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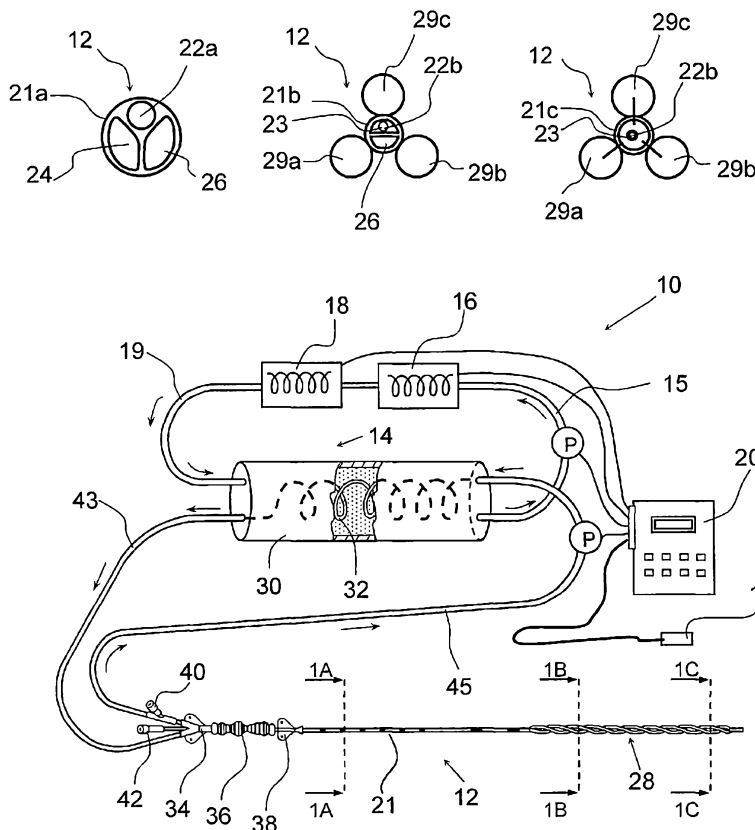
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(54) Title: DEVICES, SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR RAPID ENDOVASCULAR COOLING



(57) Abstract: Devices and methods for warming or cooling blood flowing through the vasculature of a human or animal subject so as to alter or control the temperature of all or part of the subject's body. Heat exchangers are positioned within the subject's vasculature and heated or cooled heat exchange fluid is circulated through the heat exchanger. For certain therapeutic applications, the heat exchanger and associated elements of the system have sufficient power to lower the subject's body temperature by at least 3 degrees C in less than 30 minutes.

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DEVICES, SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR RAPID ENDOVASCULAR COOLING

RELATED APPLICATION

5 This patent application claims priority to United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/695,786 filed on June 29, 2005, the entirety of which is expressly incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

10 This invention relates generally to devices and methods for medical treatment and more particularly to devices and methods for endovascular heat exchange for altering or controlling body temperature in a human or animal subject.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 Therapeutic hypothermia can protect various tissues, including cardiac, brain, and renal tissue, against the effects of ischemic, anoxic or toxic insult. For example, animal studies and/or clinical trials suggest that mild hypothermia can have neuroprotective and/or cardioprotective effects in animals or humans who suffer from ischemic cardiac events (e.g., myocardial infarct, acute coronary syndromes, etc.),
20 postanoxic coma after cardiopulmonary resuscitation, traumatic brain injury, stroke, subarachnoid hemorrhage, fever and neurological injury. Also, studies have shown that whole body hypothermia can ameliorate the toxic effects of radiographic contrast media on the kidneys (e.g., radiocontrast nephropathy) of patients with pre-existing renal impairment who undergo angiography procedures.

25 One method for inducing hypothermia is through the use of a technique known as endovascular temperature management (ETM). In ETM, a catheter having a heat exchanger is inserted into a blood vessel and thermal exchange fluid of precisely controlled temperature is circulated through the catheter's heat exchanger. This technique can effectively cool blood flowing through the subject's vasculature
30 and, as a result, lower the core body temperature of the subject to some desired

target temperature. ETM is also capable of warming the body and/or of controlling body temperature to maintain a monitored body temperature at some selected temperature. If a controlled rate of re-warming or re-cooling from the selected target temperature is desired, that too can be accomplished by carefully controlling the amount of heat added or removed from the body and thereby controlling the temperature change of the patient.

For ischemic events that result from blockage of an artery, such as myocardial infarction and ischemic stroke, a primary treatment objective is to remove, dissolve or bypass the arterial blockage so as to reperfuse the ischemic tissue within a short period of time (e.g., less than 5 hours) after the onset of acute clinical symptoms. Such reperfusion can be accomplished by surgery (e.g., open embolectomy, bypass grafting, etc.), catheter based intervention (e.g., angioplasty, stenting, atherectomy, catheter-based embolectomy, etc.) or through the use of thrombolytic drugs (e.g., tissue plasminogen activator (TPA) or streptokinase). Because of the tissue protection added by hypothermia, it is currently believed that optimal treatment of such ischemic events may be achieved through a combination of therapeutic hypothermia with a reperfusion strategy such as surgery, catheter based intervention and/or thrombolytic drug therapy.

The effects of mild whole body hypothermia have been studied in acute myocardial infarction patients who subsequently underwent coronary interventions (i.e., angioplasty and stenting procedures) which resulted in reperfusion of the infarcted myocardium. In at least one study, it was observed that patients with anterior wall infarctions whose core body temperature had been lowered to at least 35°C prior to reperfusion had significantly smaller median infarct size than other patients with anterior wall infarctions whose core body temperature was greater than 35°C at the time of reperfusion. This observation is not explained by other factors including time-to-presentation, lesion location and incidence of TIMI flow prior to angioplasty.

Thus, at least in the treatment of evolving myocardial infarctions, the size of

the infarct may be significantly reduced if mild hypothermia is induced prior to reperfusion. Given the motivation to accomplish reperfusion as rapidly as possible, there exists a need in the art for the development of new methods, devices and systems for rapid endovascular cooling to facilitate the induction of hypothermia prior to reperfusion in subjects suffering from ischemic disorders such as myocardial infarction or ischemic stroke. Beyond this example, it should be understood that such methods, devices and systems are also beneficial in other therapeutic applications including but not limited to the treatment of cardiac arrest, radiocontrast nephropathy, inotropic treatment of heart disease, and others.

Furthermore, the mammalian body has physiologic temperature regulation mechanisms that function to maintain a setpoint temperature (usually normothermia) under most conditions. These innate physiologic mechanisms also cause the body to warm faster if the body is perceived to be cold and to cool faster if the body is perceived to be warm. Conscious subjects who have not been medicated to deter shivering may often times shiver in response to a decrease in their body temperature. Such shivering can provide significant additional energy which must be overcome in order to induce the hypothermic effect. Strategies to prevent shivering include warming blankets applied to the skin of the patient as well as several drugs such as those described in United States Patent Nos. 6,231,594 (Dae), 6,582,457 (Dae), 6,702,839(Dae) and 7,008,444(Dae), each such United States Patent being expressly incorporated herein by reference. The development of a new endovascular heat exchange catheter system with substantially more cooling (or warming power) could provide a new treatment that is better able to override the body's normal physiologic mechanisms and external factors thereby inducing therapeutic hypothermia (or hyperthermia) faster than endovascular heat exchange catheter systems of the prior art. Likewise, such more efficient endovascular heat exchange catheter system would be better able to control temperature change in the face of the body's own mechanism that might be attempting to change the body's temperature back to the set point after a period of hypothermia, for example maintaining a desired temperature that is other than the set point temperature, or re-

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warming a cold patient back to normothermia at a very controlled rate that is slower than the rate the body would otherwise warm itself.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a heat exchange catheter system useable to cool blood flowing through the vasculature of a human or animal subject, said system comprising:

a heat exchange catheter comprising a catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end, a first lumen, a second lumen and a heat exchange balloon, said heat exchange balloon comprising a plurality of balloon lobes, said balloon lobes being connected to the first and second lumens of the catheter such that thermal exchange fluid will flow through the first lumen, circulate through the balloon lobes, and then flow out of the second lumen, each of said balloon lobes having a wall thickness of less than approximately 0.01651 mm, said heat exchange balloon having a collapsed configuration of a first diameter D_1 and an inflated configuration of a second diameter D_2 , wherein D_2 is at least about 3.5 times greater than D_1 ;

a fluid cooling apparatus comprising a heat exchanger and a condenser for chilling a coolant fluid, the heat exchanger having a first flowpath through which the thermal exchange fluid circulates and a second flowpath through which the chilled coolant fluid circulates, the heat exchanger's first flowpath being isolated from the second flowpath, the heat exchanger's first flowpath being connected to the catheter such that thermal exchange fluid which exits the second lumen of the catheter will circulate through the heat exchanger's first flowpath and flow back into the first lumen of the catheter;

wherein the catheter body, fluid cooling apparatus and heat exchange balloon are sized, configured and constructed to render the system capable of cooling the subject's core body temperature from a normothermic temperature to a core body temperature at or below about 34 degrees C in less than thirty minutes.

