

(12) STANDARD PATENT
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE

(11) Application No. **AU 2019322814 B2**

(54) Title
Personal use extracorporeal low frequency shock wave instrument and methods of using same

(51) International Patent Classification(s)
A61H 23/02 (2006.01)

(21) Application No: **2019322814** (22) Date of Filing: **2019.08.01**

(87) WIPO No: **WO20/036741**

(30) Priority Data

(31) Number	(32) Date	(33) Country
62/717,904	2018.08.12	US
16/515,244	2019.07.18	US

(43) Publication Date: **2020.02.20**

(44) Accepted Journal Date: **2023.11.02**

(71) Applicant(s)
Jonathan HOFFMAN

(72) Inventor(s)
HOFFMAN, Jonathan

(74) Agent / Attorney
FB Rice Pty Ltd, L 33 477 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC, 3000, AU

(56) Related Art
US 2009/0270915 A1
US 6795950 B2
US 5794325 A
US 5088474 A
Wimpenny Shockwave Theory, screenshot from August 7, 2018 used, acquired from WayBack Machine. [https://web.archive.org/web/20180807112935/https // www.shockwavetherapy.education/index.php/theory/types-of-shockwave](https://web.archive.org/web/20180807112935/https://www.shockwavetherapy.education/index.php/theory/types-of-shockwave)
US 2016/0136045 A1
US 9889066 B2
US 2010/0137907 A1
DE 3936632 A1
WO 2009/014727 A1



(51) International Patent Classification:

A61H 23/02 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2019/044597

(22) International Filing Date:

01 August 2019 (01.08.2019)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

62/717,904 12 August 2018 (12.08.2018) US
16/515,244 18 July 2019 (18.07.2019) US

(72) Inventor; and

(71) Applicant: HOFFMAN, Jonathan [US/US]; 5737 Kanan Rd #601, Agoura Hills, California 91301 (US).

(74) Agent: SLEMAN, Peter; 4400 US 9 South, Suite 1000, Freehold, New Jersey 07728 (US).

MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

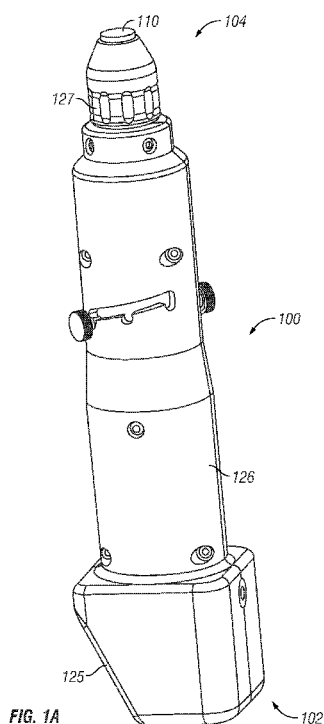
— as to the identity of the inventor (Rule 4.17(i))

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME,

(54) Title: PERSONAL USE EXTRACORPOREAL LOW FREQUENCY SHOCK WAVE INSTRUMENT AND METHODS OF USING SAME



(57) Abstract: A treatment device includes a housing having a longitudinal axis extending between a proximal end and a distal end, a motor, a drive shaft operatively coupled to the motor, a compression spring at least partially disposed about the drive shaft, a helical cam disposed adjacent the compression spring, the helical cam having at least one discontinuity, a hammer coupled to the helical cam and moveable therewith, and a tip disposed adjacent the distal end.



2019322814 06 Oct 2023

**PERSONAL USE EXTRACORPOREAL LOW FREQUENCY SHOCK WAVE INSTRUMENT
AND METHODS OF USING SAME**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[001] The present application claims priority to U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application, Serial No. 16/515,244 filed July 18, 2019, entitled "PERSONAL USE EXTRACORPOREAL LOW FREQUENCY SHOCK WAVE INSTRUMENT AND METHODS OF USING SAME" and Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 62/717,904, filed August 12, 2018, entitled "PERSONAL USE EXTRACORPOREAL LOW FREQUENCY SHOCK WAVE INSTRUMENT," the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety as if fully set forth herein.

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

[002] The present disclosure relates to non-invasive home use medical devices. More particularly, the present disclosure relates to non-invasive home use medical devices utilizing low frequency shock waves.

BACKGROUND OF THE DISCLOSURE

[003] Low frequency extracorporeal shock wave treatments have been used in the professional medical community to treat various ailments. For example, the treatment methodology has been demonstrated to be effective in treating soft tissue injuries or damage, reducing fatty deposits commonly known as cellulite, and most recently for the treatment of male erectile dysfunction.

[004] The basic mechanism of treatment is the direct application of the low frequency shock wave generating device on

the patient's skin in the desired treatment area wherein the high repetition count of the generated shock waves causes micro-trauma to the underlying tissue. In the case of cellulite, the fat deposits are broken up and reduced in mass and the irregular appearance of the skin's surface is reduced. In the case of soft tissue, the micro-trauma causes the destruction of existing small blood vessels and the subsequent re-growth of a larger number of new blood vessels in the affected area. This enhancement of the circulatory pathways is believed to contribute to the rapid healing of and/or enhanced blood flow to the subject area. Similarly, for the treatment of erectile dysfunction when the cause is related to reduced blood flow in the penis, the micro-trauma induced destruction of local small blood vessels and subsequent regrowth of a greater number and density of small blood vessels increases blood flow to the penis thereby effectively curing erectile dysfunction.

[004a] One or more embodiments of the present disclosure address or ameliorate at least one disadvantage or shortcoming of prior techniques, or at least provide a useful alternative thereto.

[004b] Any discussion of documents, acts, materials, devices, articles or the like which has been included in the present specification is not to be taken as an admission that any or all of these matters form part of the prior art base or were common general knowledge in the field relevant to the present disclosure as it existed before the priority date of each of the appended claims.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

[005] In some embodiments, a method of treatment comprises: providing a treatment device including a housing having a

longitudinal axis extending between a first end and a second end, a motor disposed within the housing, a drive shaft operatively coupled to the motor, a compression spring at least partially disposed about the drive shaft, a helical cam disposed adjacent the compression spring, the helical cam having a first flat end, and a second end having at least one discontinuity, wherein the drive shaft passes through the first and second ends of the helical cam and includes at least one cam follower configured to travel along the helical cam, a hammer coupled to one of the helical cam and the drive shaft and moveable therewith, and a tip; and striking the tip with the hammer at repeated intervals to create a shock wave.

[005a] The term 'comprising' as used in this specification means 'consisting at least in part of'. When interpreting each statement in this specification that includes the term 'comprising', features other than that or those prefaced by the term may also be present. Related terms such as 'comprise' and 'comprises' are to be interpreted in the same manner.

[005b] In some embodiments, a method of treatment comprises: providing a treatment device including a housing having a longitudinal axis extending between a first end and a second end, a drive shaft operatively coupled to a motor, a compression spring at least partially disposed about the drive shaft, a helical cam disposed adjacent the compression spring, the helical cam having a first flat end, and a second end having at least one discontinuity, wherein the drive shaft passes through the first and second ends of the helical cam and includes at least one cam follower configured to travel along the helical cam, a moveable hammer, and a tip; and repeatedly striking the tip with the hammer to create a shock wave.

[005c] Described herein is a treatment device that includes a housing having a longitudinal axis extending between a proximal end and a distal end, a motor, a drive shaft operatively coupled to the motor, a compression spring at least partially disposed about the drive shaft, a helical cam disposed adjacent the compression spring, the helical cam having at least one discontinuity, a hammer coupled to the helical cam and moveable therewith, and a tip disposed adjacent the distal end.

[006] Described herein is a treatment device that includes a housing having a longitudinal axis extending between a proximal end and a distal end, a first element disposed at the distal end of the housing, a motor, and a second element operatively coupled to and driven by the motor, wherein movement of the second element results in repeated contact with the first element resulting in a shock wave of between 10 and 20 hertz.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[007] Various embodiments of the presently disclosed treatment devices are disclosed herein with reference to the drawings, wherein:

[008] FIG. 1A shows a perspective view of one embodiment of the disclosure;

[009] FIG. 1B is a cross sectional view of the human body showing an area targeted for micro-trauma by one embodiment of the disclosure;

[010] FIG. 1C is a cross sectional view of the human body showing re-regrowth of blood vessels after micro-trauma;

[011] FIG. 2 is a side schematic representation of one embodiment of the disclosure showing major components used to create and administer low frequency shock waves;

[012] FIG. 3A is a perspective view of a helical cam;

[013] FIG. 3B is a perspective view of one embodiment of a helical cam drive assembly;

[014] FIG. 4 is a transparent side view of one embodiment of the disclosure;

[015] FIG. 5 is a cutaway perspective view of one embodiment of the disclosure;

[016] FIG. 6A is a perspective view of one embodiment of the disclosure operated by a user self-administering treatment;

[017] FIG. 6B is a perspective view of one embodiment of the disclosure operated by a user self-administering treatment utilizing a guide template;

[018] FIG. 7 is an exploded view of one embodiment of the disclosure;

[019] FIG. 8A is a perspective view of one embodiment of the disclosure connected to a smartphone;

[020] FIG. 8B is a schematic view of one embodiment of the disclosure connected to a computer;

[021] FIG. 9 is an electrical circuit schematic detailing an alternative embodiment of the disclosure;

[022] FIG. 10A is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the disclosure in use; and

[023] FIG. 10B is a perspective view of yet another alternate embodiment of the disclosure in use.

[024] Various embodiments of the present disclosure will now be described with reference to the appended drawings. It is to be appreciated that these drawings depict only some embodiments of the disclosure and are therefore not to be considered limiting of its scope.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DISCLOSURE

[025] Despite the various improvements that have been made to shock wave treatment devices, conventional devices suffer from some shortcomings.

[026] There therefore is a need for further improvements to the devices, systems, and methods of manufacturing and using shock wave treatment devices. Among other advantages, the present disclosure may address one or more of these needs.

[027] As used herein, the term "proximal," when used in connection with a component of a treatment device, refers to the end of the component farthest from the treatment area, whereas the term "distal," when used in connection with a component of a treatment, refers to the end of the component closest to the treatment area.

