

(12) STANDARD PATENT
(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE

(11) Application No. AU 2009257912 B2

(54) Title
Swivel device for electrosurgery pencil and surgical smoke evacuation

(51) International Patent Classification(s)
A61B 18/04 (2006.01)

(21) Application No: **2009257912** (22) Date of Filing: **2009.05.07**

(87) WIPO No: **WO09/151831**

(30) Priority Data

(31) Number **12/137,788** (32) Date **2008.06.12** (33) Country **US**

(43) Publication Date: **2009.12.17**

(44) Accepted Journal Date: **2014.01.09**

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(56) Related Art
US 4152017
US 2007/0129722
US 5259376
US 5951548
US 6524307
US 2002/0019631
US 3582114

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
17 December 2009 (17.12.2009)

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2009/151831 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
A61B 18/04 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2009/043072

(22) International Filing Date:
7 May 2009 (07.05.2009)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
12/137,788 12 June 2008 (12.06.2008) US

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(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, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, FG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SF, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, 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, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (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, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

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

(54) Title: SWIVEL DEVICE FOR ELECTROSURGERY PENCIL AND SURGICAL SMOKE EVACUATION

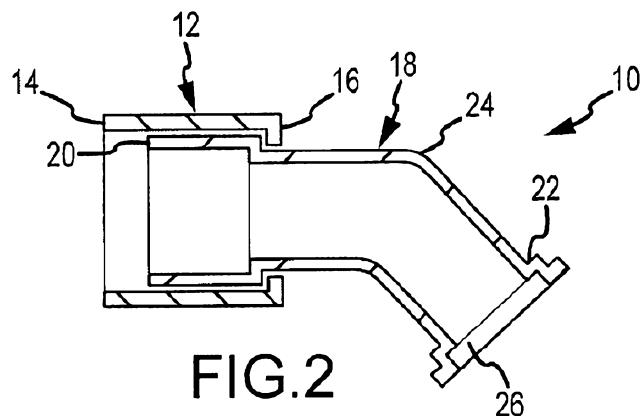


FIG.2

(57) Abstract: A swivel device for connection to an ESU pencil, an exhaust port of an ESU pencil with an integrated smoke evacuation system, or an exhaust port of an ESU pencil smoke evacuation shroud attachment includes a fixed member attached to a rotating member. The rotating member allows an electrical cord and/or vacuum tube to twist and coil freely during operation of an ESU pencil with or without the smoke evacuation system.

WO 2009/151831 A1

SWIVEL DEVICE FOR ELECTROSURGERY PENCIL AND SURGICAL SMOKE EVACUATION

Field of Invention

5 The present invention relates generally to a swivel apparatus. More specifically, the present invention relates to a swivel apparatus for attachment to or incorporation with the smoke evacuation system of an electro-surgical unit (ESU) pencil, and methods for making the same. The invention also relates to a swivel apparatus that can be incorporated into the connection between an ESU pencil and the electrical cord of the ESU pencil where the ESU
10 pencil may be used either with or without smoke evacuation.

Background of the Invention

The use of ESU pencils for cutting tissue and coagulating blood vessels in surgical procedures is well known. When an ESU pencil is used for cutting or coagulation, smoke is
15 produced. In the past, when a surgeon wanted to evacuate this smoke from the surgical field, the surgeon or an assistant had to hold a plastic suction wand, connected to vacuum tubing, near the site of smoke production. This became cumbersome in many surgical procedures, because two hands were required--one operating the ESU pencil and the other holding the suction device--and because the suction wand often obscured the surgeon's view
20 of the surgical field. Therefore, smoke evacuation devices were developed which were either incorporated directly into the design of an ESU pencil or were attachable to an ESU pencil.

Built-in or attachable smoke evacuation devices have also proved problematic, however. Like the suction wand, these devices must be connected to a vacuum source via a
25 vacuum tube. The vacuum tubing generally used is stiff, corrugated, rubber tubing. Due to its stiffness, the tubing often coils in such a way that it twists the ESU pencil in the hand of the surgeon and pulls down the other end of the ESU pencil. This pulling and twisting of the ESU pencil is problematic in delicate surgical procedures and often requires the surgeon to stop frequently to uncoil the tubing. Therefore, more flexible vacuum tubing has been tried.
30 However, this tubing is either too soft, so that it collapses under suction, or too narrow, so that it obstructs airflow. These various problems with vacuum tubing have led many surgeons to not use built-in or attached smoke evacuation devices on ESU pencils. But the only alternative is the separate suction wand, which is often too cumbersome or visually

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obstructing. A separate suction wand also requires a second person to hold it on site which many times interferes with the work of the surgeon.