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The invention also provides a heat exchange catheter system useable to cool blood flowing through the vasculature of a human or animal subject, said system comprising:

a heat exchange catheter comprising a catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end, a first lumen, a second lumen and a heat exchange balloon connected to said first lumen and said second lumen, said heat exchange balloon having a plurality of lobes that are twisted in a generally helical configuration, said balloon having a collapsed configuration of a first circumscribed diameter D_1 and an inflated configuration of a second circumscribed diameter D_2 , wherein D_2 is at least about 3.5 times greater than D_1 ;

a fluid cooling apparatus comprising a heat exchanger and a condenser for chilling a coolant fluid, the heat exchanger having a first flowpath through which the thermal exchange fluid circulates and a second flowpath through which the chilled coolant fluid circulates, the heat exchanger's first flowpath being isolated from the second flowpath, the heat exchanger's first flowpath being connected to the catheter such that thermal exchange fluid which exits the second lumen of the catheter will circulate through the heat exchanger's first flowpath and flow back into the first lumen of the catheter;

wherein the catheter body, fluid cooling apparatus and heat exchange balloon are sized, configured and constructed to render the system capable of delivering at least about 400 watts of cooling power when operated within a rigid 22 mm ID tube through which water at a temperature of 37 degrees C is pumped at a rate of 2.5 liters per minute.

The invention also provides a method for treating a human or animal subject who has a coronary artery obstruction which impairs perfusion of the subject's myocardium prior to performance of reperfusion procedure which removes or bypasses the coronary artery obstruction, said method comprising the steps of:

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A) obtaining or providing a heat exchange catheter comprising a catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end, a first lumen, a second lumen and a heat exchange balloon, said heat exchange balloon comprising a plurality of balloon lobes, said balloon lobes being connected to the first and second lumens of the catheter such that thermal exchange fluid will flow through the first lumen, circulate through the balloon lobes, and then flow out of the second lumen, each of said balloon lobes having a wall thickness of less than approximately 0.01651 mm, said heat exchange balloon having a collapsed configuration of a first diameter D_1 and an expanded configuration of a second diameter D_2 , wherein D_2 is at least about 3.5 times greater than D_1 ;

B) obtaining or providing a fluid cooling apparatus comprising a heat exchanger and a condenser for chilling a coolant fluid, the heat exchanger having a first flowpath through which the thermal exchange fluid circulates and a second flowpath through which the chilled coolant fluid circulates, the heat exchanger's first flowpath being isolated from the second flowpath, the heat exchanger's first flowpath being connected to the catheter such that thermal exchange fluid which exits the second lumen of the catheter will circulate through the heat exchanger's first flowpath and flow back into the first lumen of the catheter;

C) inserting the heat exchange catheter into the subject's vasculature while the heat exchange catheter is in its collapsed configuration;

D) expanding the heat exchange catheter to its expanded configuration; and

E) using the heat exchanger to cool blood that flows past the heat exchange catheter, thereby cooling the subject's core body temperature to less than about 34 degrees C before performance of the reperfusion procedure.

Still further in accordance with the invention, any details, aspects, elements or attributes of one of the above-summarized embodiments may be combined or replaced by any aspects, elements or attributes of another embodiment, unless doing so would render the resultant embodiment inoperative or unusable for its intended purpose.

Further details, aspects, elements and attributes of the present invention may be appreciated by those of skill in the art after reading the detailed description and examples set forth below.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a diagram of an endovascular heat exchange system of the present invention.

Figure 1A is a cross-section through line 1A-1A of Figure 1.

Figure 1 B is a cross-section through line 1B-1B of Figure 1.

Figure 1C is a cross-section through line 1C-1C of Figure 1.

Figure 2 is a side view of a distal portion of an endovascular heat exchange catheter device of the present invention with its heat exchange balloon deployed in a fully expanded state.

Figure 3 is a side view of a portion of the heat exchange catheter device of Figure 2A with arrows showing an example of the manner in which blood or other body fluid may flow adjacent to the heat exchange balloon.

5 Figure 3A is an enlarged view of segment 3A of Figure 3 showing an example of the manner in which heat exchange fluid may flow therethrough.

Figure 4A is a diagram of the inferior vena cava and iliac bifurcation of a human subject with a heat exchange catheter of the present invention inserted therein, such heat exchange catheter having optional distance markings that correlate to the subject's body size/vascular anatomy so as to be useable to determine when
10 substantially the entire heat exchange balloon has been advanced through the iliac vein and into the inferior vena cava.

Figure 4B is a diagram of the inferior vena cava and iliac bifurcation of a human subject with a heat exchange catheter of the present invention inserted therein, such heat exchange catheter having an optional energy emitting device (e.g., sonic or
15 ultrasonic) located just proximal to the heat exchange balloon, such energy emitting device being useable to determine the approximate diameter of the blood vessel in which it is positioned and to thereby determine when substantially the entire heat exchange balloon has been advanced through the iliac vein and into the inferior vena cava.

20 Figure 4C is a diagram of the inferior vena cava and iliac bifurcation of a human subject with a heat exchange catheter of the present invention inserted therein, such heat exchange catheter having an optional probe member positioned just proximal to the heat exchange balloon, such probe member being constructed to contact or
25 "feel" the adjacent wall of the blood vessel to detect changes in the diameter, size or anatomy of the surrounding blood vessel and to thereby determine when substantially the entire heat exchange balloon has been advanced through the iliac vein and into the inferior vena cava.

Figure 4D is a diagram of the inferior vena cava and iliac bifurcation of a human

subject with a heat exchange catheter of the present invention inserted therein, such heat exchange catheter having an optional flowmeter positioned just proximal to the heat exchange balloon, such flowmeter being operative to detect changes in the flowrate and/or flow patterns of blood and to thereby determine when substantially
5 the entire heat exchange balloon has been advanced through the iliac vein and into the inferior vena cava.

Figure 5A is a cross sectional view of a tri-lobed heat exchange balloon of the prior art in its expanded configuration.

Figure 5B is cross sectional view of a tri-lobed heat exchange balloon of the
10 present invention in its expanded configuration.

Figures 5B', 5B'' and 5B''' show examples of varying degrees of twisting that may be induced in the tri-lobed heat exchange balloons of the present invention.

Figure 6 is an in vitro water bath flow model for testing the cooling (or warming) power of the endovascular heat exchange catheters of the prior art and present
15 invention.

Figure 7 is a graph showing the effects of incoming thermal exchange fluid temperature and flowrate on cooling power in endovascular heat exchange catheters of the present invention.

Figure 8 is a graph showing the effect of the tightness of balloon twisting on heat
20 exchange power in an endovascular heat exchange catheter of the present invention having a tri-lobed heat exchange balloon.

Figure 9 is a graph showing cooling performance of the endovascular heat exchange catheters of the prior art and present invention.

Figure 10 is a drawing of a heat exchange catheter of the present invention
25 positioned in an inferior vena cava (IVC) that has a luminal diameter of 21 mm such that a lobe of the catheter's heat exchange balloon maximally obstructs a 7 mm diameter branch vessel.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following detailed description, the accompanying drawings and the above-set-forth brief descriptions of the drawings are intended to describe some, but not necessarily all, examples or embodiments of the invention. The contents of this detailed description, the accompanying drawings and the above-set-forth brief descriptions of the drawings do not limit the scope of the invention, or the scope of the following claims, in any way.

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic example of a heat exchange catheter system 10 of the present invention. In this example, the heat exchange catheter system 10 generally comprises a) a heat exchange catheter 12, b) an extracorporeal heat exchanger 14, c) a cooler 16 and/or heater 18, d) a body temperature measuring apparatus 17 and e) a programmable controller 20. In some instances, a cooler 16 and heater 18 may be combined or integrated into a single apparatus that alternately heats and cools (e.g., a thermoelectric cooler/heater) while in other instances a separate cooler 16 (e.g., a refrigerator, condenser, thermoelectric cooler, mass of cold matter, etc) and/or separate heater (e.g., a resistance heater, thermoelectric heater, mass of warm matter, etc.) may be used.

The heat exchange catheter 12 comprises an elongate catheter body 21 having an intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 mounted thereon. As shown in the cross section of Figure 1A, a proximal portion of the catheter comprises a proximal shaft 21a having a first thermal exchange fluid lumen 24, a second thermal exchange fluid lumen 26 and a working lumen 22a. At or near the distal end of the proximal shaft 21a the first thermal exchange fluid lumen 24 terminates and communicates through openings into three generally cylindrical balloon lobes 29a, 29b and 29c such that thermal exchange fluid may flow out of proximal portions of the balloon lobes 29a, 29b and 29c and into the first thermal exchange fluid lumen 24. Thus, in this example, the first thermal exchange fluid lumen 24 carries outflow of the thermal exchange fluid from the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 back toward

the extracorporeal heat exchanger.

As seen in the cross section of Figure 1B, balloon lobes 29a, 29b and 29c are twisted, wound or otherwise helically disposed about a mid-portion 21b of the catheter shaft. In this example, the mid-portion 21b of the catheter shaft comprises a continuation or extension of the second thermal exchange fluid lumen 26 along with a smaller tube 23 having a lumen 22b that is connected to and forms a continuation or extension of the proximal working lumen 22a. The balloon lobes 29a, 29b and 29c and the second thermal exchange fluid lumen 26 terminate at the distal end of the mid-portion 21b of the catheter shaft. Also at or near the distal end of the mid-portion 21b of the catheter shaft the second thermal exchange fluid lumen 26 terminates and communicates through openings into three generally cylindrical balloon lobes 29a, 29b and 29c such that thermal exchange fluid may flow from the second thermal exchange fluid lumen 26 and into distal portions of the balloon lobes 29a, 29b and 29c. Thus, in this example, the second thermal exchange fluid lumen 26 carries inflow of the thermal exchange fluid to the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28. The attachment of the balloon lobes to the catheter may be accomplished in any appropriate manner to accomplish the circulation of heat exchange fluid described here. One such method is described in detail in United States Patent No. 6,610,083 (Keller, et al.), which patent is expressly incorporated herein by reference.