[028] Likewise, the terms "trailing" and "leading" are to be taken as relative to the operator of the treatment device. "Trailing" is to be understood as relatively closer to the

operator, and "leading" is to be understood as relatively farther away from the operator or closer to the target site of treatment.

[029] In conjunction with the included drawings, this detailed description is intended to impart an understanding of the teachings herein and not to define their metes and bounds. One particular implementation, illustrating aspects of the present teaching, is presented in detail below. Some of the many possible variations and versions are also described.

[030] At present, all known commercially available devices utilize one of several technologies to create the low frequency shock waves. These technologies include electrostatic and pneumatic approaches. Such technologies are intrinsically costly, complex, fragile, and bulky. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, existing low frequency shock wave devices have been commercially successful in the professional marketplace because they offer remarkable results in the treatment of several disorders.

[031] The most rudimentary solution to the problem of administering a low frequency shock wave treatment to an area of the body for soft tissue damage, cellulite reduction, or erectile dysfunction treatment is to pay a trained professional to utilize industrial grade, costly equipment to administer the treatment in a professional treatment office setting for a fee.

[032] Another solution to the problem of administering a low frequency shock wave treatment to an area of the body for soft tissue damage, cellulite reduction, or erectile dysfunction treatment is for the individual to purchase an industrial grade treatment device and self-administer treatments.

[033] Yet another solution to the problem of administering a

low frequency shock wave treatment to an area of the body for soft tissue damage, cellulite reduction, or erectile dysfunction treatment is for the individual to purchase any of several consumer grade devices which generate low frequency shock waves in order to self-administer treatments.

[034] One area of deficiency generally present in all of these proposed solutions is the high cost of the equipment and or services to administer treatment.

[035] Another area of deficiency generally present in all of these proposed solutions is the time required to make an appointment and attend scheduled appointments in a professional treatment office.

[036] Another area of deficiency generally present in these proposed solutions is the personal embarrassment associated with discussing very personal medical issues with a stranger in order to obtain treatment services.

[037] Yet another area of deficiency generally present in the proposed solutions is the high level of specialized training and medical knowledge necessary to properly operate and administer effective treatments.

[038] Yet another area of deficiency generally present in the proposed solutions is the necessity of a second person to administer treatments to various parts of the body due to the form factor of the applicator which is traditionally in the shape of and held in the fashion of a pistol.

[039] Yet another area of deficiency generally present in the proposed solutions is the substantial size and weight of the

system, which generally has a base unit tethered to the applicator device, thereby making transportation, storage, and use difficult and cumbersome.

[040] Still another area of deficiency generally present in the proposed solutions is the absence of any communication connectivity which would facilitate patient tracking or permit updates and upgrades to the operating system of the device.

[041] Still yet another area of deficiency generally present in the proposed solutions is the absence of any automation, or instruction, or artificial intelligence or tutorial capability in any devices presently known.

[042] Still yet another area of deficiency generally present in the proposed solutions is the absence of any communication connectivity which would permit electronic sales, marketing, or promotional materials.

[043] While there are presently a number of proposed solutions to the problem of administering a low frequency shock wave treatment to an area of the body for soft tissue damage, cellulite reduction, or erectile dysfunction treatment ~~is to~~, none has been conceived or implemented to permit a safe, inexpensive, self-applied, home use solution which does not require a second person to operate, significant medical or anatomical knowledge, special training, and which provide for tutorials, patient tracking, system updates, and marketed, sales, and promotion capabilities, which permit self-applied low frequency shock wave treatment for various parts of the user's body which would be optimal for the application.

[044] Low frequency shock wave application means embodying the principles of this disclosure solve the problems of a safe, inexpensive, self-applied, home use solution which does not require a second person to operate, significant medical or anatomical knowledge, special training which permits self-applied low frequency shock wave treatment for various parts of the user's body. The several embodiments of the disclosure employ designs, materials, and manufacturing methods which are inexpensive and consistent with current manufacturing practices. The functionality, size, cost, simplicity, ease of use, reliability and robustness of the proposed designs are all advantageous.

[045] Implementations following the principles of this disclosure allow the advantageous modality of safe, inexpensive, self-applied, home use solution which does not require a second person to operate, significant medical or anatomical knowledge, special training which permit self-applied low frequency shock wave treatment for various parts of the user's body which would be optimal for the application.

[046] FIG. 1A shows a perspective view of one embodiment of a treatment device 100 extending between a proximal end 102 and a distal end 104. Device 100 includes a housing 126 in the general form of an elongated cylinder which is easily and conveniently grasped in the user's hand in such a manner as to advantageously permit the user to accurately place tip 110 on the desired area of the body to apply treatment. Tip 110 may be formed of metals, such as steel, aluminum, magnesium, titanium or other metals or alloys thereof, ceramics, and/or a range of plastics and engineering resins including glass-filled nylon, polycarbonates, and other suitable materials. Device 100 further includes a display 125 (e.g., an LCD, LED, or TFT display) disposed on the housing and

advantageously positioned so as to permit an unobstructed line of site for the viewer during most normal usage. An end cap 127 is positioned on an opposing end of the housing (i.e., adjacent distal end 104) and is easily accessible and removably attached to housing 126 by any of a variety of conventional means including an internal screw thread, an interrupted thread, a snap lock or any of a variety of mechanical fasteners, so as to facilitate the simple installation, removal, replacement, or switching of tip 110 as required for the selected treatment. A variety of tips may be made of different materials or masses, or different geometries for purposes of advantageously transferring and focusing or diffusing the shock energy depending on the treatment type and desired result. In the preferred embodiment, end cap 127 is secured to housing 126 by an interrupted thread which requires no tools and only a partial rotation to remove and replace.

[047] Turning now to FIG. 1B, a cross-sectional view of body tissue 44 in targeted treatment area 31 is shown. It may be plainly seen how tip 110 of treatment device 100 when placed in contact with targeted treatment area 31 emits low frequency sonic waves 43 which interact with the smallest blood vessels 53 in the targeted treatment area 31 including veins 45 and arteries 46. The nature of the interaction of sonic waves 43 which are so generated as to be of a frequency of approximately 10 to 20 hertz (e.g., 15 hertz) and of such amplitude as to penetrate body tissue 44 to a depth adequate to reach target blood vessels is to cause damage to the blood vessels 53, commonly referred to as micro-trauma. It should be noted that blood vessels 53 are of a relatively small diameter and low density within body tissue 44.

[048] Referring now to FIG. 1C, a cross-sectional view of body tissue 44 is shown subsequent to treatment with low frequency shock

wave device 100. As shown, blood vessels 53 which had been damaged by micro-trauma as a result of the application of sonic waves generated and applied by low frequency shock wave device 100 have now re-grown or healed post-trauma to be both larger in diameter and of a higher density in body tissue 44, thereby facilitating an increased blood flow in targeted treatment area 31.

[049] Further details of treatment device 100 will now be described with references to FIGS. 2-10B. Referring now to FIG. 2, a schematic view of the assembly of one embodiment of the disclosure is shown, the arrangement of certain major components being visible. In this manner, the operation of the device 100 may be readily understood. Motor 121 is non-rotatably mounted within housing 126 so as to inhibit the rotation of the body of motor 121 but to permit the rotation of motor output shaft 122 when a suitable electrical signal is introduced into motor wiring 123. In one embodiment of the disclosure, motor wiring 123 are connected to power plug receptacle 124 so as to provide a means of attaching and detaching a suitable power supply. In one embodiment a suitable power plug emanating from an electrical transformer which plugs into a wall receptacle, to plug into the device to provide electrical power. In another embodiment of the disclosure, motor wiring 123 are connected directly to an alternating power cord 154 terminated by electrical plug 155 which plugs directly into a wall receptacle. In yet another embodiment, motor wiring 123 are attached to a suitable power plug receptacle 124 which can accept a rechargeable or replaceable battery to cordlessly power the device.

[050] Still referring to FIG. 2, it may be plainly seen that when motor 121 is electrically energized, motor output shaft 122 rotates. The rotation of motor output shaft 122 is translated to

drive shaft 115 because motor output shaft 122 and drive shaft 115 are operably coupled (e.g., rigidly connected) to one another by means of shaft coupler 120 which is secured to motor output shaft 122 and drive shaft 115 by means of set screws 128 (or other mechanical or chemical means including adhesives, welding, crimping, swaging, keyway, splines, or the like). By this means of powered rotation, the helical cam component creates the non-linear acceleration of the reciprocating motion of the device.

[051] Referring now to FIG. 3A which is perspective view of one embodiment of a helical cam 113, it may be plainly seen that the distinctive ramp and precipitous drop off of the cam profile causes a non-linear reciprocating motion to be imparted to an object following the surface of the cam as the cam rotates. Helical cam is generally formed as a cylinder having two ends, a leading end 302 and a trailing end 302. Trailing end 302 may have a substantially circular cross-section (i.e., the end is flat), while leading end 301 may have a more complex configuration including one or more ramps (e.g., one, two, three or four or more ramps) interrupted by precipitous drops.

[052] Referring now to FIG. 3B, which is a perspective view of a helical cam, drive shaft and cam follower assembly, it may be plainly seen how the mechanism functions. Drive shaft 115 is rigidly affixed to and rotated by motor 121 (not shown in this figure for purposes of clarity). Cam follower 114 is rigidly affixed to drive shaft 115 and rides along the irregular cut helical cam surface 156 of helical cam 113. Compression spring 116, the rearward motion of which is limited by spring base plate 117 (not shown in this figure for purposes of clarity) bears against helical cam 113, imparting a coaxial force against cam follower 114. As cam follower 114 rotates, it rides along helical

cam surface 156 and follows its contours. The contours of cam surface 156 are such that each end of cam follower 114 is presented with a steady incline or ramp for approximately half of a revolution or 180 degrees of rotation, and then it drops off precipitously at cam discontinuity 157 back to the lowest initial starting elevation of the ramps. The effect of this helical cam motion is that a constant speed of rotation of drive shaft 115 causes a progressive downward motion of helical cam 113 which in turn causes a continuous compression of compression spring 116 until such time as cam followers 114 drop off the cam discontinuity 157 and helical cam 113 accelerates rapidly upward as a result of the release of energy of compression spring 116.

