A device and method for adjusting the insertion depth of a needle for medicament delivery. The device includes a housing, an adjustment member, and a microneedle. The housing can be coupled to an medicament container and includes a hub surface that can contact a target surface. The adjustment member is within the housing and separates an inner volume of the housing into a first chamber and a second chamber. The first chamber is fluidically coupled with the medicament container. The adjustment member, which is coupled to the microneedle, can transition between a first configuration and a second configuration. A proximal end portion of the microneedle is fluidically coupled to the first chamber such that a substance can be conveyed from the medicament container through the microneedle. A distal tip of the microneedle extends from the hub surface by a first distance when the adjustment member is in the first configuration, and by a second distance when the adjustment member is in the second configuration.

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DEVICES AND METHODS FOR ADJUSTING THE INSERTION DEPTH OF A NEEDLE FOR MEDICAMENT DELIVERY

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

[1001] This application priority to and the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 62/374,300, entitled "Multi-Length Infinitely Adjustable Microneedle," filed August 12, 2016, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Background

[1002] The embodiments described herein relate generally to the field of ophthalmic therapies and more particularly to ocular injection devices for delivery and/or removal of a substance, such as a fluid therapeutic agent, into and/or from ocular tissues for treatment of the eye.

[1003] Although needles are used in transdermal and intraocular drug delivery, there remains a need for improved microneedle devices and methods, particularly for delivery of substances (e.g., drugs) into the posterior region of the eye. Many inflammatory and proliferative diseases in the posterior region (or other regions) of the eye require long-term pharmacological treatment. Examples of such diseases include macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and uveitis. It is often difficult to deliver effective doses of a drug to the back of the eye using conventional delivery methods such as topical application or an intravitreal administration (IVT), which has poor efficacy, and systemic administration, which often causes significant side effects. For example, while eye drops are useful in treating conditions affecting the exterior surface of the eye or tissues at the front of the eye, the eye drops are often not sufficiently conveyed to the back of the eye, as may be required for the treatment of some of the retinal diseases listed above.

[1004] Although there have been advances in the past decade regarding the utilization of systemically delivered substances, there are obstacles to widespread adoption of such methods. For example, in certain situations, direct injection into the eye (e.g., into the vitreous) using conventional 27 gauge or 30 gauge needles and syringes can be effective. Direct injection, however, can be associated with significant safety risks, and physicians often require professional training to effectively perform such methods. Moreover, in some instances, targeted injection of a therapeutic agent is desirable. In such instances, however, the relatively
small anatomic structures of the eye often result in significant challenges to placing a needle at a target location using known devices and methods, especially as they pertain to placing the distal end of the needle at the desired depth within the eye. Furthermore, IVT administration can have side effects such as increased intraocular pressure or faster onset of cataract formation.

Some known devices for ocular injection do not provide the mechanism for adjusting needle length so that the needle can be inserted into the eye to the desired depth. Some known systems also do not provide an efficient and reliable mechanism for determining when the needle tip is in the desired location, for example, the suprachoroidal space (SCS) of the eye. For example, some known methods of injecting substances into ocular tissue include using complicated visualization system or sensors to control the placement of the needle or cannula within the eye, which can necessitate such methods being performed at a surgical center.

Moreover, such shortcomings in known systems and methods are exacerbated because the size and thickness of various layers included in the eye can vary substantially from one person to another. For example, the thickness of the conjunctiva and the sclera can be substantially different and their true value cannot easily be predetermined via standard techniques. Furthermore, the thickness of these layers can also be different in different portions of the eye and at different times of the day in the same eye and location. Therefore, using known systems and methods it can be challenging to determine and/or adjust the length of the needle for puncturing the eye, such that a tip of the needle is at the desired depth, for example, the SCS. If the inserted needle length is too short, penetration through the sclera may not be achieved. Conversely, if the inserted needle length is too long, the tip can traverse beyond the SCS and damage the retina of the eye. Further, known systems do not provide a convenient way to detect the position of the needle tip within the eye.