As shown in the cross section of Figure 1C, a distal portion 21c of the catheter shaft extends beyond the distal ends of the balloon lobes 29a, 29b and 29c. Tube 23 having working lumen 22b continues through this distal portion 21c of the catheter shaft and its lumen 22b opens through an aperture in the distal tip of the catheter 12. Thus, in this manner, the working lumen 22a of the proximal catheter shaft 21a and working lumen 22b of the mid-portion and distal catheter shafts 21b, 21c combine to form a continuous working lumen that extends through the shaft 21 of the heat exchange catheter 12. In some embodiments, a working lumen that runs less than the entire length of the catheter shaft 21 may be provided to facilitate rapid exchange of guidewires and/or catheters. As those of skill in the art will appreciate, such working lumen 22a, 22b may facilitate advancement of the catheter 12 over a

guidewire and/or to facilitate infusion of fluids (e.g., saline solution, therapeutic or diagnostic substances, radiographic contrast medium, aqueous oxygen, etc.) and/or to facilitate introduction of another catheter or apparatus into the subject's body. One example of another apparatus that may be advanced through the working lumen 22a, 22b is an endovascular embodiment of the body temperature measuring apparatus 17 (e.g., a catheter or wire having a temperature sensor that is advanceable out of the distal tip of the catheter 12 or shaft 21 and useable for sensing the temperature of the subject's flowing blood). One example of an endovascular embodiment of the body temperature measuring apparatus 17 that may be advanced through working lumen 22a, 22b is the Reprieve[®] endovascular temperature probe manufactured by Radiant Medical, Inc., Redwood City, California.

As shown in Figure 1, the proximal end of the catheter shaft 21 may be provided with a generally tubular, flexible sterility barrier 36 disposed between proximal hub 34 and distal hub 38. The catheter shaft 21 may be slideably advanced and retracted through the distal hub 38 while the proximal hub 34 is affixed in a substantially stationary manner to the catheter shaft 21. The distal hub 38 may be affixed to the subject's skin by sutures, adhesive or other means, at a location immediately adjacent to the location where the catheter shaft 21 enters percutaneously into the subject's body. At the time of initial insertion, the catheter shaft 21 is advanced into the subject's body to a desired initial position. In some applications, the specific positioning of the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 within the body may affect the efficiency and rapidity with which the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 heats or cools the subject's body. In this regard, some heat exchange catheters 12 of the present invention may include optional elements useable to facilitate positioning of the entire intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 at a desired position within the body (e.g., within the inferior vena cava). Examples of such optional elements are shown in Figures 4A-4D and described fully herebelow. After the catheter shaft 21 has been advanced to its desired initial position, the proximal and distal hubs are affixed to the subject's skin such that the sterility barrier 36 encases and maintains sterility of the exteriorized portion of the catheter shaft 21. At

a later time if it is desired to adjust the position of the catheter 12, the proximal hub 34 may be detached from the subject's body and the catheter shaft may be further advanced or retracted, as needed, through the distal hub 38. When the desired repositioning of the catheter 12 has been achieved, the proximal hub 34 may one
5 again be affixed to the subject's body and the sterility barrier 36 will continue to shield the exteriorized portion of the catheter shaft 21 from contamination. Further details and examples of this arrangement as well as other valving systems and other elements that may be incorporated into the proximal end of the catheter device 12 are described in United States Patent No. 6,887,263 (Bleam et al.) which is
10 expressly incorporated herein by reference.

A valved port 42, such as tube having a Tuohy-Borst valve, is attached to the proximal end of the proximal working lumen 22a to facilitate advancement of a guidewire, infusion of fluids (e.g., saline solution, therapeutic or diagnostic substances, radiographic contrast medium, etc.) or introduction of other catheter or
15 apparatus into the subject's body through working lumen 22a, 22b.

A second valved port 40, such as a Y tube having a stopcock on one arm thereof, is attached to the proximal end of the first thermal exchange lumen 24 to facilitate venting or purging of air or unwanted fluid from the system during the initial filling of the system with thermal exchange fluid.

20 With reference to Figure 1, the extracorporeal heat exchanger 14 comprises a shell 30 having an inner tube 32 extending therethrough. Outflow tube 45 connects the first thermal exchange lumen 24 to the inlet of the inner tube 32 and inflow tube 43 connects the outlet of the inner tube 32 to the second thermal exchange lumen 26. Thermal exchange fluid is thus pumped from the inner tube 32 of the
25 extracorporeal heat exchanger 14, through the second (inflow) thermal exchange lumen 26, into the distal portions of balloon lobes 29a, 29b, 29c, through the balloon lobes 29a, 29b, 29c in the proximal direction, into the first (outflow) thermal exchange lumen 24, through tube 45 and back into the inner tube 32 of the extracorporeal heat exchanger 14. Tube 15 connects an outlet from the shell 30 of

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extracorporeal heat exchanger 14 to cooler 16 and/or heater 18. Tube 19 connects the cooler 16 and/or heater 18 to an inlet of the shell 30 of extracorporeal heat exchanger 14. Thus, heated or cooled fluid (e.g., a glycol such as propylene glycol or other suitable thermal exchange fluid) circulates from the cooler 16 and/or heater 18, through tube 19, through the shell 30 of extracorporeal heat exchanger 14, through tube 15 and again through cooler 16 and/or heater 18. The operator inputs into the controller 20 a target body temperature. The controller 20 is in communication with the body temperature measuring apparatus 17 and receives signals indicative of the temperature of all or a portion of the subject's body. The controller 20 controls one or more of: a) the operation of the cooler 16 and/or heater 18, b) the flowrate of the heated or cooled fluid through the extracorporeal heat exchanger, c) the flowrate of thermal exchange fluid through the extracorporeal heat exchanger 14, and/or the flowrate of thermal exchange fluid through the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28, thereby causing the subject's body to be cooled or warmed to the desired target body temperature and maintaining such target body temperature for a desired period of time.

During initial insertion of the catheter 12, the balloon lobes 29a, 29b, 29c are deflated and collapsed to a low profile that is the same or only slightly larger in diameter than the adjacent catheter shaft 21. After the catheter 12 has been inserted into the subject's vasculature, the thermal exchange fluid is allowed to flow into the balloon lobes 29a, 29b, 29c, thereby causing the lobes to inflate or expand. (The lobes "inflate" in the sense that they become substantially filled with liquid and take on their full expanded size and shape. However, it is to be appreciated that in at least some embodiments the lobes may be non-compliant or semi-compliant (e.g., polyethylene terephthalate (PET) or Nylon) balloons with a wall thickness of between 0.01016 mm and 0.01651 mm.) Thus, the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 has a balloon with a first circumscribed diameter D_1 when the balloon lobes 29a, 29b, 29c are empty and collapsed and a second circumscribed diameter D_2 when the balloon lobes 29a, 29b, 29c are fully filled and inflated. It is desirable that the first circumscribed diameter D_1 be small enough to allow the catheter 12 to

be inserted through a vascular introducer of a desired size. Additionally, the efficiency or rapidity of heat exchange is directly affected by a number of factors, one of which is the blood-contacting surface area of the inflated balloon lobes 29a, 29b, 29c. Essentially, the greater the blood contacting surface area of the balloon lobes 5 29a, 29b, 29c, the greater the efficiency and rapidity of blood cooling or warming. However, the second circumscribed diameter D_2 should typically be smaller than the diameter of the blood vessel lumen in which the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 is positioned so and not to substantially obstruct the flow of blood through that blood vessel lumen. An advantage of the multi-lobed balloon 28 of the present invention 10 over intravascular heat exchange balloons of the prior art is that the heat exchange balloon 28 of the present invention may be expanded within a vessel to a second circumscribed diameter D_2 that near or equal to the luminal diameter of the vessel but the resultant blockage of cross-sectional area of the vessel's lumen is limited to approximately 50% due to the sizing of the lobes 29a, 29b, 29c and the presence of 15 flow path(s) between the lobes 29a, 29b, 29c. This is comparable with in vivo testing of the Greenfield IVC filter, a conical shaped screen type device where blockages equivalent to 64% of cross-sectional area have occurred without development of a pressure gradient across the filter.

In applications where the catheter is to be inserted into the femoral vein of an 20 adult human being and advanced to a position within the inferior vena cava, use of a vascular introducer no larger than 12 to 14 French will be desired. Thus, in embodiments intended for femoral insertion, it is preferable that the first circumscribed diameter D_1 be less than about 4.7mm, or in some cases less than about 4.5 mm, or otherwise sized to fit through a 14 French or smaller vascular 25 introducer. The lumen of the inferior vena cava of an adult human typically has an average diameter of 20-22 mm. Thus, to maximize efficiency and/or rapidity of cooling or warming while not substantially obstructing blood flow, in embodiments intended for femoral insertion and advancement of the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 into the inferior vena cava of an adult, it is preferable that the second 30 circumscribed diameter D_2 be greater than about 14mm. Accordingly, in such

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embodiments of the catheter 12, the second circumscribed diameter D_2 will desirably be at least about 3 times greater than the first circumscribed diameter D_1 .