Therefore, a need exists for an improved connection between an ESU pencil's built-in or attached smoke evacuation system and a vacuum tube. Such a connection would allow the vacuum tube to twist and/or swivel without turning the ESU pencil in the surgeon's hand. The vacuum tube may twist in a clockwise and/or counterclockwise direction. This improved connection would reduce the drag (or pulling down of) the distal end of the ESU pencil (i.e. that end of the ESU pencil opposite the electrode). In addition, the vacuum tube may also pivot in vertical up and down directions. The connection would also remain airtight, so that the force of the smoke evacuation system's vacuum is not reduced.

A need also exists for an improved connection between an ESU pencil and the electrical cord attached to the ESU pencil that allows the electrical cord to twist thereby facilitating a surgeon's use of the ESU pencil by reducing the drag or pulling down of the distal end of the ESU pencil (i.e. that end of the ESU pencil opposite the electrode).

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 claim of this application.

Summary of the Invention

Throughout this specification the word "comprise", or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated element, integer or step, or group of elements, integers or steps, but not the exclusion of any other element, integer or step, or group of elements, integers or steps.

The present invention is directed to a swivel device which includes a fixed member which can be attached to at least one of an outer body of an ESU pencil, an exhaust port of an ESU pencil with an integrated smoke evacuation system, or an exhaust port of an ESU pencil smoke evacuation shroud attachment, and a rotating member having a first end, a second end, and an angled portion located between the first and second ends. The first end of the rotating member is coupled to an interior of the fixed member. The angled portion of the rotating member may form approximately a 45 degree angle.

In one aspect of the invention, the fixed member and rotating member may be hollow tubular members each having first and second ends where the second end of the fixed member fits precisely around the first end of the rotating member thereby allowing rotation of the rotating

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member within the fixed member. In order to perform smoke evacuation, the second end of the rotating member is coupled to a vacuum tube such that the rotating member forms a leak proof connection with the vacuum tube. The rotating member preferably has a smooth interior cylindrical surface for conducting smoke and debris to the vacuum tube.

In another aspect, there is a swivel device comprising a rotating member having a first end, a second end, and an angled portion located between the first and second ends wherein the first end is positioned within at least one of an ESU pencil and an ESU pencil with integrated smoke evacuation system such that at least one portion of an electrical cord for providing power to said ESU pencil or said ESU pencil with an integrated smoke evacuation system is contained within the rotating member.

In a further aspect, there is a swivel device comprising:

a rotating member having a first end and a second end wherein the second end comprises a cup like shape and the first end is positioned within at least one of an ESU pencil and an ESU pencil with an integrated smoke evacuation system such that at least a portion of an electrical cord for providing power to said ESU pencil or said ESU pencil with an integrated smoke evacuation system is contained within the rotating member; and

a pivoting member having a first end and a second end wherein the first end comprises a cup like shape and is coupled to the second end of the rotating member.

In a further aspect, there is a swivel device comprising a rotating member having a first end, a second end, and an angled portion located between the first and second ends wherein the first end is coupled to at least one of an ESU pencil and an ESU pencil with integrated smoke evacuation system by a fixed member such that at least one portion of an electrical cord for providing power to said ESU pencil or said ESU pencil with an integrated smoke evacuation system is contained within the rotating member.

In one exemplary embodiment of the invention, the fixed member is capable of removable attachment to an outer body of an ESU pencil, an exhaust port of an ESU pencil

with an integrated smoke evacuation system, and an exhaust port of an ESU pencil smoke evacuation shroud attachment.

In another exemplary embodiment, at least a portion of an electrical cord for providing power to the ESU pencil is contained within the fixed member and the rotating member. In addition, smoke evacuation may or may not also occur through the fixed member and the rotating member.