[053] Device 100 further includes a hammer 112 formed of a metal such as any of the materials described above with reference to the tip 110. In at least some examples, tip 110 and hammer 112 are formed of a same material. Since helical cam 113 is rigidly affixed to hammer 112 (best seen in Fig. 2) and hammer 112 makes contact with tip 110, the rapid, non-linear acceleration of helical cam 113 is translated to hammer 112 which impacts with tip 110 thereby imparting a shock wave to tip 110 which is then communicated to the target treatment area 31 of the user. Without being bound by any particular theory, it is believed that the striking of the hammer on the tip results in shockwave sufficient to cause microtrauma which results in angiogenesis, but that physical contact of the tip with the target area also causes mechanical agitation of the tissue to remove blockages from vessels, which allows blood to flow freely therethrough.

[054] Referring now to FIG. 4 which is a transparent side view of the device 100, it may be more readily seen how the components and functions described previously are embodied in the device 100.

In this view, it may be plainly seen how motor 121 is rigidly affixed by means of motor shaft coupling 120 to drive shaft 115 which terminates with cam followers 114 which follow cam surface 155 of helical cam 113 and compress helical cam 113 against compression spring 116 when motor 121 imparts a rotational force. It may be further seen how helical cam 113 is rigidly affixed to hammer 12 which is so positioned as to impart the rapid acceleration forces to which it is subjected to tip 110 which is secured to device 100 by means of end cap 127, and through which the micro shock forces are imparted to the target treatment area 31 of the user. Still referring to FIG. 4, it may be seen how the initial compressive force or pre-load of compression spring 116 may be adjusted by means of spring base plate 117 being advanced towards tip 110 and thereby compressing compression spring 116 when spring base plate 117 is rotated by means of preload adjust tabs 118 which ride within and follow preload adjust track 119. By this means of rotation, spring base plate 117 is rotatably advanced towards tip 110 so as to decrease the length of the space within which compression spring 116 resides, thereby compressing it and imparting a greater force to helical cam 113 both initially and during the sequence of compression and release which occurs during operation. By this means, the overall force imparted to tip 110 and thereby to targeted treatment area 31 of the user may be adjusted.

[055] As discussed above, drive shaft 115 may be operatively coupled to the motor and may be rotatable. In one variation, drive shaft 115 is not directly affixed to motor 121 but is instead permitted only a reciprocating motion along the longitudinal axis of the device within the elongated housing, while helical cam 113 is operatively coupled (e.g., rigidly affixed) to motor 121 and rotates thereby. In this manner, the same relative motion of drive

shaft and helical cam is accomplished to create non-linear reciprocating motion of the drive shaft, but without rotation in the drive shaft. Thus, one of drive shaft and helical cam may perform a first of rotation and translation, and the other the drive shaft and the helical cam may perform the other of the rotation and translation, and in each case the resulting striking of the hammer and the tip is accomplished.

[056] Referring now to FIG. 5 which is a cutaway perspective view of the preferred embodiment of device 100, several key components may be more plainly seen. In this view, motor mount plate 158 may be seen to provide non-rotatable mounting of motor 121 within housing 126. Also, printed circuit board 134 may be plainly seen. Printed circuit board 134 contains electronic circuitry and controls to produce a stable, reliable power source, to regulate speed of operation, to monitor and display functional parameters such as speed of operation, force, number of cycles, and to accept user inputs such as turning the device on and off or changing speed or force, or resetting counts, as well as generating outputs such as alphanumeric display data or sounds, lights or other enunciators.

[057] Still referring to FIG. 5, it may be plainly seen how display 125 is advantageously incorporated within housing 126 so as to be easily viewable by the user during operation, and power button 159 is similarly conveniently located for easy access and operation by the user.

[058] Referring now to FIG. 6A which is a perspective view of the device 100 in operation by a user, it may be plainly seen how the form factor of device 100 is well adapted to be held and deployed by the user to administer self-treatment such that tip 110 may be readily applied to body tissue 44 in target treatment

area 31, as opposed to the pistol-like form factor of most commercial devices which are intended for use by a skilled operator for treatments performed on the subject, rather than self-use.

[059] Referring now to FIG. 6B, another feature is illustrated. Here it may be plainly seen that the user self-administers treatment with tip 110 of device 100 applied to body tissue 44 of target treatment area 31. Given that home use and self-administration of treatments presumes a lack of specialized medical training or anatomical knowledge and given that treatment is most effective when applied properly and correctly to the appropriate target treatment area 31, guide template 140 may be placed over a particular target treatment area 31 such that non-treated areas are obscured and protected by the opaque template material which target treatment areas 31 are exposed by means of guide channels 141 which are openings or windows in guide template 140 such that tip 110 of device 100 may contact body tissue 44 only where accessible through guide channels 141. By this means, even an un-trained user is able to apply treatment to precisely the areas deemed most suitable simply by placing tip 110 of device 100 within guide channels 141 of guide template 140 and moving tip 110 in such a manner as to apply treatment to all areas of exposed body tissue 44 in target treatment area 31.

[060] Referring now to FIG. 7 which is an exploded view of the assembly of all components comprising device 100, each of the above referenced items may be clearly seen in its entirety as well as their relative positions within the assembly.

[061] The embodiments disclosed above are merely exemplary and there are many possible variations of the implementations described above consistent with the teaching of the present disclosure which assist the user, particularly a user who does not

possess specific medical or anatomical training to utilize the device properly, effectively, safely, and efficiently.

[062] One such variation is the incorporation of a rechargeable or replaceable battery to power the device which enables use without a power cord. This not only affords the user greater mobility and ease of use, not to mention the convenience of being able to use the device outdoors or in a location which does not have electrical receptacles available, but provides the further benefit of increasing the weight of the device, thereby increasing the ratio of the weight of the device relative to the mass of the operating tip which makes it less critical that the user apply pressure to the device against the body to insure that the energy of the tip is being properly transferred to the body.

[063] FIG 8A illustrates another variation wherein a smartphone 251 is coupled to device 100 either by a data cable 252 or by some wireless means such as Bluetooth or WiFi, and smartphone 251 is utilized to provide additional or enhanced features or performance for device 100. In one embodiment of the disclosure, smartphone 251 is simply used as a remote display 225 to communicate device status, performance, settings, or other information to the user. There are several advantages to such an arrangement. First, the cost, size, weight, and mechanical vulnerability of a display are removed from device 100. Second, the user may position the smartphone 251 advantageously in order to be able to see the display even when the device is being utilized on a part of the body which does not permit a direct view of display 225 or even device 100 during use. Yet still another feature is the incorporation of plug-in or wireless connectivity of the device to the internet which provides a range of useful features and functions. One such function is the ability to track

the individual's usage patterns and history which may be useful in developing and guiding a more effective treatment regimen. Another feature is the ability of the user to access training and use tutorials and instructions through the device or remote monitor. Yet another feature is the ability to monitor, diagnose, troubleshoot or pre-emptively flag service, life cycle, maintenance, updating, or component replacement issues in the device. Still another feature is the ability to update the operating software of the device remotely. Still yet another feature is the ability to present sales and/or marketing information to the user in real time. Yet one more feature is the ability to sell products including refills of expendables such as numbing cream to the user in real time. Yet another feature is the ability to offer additional related or unrelated products and or services for sale to the user in real time. Yet still another feature is the ability for the user to track and monitor progress and results of the treatments over time. Yet one more feature is the ability of the user to access expert assistance or ask and receive answers to questions about the device, use of the device, the treatment protocol, expected results, problems, troubleshooting or other issues by communicating either with a live operator or a database of FAQs.

[064] In another variation device 100 has a video camera built into it to facilitate proper placement of the device when utilized on parts of the body which do not permit a direct line of sight. Video images thus generated may be displayed on a smartphone, computer, TV screen or any of a number of other display devices well known in the art by means of hard wired or wireless connections.

[065] Referring now to FIG. 8B which is a perspective view of one embodiment of the disclosure connected to a computer by means of a data cable it may be plainly seen how all of the capabilities of the device including display, data tracking, data connectivity and sales and marketing opportunities may be employed with a computer 333 coupled to device 100 either wirelessly or by means of a data cable.

[066] Referring now to FIG. 9 which is an electrical schematic of a solenoid and driving circuitry, yet another variation of the device may be seen. In this embodiment, the low frequency shock wave energy is created not with a helical cam as in the preferred embodiment, but instead by accelerating a solenoid slug electromechanically by means of a wire coil and colliding said solenoid slug into tip 110 of device 100 to impart the energy to tip 110 which creates the sonic waves 43 required for treatment.

[067] FIG. 10A which is a perspective view of another embodiment of the disclosure clearly shows an alternative form factor for the disclosure which facilitates self-treatment, particularly to hard to reach areas of the user's body. In this embodiment the body of device 100 is advantageously cradled in the user's palm while a strap which passes over the back of the user's hand secures the device to the user's hand thereby alleviating the burden of securely grasping the device which may be difficult to accomplish when applying the device to certain hard to reach areas of the body.

[068] FIG. 10B which is a perspective view of yet another embodiment of the disclosure clearly shows yet another form factor for the disclosure which facilitates self-treatment, particularly to hard to reach areas of the user's body which may be inaccessible to the user's hand without additional mechanical assistance or

extension. In this embodiment which utilizes a handle to functionally extend the reach and range of the user's hand it advantageously permits the user to place tip 10 of the device 100 on areas of the body which might otherwise be out of reach. One further variation of the disclosure is to incorporate a video camera in such an embodiment with the image produced by said video camera viewable on a remote display to advantageously permit the user to locate and place device 100 accurately on parts of the body which are not in direct line of site for example the buttocks or back of thighs, which might be highly desirable treatment locations.

[069] Yet another feature is the incorporation of telemetry in the device which apart from or in cooperation with a constellation of sensors may be used to assist the user in properly locating the device on the desired body part and insuring proper travel, range of motion, and full coverage of the area whether the body part is directly viewable by the user or not.

[070] It may be seen in these several embodiments of the disclosure that the disclosure overcomes the deficiencies of all previous attempts at solving the problem of device which administers low frequency shock waves to targeted areas of the user's body for treatment of soft tissue damage, cellulite reduction, or erectile dysfunction which is a safe, inexpensive, self-applied, home use solution which does not require a second person to operate, significant medical or anatomical knowledge, special training, and which provide for tutorials, patient tracking, system updates, and marketed, sales, and promotion capabilities, which would be optimal for the application.