Additionally, to provide sufficient efficiency and/or rapidity of thermal exchange to be useable in certain therapeutic applications (e.g., treatment of myocardial infarction) the cross sectional perimeter of the intracorporeal heat exchanger may be sized to maximize the blood-contacting heat exchange surface area. In this regard, in embodiments intended for femoral insertion and advancement of the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 into the inferior vena cava of an adult, it is preferable that the cross sectional perimeter of the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 be in the range of about 50.8 mm to about 63.5 mm and the length be in the range of 20 to 25 cm for average adults. Heat exchange catheters of different sizes may be provided for use in individuals of varying body size or anatomy. For example, the catheter 12 shown in Figures 1-1c may be provided with heat exchangers 28 having length of 22.5 cm and cross sectional perimeters of 1.5 inch, 2.0 inch and 2.5 inch and/or other sizes for pediatric applications or applications where the heat exchanger 28 is to be positioned in a blood vessel other than the inferior vena cava.

Another factor that, in at least some applications, affects the efficiency and/or rapidity of heating or cooling of the subject's body is the shape or configuration of the balloon lobes 29a, 29b, 29c. As illustrated in the schematic showings of Figures 2-3A, the balloon lobes 29a, 29b, 29c may be disposed in a helical configuration that will cause mixing or tumbling rather than smooth flow of blood as it flow past the heat exchanger 28 (see Figure 3) and will also cause mixing or tumbling of thermal exchange fluid flowing through each balloon lobe 29a, 29b, 29c (see Figure 3A). Thus, as shown in Figures 5B'-5B" and described in the example calculations set forth below, the number of twists or convolutions of each helical balloon lobe 29a, 29b, 29c may be optimized, along with other factors such as perimeter surface area, to provide for a desired efficiency or rapidity of body warming or cooling. An advantageous configuration has been found to be a minimum of 4 twists per foot (304.8 mm), where twists are counted in the convention illustrated in Figure 5, and refer to the

helical rotations about a central axis. In the heat exchange balloon 28 described herein, the helical lobes 29a, 29b, 29c are helically disposed about a central lobe 31 that is generally in the configuration of a linear cylinder, although this central lobe 31 may be may be "twisted" during manufacture resulting in structural tensions in the walls of that lobe 31, the term "twists per foot" as used herein refers only to the number of rotations of each outer lobe 29a, 29b, 29c around the central lobe 31 or other longitudinal axis and not the molecular or structural tensioning of the walls of the central lobe 31.

Motion of the heat exchange balloon further enhances heat exchange. Pulsatile flow of the heat exchange fluid, when using a heat exchange balloon such as the helically twisted lobes attached to a generally linear central spine can result in particularly advantageous motion that enhances heat exchange. Additional twisting of the lobes of heat exchanger 28 is possible prior to attachment to shaft 21 to further enhance the movement of the balloon due to the torque induced from the fluid momentum. With pulsatile blood flow and pulsatile balloon motion combined, the tumbling effect produced in the blood and in the heat exchange fluid is particularly effective in enhancing heat exchange.

Another factor that, in at least some applications, affects the efficiency and/or rapidity of heating or cooling of the subject's body is the positioning of the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 within the subject's body. For example, in applications where the heat exchange catheter 12 is to be inserted into a femoral vein and advanced through the iliac vein to a position where the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 is positioned within the inferior vena cava, a significant impairment of thermal exchange efficiency may occur if the entire intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 is not positioned within the inferior vena cava. For example, if the catheter 12 is not advanced far enough into the body, a proximal portion of the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 may remain within the iliac vein rather than the inferior vena cava. Because the volume of blood flowing through each iliac vein is approximately 50% of that flowing through the vena cava, the portion of the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 that remains in the iliac vein will be exposed to less blood flow and will thus heat

or cool less blood than if it were properly positioned in the inferior vena cava. Radiopaque markings may be provided at one or both ends of the intracorporeal heat exchanger so that the position of the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 may be determined by X ray or other radiographing imaging technique. However, in many emergency departments or other clinical settings, the time required to obtain such x ray or other radiographic image may be longer than optimal. Valuable heating or cooling time may be lost before it is determined by x ray or radiographic imaging that the catheter 12 is not optimally positioned. Thus, to facilitate the desired positioning of the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 without requiring an x ray or other radiographic image, heat exchange catheters 12 of the present invention may optionally incorporate one or more elements (e.g., markings, indicators, devices, apparatus, etc.) that indicate when the intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 has reached a desired position within the subject's body. Some non-limiting examples of such elements are shown in Figures 4A-4D.

Figure 4A shown an embodiment where the proximal catheter shaft 21a has a series of spaced apart markings 50 that may be used to gage when a sufficient length of the catheter 12 has been advanced into the subject. Different markings 50 may correspond to subjects of different body size or anatomy. For example, an article or device for correlating a specific distance marking 50 to a patient of a specific body size or anatomy (e.g., a nomogram, pre-programmed electronic or manual calculator, look-up table, index, etc.) may be provided to the operator along with the catheter 12. The clinician may use available data on the subject's body size and/or anatomy to determine which distance marking 50 should apply for that particular subject. The marks 50 may be distinguishable from one another by shape, color, etc. After determining which mark 50 should apply for the particular subject, the operator may then advance the catheter 12 into the subject's body until the selected mark 50 is immediately adjacent to the percutaneous insertion point into the femoral vein, thereby indicating a likelihood that the entire intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 has been advanced through the iliac vein IV and into the inferior vena cava IVC.

Figure 4B shows an embodiment where a vessel diameter sensor 52, such as an intravascular ultrasound (IVUS) device, is positioned on the proximal catheter shaft 21a proximal to heat exchanger 28. The catheter 12 may be advanced until the vessel diameter sensor 56 senses (and provides a perceptible signal to the operator) that it has passed from the smaller diameter iliac vein IV into the larger diameter inferior vena cava IVC.

Figure 4C shows an embodiment where a vessel wall contacting probe 54, such as a spring loaded switch arm, extends from the proximal catheter shaft 21a and contacts the adjacent vessel wall as the catheter is advanced through the iliac vein IV. As the vessel wall contacting probe 54 passes from the smaller diameter iliac vein IV into the larger diameter inferior vena cava IVC, the vessel wall contacting probe 54 will extend or spring to a less constrained or non-constrained position and will provide a signal (e.g., an alarm, light, audible signal, sensory change noticeable to the touch of a skilled operator, etc) to the operator thereby indicating that the entire intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 has been advanced into the inferior vena cava IVC as intended.

Figure 4D shows an embodiment where a flow sensor 56 is positioned on the proximal catheter shaft 21a proximal to heat exchanger 28. The catheter 12 may be advanced until the flow sensor 56 senses incoming blood flow from the contralateral iliac vein IV or other change in the blood flow dynamics indicating that the flow sensor 56 has passed from the iliac vein IV into the inferior vena cava IVC. The system then provides a signal (e.g., an alarm, light, audible signal, etc) indicating that the flow sensor 56 has advanced from the iliac vein IV into the inferior vena cava IVC, thereby ensuring that the entire intracorporeal heat exchanger 28 has been advanced into the inferior vena cava IVC.

Figure 5A and 5B show cross sectional views of a tri-lobed heat exchange balloon of the prior art and of the present invention, respectively, in their expanded configurations. Figures 5B', 5B'' and 5B''' show examples of varying degrees of twisting that may be induced in the tri-lobed heat exchange balloons of the present

invention to increase heat exchange.

In one study, it was observed that conscious patients at risk for radiocontrast nephropathy could be cooled with a prior art heat exchange balloon at the average rate of 3 degrees in 64 minutes. In the total of 14 patients, however, the range was
5 32 to 110 minutes. Because of the dependence of cooling rate on catheter position and non-catheter related factors such as the blood velocity (which itself is dependent upon the vessel size, and the cardiac output), blood viscosity, location and accuracy of the temperature measurement (intravascular, nasoesophageal, bladder, tympanic, etc), and heat inputs to the body from variable sources such as heating blankets,
10 shivering, or base metabolism, it is best to characterize the heat exchange capability of a given design in terms of steady state heat transfer in a simplified or "standard" in vitro model where these variables can be eliminated or held constant.

Figure 6 illustrates an example of an in vitro water tank model suitable for this purpose. Tank 57 is fitted with a rigid tube 58 of known diameter. Circulating tank
15 heater 59 is used to maintain the tank volume (and liquid within the tube 58) at the desired temperature. Water pump 61 withdraws water from tank 57 and returns it through tube 58 in a closed loop. Flow meter 62 and temperature sensor 63 are used to verify outputs or control water pump 61 and circulating heater 59, respectively. Tank 57 is adapted with introducer 64 to allow placement of heat
20 exchange balloon 28 within tube 58. When the heat exchange system is in use and the conditions are stable, the amount of heat transfer in the system can be calculated by either from a heat balance in the water pump circuit, or preferably from the difference in incoming and outgoing thermal exchange fluid temperature in the heat exchange catheter itself by methods known to those experienced in the art.

25 With tube 58 at 22 mm ID, water pump 61 set to 2.5 liters per minute and the inlet temperature 63 controlled to 37.0 degrees Celsius, the prior art catheter with a 25 cm balloon length and circumscribed diameter of 9 mm (Figure 5A) was capable of 180-200 watts of steady state cooling.

The test model illustrated in Figure 6 and described above was used to

characterize and optimize the heat exchange catheter of the present invention. Figure 7 is an exemplary graph showing the effects of incoming thermal exchange fluid temperature and flow rate on cooling power of a 25 cm balloon length and 15.2 mm circumscribed diameter embodiment of Figure 5B. Figure 8 is a graph showing the effect of the tightness of balloon twisting on heat exchange power in an endovascular heat exchange catheter of the present invention.