In addition to the issues associated with placing the needle tip in the desired location, injection of a drug into different target layers of the eye can cause variability in the amount of the force required for insertion of the needle and/or injection of the medicament. Different layers of the eye can have different densities. For example, the sclera generally has a higher density (or lower tissue porosity) than the conjunctiva or the SCS. Differences in the density of the target region or layer can produce different backpressure resisting the distal movement of the needle into the tissue and also resisting the flow of the medicament from the needle exit. Thus, injection into a relatively dense ocular material such as sclera requires more
motive pressure to expel the medicament from the needle than is required when injecting a medicament into the SCS. In addition to overcoming the resistance of the bodily tissue, the resistance (i.e., frictional losses) of the injection system must also be overcome for successful repeatable drug delivery. Thus, the injection force to expel the medicament also depends on the density and viscosity of the liquid medicament, the length of the needle, and/or the diameter of the needle. To inject certain medicaments into the eye via desired needles (e.g., 27 gauge, 30 gauge, or even smaller) can require more force than many practitioners are comfortable (or capable of) applying.

Thus, a need exists for improved injection devices and methods, which can assist in facilitating injection of a viscous medicament into ocular tissue.

**Summary**

Devices and methods for ocular injection are described herein. In some embodiments, an apparatus includes a housing, an adjustment member, and a puncture member. A proximal end portion of the housing can be coupled to a medicament container, and a distal end portion of the housing includes a hub surface. The hub surface is configured to contact a target surface of a target tissue. The adjustment member is within the inner volume such that the inner volume is separated into a first chamber and a second chamber. The first chamber is in fluid communication with the medicament container. The adjustment member is configured to transition within the inner volume between a first configuration and a second configuration. The puncture member is coupled to the adjustment member. A proximal end portion of the puncture member is fluidically coupled to the first chamber such that a substance can be conveyed from the medicament container through the puncture member via the first chamber. A distal tip of the puncture member extends from the hub surface by a first distance when the adjustment member is in the first configuration, and by a second distance when the adjustment member is in the second configuration. The second distance is greater than the first distance.

In some embodiments, a method includes inserting a distal tip of a puncture member of a medical injector into a first region of a target tissue. The medical injector includes a medicament container, a hub, and the puncture member. A distal tip of the puncture member extends from a distal end surface of the hub by a first distance before and during the inserting.
A substance is conveyed from the medicament container into a pressure chamber defined within the hub when the distal tip is within the target tissue to produce a pressure within the pressure chamber. The pressure causes the distal tip of the puncture member to move within the first region of the target tissue such that the distal tip of the puncture member extends from the distal end surface of the hub by a second distance greater than the first distance. The pressure is insufficient to produce a flow of the substance from the pressure chamber through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within the first region of the target tissue. The pressure produces the flow of the substance from the pressure chamber through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within a second region of the target tissue.

**Brief Description of the Drawings**

[1011] FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of an illustration of the human eye.

[1012] FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of a portion of the human eye of FIG. 1 taken along the line 2-2.

[1013] FIGS. 3 and 4 are cross-sectional views of a portion of the human eye of FIG. 1 taken along the line 3-3, illustrating the suprachoroidal space without and with, respectively, the presence of a fluid.

[1014] FIG. 5 is a schematic illustration of an injector assembly according to an embodiment.

[1015] FIGS. 6 and 7 are schematic illustrations of the injector assembly shown in FIG. 5, in a first configuration and a second configuration, respectively.

[1016] FIG. 8 is a schematic illustration of an adjustment member of the injector assembly shown in FIG. 5, showing forces applied to the adjustment member during use.

[1017] FIG. 9 is a graph showing the variation in pressure within the injector assembly and the flow of medicament from the injector assembly as a function of the position of the puncture member.

