housing (*e.g.*, the drainage openings **118**, **218**, **318**, **418** and **518** in **Figures 4-10**), it should be understood that the drainage opening may be provided on any suitable portion of the subdural drainage

system, including the catheter support and/or the subdural evacuation port device.

[0054] Although embodiments according to the present invention are described herein with respect to a biasing member (*e.g.*, springs 324, 424 of **Figures 8A-8B** and **Figures 9A-9B**, respectively) that biases the housing (or a portion thereof) in an extended position such that the stylet is withdrawn from at least a portion of the catheter, it should be understood that the spring member may bias the housing in another position, such as a collapsed position. Thus, actuation of the stylet movement between two stylet positions may occur in the reverse order from that shown. In some embodiments, the movement between the positions in either order may be sufficient to dislodge and reduce obstructions.

[0055] Embodiments according to the present invention are described herein with respect to a stylet that generally passes through the drainage pathway (such as through the catheter lumen), a stylet lumen may be provided that is not part of the drainage pathway. For example, a stylet lumen may be positioned adjacent the drainage lumen and configured so that movement of the stylet into the stylet lumen deforms a portion of the catheter.

[0056] *Subdural drainage devices and optional catheter supports.* The subdural drainage devices that may be connected to housing/stylets according to some embodiments of the present invention may take any of a variety of forms. Examples of existing bolt or port devices that can be used and/or modified to provide a subdural drainage device to which a housing/stylet may be attached according to embodiments of the present invention include, but are not limited to, the Codman microsensor skull bolt kit (Johnson & Johnson, Raynham, MA), the Spiegelberg Probe 3 PS SND (Spiegelberg, Hamburg, Germany), the Integra Ventrix NL950-P parenchymal pressure kit (Integra, Plainsboro, NJ), and the Integra Bolt Model 110-4B (Integra, Plainsboro, NJ), and those described in US Patent Nos. 6,923,799 to Asfora and 4,114,603 to Wilkinson. In general, the subdural drainage devices, including catheter supports according to some embodiments of the present invention, may have an opening formed therethrough, and may include an upper portion, a body portion, and a lower portion. The lower portion may be threaded, *e.g.*, with self-tapping threads, for fastening into the skull of a subject. The subdural drainage devices, including catheter supports, may be made of any suitable material including metals, polymers, composites, or combinations thereof. In some embodiments, the housing and subdural drainage device may be combined as a single member.

[0057] *Subdural catheters.* Catheter portions of the present invention can take any of a variety of configurations, in accordance with known catheters or variations thereof that will be apparent to those skilled in the art. *See, e.g.*, US Patent Nos. 4,573,576 to Krol and

6,283,940 to Mullholand. Typically the subdural catheter has a proximal end, a distal end (the distal end for positioning in the subdural space), and one or more drain lumens formed therein. The body of the catheter may be elongate and flexible if desired. The stylet (discussed herein) may travel through the catheter in one of the drain lumens, or may travel through the catheter in a separate stylet lumen.

[0058] *Stylet and Stylet Housing.* Embodiments according to the invention further provide a housing for a stylet (such as in a sealed environment so that the stylet remains sterile during use). The housing may be collapsible. The housing may include an upper portion and lower portion, with the housing lower portion configured to be connected to the catheter support upper portion (*e.g.*, by means of a temporary mechanical connection, friction connection, or combination thereof, which provides a seal suitable for maintaining sterility). In some embodiments the housing has (i) an extended configuration and (ii) a collapsed configuration. A stylet, typically elongate in shape, is positioned inside the sealed housing. The stylet may be formed of any suitable material, and in some embodiments may be flexible. The stylet typically has an upper portion and a lower portion. The stylet and housing together are configured with (i) said stylet in a withdrawn position when said housing is in an extended configuration, and (ii) the stylet in an extended position with the stylet extending completely through said subdural catheter and the stylet lower portion, and engaging and deforming the catheter distal end (at the bumper portion noted above) to disrupt blockages therein when the housing is in its collapsed configuration. Note that the "withdrawn position" of the stylet simply means that the stylet is withdrawn from a portion of the subdural evacuation port device and/or is not deforming the catheter distal end portion: the stylet can still extend partly or completely into the subdural evacuation port device and/or catheter lumen in the withdrawn position.

[0059] In some embodiments, the interior diameter of the subdural drainage device (such as a catheter or port) is about 4-5 mm and the diameter of the stylet is significantly smaller, such as about 1-2 mm, so that fluid may flow around the stylet. In some embodiments, the stylet is slightly smaller than the diameter of the subdural drainage device (such as a catheter or port), *e.g.*, to provide a relatively small clearance (such as about 0.5 mm or less) so as to physically remove clotting and/or obstructions in the subdural drainage device. However, any suitably sized subdural drainage device and stylet may be used.

[0060] Both the stylet and stylet housing may be rigid or flexible, and formed of any suitable polymeric, metallic, or composite material, or combination thereof. Any suitable diameter stylet may be used. For example, the stylet may be sufficiently small such that fluid

flows through the subdural evacuation device and around the stylet even when the stylet is in the extended position. However, in some embodiments, the stylet may have a diameter that is sufficiently large so as to push blockages out of the subdural evacuation port device, for example, as shown in **Figures 10A-10B** with respect to the stylet **520**.

[0061] While the stylet and stylet housings are generally depicted herein as linear, it will be appreciated that these elements may also take different forms and shapes. Proximal and/or distal end portions of the stylet may be turned, angled, enlarged, and/or shaped to better engage handles, catheter distal end portions, or the like. The body portion of a flexible stylet may be flexed in a radial manner so that the stylet housing need not protrude vertically from the subdural drainage device.

[0062] Drains and reservoirs used to carry out the present invention may be any suitable form, including electromechanical devices that apply a negative pressure, simple tube and bulb devices, *etc.*, and may be connected to the subdural drainage system at any suitable position, such as the housing, the subdural drainage device, catheter, catheter support or subdural drainage port. The housing according to embodiments of the present invention may be configured to attach to existing subdural drainage devices, such as a subdural evacuation port system (or "SEPS") available from Medtronic, Inc., Minneapolis, MN. In some embodiments, drains and/or reservoirs may connect to the external port of the subdural drainage systems described herein in a positive manner that maintains a sterile seal of the device, in like manner as described above.

