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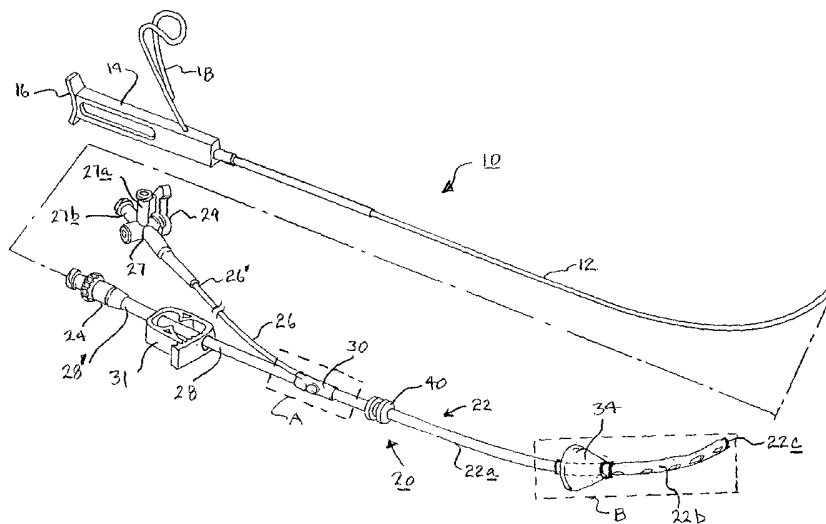
- as to the identity of the inventor (Rule 4.17(i)) for all designations
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(54) Title: BALLOON CATHETER AND METHOD OF USE



(57) Abstract: A retrograde venous cardioplegia balloon catheter (20) has a flexible cannula (22) on which is mounted an inflatable, tapered balloon (34) which divides the flexible cannula (22) into a proximal portion (22a) which is stiffer than a distal portion (22b). Balloon (34) may be inserted into a body opening, such as the ostium (46) of a human heart (52) to position soft, flexible distal portion (22b) within the coronary sinus (44). Balloon (34) is inflated to seal the ostium (46) and force may be applied by means of the stiff proximal portion (22a) to maintain the turgid balloon (34) in place to seal the ostium and leave substantially the entire coronary sinus (44) open to infusion by cardioplegia solution. A method of using the balloon catheter (20) includes positioning inflatable balloon (34) within the ostium (46) and imposing a force (e.g., by collapsing the right atrial wall) via distal portion (22b) on balloon (34) in its turgid condition, to maintain it in place within ostium (46).



WO 02/072170 A3



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 604/103.06, 103.03, 103.07, 525

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,021,045 A (BUCKBERG et al) 4 June 1991, see entire patent.	1-16
A	US 5,226,427 A (BUCKBERG et al) 13 July 1993, see entire patent.	1-16
A	US 5,423,745 A (TODD et al) 13 June 1995, see entire patent.	1-16

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☐ See patent family annex.

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