Using both computational fluid dynamics and experimental verification with the "standard" water tank model shown in Figure 6, an empirical working model of the cooling power of the heat exchange system may be determined by Equation I as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Standard Cooling Power (watts)} = & (45.9 + \\ & 176.57*P - 0.105*Q + 0.582*T + 0.113*P*Q - \\ & 6.486*P*T)*(L / 25.0)*(-0.1631*W + 1.0816)*(-0.0013*S^2 \\ & + 0.0595*S + 0.387) \end{aligned}$$

wherein, P is the heat exchange catheter cross-sectional perimeter in inches, Q is the flow rate of thermal exchange fluid in ml/min, T is the temperature of the thermal exchange fluid in degrees Celsius ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) as it enters the second lumen, L is the length of the heat exchange catheter in cm, W is the thickness of the heat exchange catheter wall in mils and S is the total number of twists of the balloon lobes per foot of the balloon.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention having on average 450 watts of cooling in the model represented in Figure 6 and discussed above was studied in the same clinical trial as the prior art and cooled patients at the average rate of 3 degrees in 19 minutes. In the total of 19 patients, the range was 11 to 33 minutes. The data for this study is illustrated in Figure 9. Curve 65 represents the prior art with 95% confidence bands given by curves 66. Curve 67 represents the average for the present invention with 95% confidence bands 68.

The heat exchanger 28 may, in some applications, be positioned adjacent to the ostium OS of an adjacent branch vessel. For example, in the showings of Figures 4A-4D, the heat exchanger 28 is positioned within the inferior vena cava IVC adjacent to the ostia OS of the renal veins RV. Also, Figure 10 is a diagram showing the heat exchanger 28 positioned within a blood vessel 69 adjacent to the ostium OS of a branch vessel 71. While inflated and in routine operation, the circumscribed outer diameter of the heat exchanger 28 may be sufficiently large to cause the heat exchanger 28 to be close to or in contact with one or more ostia OS of branch vessels. In an adult human patient, the radial position of the heat exchanger 28 within a blood vessel is not expected to be static. Rather, dynamic blood flow through the vessel 69 as well as other physiologic movement suspends the catheter in the vessel and keeps it from resting in a single position against any ostium OS for any clinically significant length of time. Consequently, in most cases the lobes 29a, 29b, 29c of the heat exchanger 28 would rest across the ostium OS of a branch vessel 71 only transiently. In the preferred embodiment of placement of the catheter within the IVC, the significant flow through the renal and hepatic veins would likely displace an object lying over their junctions with the IVC.

In a worst-case scenario where patient condition renders the vessel 69 smaller than the circumscribed diameter D_2 of the inflated heat exchange balloon 28 or where the vessel 69 is less dynamic than normally expected, the heat exchange balloon 28 could rest over the ostium of the incoming vein 71 such that a lobe 29B would cross the ostium. This situation does not, however, present an unacceptable risk due to the advantageous configuration provided by the multiple twisted lobes of the present invention. The average renal vein has been reported as between 7 and 10 mm in diameter. Similarly, the average size of the hepatic vein ostia has been reported as 15 mm for the right hepatic vein and 13 mm for the left hepatic vein, while the reported average hepatic vein diameter is 7.5 mm to 10.0 mm (left). By comparison, the maximum diameter of a single lobe 29 in the present invention is 6.5 mm (Figure 5B). In the 3-dimensional representation of Figure 10, it is evident that the obstruction is partial and allows blood flow from the tributary vessel. Thus, the

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combination of lobe 29a, 29b, 29c diameters that are less than the diameters of the ostia of the branch vessels encountered and the provision of helical blood flow channels (e.g., grooves or indentations) between the lobes 29a, 29b, 29c, serve to substantially deter any clinically significant obstruction of the ostium of a branch vessel from which blood flows into or out of the blood vessel in which the heat exchanger 28 is positioned.

The invention has been described hereabove with reference to certain examples or embodiments of the invention. No attempt has been made to exhaustively describe all possible embodiments and examples of the invention. Indeed, various additions, deletions, alterations and modifications may be made to the above described examples and embodiments without departing from the intended spirit and scope of the invention. For example, any element or attribute of one embodiment or example may be incorporated into or used with another embodiment or example, unless to do so would render the embodiment or example unsuitable for its intended use. Also, where the steps of a method or process are described, listed or claimed in a particular order, such steps may be performed in any other order unless to do so would render the embodiment or example un-novel, obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the relevant art or unsuitable for its intended use. All reasonable additions, deletions, modifications and alterations are to be considered equivalents of the described examples and embodiments and are to be included within the scope of the following claims.

The reference in this specification to any prior publication (or information derived from it), or to any matter which is known, is not, and should not be taken as an acknowledgment or admission or any form of suggestion that that prior publication (or information derived from it) or known matter forms part of the common general knowledge in the field of endeavour to which this specification relates.

Throughout this specification and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", and variations such as "comprises" and "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

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THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A heat exchange catheter system useable to cool blood flowing through the vasculature of a human or animal subject, said system comprising:

a heat exchange catheter comprising a catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end, a first lumen, a second lumen and a heat exchange balloon, said heat exchange balloon comprising a plurality of balloon lobes, said balloon lobes being connected to the first and second lumens of the catheter such that thermal exchange fluid will flow through the first lumen, circulate through the balloon lobes, and then flow out of the second lumen, each of said balloon lobes having a wall thickness of less than approximately 0.01651 mm, said heat exchange balloon having a collapsed configuration of a first diameter D_1 and an inflated configuration of a second diameter D_2 , wherein D_2 is at least about 3.5 times greater than D_1 ;

a fluid cooling apparatus comprising a heat exchanger and a condenser for chilling a coolant fluid, the heat exchanger having a first flowpath through which the thermal exchange fluid circulates and a second flowpath through which the chilled coolant fluid circulates, the heat exchanger's first flowpath being isolated from the second flowpath, the heat exchanger's first flowpath being connected to the catheter such that thermal exchange fluid which exits the second lumen of the catheter will circulate through the heat exchanger's first flowpath and flow back into the first lumen of the catheter;

wherein the catheter body, fluid cooling apparatus and heat exchange balloon are sized, configured and constructed to render the system capable of cooling the subject's core body temperature from a normothermic temperature to a core body temperature at or below about 34 degrees C in less than thirty minutes.

2. A heat exchange catheter system useable to cool blood flowing through the vasculature of a human or animal subject, said system comprising:

a heat exchange catheter comprising a catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end, a first lumen, a second lumen and a heat exchange balloon connected to said first lumen and said second lumen, said heat exchange balloon having a plurality of lobes that are twisted in a generally helical configuration, said balloon having a collapsed

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configuration of a first circumscribed diameter D_1 and an inflated configuration of a second circumscribed diameter D_2 , wherein D_2 is at least about 3.5 times greater than D_1 ;

a fluid cooling apparatus comprising a heat exchanger and a condenser for chilling a coolant fluid, the heat exchanger having a first flowpath through which the thermal exchange fluid circulates and a second flowpath through which the chilled coolant fluid circulates, the heat exchanger's first flowpath being isolated from the second flowpath, the heat exchanger's first flowpath being connected to the catheter such that thermal exchange fluid which exits the second lumen of the catheter will circulate through the heat exchanger's first flowpath and flow back into the first lumen of the catheter;

wherein the catheter body, fluid cooling apparatus and heat exchange balloon are sized, configured and constructed to render the system capable of delivering at least about 400 watts of cooling power when operated within a rigid 22 mm ID tube through which water at a temperature of 37 degrees C is pumped at a rate of 2.5 liters per minute.

3. A system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the balloon comprises a central lobe and a plurality of outer lobes, the outer lobes being twisted in a substantially helical configuration about the central lobe.
4. A system according to claim 3 wherein said central lobe is generally linear.
5. A system as in claim 3 wherein the outer lobes are twisted to for a helical configuration of at least four twists per linear foot (304.8mm).
6. A system according to claim 3 wherein thermal exchange fluid flows through the central lobe in a first direction, then enters the outer lobes, then flows through the outer lobes in a second direction that is generally opposite said first direction.
7. A system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the balloon has a cross sectional perimeter greater than 38.1 mm when in the inflated configuration.

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8. A system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the balloon has a cross sectional perimeter greater than 50.8 mm when in the inflated configuration.
9. A system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the balloon has a cross sectional perimeter greater than 63.5 mm when in the inflated configuration.
10. A system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the balloon has a cross sectional perimeter between about 55.88 mm and 63.5 mm when in the inflated configuration.
11. A system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein D_1 is less than about 5mm and D_2 is greater than about 14 mm.
12. A system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein D_1 is less than about 8mm and D_2 is greater than about 14 mm.
13. A system according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the heat exchange catheter is insertable into a first blood vessel of the subject and advanceable to a position where the entire balloon is situated in a second blood vessel of the subject, and wherein the system further comprises:
 - a balloon location detector for detecting when substantially the entire balloon has become positioned in the second blood vessel.
14. A system according to claim 13 wherein the detector comprises length markings at spaced apart locations on the catheter body said length markings that correlate to the length of catheter that must be advanced into the subject's body to cause substantially the entire balloon to become positioned in the second blood vessel.
15. A system according to claim 13 wherein the catheter is to be inserted into a vein and advanced to a position where substantially the entire balloon has become positioned in the vena cava and wherein the detector is operative to detect when the proximal end of the balloon exits the iliac vein or enters the inferior vena cava.