[0063] Although embodiments of the present invention have been described with respect to a subdural evacuation port, it should be understood that the housing and stylet configurations may be used in other devices, including therapeutic agent or drug delivery devices, in which the reservoir may be replaced with a delivery system that flows a fluid out of the device and into a subject in the reverse direction of a drainage system.

[0064] Kits of the present invention can include the entire device, assembled or disassembled into components. The device or components thereof may be sealed, together or individually, in sterile packages or containers by any suitable technique. Where components are sealed into two or more separate sterile packages, those separate packages may in turn be packaged together in a larger package that contains multiple components. Printed instructions for use of the system may be included within and/or printed on the packaging, as desired.

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- 5) Merlicco G, Pierangeli E, di Padova PL. Chronic subdural hematomas in adults: prognostic factors. Analysis of 70 cases. *Neurosurg Rev* 1995;18:247-251.
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[0065] The foregoing is illustrative of the present invention, and is not to be construed as limiting thereof. The invention is defined by the following claims, with equivalents of the claims to be included therein.

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A subdural drainage system, comprising:

(a) a subdural drainage device having an opening formed therethrough, said subdural drainage device having an upper portion, a body portion, and a lower portion;

(b) a housing having an upper portion and lower portion, with said housing connected to said subdural drainage device; said housing movable between (i) a first configuration and (ii) a second configuration; and

(c) a stylet positioned inside said housing, said stylet having an upper portion and a lower portion and configured such that said stylet is moved between (i) a withdrawn position with said stylet withdrawn from a portion of said subdural evacuation port device, and (ii) an extended position with said stylet extending through said subdural drainage device such that blockages are disrupted in the subdural drainage device when said housing is moved between said first and second housing configurations; and

(d) an external drain opening formed on either said subdural drainage device or said housing.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein said subdural drainage device comprises a subdural catheter in the housing, the subdural catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, with said subdural catheter having a drain lumen formed therein; and with said distal end deformable and having subdural drain openings formed therein, said drain openings in fluid communication with said drain lumen;

wherein said stylet extends through said subdural catheter such that said stylet lower portion engages and deforms said catheter distal end to disrupt blockages therein when said housing is moved between said first and second housing configurations.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein said housing further comprises a catheter support connected to said housing lower portion and having a catheter opening formed therethrough, said catheter support having an upper portion, a body portion, and a lower portion, said catheter support receiving said subdural catheter in the catheter opening and being configured for placement in a skull of a subject.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein:

said subdural catheter and said housing are connected to one another;

said housing lower portion and said catheter support upper portion have cooperating releasable locking portions formed thereon; and

said subdural catheter is slidably received in said catheter opening.

5. The system of claim 3, wherein said housing comprises a rigid telescoping housing.

6. The system of claim 3, wherein said housing comprises a flexible and/or accordion pleated polymeric tube.

7. The system of claim 3, wherein said housing comprises a biasing member positioned to bias said enclosed housing in one of said first or second configurations.

8. The system of claim 3, further comprising a stylet lock operably associated with either said housing or said catheter support for locking said housing in said extended position.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein said stylet lock comprises a channel and guide, a rotatable internal orifice or an external clamp.

10. The system of claim 1, further comprising an actuating member connected to and/or formed on said stylet upper portion and operatively associated with said housing upper portion.

11. The system of claim 3, wherein said stylet is positioned to extend through said subdural catheter drain lumen when said housing is in at least one of said first and second configurations.

12. The system of claim 3, said subdural catheter further comprising a stylet lumen separate from said drain lumen, wherein said stylet is positioned to extend through said stylet lumen when said housing is in at least one of said first and second configurations.

13. The system of claim 2, wherein said catheter support lower portion has self-tapping threads formed thereon; and wherein said catheter support body portion comprises an enlarged grasping portion for manually threading said lower portion into the skull of a subject.

14. The system of claim 1, further comprising a reservoir connected to said external drain opening.

15. The system of claim 1, wherein said housing provides a sealed enclosure when said system is connected to a skull of a subject.

16. A subdural drainage apparatus for use with a catheter support, said apparatus comprising:

(a) a subdural catheter configured to be connected to said catheter support; said subdural catheter having a proximal end and a distal end, with said subdural catheter having a drain lumen formed therein; and with said distal end deformable and having subdural drain openings formed therein, said drain openings in fluid communication with said drain lumen;

(b) a sealed housing having an upper portion and lower portion, with said housing lower portion connected to said catheter support upper portion; at least a portion of said sealed housing being movable between (i) a first configuration and (ii) a second configuration; and

(c) a stylet positioned inside said housing, said stylet having an upper portion and a lower portion and configured such that said stylet is moved between (i) a withdrawn position with said stylet withdrawn from a portion of said subdural catheter, and (ii) an extended position with said stylet extending through said subdural catheter such that said stylet lower portion engages and deforms said catheter distal end to disrupt blockages therein when said housing is moved between said first and second housing configurations; and

(d) an external drain opening in fluid communication with said subdural catheter.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein:

said subdural catheter and said housing are connected to one another;

said housing lower portion and said catheter support upper portion have cooperating releasable locking portions formed thereon; and

said subdural catheter is slidably received in said catheter opening.

18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said housing comprises a rigid telescoping housing.

19. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said housing comprises a flexible and/or accordion-pleated polymeric tube.

20. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said housing comprises a biasing member positioned to maintain said enclosed housing in one of said first and second configurations.

21. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a lock operably associated with either said housing or said catheter support for locking said housing in one of said first and second configurations.

22. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising a handle or button connected to or formed on said stylet upper portion and operatively associated with said housing upper portion.

23. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said stylet is positioned to extend through said subdural catheter drain lumen when said housing is in one of said first and second configurations.

24. The system or apparatus of claim 16, wherein said stylet lower portion has a tip formed therein, catheter distal portion comprises a bumper configured to block said stylet tip from directly contacting or puncturing underlying brain tissue.