[071] In broad embodiment, the present disclosure is a device which administers low frequency shock waves to targeted areas of

the user's body for treatment of soft tissue damage, cellulite reduction, or erectile dysfunction which is a safe, inexpensive, self-applied, home use solution which does not require a second person to operate, significant medical or anatomical knowledge, special training, and which provide for tutorials, patient tracking, system updates, and marketing, sales, and promotion capabilities, which would be optimal for the application.

[072] Although the invention herein has been described with reference to particular embodiments, it is to be understood that these embodiments are merely illustrative of the principles and applications of the present invention. It is therefore to be understood that numerous modifications may be made to the illustrative embodiments and that other arrangements may be devised without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined by the appended claims.

[073] It will be appreciated that the various dependent claims and the features set forth therein can be combined in different ways than presented in the initial claims. It will also be appreciated that the features described in connection with individual embodiments may be shared with others of the described embodiments.

CLAIMS

1. A method of treatment, comprising:

providing a treatment device including a housing having a longitudinal axis extending between a first end and a second end, a motor disposed within the housing, a drive shaft operatively coupled to the motor, a compression spring at least partially disposed about the drive shaft, a helical cam disposed adjacent the compression spring, the helical cam having a first flat end, and a second end having at least one discontinuity, wherein the drive shaft passes through the first and second ends of the helical cam and includes at least one cam follower configured to travel along the helical cam, a hammer coupled to one of the helical cam and the drive shaft and moveable therewith, and a tip; and

striking the tip with the hammer at repeated intervals to create a shock wave.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of rotating the drive shaft.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of translating the helical cam along the longitudinal axis.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of rotating the helical cam.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of translating the drive shaft along the longitudinal axis.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a power source in the form of a rechargeable battery.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a guide template for partially covering a body part and having at least one window through which a treatment area is exposed.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of creating the shock wave adjacent the at least one window.

9. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of providing a display, and providing instructions to a user during use of the treatment device via the display.

10. A method of treatment, comprising:

providing a treatment device including a housing having a longitudinal axis extending between a first end and a second end, a drive shaft operatively coupled to a motor, a compression spring at least partially disposed about the drive shaft, a helical cam disposed adjacent the compression spring, the helical cam having

a first flat end, and a second end having at least one discontinuity, wherein the drive shaft passes through the first and second ends of the helical cam and includes at least one cam follower configured to travel along the helical cam, a moveable hammer, and a tip; and

repeatedly striking the tip with the hammer to create a shock wave.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of providing a rotating drive shaft.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of providing a translating helical cam.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of providing a rotating helical cam.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of providing a translating drive shaft.

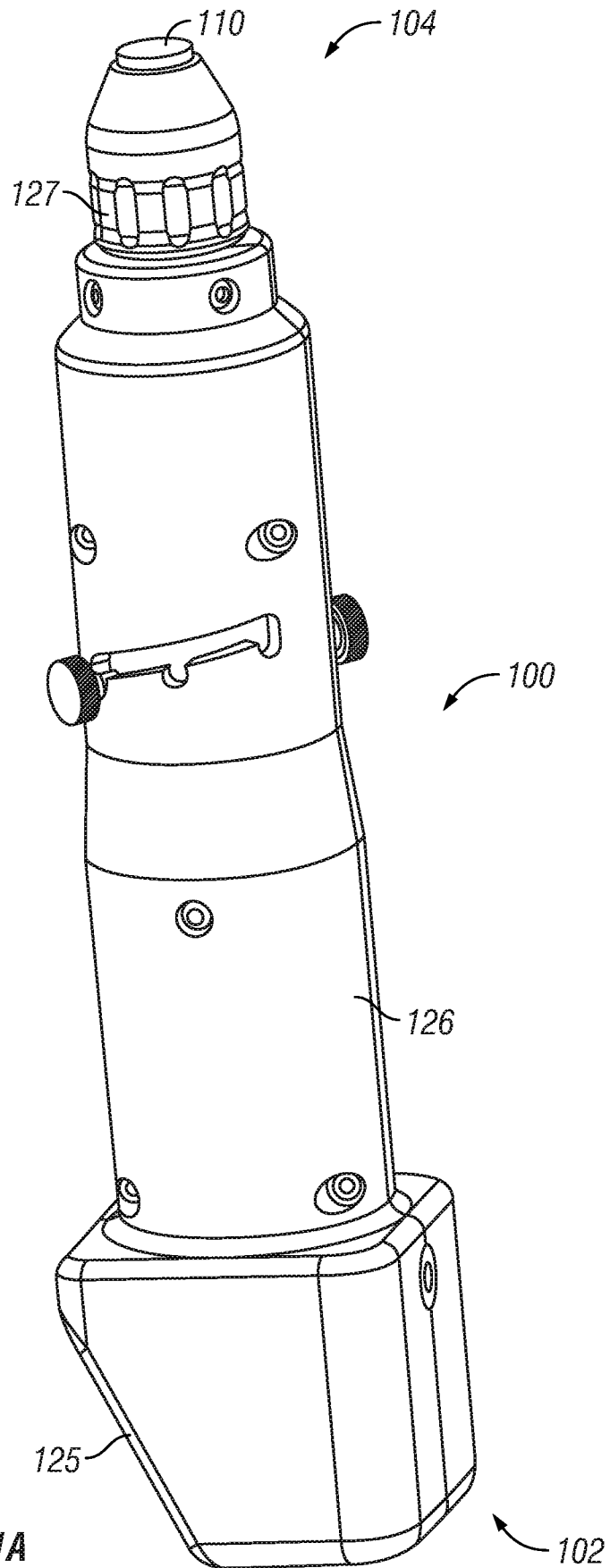
15. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of providing a power source in the form of a rechargeable battery to actuate the hammer.

16. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of providing a guide template for partially covering a body part and having at least one window through which a treatment area is exposed.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of creating the shock wave adjacent the at least one window.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of providing a display, and providing instructions to a user during use of the treatment device via the display.