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16. A system according to claim 13 wherein the catheter is to be inserted into a vein and advanced to a position where substantially the entire balloon has become positioned in the vena cava and wherein detector is operative to detect when the proximal end of the balloon has advanced from a subclavian vein into the superior vena cava.

17. A system according to either of claims 1 or 2 wherein the coolant fluid is a fluid with a freezing temperature below that of saline.

18. A system according to claim 1 or 2 further comprising a fluid warming apparatus for warming the thermal exchange fluid.

19. A system according to claim 1 or 2 further comprising a body temperature measuring device for determining the subject's body temperature.

20. A system according to claim 19 further comprising a controller connected to said body temperature measuring device and said fluid cooling device, said controller being programmed to control at least one of i) the temperature of the thermal exchange fluid and ii) the flowrate of the thermal exchange fluid, so as to attain a target body temperature as measured by the body temperature measuring device.

21. A system according to claim 19 further comprising a controller connected to said body temperature measuring device, said fluid cooling device and said fluid warming device, said controller being programmed to control at least one of i) the temperature of the thermal exchange fluid and ii) the flowrate of the thermal exchange fluid, so as to attain a target body temperature as measured by the body temperature measuring device.

22. A method for treating a human or animal subject who has a coronary artery obstruction which impairs perfusion of the subject's myocardium prior to performance of reperfusion procedure which removes or bypasses the coronary artery obstruction, said method comprising the steps of:

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A) obtaining or providing a heat exchange catheter comprising a catheter body having a proximal end, a distal end, a first lumen, a second lumen and a heat exchange balloon, said heat exchange balloon comprising a plurality of balloon lobes, said balloon lobes being connected to the first and second lumens of the catheter such that thermal exchange fluid will flow through the first lumen, circulate through the balloon lobes, and then flow out of the second lumen, each of said balloon lobes having a wall thickness of less than approximately 0.01651 mm, said heat exchange balloon having a collapsed configuration of a first diameter D_1 and an expanded configuration of a second diameter D_2 , wherein D_2 is at least about 3.5 times greater than D_1 ;

B) obtaining or providing a fluid cooling apparatus comprising a heat exchanger and a condenser for chilling a coolant fluid, the heat exchanger having a first flowpath through which the thermal exchange fluid circulates and a second flowpath through which the chilled coolant fluid circulates, the heat exchanger's first flowpath being isolated from the second flowpath, the heat exchanger's first flowpath being connected to the catheter such that thermal exchange fluid which exits the second lumen of the catheter will circulate through the heat exchanger's first flowpath and flow back into the first lumen of the catheter;

C) inserting the heat exchange catheter into the subject's vasculature while the heat exchange catheter is in its collapsed configuration;

D) expanding the heat exchange catheter to its expanded configuration; and

E) using the heat exchanger to cool blood that flows past the heat exchange catheter, thereby cooling the subject's core body temperature to less than about 34 degrees C before performance of the reperfusion procedure.

23. A method according to claim 22 wherein the heat exchanger comprises a balloon that has a plurality of lobes, at least one of said lobes being twisted in a helical configuration about an axis.

24. A method according to claim 22 wherein the intracorporeal heat exchanger comprises a balloon having a central lobe and a plurality of outer lobes that are twisted in a substantially helical configuration about said central lobe.

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25. A method according to claim 22 wherein the reperfusion procedure is selected from: administering a thrombolytic agent; performing angioplasty; performing atherectomy and stenting the obstruction.

26. A heat exchange catheter system or a method for treating a human or animal subject substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