25. A kit comprising an apparatus of claim 1.

26. A kit of claim 25, further comprising
a catheter support having a catheter opening formed therethrough, said catheter support having an upper portion, a body portion, and a lower portion, said catheter support optionally having an external drain opening formed thereon.

27. A kit of claim 26, wherein said catheter support lower portion has self-tapping threads formed thereon; and wherein said catheter support body portion comprises an enlarged grasping portion for manually threading said lower portion into the skull of a subject.

28. The kit of claim 25, further comprising a reservoir for connecting to said external drain opening.

29. A kit of claim 25, wherein said apparatus is sealed in one or more a sterile packages or containers.

30. A method for draining the subdural space, said method comprising:
positioning a subdural drainage system on a patient, the subdural drainage system comprising:

(a) a subdural drainage device having an opening formed therethrough, said subdural drainage device having an upper portion, a body portion, and a lower portion;

(b) a housing having an upper portion and lower portion, with said housing connected to said subdural drainage device; said housing movable between (i) a first configuration and (ii) a second configuration; and

(c) a stylet positioned inside said housing, said stylet having an upper portion and a lower portion and configured such that said stylet is moved between (i) a withdrawn position with said stylet withdrawn from a portion of said subdural evacuation port device, and (ii) an extended position with said stylet extending through said subdural drainage; and

(d) an external drain opening formed on either said subdural drainage device or said housing; and

moving said housing between said first and second housing configurations so that said stylet is moved between said withdrawn position with said stylet withdrawn from a portion of said subdural evacuation port device, and said extended position with said stylet extending through said subdural drainage device, such that blockages are disrupted in the subdural drainage device.

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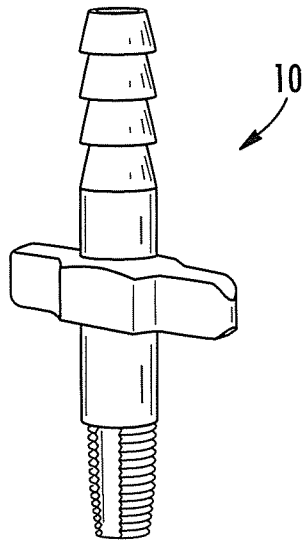