1/13



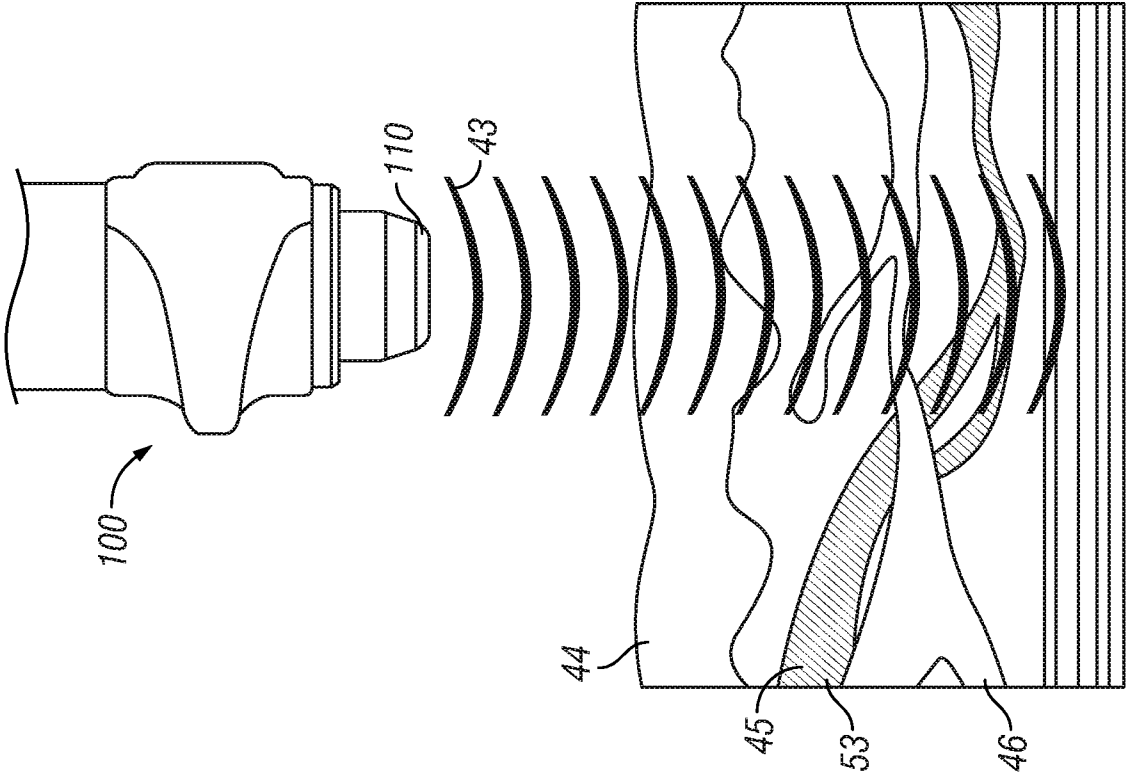


FIG. 1B

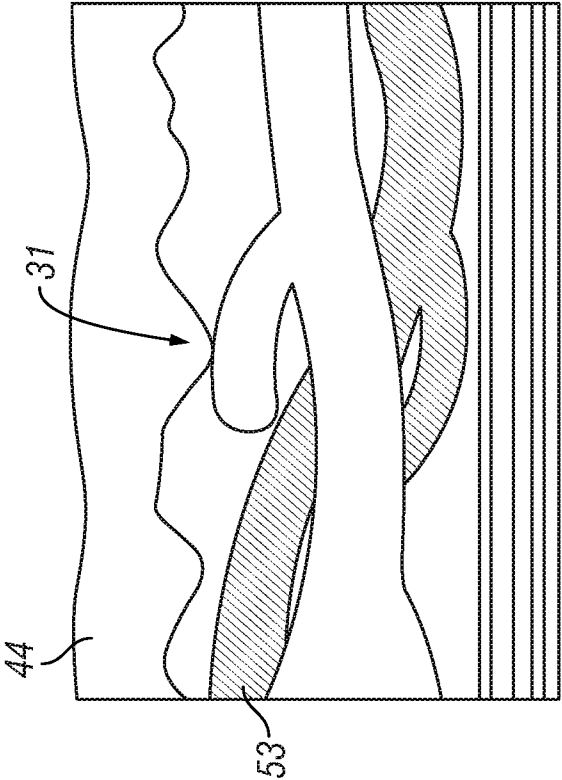


FIG. 1C

3/13

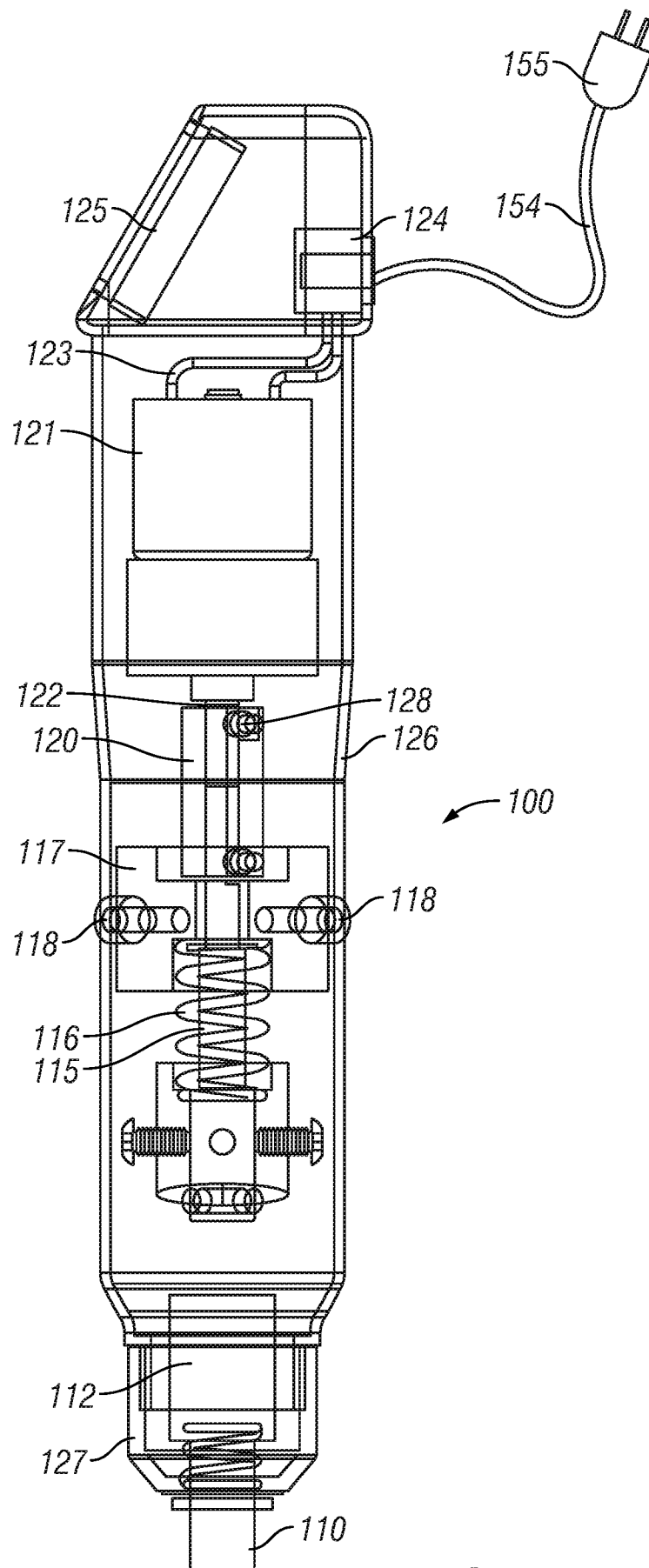


FIG. 2

4/13