Yet another exemplary embodiment of the swivel device of the present invention includes a fixed member attached to an outer body of an ESU pencil, an exhaust port of an ESU pencil with an integrated smoke evacuation system, or an exhaust port of an ESU pencil smoke evacuation shroud attachment, a rotating member with first and second ends where the first end is coupled to an interior of the fixed member and the second end has a cup like shape, and a pivoting member having first and second ends where the first end includes a cup like shape and is coupled to an interior of the second end of the rotating member. Like the above described exemplary embodiments, the fixed member may be capable of removable attachment to an outer body of an ESU pencil, an exhaust port of an ESU pencil with an integrated smoke evacuation system, or an exhaust port of an ESU pencil smoke evacuation shroud attachment. The fixed member, rotating member, and pivoting member may all be hollow and each include first and second ends such that the second end of the fixed member fits precisely around the first end of the rotating member to allow rotation of the rotating member within the fixed member and the second end of the rotating member fits precisely within the first end of the pivoting member to allow the pivoting member to pivot in at least a vertical up and down direction.

Brief Description of the Drawings

A more complete understanding of the present invention may be derived by referring to the detailed description and claims when considered in connection with the following illustrative figures, which may not be to scale. In the following figures, like reference numbers refer to similar elements throughout the figures.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one exemplary embodiment of a swivel device according to the present invention, for attachment to an outer body of an ESU pencil, an exhaust port of an ESU pencil with an integrated smoke evacuation system, or an exhaust port of an ESU pencil smoke evacuation shroud attachment.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the swivel device in Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a side view of an ESU pencil with an electrical cord for powering the ESU pencil permanently incorporated in the swivel device shown in Figs. 1-2 with the electrical cord shown in phantom.

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of an ESU pencil with a smoke evacuation shroud 5 attachment shown connected to the swivel device shown in Figs. 1-2.

Fig. 5 is another exemplary embodiment of a swivel device according to the present invention, for attachment to an outer body of an ESU pencil, an exhaust port of an ESU pencil with an integrated smoke evacuation system, or an exhaust port of an ESU pencil smoke evacuation shroud attachment.

10 Fig. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the swivel device shown in Fig. 5.

Fig. 7 is a side view of an ESU pencil with an electrical cord for powering the ESU pencil permanently incorporated in the swivel device shown in Figs. 5-6 with the electrical cord shown in phantom.

15 Fig. 8 is a perspective view of an ESU pencil with a smoke evacuation shroud attachment shown connected to the swivel device shown in Figs. 5-6.

Detailed Description

One exemplary embodiment of the swivel device 10 of the present invention is shown in Fig. 1. Swivel device 10 includes a fixed member 12 having a first end 14 and a 20 second end 16, and rotating member 18 which is coupled to an interior of the fixed member 12. Rotating member 18 includes a first end 20 (see Fig. 2), a second end 22, and an angled portion 24 located between first end 20 and second end 22. Second end 22 of rotating member 18 may further include a collar 26 which is capable of forming a leak proof connection with a vacuum tube (see Fig. 4).

25 Fixed member 12 and rotating member 18 may comprise hollow tubular members with smooth interior cylindrical surfaces which facilitate evacuation of smoke from a surgical site through a vacuum tube. Second end 16 of fixed member 12 is friction fit around first end 20 of rotating member 18 thereby allowing rotation of rotating member 18 within fixed member 12 as indicated by arrow X. The rotating member 18 may rotate in 30 both clockwise and counterclockwise directions. This rotation of rotating member 18 which is connected to a vacuum tube (see Fig. 4) reduces the drag (or pulling down of) the distal end of the ESU pencil (i.e., the end of the ESU pencil opposite the electrode).

Fixed member 12 and rotating member 18 of swivel device 10 are preferably made of a sturdy and durable material which enables the friction fit of rotating member 18 within fixed member 12 while still allowing for the rotation of rotating member 18 within fixed member 12. Examples of such materials include, but are not limited to, polymers, plastics, 5 fiberglass, etc.

A side view of an ESU pencil 402 with an electrical cord for powering the ESU pencil 402 permanently incorporated in swivel device 10 with the electrical cord 28 shown in phantom is depicted in Fig. 3. Electrical cord 28 is routed through swivel device 10 so that electrical cord 28 does not twist the ESU pencil in the hand of the surgeon during an 10 electrosurgery procedure. In another exemplary embodiment, ESU pencil 402 may comprise a telescopic ESU pencil as shown in Fig. 3 which may accommodate smoke evacuation through its interior. In the event that smoke evacuation is accommodated through an interior of ESU pencil 402, swivel device 10 may also be coupled to a vacuum tube as shown in Fig. 4 to evacuate smoke from the surgical site.