FIG. 1A

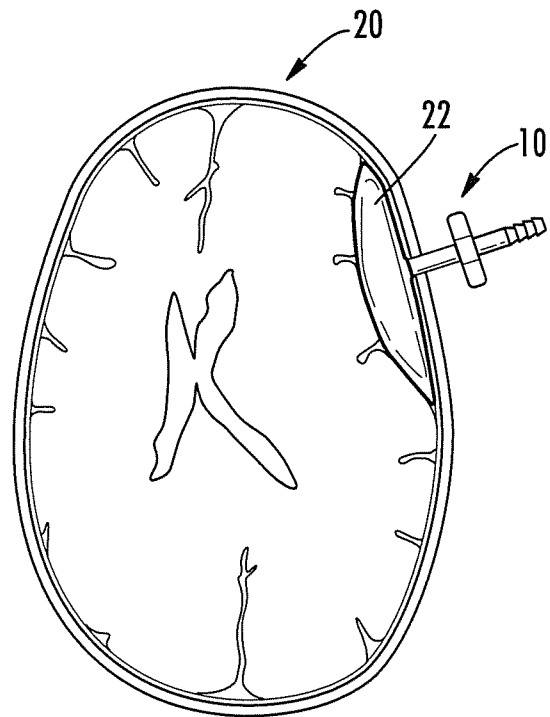


FIG. 1B

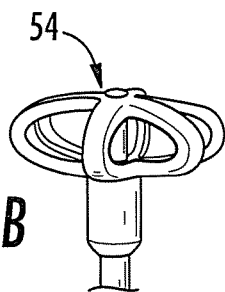


FIG. 2B

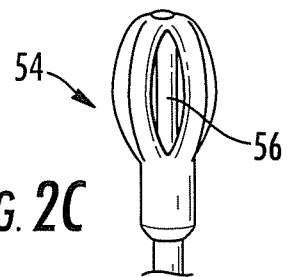


FIG. 2C

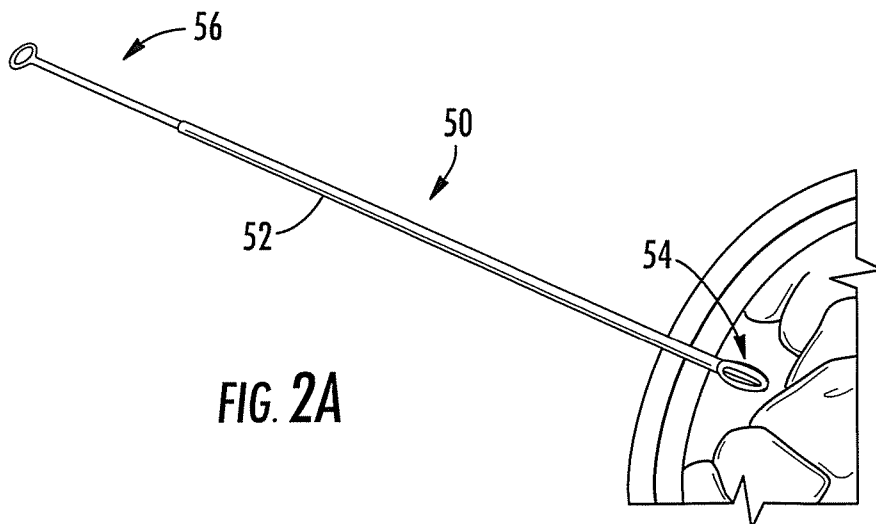


FIG. 2A

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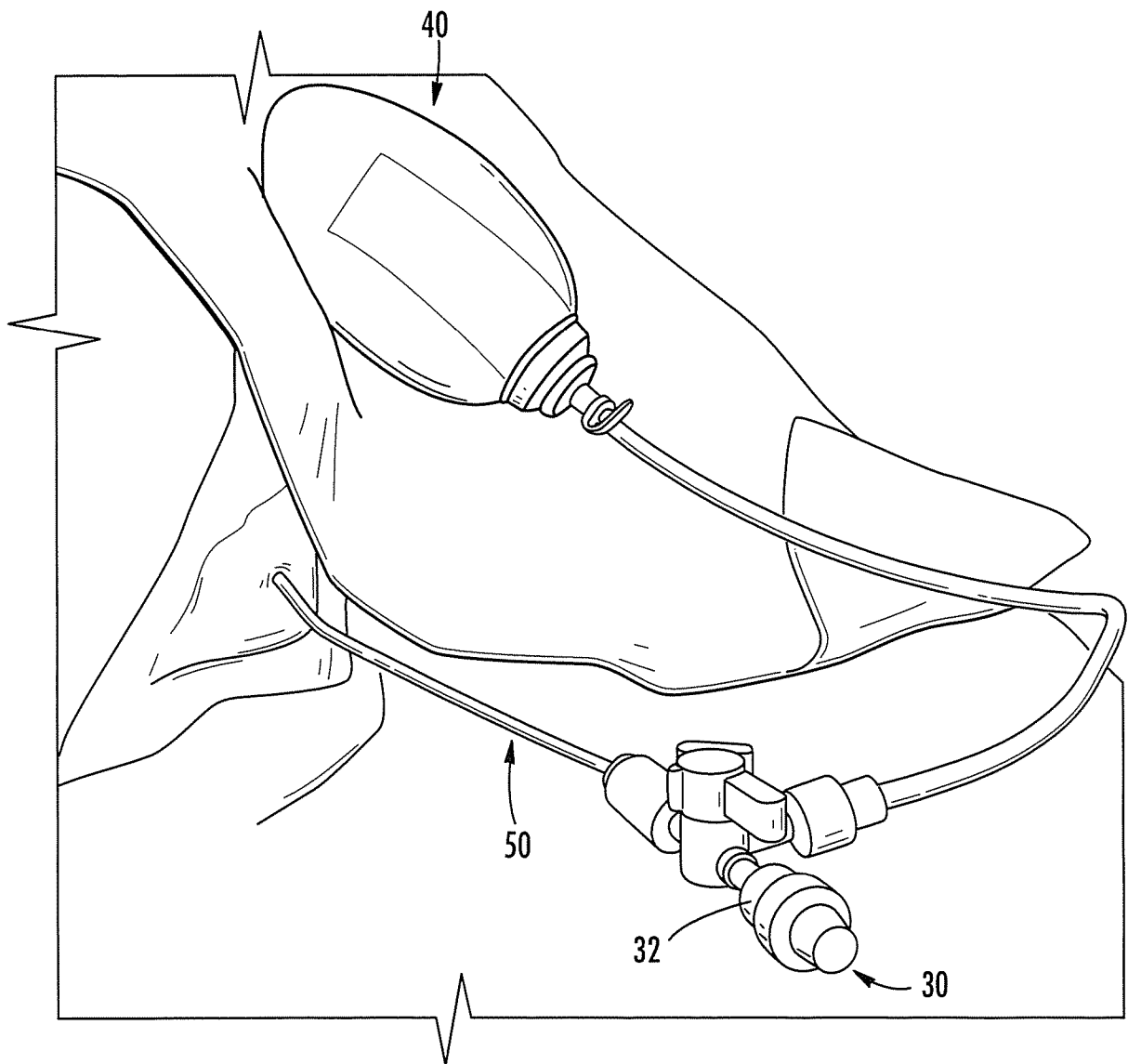


FIG. 3

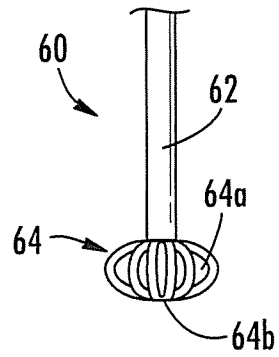


FIG. 4A

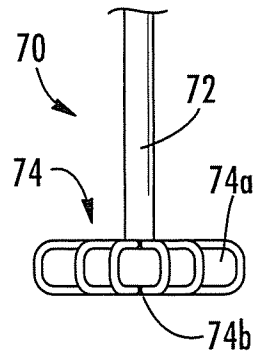


FIG. 4B

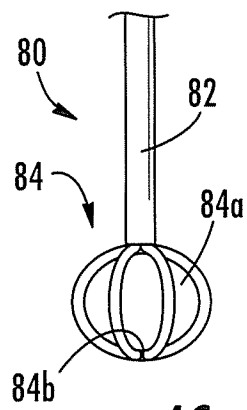


FIG. 4C

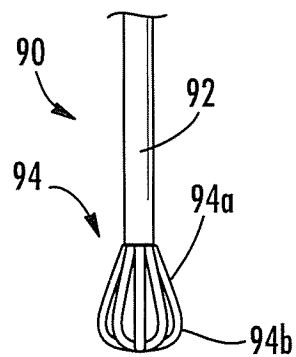


FIG. 4D

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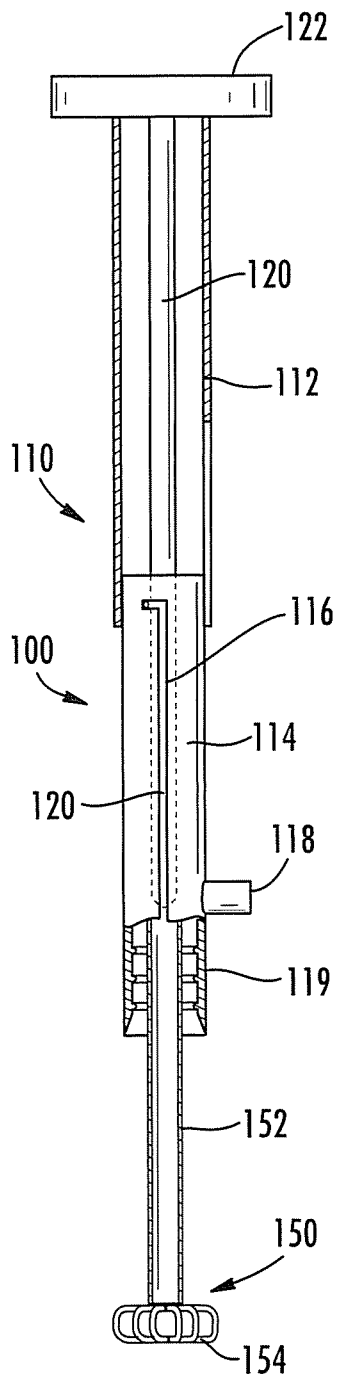