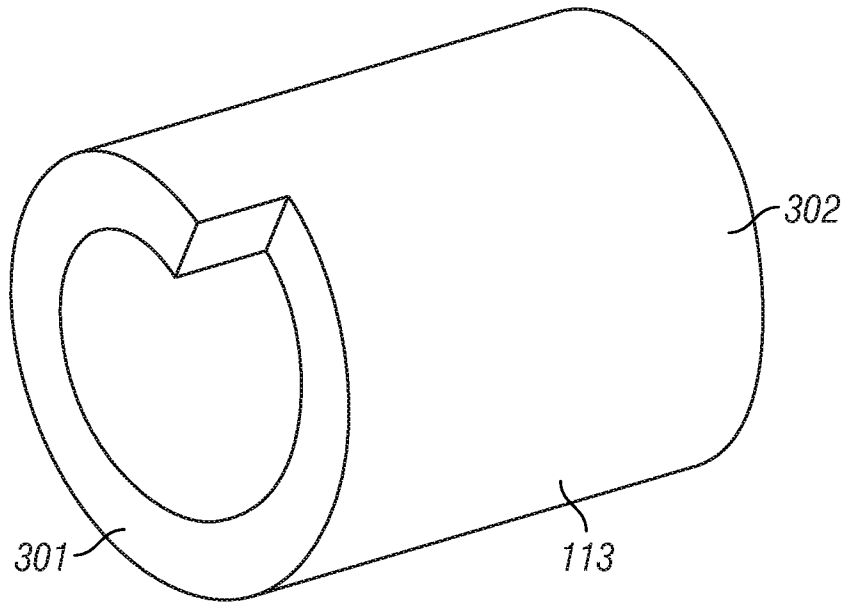


FIG. 3A

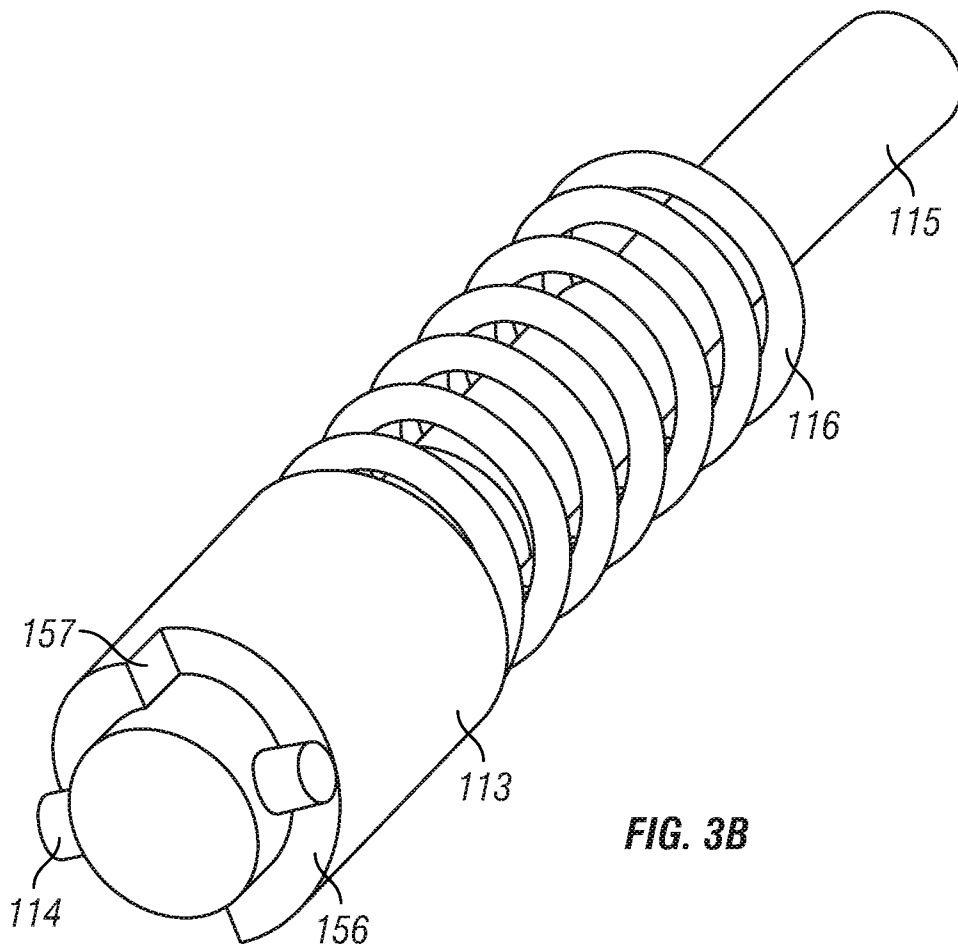


FIG. 3B

5/13

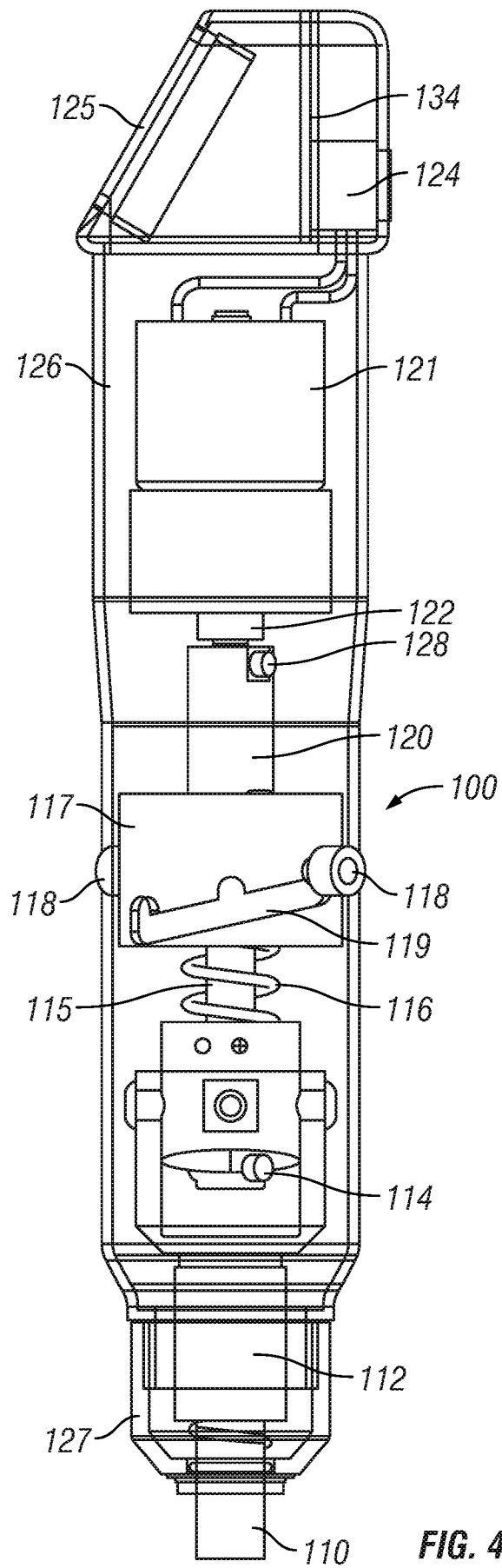


FIG. 4