15 Fig. 4 shows a perspective view of an ESU pencil 402 with a smoke evacuation shroud attachment 410 shown connected to swivel device 10 of the present invention. Collar 26 of rotating member 18 fits over vacuum tube 30 to create an airtight connection between vacuum tube 30 and rotating member 18. Alternatively, second end 22 of rotating member 18 may be tapered to fit inside of vacuum tube 30, also creating an airtight 20 connection between rotating member 18 and vacuum tube 30. Like the connection of swivel device 10 with ESU pencil 402 shown in Fig. 3, the connection between swivel device 10 and smoke evacuation shroud attachment 410 reduces the drag, or pulling down of, the distal end of the smoke evacuation shroud attachment 410 while the surgeon performs an electrosurgery procedure.

25 Another exemplary embodiment of swivel device 50 in accordance with the present invention is shown in Figs. 5-6. Swivel device 50 may be attached to an outer body of an ESU pencil, an exhaust port of an ESU pencil with an integrated smoke evacuation system, or an exhaust port of an ESU pencil smoke evacuation shroud attachment. Swivel device 50 includes a fixed member 52 having a first end 54 and second end 56, a rotating member 58 30 having a first end 60 and a second end 62, and a pivoting member 70 having a first end 72 and second end 74. Second end 56 of fixed member 52 is friction fit around first end 60 of rotating member 58 such that rotating member 58 is capable of rotating within fixed member 52. Second end 62 of rotating member 58 comprises an open-ended hollow half sphere

shape, or cup like shape. In addition, first end 72 of pivoting member 70 also comprises an open-ended hollow half sphere shape, or cup like shape, which is friction fit within an interior of the cup like shape of first end 60 of rotating member 58 thereby allowing pivoting member 70 to pivot within rotating member 58 at least in a vertical up and down direction as 5 indicated by arrow Y. In addition, pivoting member 70 may also pivot in a number of different directions relative to second end 62 of rotating member 58. This exemplary embodiment of swivel device 10 of the present invention provides a broader range of motion for the movement of a vacuum tube 30 or electrical cord 28 with respect to an ESU pencil 402 or smoke evacuation shroud attachment 410 to further decrease drag on the distal end of 10 the ESU pencil or smoke evacuation shroud attachment 410 and to reduce twisting of vacuum tube 30 and/or electrical cord 28 while a surgeon performs an electrosurgery procedure.

With respect to the exemplary embodiment of swivel device 50 shown in Figs. 5-6, the present invention also contemplates a swivel device which includes only rotary member 15 58 and pivoting member 70 whereby first end 60 of rotating member 58 would be attached in a leak proof manner to an outer body of an ESU pencil, and exhaust port of an ESU pencil with an integrated smoke evacuation system, or a exhaust port of an ESU pencil smoke 20 evacuation shroud attachment. The connection between second end 62 of rotating member 58 and first end 72 of pivoting member 70 would then provide the sole means for vacuum tube 30 and/or electrical cord 28 to swivel, rotate, and/or pivot in relation to ESU pencil 402 or ESU pencil smoke evacuation shroud attachment 410.

Fig. 7 is a side view of an ESU pencil with an electrical cord for powering the ESU pencil permanently incorporated in swivel device 50 shown in Figs. 5-6 with electrical cord 28 shown in phantom. Electrical cord 28 is routed through swivel device 50 so that 25 electrical cord 28 does not twist the ESU pencil in the hand of the surgeon during an electrosurgery procedure. In another exemplary embodiment, ESU pencil 402 may comprise a telescopic ESU pencil as shown in Fig. 7 which may accommodate smoke evacuation through its interior. In the event that smoke evacuation is accommodated through an interior of ESU pencil 402, swivel device 50 may also be coupled to a vacuum 30 tube as shown in Fig. 8 to evacuate smoke from the surgical site.