FIG. 5A

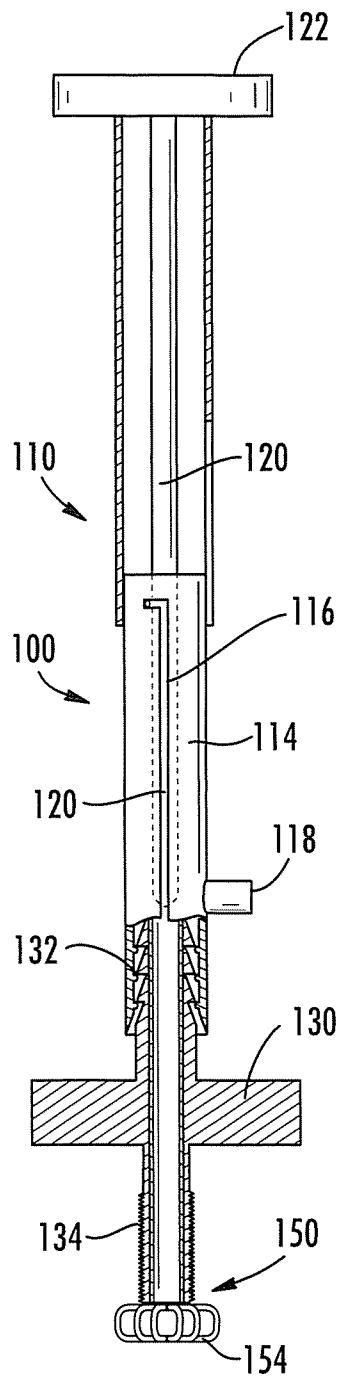


FIG. 5B

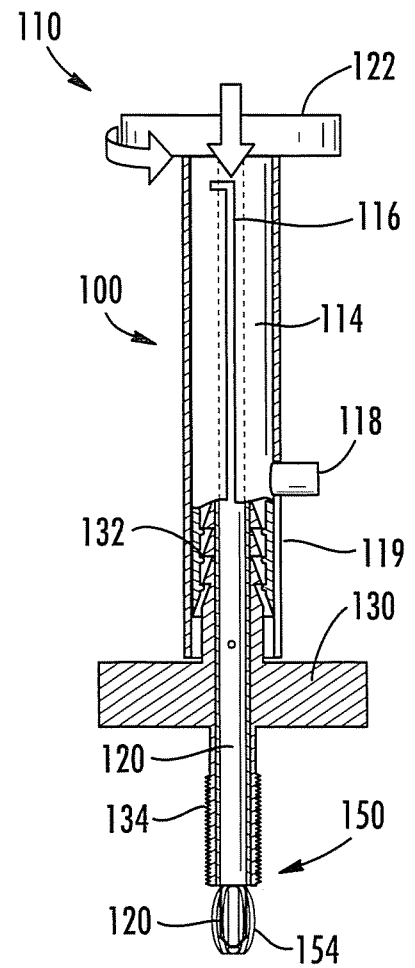


FIG. 5C

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