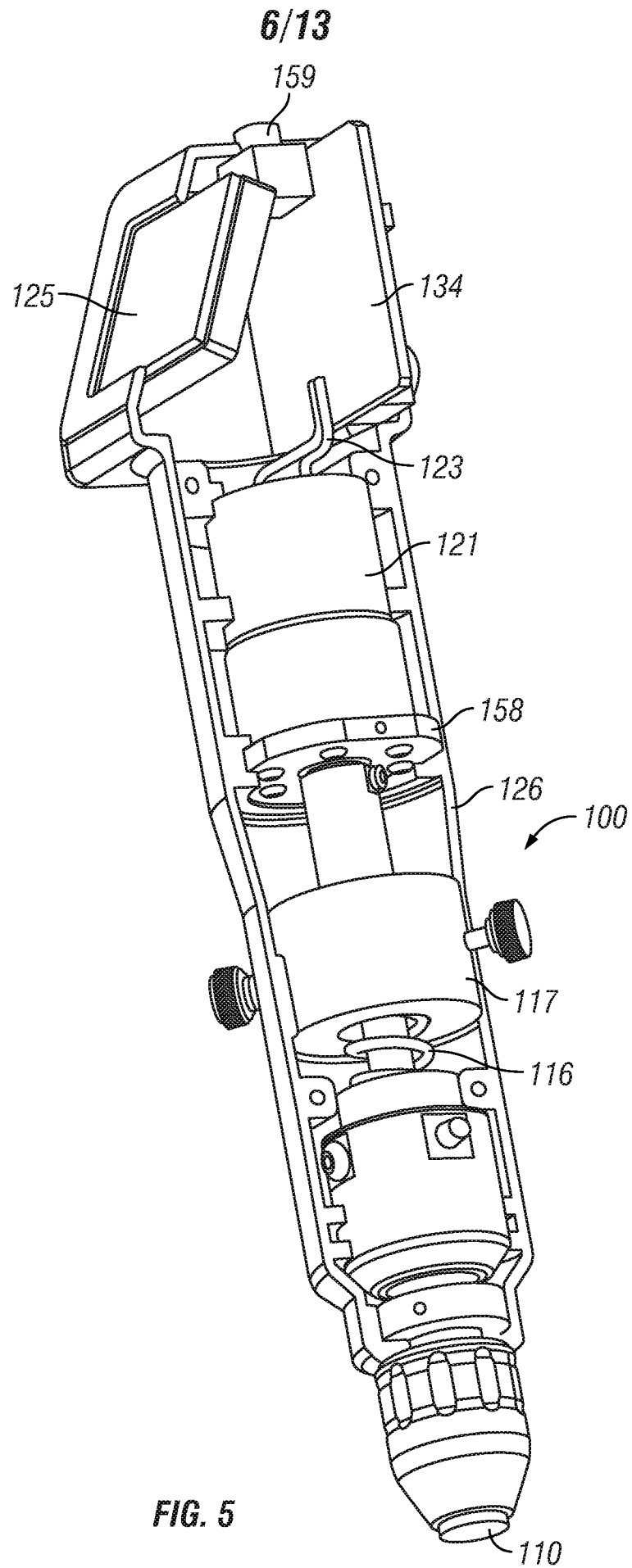


FIG. 5

7/13

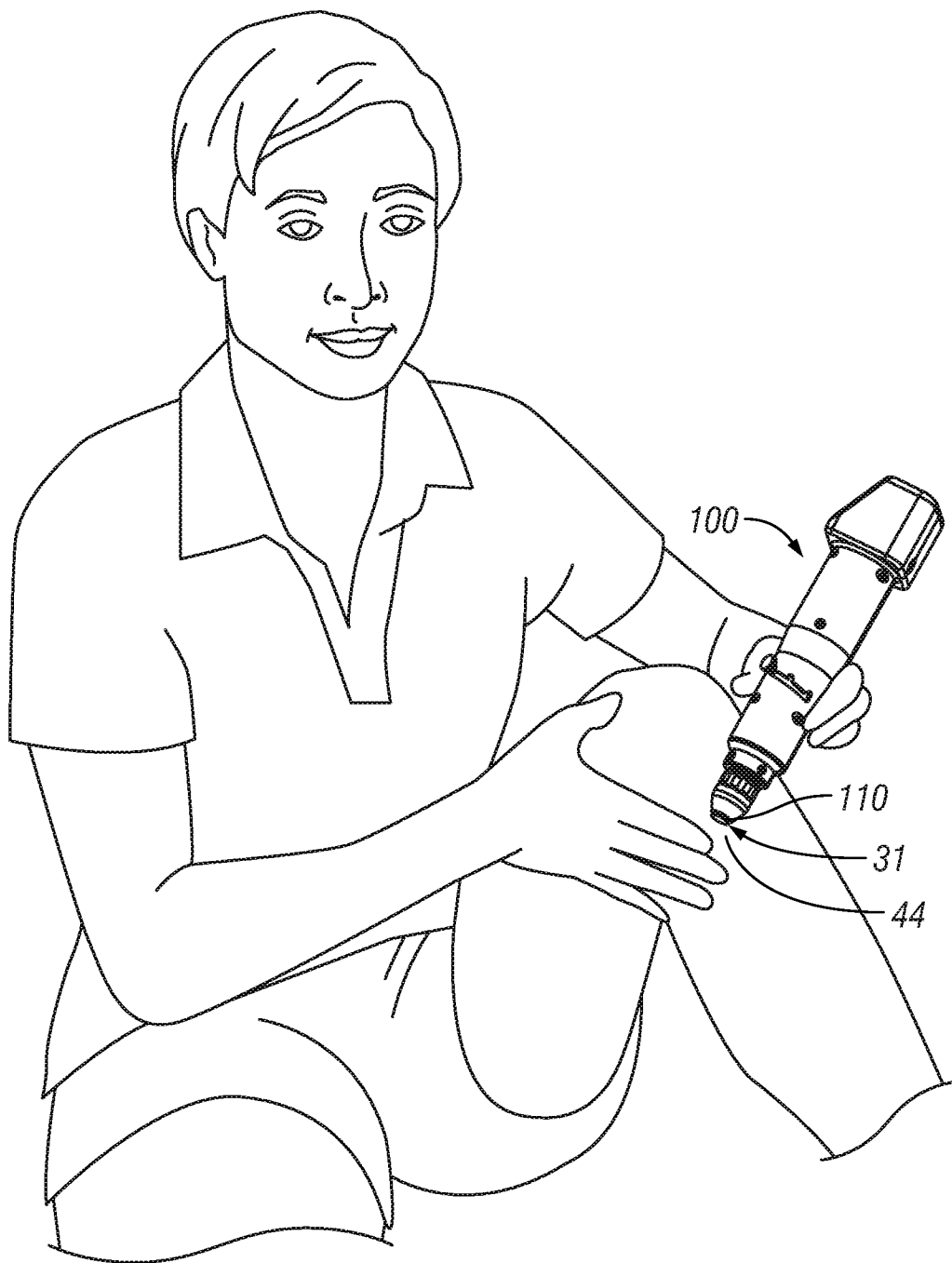


FIG. 6A

8/13

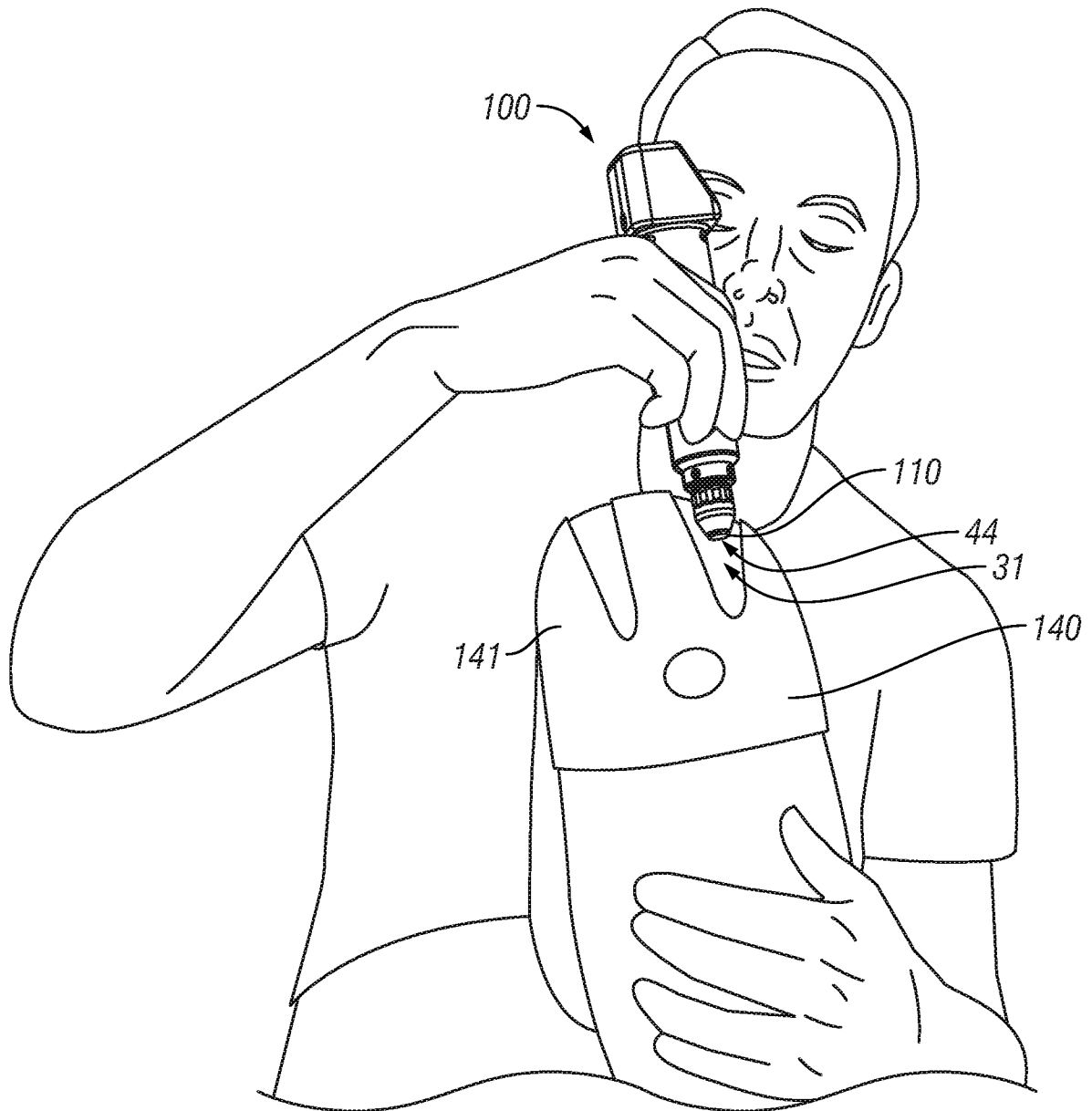
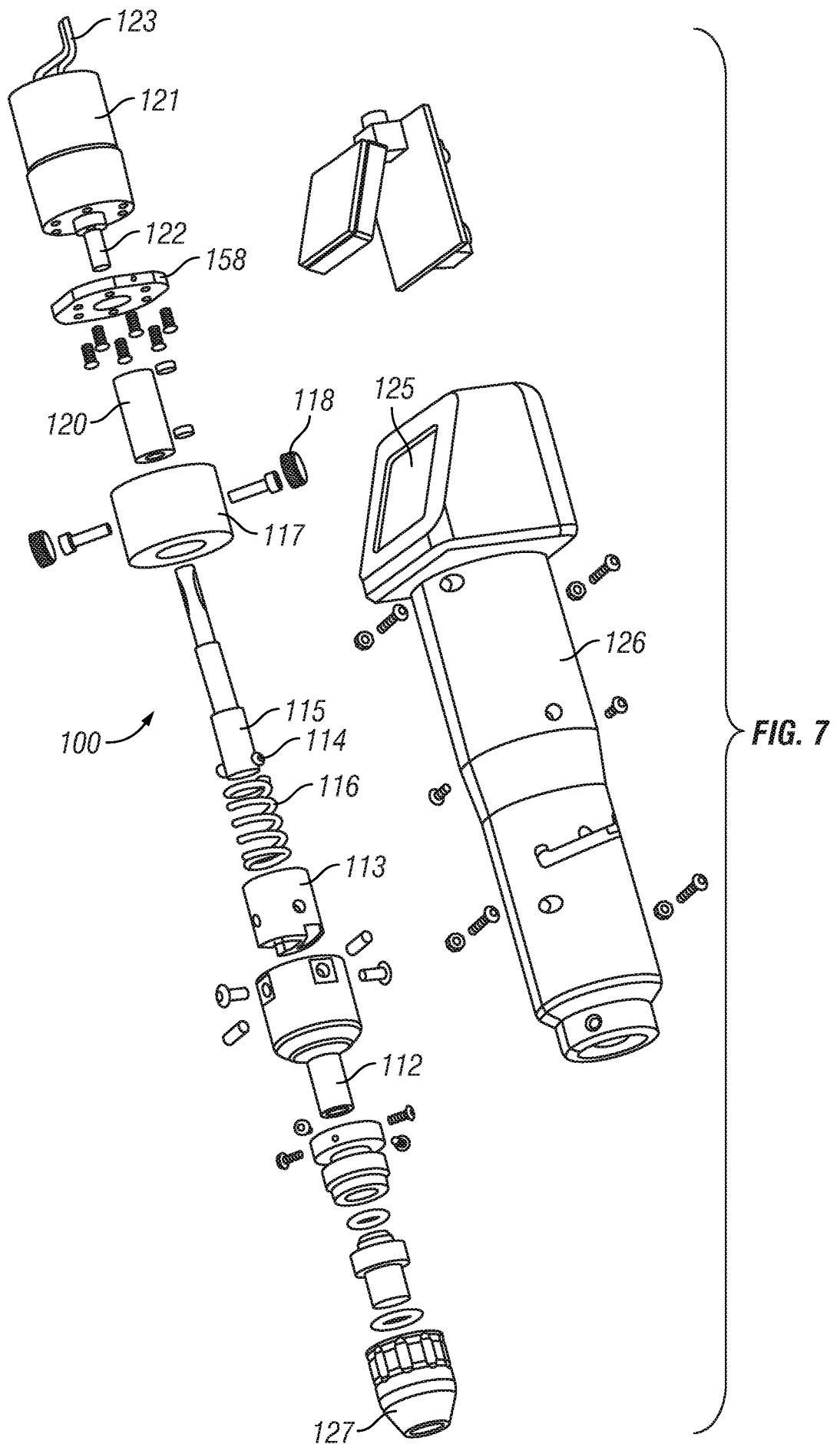