A perspective view of an ESU pencil with a smoke evacuation shroud attachment shown connected to swivel device 50 is shown in Fig. 8. Second end 74 of pivoting member 70 is coupled to vacuum tube 30 to create an airtight connection between vacuum tube 30

and pivoting member 70. Second end 74 of rotating member 70 may be tapered to fit inside of vacuum tube 30. Like the connection of swivel device 50 with ESU pencil 402 shown in Fig. 7, the connection between swivel device 50 and smoke evacuation shroud attachment 410 reduces the drag, or pulling down of, the distal end of the smoke evacuation shroud attachment 410 while the surgeon performs an electrosurgery procedure.

OPERATION

Referring to Fig. 4, before beginning a surgical procedure, the second end 22 of rotating member 18 is connected to the vacuum tube 30 which is connected to a vacuum source (not shown) and the power cord 28 for the ESU pencil 402 is connected to a power source (not shown). When desired, the surgeon then uses hand switch 404 to send radio frequency energy to the ESU pencil's 402 electrode 406, for cutting and coagulation. When the vacuum source is activated, smoke and debris from cutting and coagulation are sucked into the exhaust opening 424 at the distal end of nozzle 412 of the ESU pencil's 402 smoke evacuation shroud attachment 410. The smoke and debris then travel through the smoke evacuation shroud attachment 410, swivel device 10, and vacuum tube 30, to a vacuum canister (not shown). The operation of the ESU pencil 402 with smoke evacuation shroud attachment 410 is described in full detail in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,836,944, 6,099,525, and 6,124,995.

It will be understood by one skilled in the art that second end 16 of fixed member 12 and first end 20 of rotating member 18 may take the form of alternative configurations and shapes to enable an airtight seal between fixed member 12 and rotating member 18. For example, second end 16 of fixed member 12 may take the shape and form of a larger outer-diameter portion of the fixed member as described in U.S. Patent application having Serial No. 11/164,712, filed December 2, 2005. In addition, first end 20 of rotating member 18 may include an inverted distal end on the interior surface of the rotating member and a central inversion on the exterior surface of the rotating member as previously described in detail in U.S. Patent application having Serial No. 11/164,712, filed December 2, 2005.

The present invention has been described above with reference to exemplary embodiments. However, those skilled in the art, having read this disclosure, will recognize that changes and modifications may be made to the exemplary embodiments without departing from the scope of the present invention. For example, the swivel device of the present invention may also be used or incorporated with laser or fiber optic surgical pencils that are employed along with suction devices to eliminate smoke and debris from the

surgical site. These and other changes or modifications are intended to be included within the scope of the present invention, as expressed in the following claims.

CLAIMS

1. A swivel device comprising:

a rotating member having a first end and a second end wherein the second end comprises a cup like shape and the first end is positioned within at least one of an ESU pencil and an ESU pencil with an integrated smoke evacuation system such that at least a portion of an electrical cord for providing power to said ESU pencil or said ESU pencil with an integrated smoke evacuation system is contained within the rotating member; and

a pivoting member having a first end and a second end wherein the first end comprises a cup like shape and is coupled to the second end of the rotating member.

2. The swivel device of claim 1 wherein the rotating member comprises a hollow tubular member.

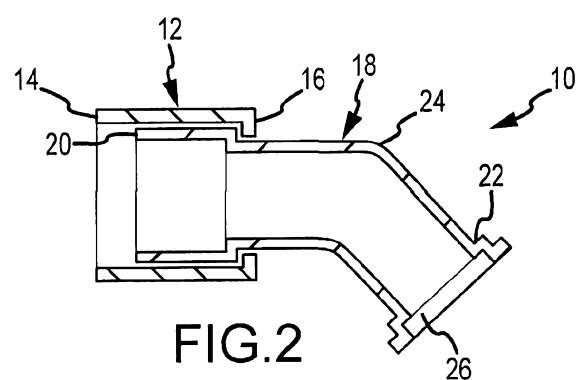
3. The swivel device of claim 2 wherein the pivoting member comprises a hollow tubular member and the second end of the rotating member fits precisely within the first end of the pivoting member thereby allowing for the pivoting member to pivot in at least a vertical up and down direction.