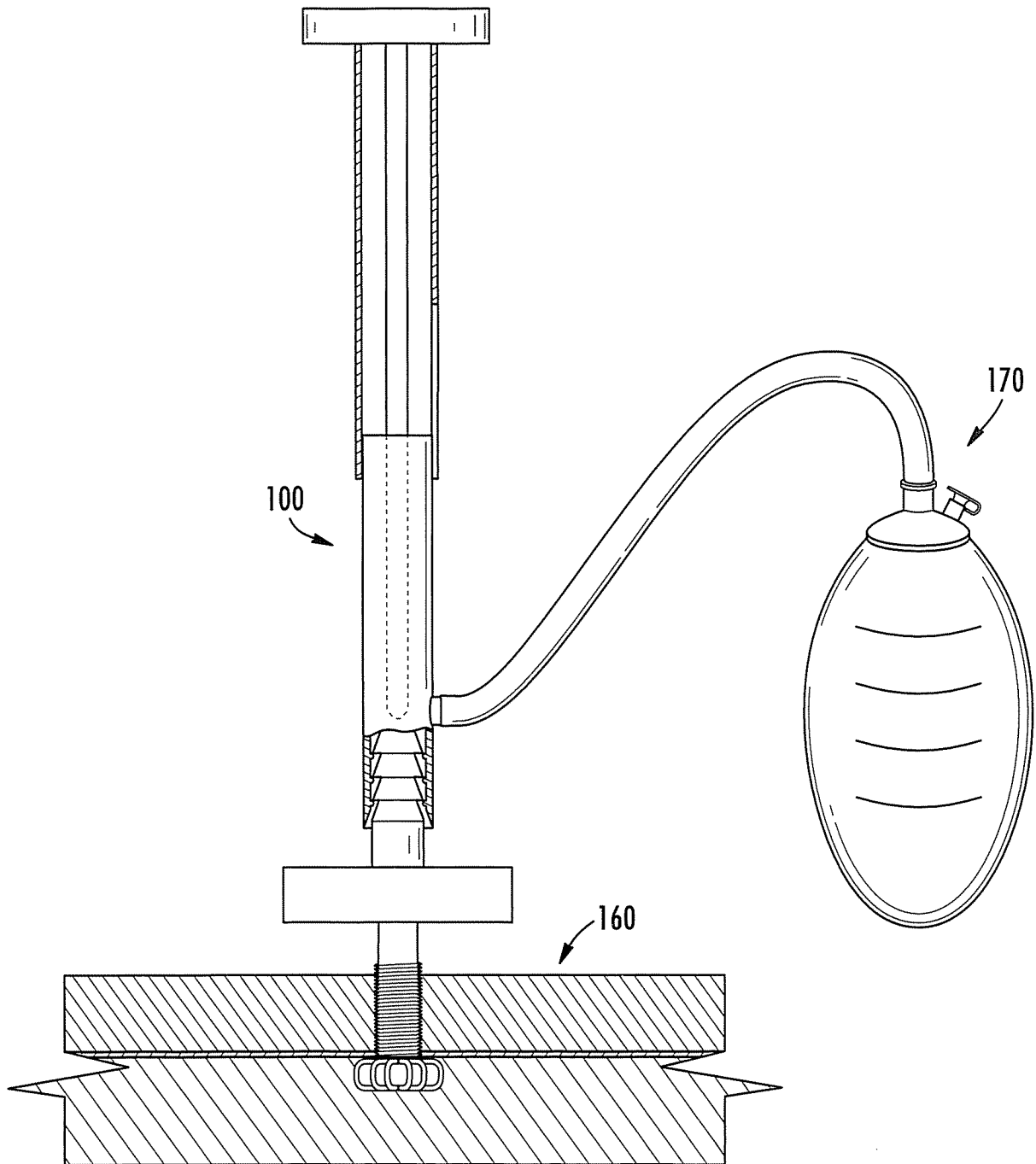
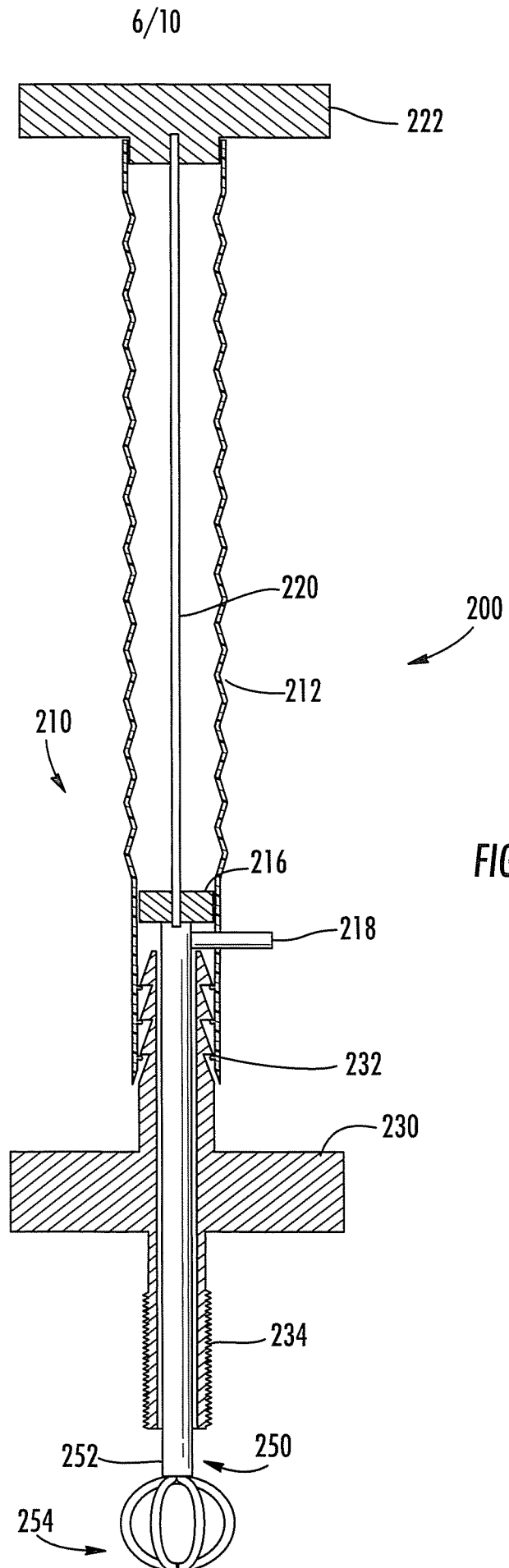
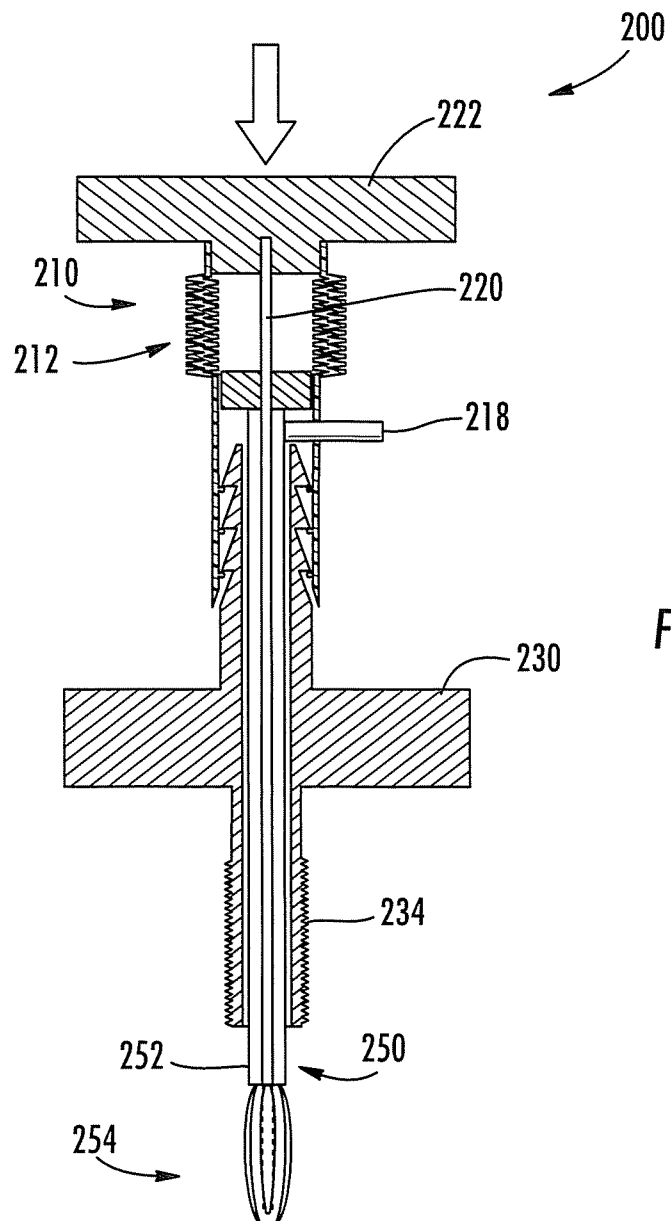