FIG. 6B

9/13



10/13

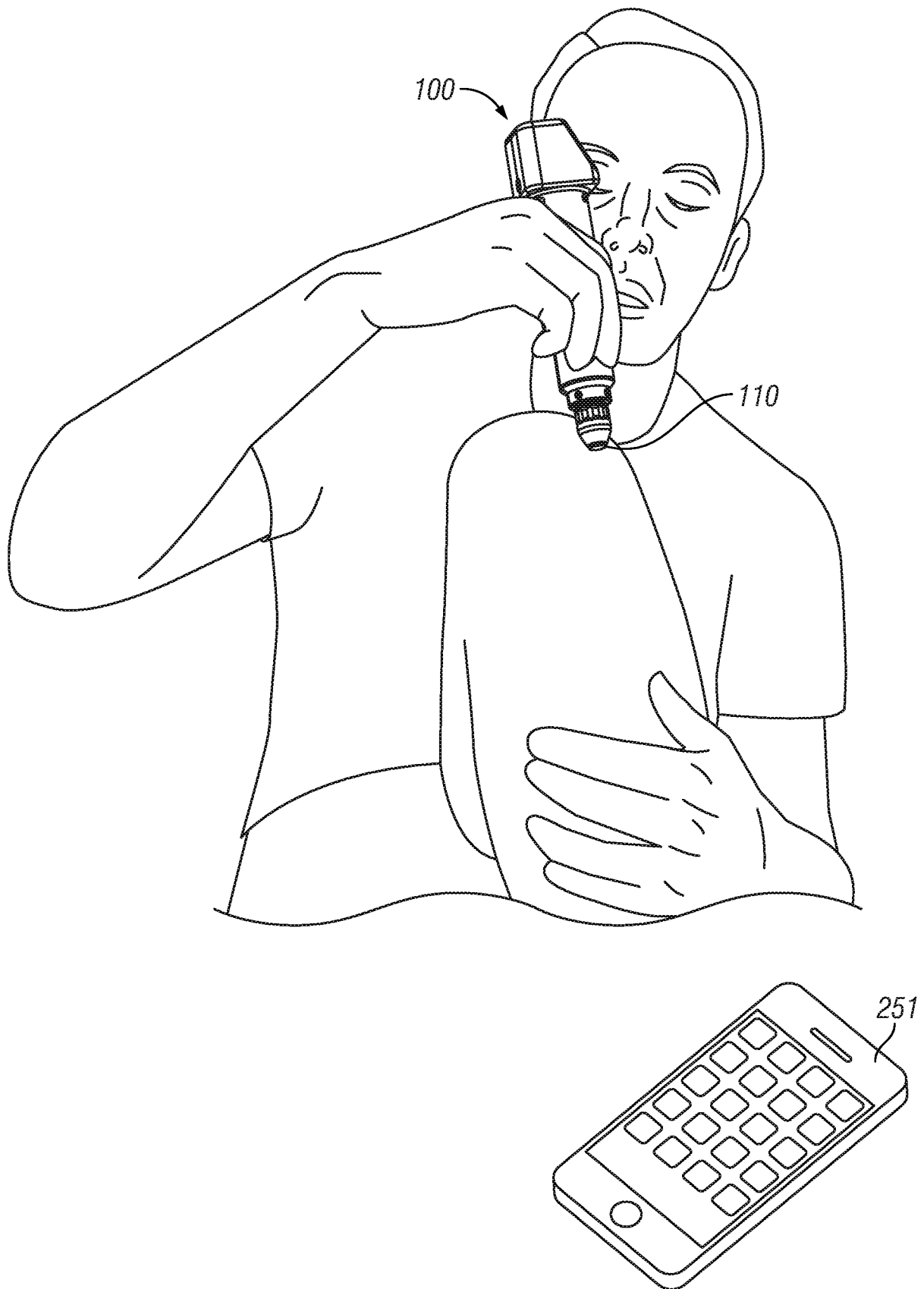


FIG. 8A

11/13

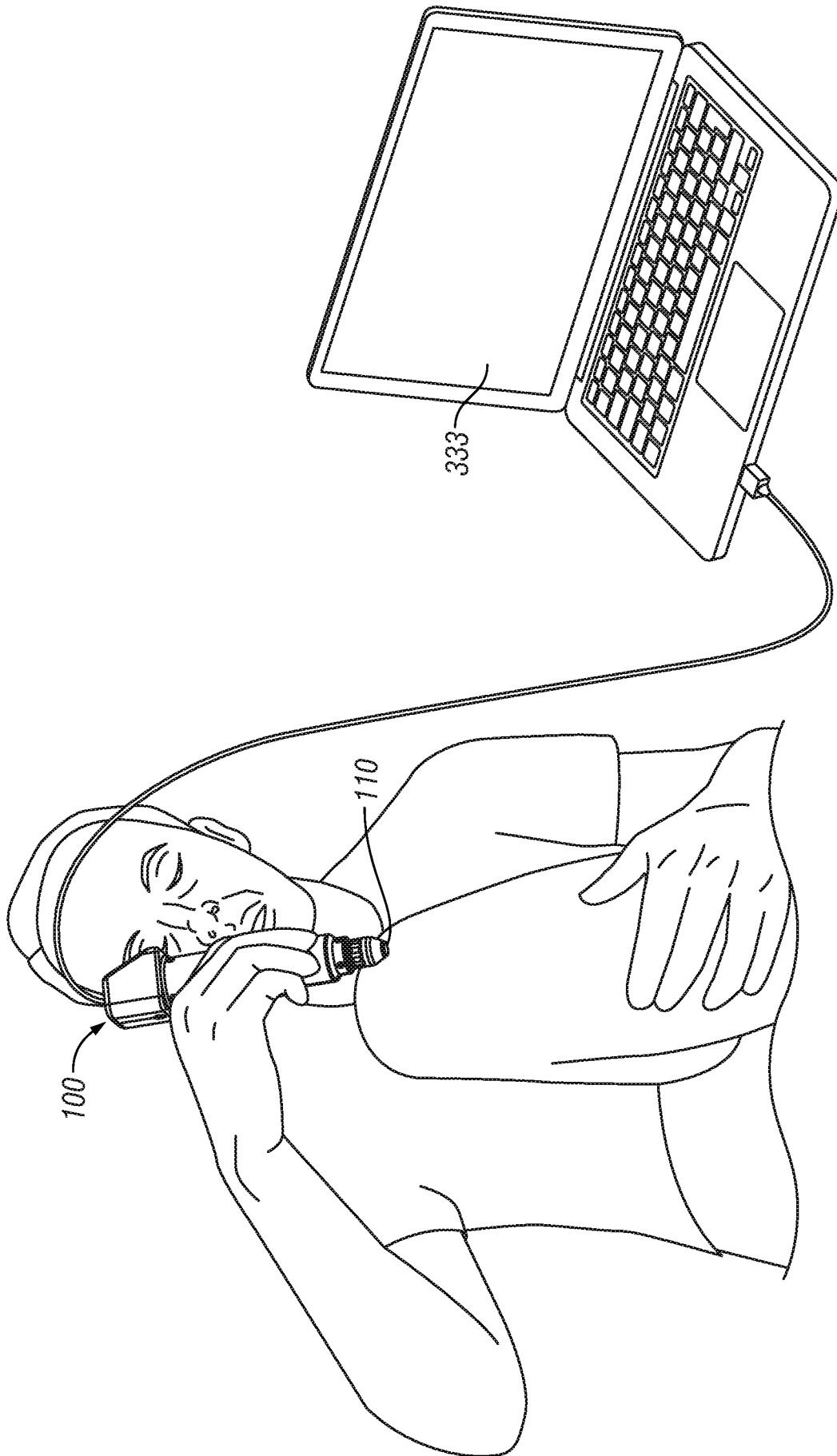


FIG. 8B

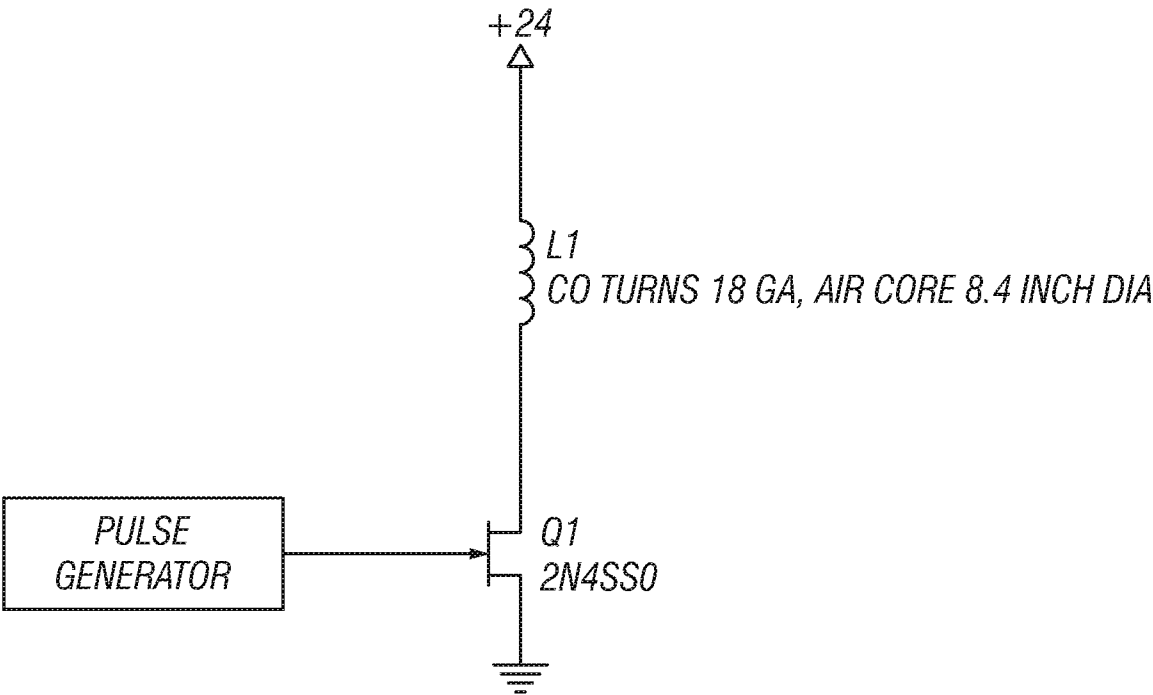


FIG. 9

13/13

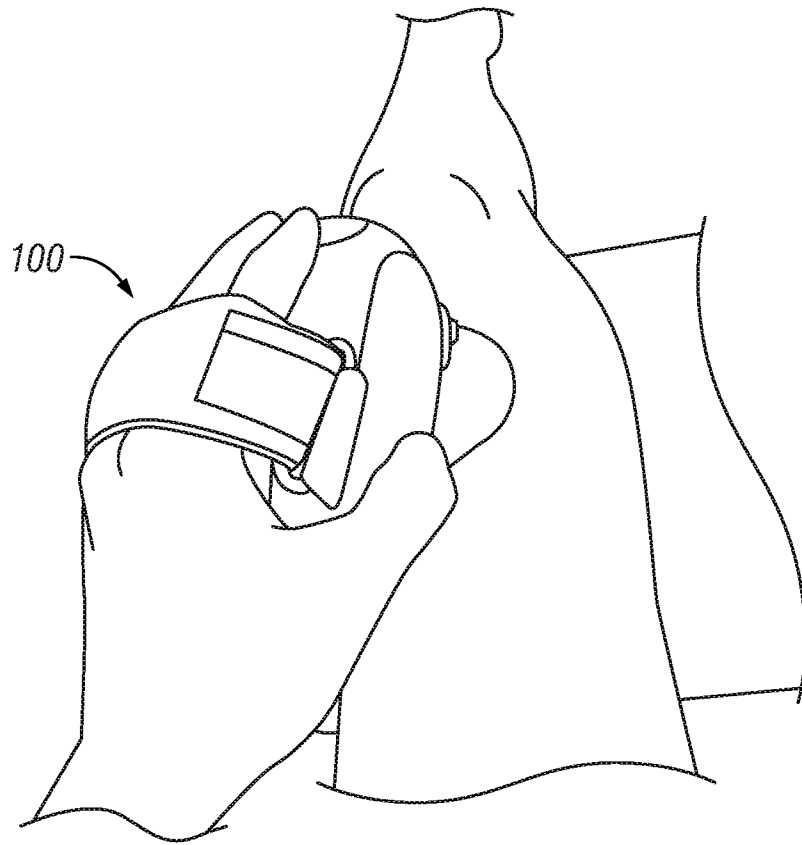


FIG. 10A

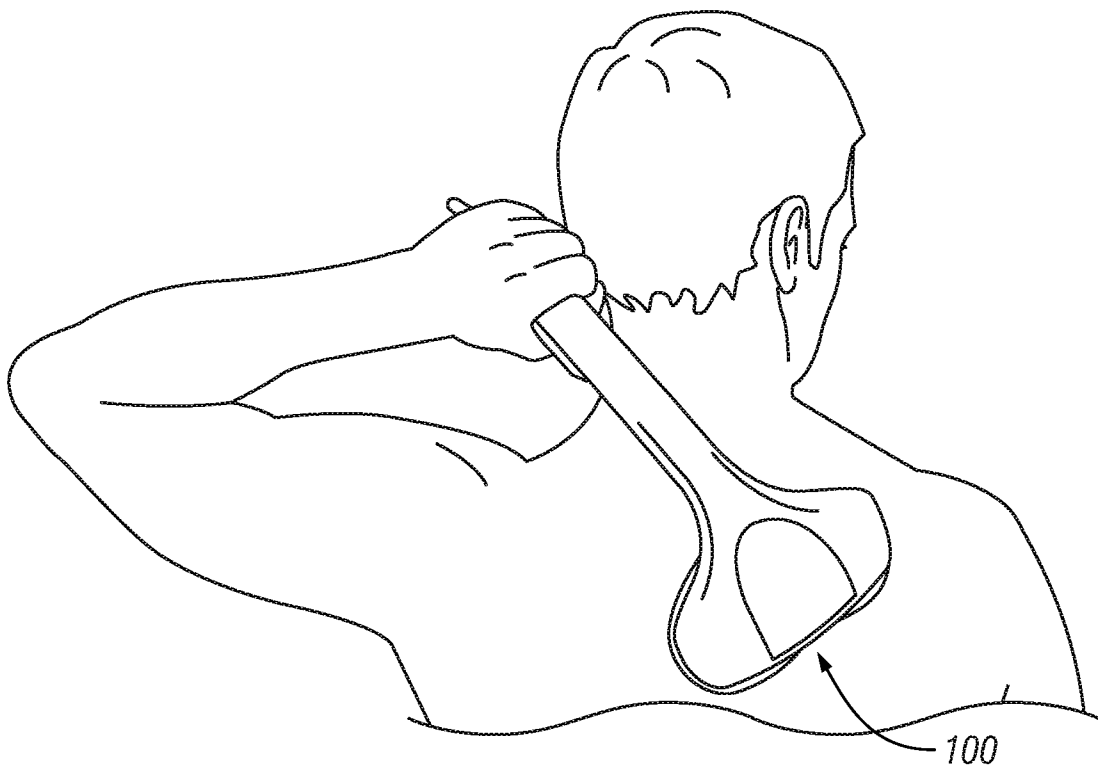


FIG. 10B