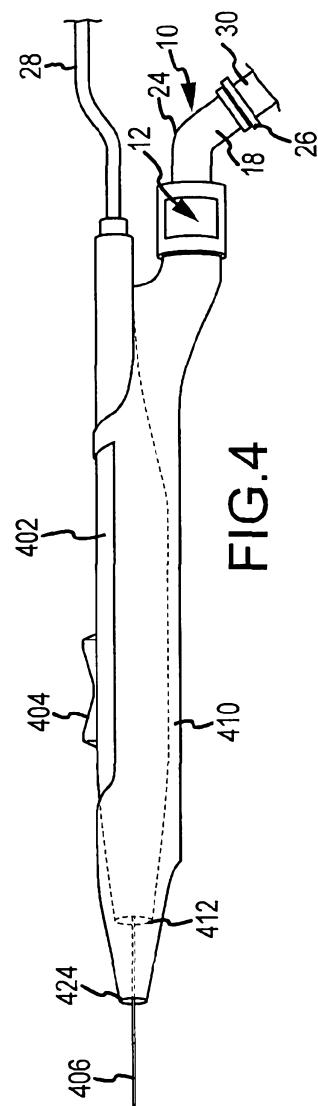
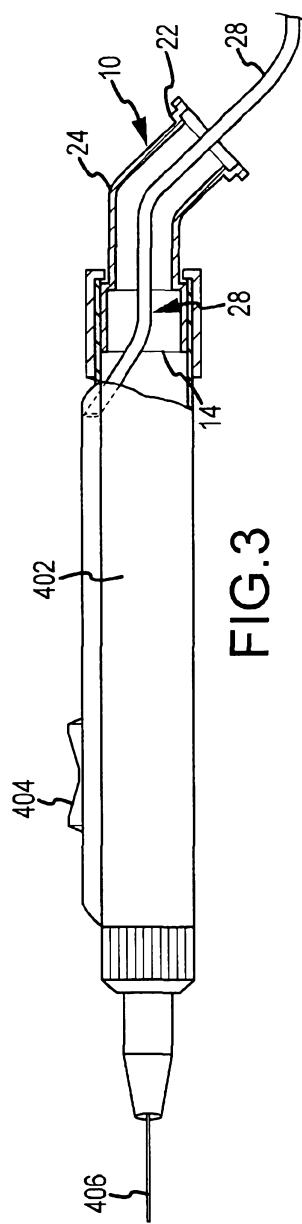
4. The swivel device of claim 3 wherein the pivoting member is capable of pivoting in a plurality of different directions including the vertical up and down direction.

5. The swivel device of claim 3 wherein the second end of the pivoting member is capable of forming a leak proof connection with a vacuum tube.

6. The swivel device of claim 5 wherein the rotating member and the pivoting member each have a smooth interior cylindrical surface for conducting smoke and debris to the vacuum tube.

7. The device of any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein at least a portion of the electrical cord for providing power to said ESU pencil or said ESU pencil with integrated smoke evacuation system is contained within both the pivoting member and the rotating member.





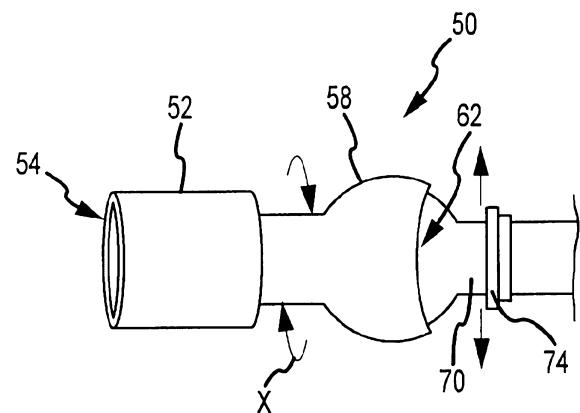


FIG.5

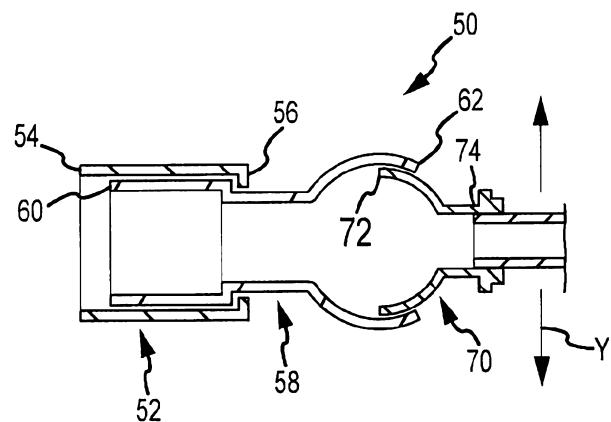


FIG.6