FIG. 6



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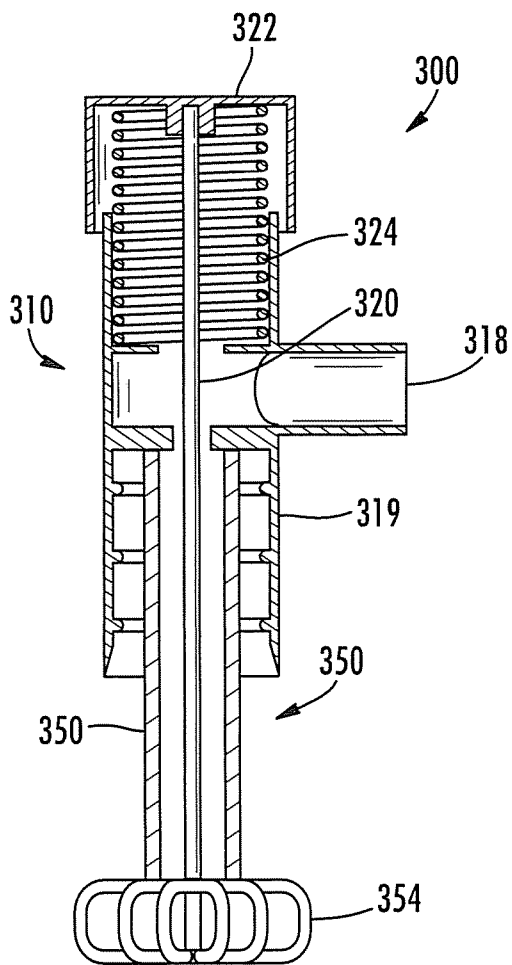


FIG. 8A

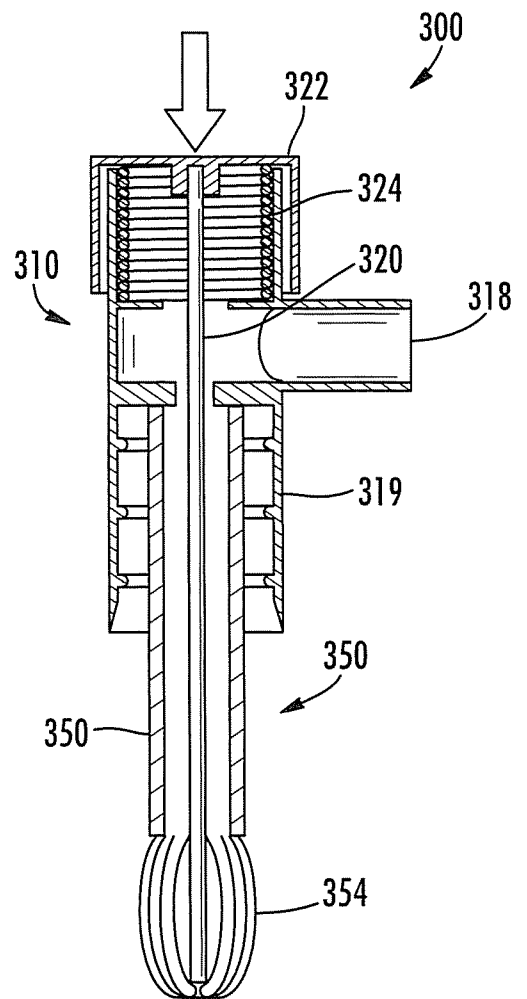


FIG. 8B

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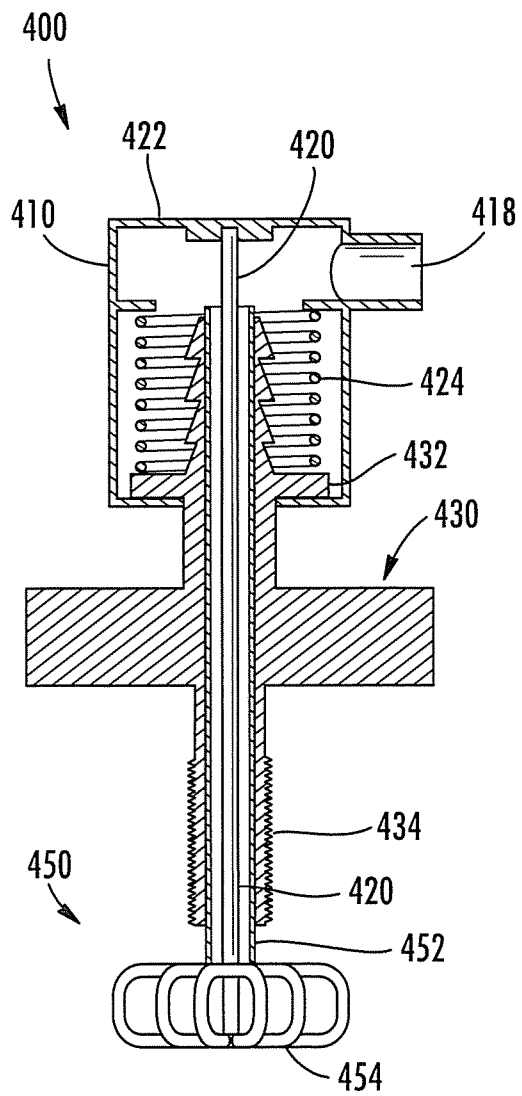