[1018] FIGS. 10 and 11 are schematic illustrations of an injector assembly according to an embodiment, in a first configuration and a second configuration, respectively.
FIGS. 12 and 13 are perspective views of an injector assembly according to an embodiment.

FIG. 14 is an exploded view of a portion of the injector assembly shown in FIGS. 12 and 13.

FIGS. 15 and 16 are perspective views of a needle assembly of the injector assembly shown in FIGS. 12 and 13.

FIGS. 17 and 18 are cross-sectional views of the needle assembly shown in FIGS. 15 and 16 taken along line X\textsubscript{1}-X\textsubscript{1} in FIG. 15, with the needle assembly being in a first configuration and a second configuration, respectively.

FIG. 19 is a perspective view of an adjustment member of the needle assembly shown in FIGS. 17 and 18.

FIG. 20 is a cross-sectional view of the adjustment member shown in FIG. 19 taken along line X\textsubscript{2}-X\textsubscript{2} in FIG. 19.

FIG. 21 is a view of the injector assembly of FIGS. 12 and 13 in use during an injection procedure into the human eye.

FIG. 22 is an enlarged view of a portion of the medical injector of FIGS. 12 and 13 and the human eye, identified in FIG. 21 by the region Z\textsubscript{2}.

FIG. 23 is a flow chart of a method of injecting a medicament according to an embodiment.

FIG. 24 is a flow chart of a method of injecting a medicament according to an embodiment.

FIG. 25 is a perspective view of a needle assembly according to an embodiment.
**Detailed Description**

[1030] Devices and methods for ocular injection are described herein. In some embodiments, an apparatus includes a housing, an adjustment member, and a puncture member. A proximal end portion of the housing can be coupled to a medicament container, and a distal end portion of the housing includes a hub surface. The hub surface is configured to contact a target surface of a target tissue. The adjustment member is within the inner volume such that the inner volume is separated into a first chamber and a second chamber. The first chamber is in fluid communication with the medicament container. The adjustment member is configured to transition within the inner volume between a first configuration and a second configuration. The puncture member is coupled to the adjustment member. A proximal end portion of the puncture member is fluidically coupled to the first chamber such that a substance can be conveyed from the medicament container through the puncture member via the first chamber. A distal tip of the puncture member extends from the hub surface by a first distance when the adjustment member is in the first configuration, and by a second distance when the adjustment member is in the second configuration. The second distance is greater than the first distance.

[1031] In some embodiments, an apparatus includes a housing, an adjustment member, and a puncture member. The has an inner surface defining an inner volume. A proximal end portion of the housing is configured to be coupled to a medicament container. A distal end portion of the housing includes a hub surface that can contact a target surface of a target tissue (e.g., during an injection operation). The adjustment member is within the inner volume such that the inner surface and a proximal surface of the adjustment member define a pressure chamber. The pressure chamber is in fluid communication with the medicament container when the proximal end portion of the housing is coupled to the medicament container. The adjustment member is configured to move within the inner volume and relative to the medicament container between a first position and a second position. The puncture member is coupled to the adjustment member and has a proximal end portion in fluid communication with the pressure chamber such that a substance can be conveyed from the medicament container through the puncture member via the pressure chamber. A distal tip of the puncture member extends from the hub surface by a first distance when the adjustment member is in the first position, and by a second distance when the adjustment member is in the second position. The second distance greater than the first distance.
In some embodiments, a method includes inserting a distal tip of a puncture member of a medical injector into a first region of a target tissue. The medical injector includes a medicament container, a hub, and the puncture member. A distal tip of the puncture member extends from a distal end surface of the hub by a first distance before and during the inserting. A substance is conveyed from the medicament container into a pressure chamber defined within the hub when the distal tip is within the target tissue to produce a pressure within the pressure chamber. The pressure causes the distal tip of the puncture member to move within the first region of the target tissue such that the distal tip of the puncture member extends from the distal end surface of the hub by a second distance greater than the first distance. The pressure is insufficient to produce a flow of the substance from the pressure chamber through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within the first region of the target tissue. The pressure produces the flow of the substance from the pressure chamber through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within a second region of the target tissue.