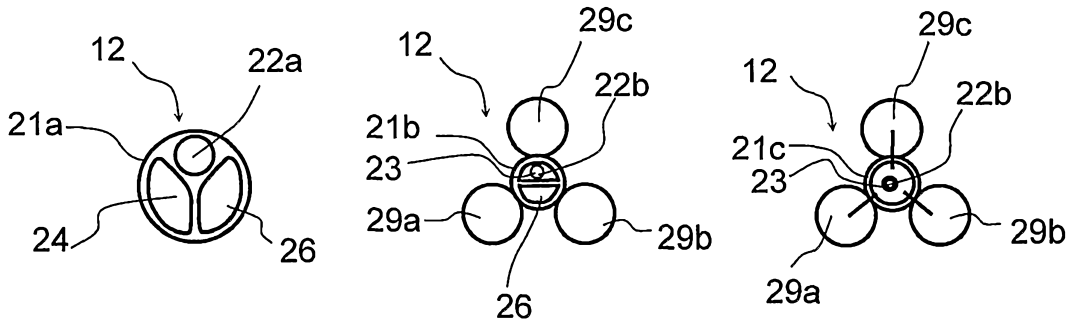


Fig. 1 A

Fig. 1 B

Fig. 1 C

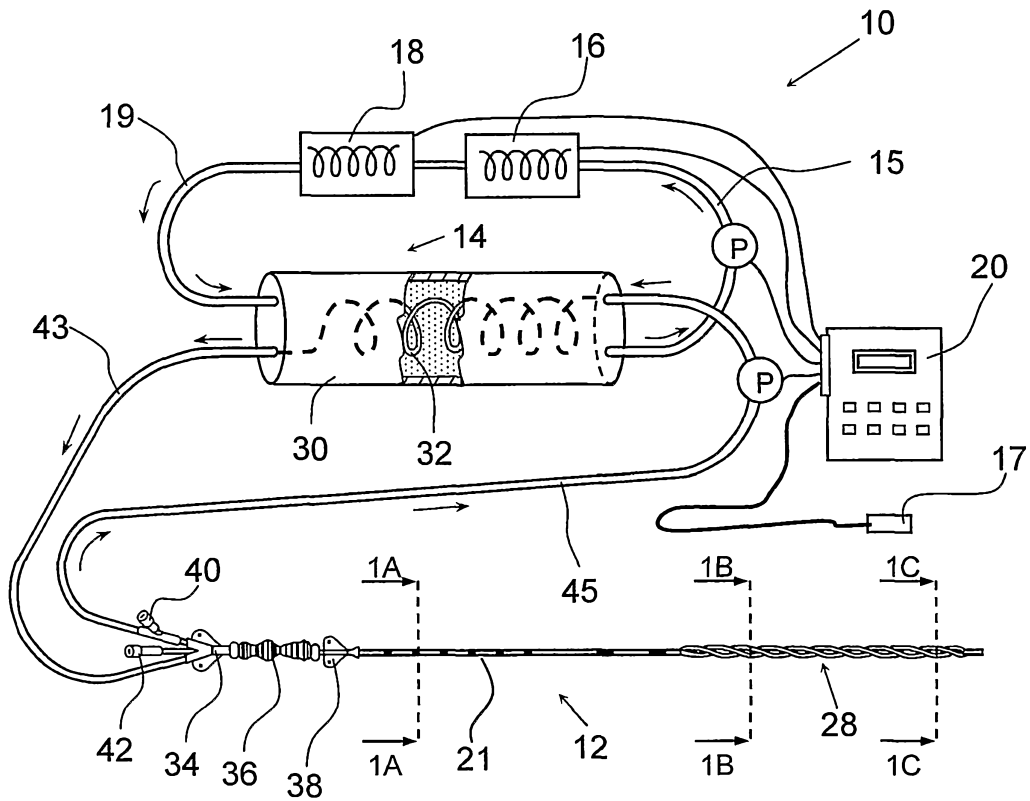


Fig. 1

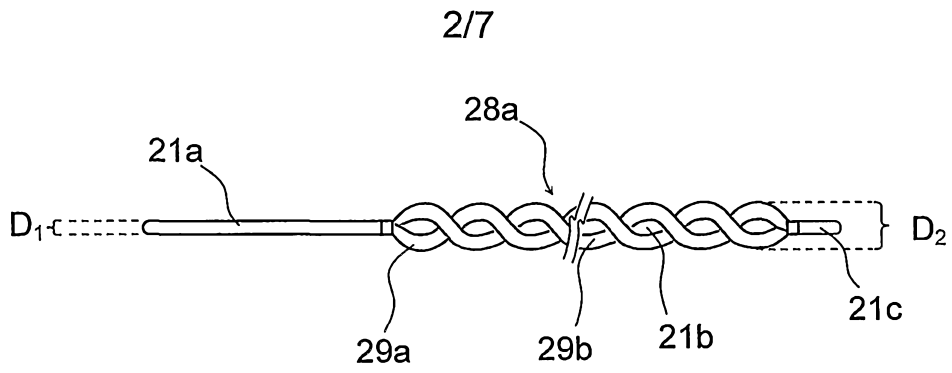


Fig. 2

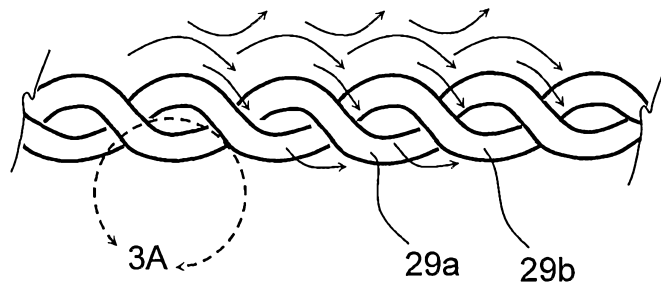


Fig. 3

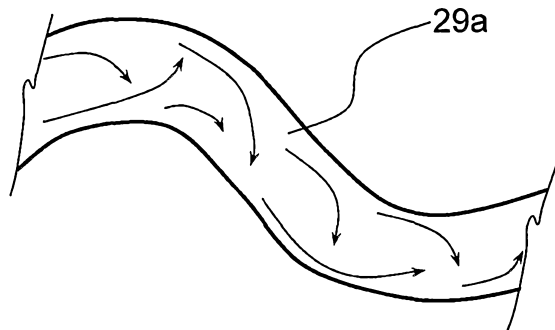


Fig. 3 A

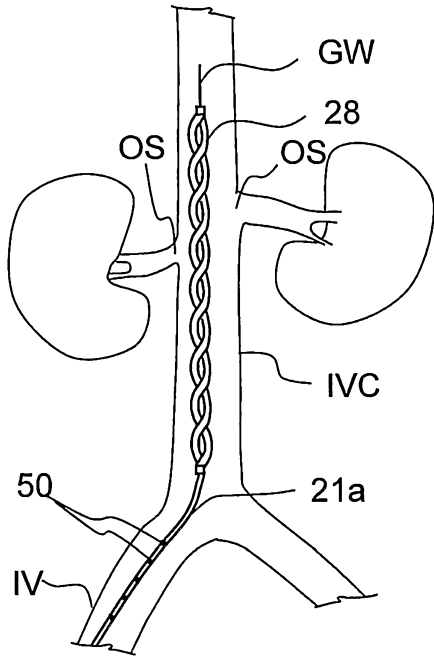


Fig. 4 A

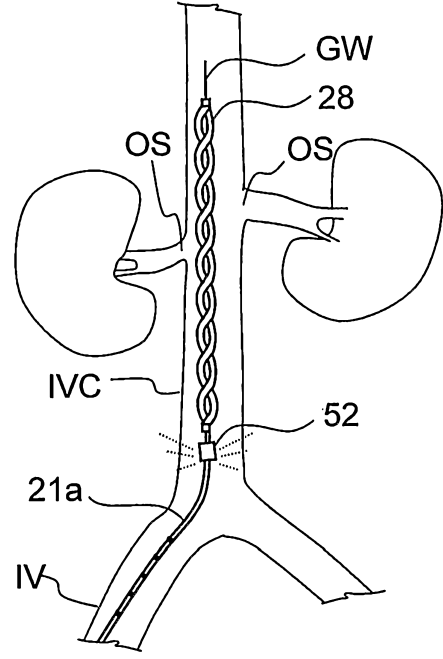


Fig. 4 B

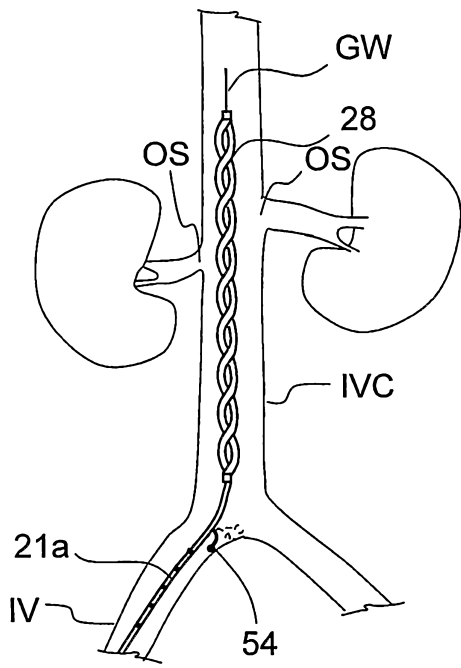


Fig. 4 C

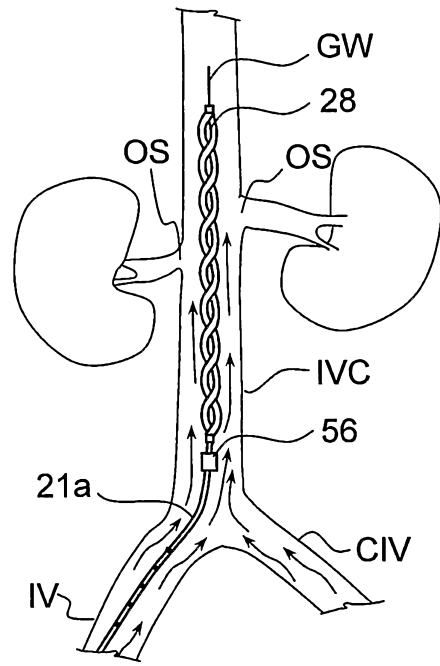


Fig. 4 D

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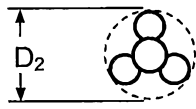


Fig. 5 A
(Prior Art)

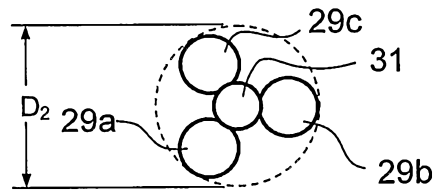


Fig. 5 B

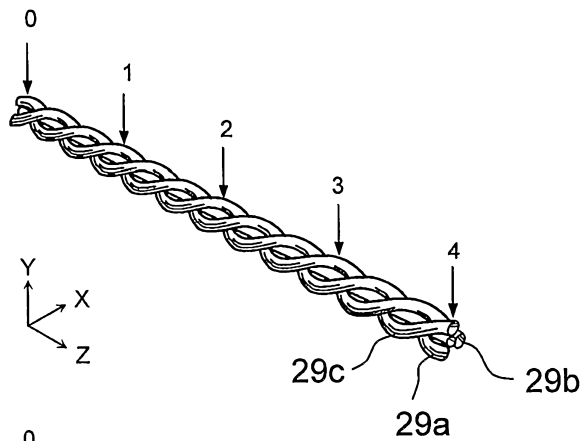


Fig. 5 B'

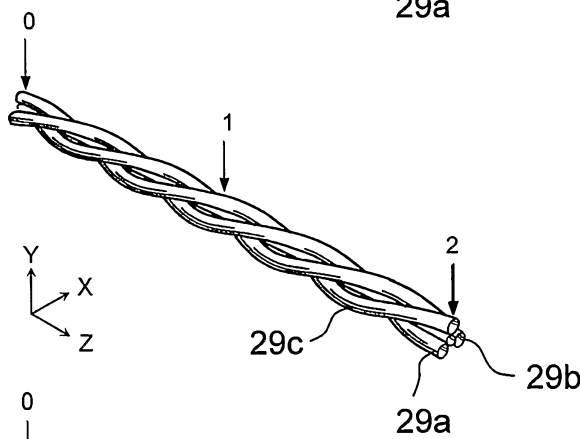


Fig. 5 B''

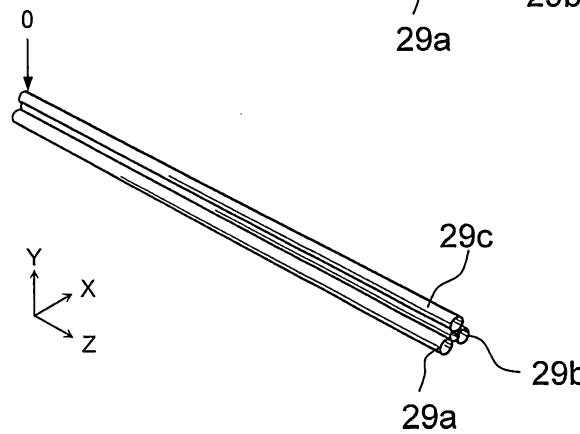


Fig. 5 B'''