FIG. 9A

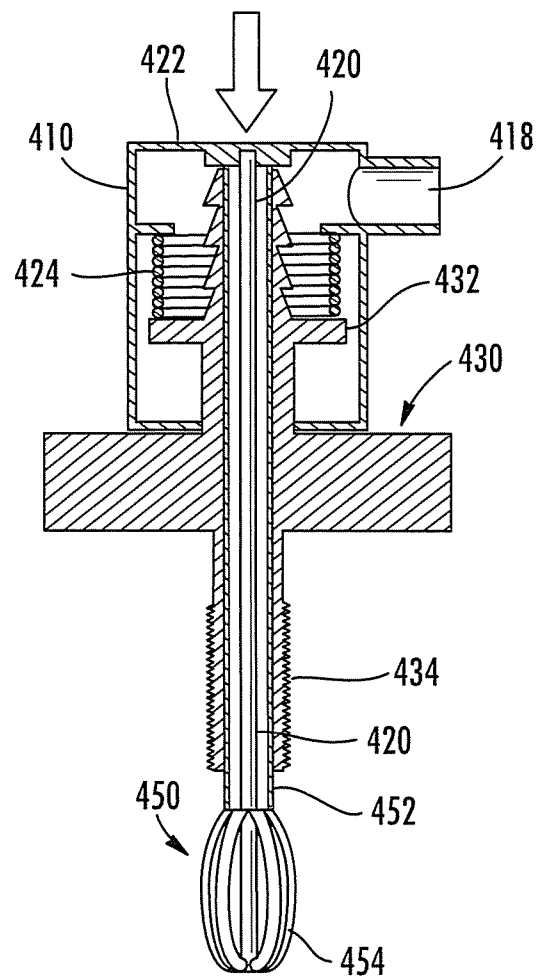


FIG. 9B

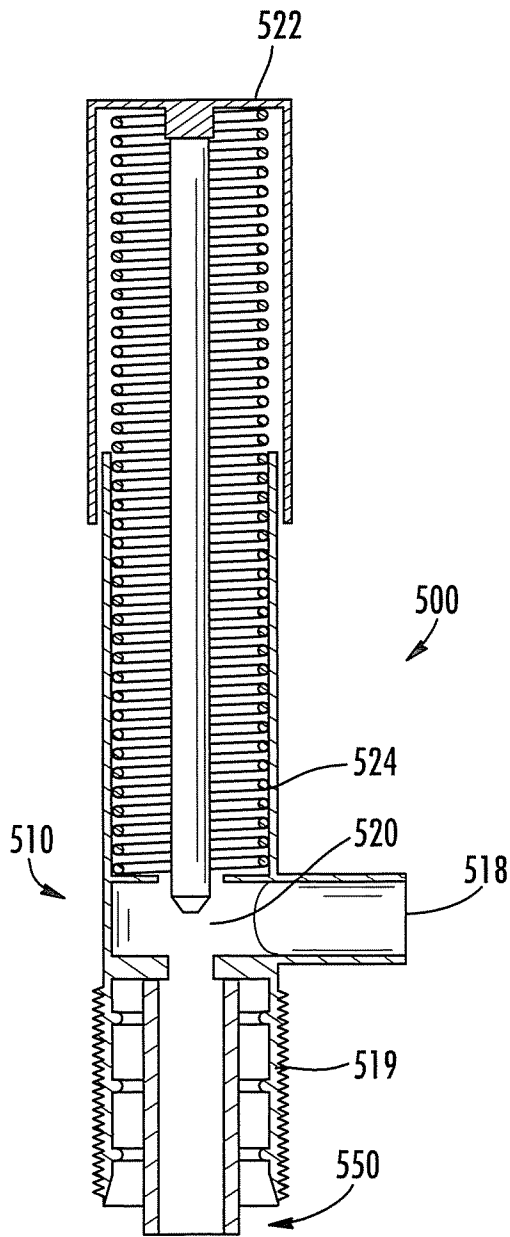


FIG. 10A

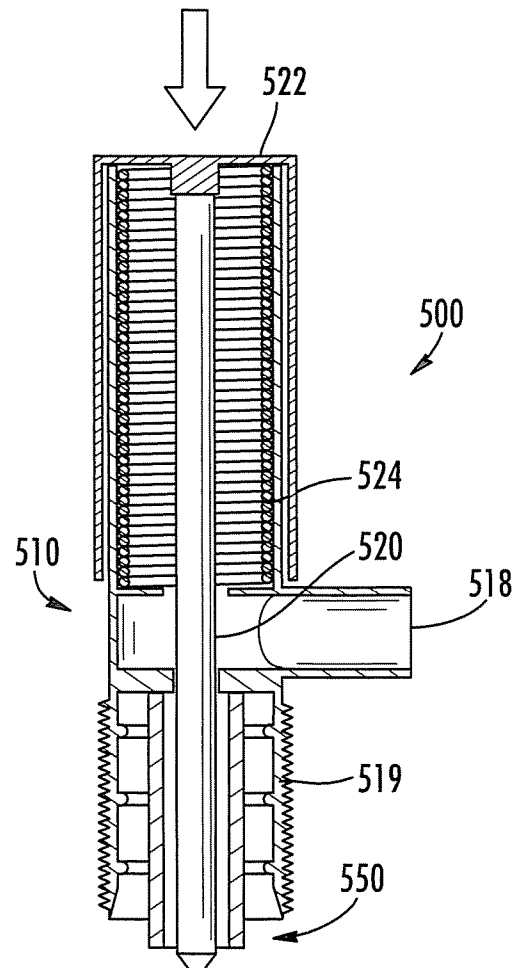


FIG. 10B

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2009/065282

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61M27/00

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)

A61M A61B

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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6 855 126 B2 (FLINCHBAUGH DAVID) 15 February 2005 (2005-02-15) column 5, line 49 - line 57 column 8, line 8 - line 27; figures 11,12 -----	1,16
Y	US 5 836 928 A (GERBER ALLEN ET AL) 17 November 1998 (1998-11-17) column 3, line 56 - line 59 column 4, line 13 - line 16; figure 2a -----	1,16
A	US 6 923 799 B1 (ASFORA WILSON) 2 August 2005 (2005-08-02) column 5, line 66 - column 6, line 14; figure 5 -----	1,16

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

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"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)

"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

"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

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 February 2010

Date of mailing of the international search report

18/02/2010

Name and mailing address of the ISA/

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Segeberg, Tomas

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2009/065282

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 30
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2009/065282

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6855126	B2	15-02-2005	AT 395939 T 15-06-2008
		AU 2002321685 A1	11-11-2002
		CN 1514740 A	21-07-2004
		EP 1383557 A2	28-01-2004
		EP 1645304 A1	12-04-2006
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US 5836928	A	17-11-1998	US 6296624 B1 02-10-2001
US 6923799	B1	02-08-2005	NONE