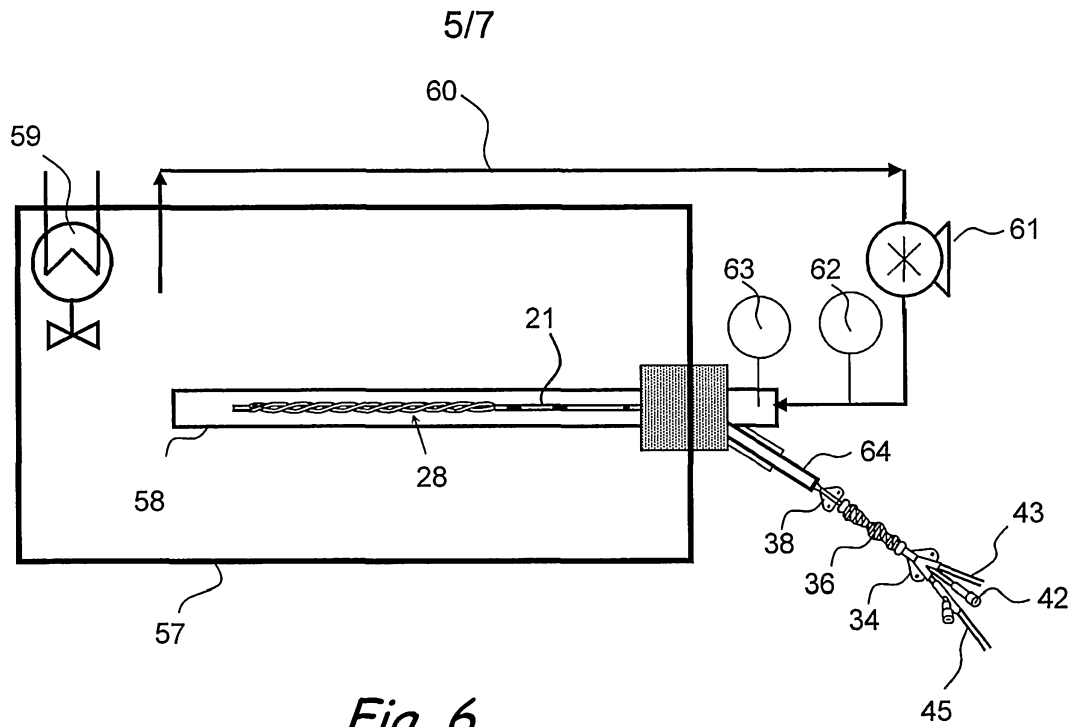


Fig. 6

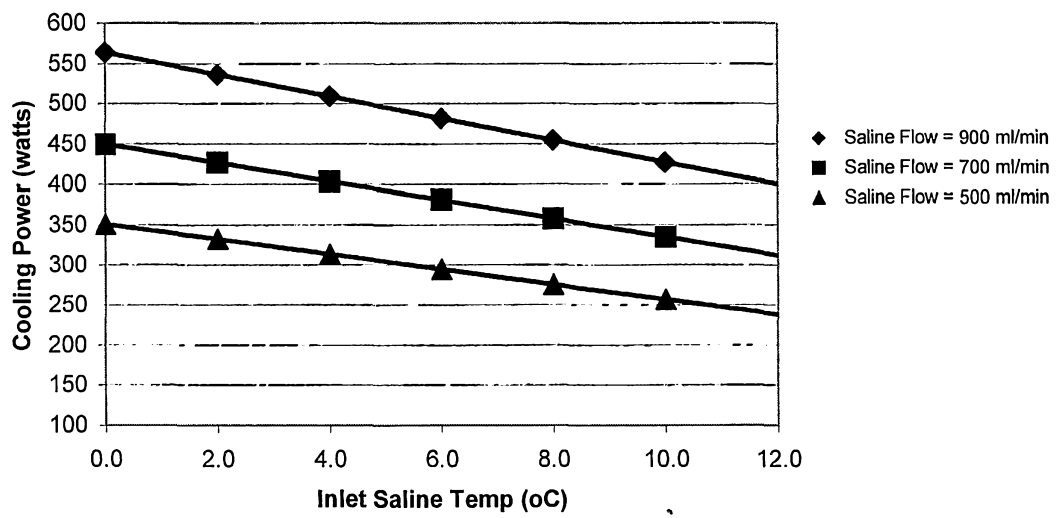


Fig. 7

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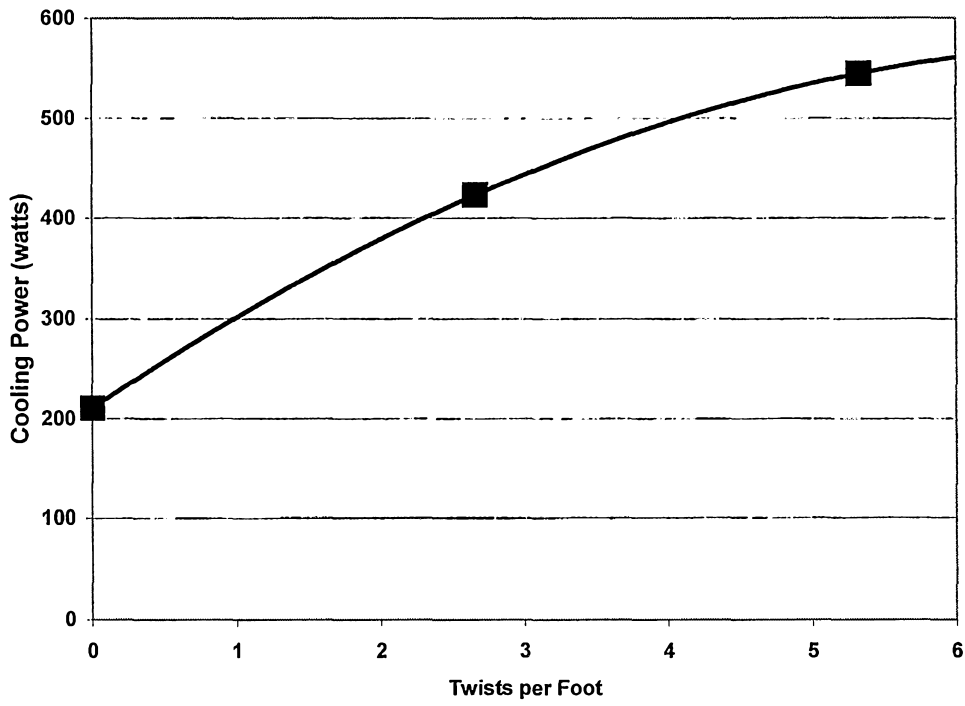


Fig. 8

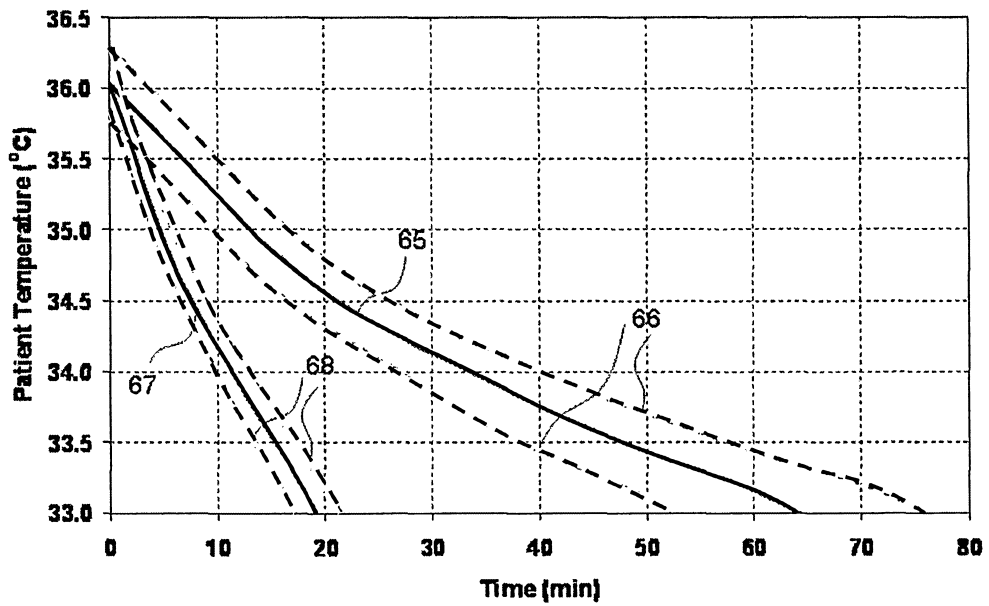


Fig. 9

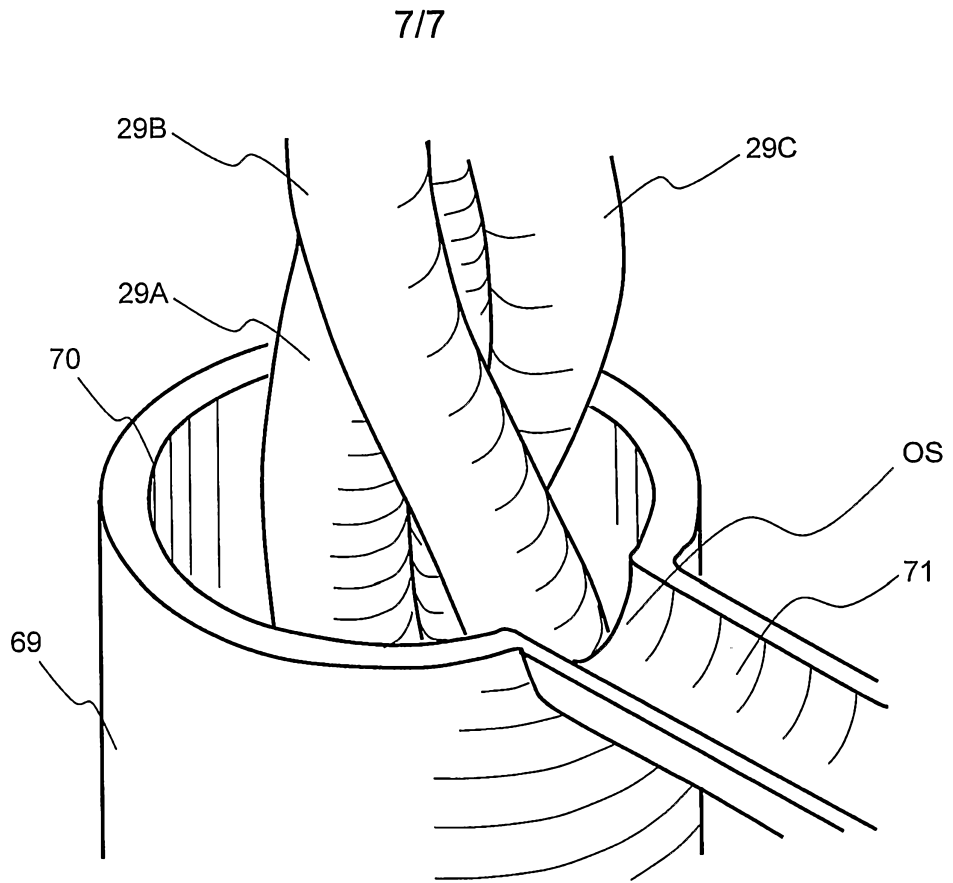


Fig. 10