In some embodiments, a method includes inserting a distal tip of a puncture member of a medical injector into a first region of a target tissue. The medical injector includes a medicament container, a hub, and the puncture member. A distal tip of the puncture member extends from a distal end surface of the hub before and during the inserting. A force is exerted on a proximal end portion of an actuation rod to move a distal end portion of the actuation rod within the medicament container. The movement of the distal end portion of the actuation rod causes: A) the distal tip of the puncture member to move in a distal direction relative to the distal end surface of the hub from the first region of the target tissue to a second region of the target tissue; and B) the substance to flow from the pressure chamber through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within a second region of the target tissue. The force is insufficient to produce a flow of the substance from the pressure chamber through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within the first region of the target tissue.

The term "about" when used in connection with a referenced numeric indication means the referenced numeric indication plus or minus up to 10 percent of that referenced numeric indication. For example, "about 100" means from 90 to 110.

As used herein, the singular forms "a," "an", and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise. Thus, for example, the term "a member" is
intended to mean a single member or a combination of members, "a material" is intended to mean one or more materials, or a combination thereof.

[1036] As used herein, the words "proximal" and "distal" refer to the direction closer to and away from, respectively, an operator (e.g., surgeon, physician, nurse, technician, etc.) who would insert the medical device into the patient, with the tip-end (i.e., distal end) of the device inserted inside a patient's body first. Thus, for example, the end of a microneedle or injection device described herein first inserted inside the patient's body would be the distal end, while the opposite end of the microneedle or injection device (e.g., the end of the medical device being manipulated by the operator) would be the proximal end of the microneedle.

[1037] The term "fluid-tight" is understood to encompass both a hermetic seal (i.e., a seal that is gas-impervious) as well as a seal that is only liquid-impervious. The term "substantially" when used in connection with "fluid-tight," "gas-impervious," and/or "liquid-impervious" is intended to convey that, while total fluid imperviousness is desirable, some minimal leakage due to manufacturing tolerances, or other practical considerations (such as, for example, the pressure applied to the seal and/or within the fluid), can occur even in a "substantially fluid-tight" seal. Thus, a "substantially fluid-tight" seal includes a seal that prevents the passage of a fluid (including gases, liquids and/or slurries) therethrough when the seal is maintained at a constant position and at fluid pressures of less than about 5 pounds per square inch gauge (psig).

[1038] As used herein, a "set" can refer to multiple features or a singular feature with multiple parts. For example, when referring to set of walls, the set of walls can be considered as one wall with distinct portions, or the set of walls can be considered as multiple walls.

[1039] As used herein, the terms "medicament container," and "medicament containment chamber" are used interchangeably to refer to an article configured to contain a volume of a substance, for example, a medicament. A medicament container can include a vial, ampule (or ampoule), inner portion of a syringe, or the like.

[1040] As used herein, the terms "delivery member," "puncture member," and "puncturing member" are used interchangeably to refer to an article configured to pierce tissue layers and deliver a substance to (or remove the substance from) a target tissue layer. Examples of a puncture member include a needle or a microneedle.
[1041] As used in this specification and the appended claims, the terms "drug" or "medicament" include any constituent of a therapeutic substance. A medicament can include such constituents regardless of their state of matter (e.g., solid, liquid or gas). Moreover, a medicament can include the multiple constituents that can be included in a therapeutic substance in a mixed state, in an unmixed state and/or in a partially mixed state. A medicament can include both the active constituents and inert constituents of a therapeutic substance. Accordingly, as used herein, a medicament can include non-active constituents such as, water, colorant or the like.

[1042] As used herein, "non-surgical" ocular drug delivery devices and methods refer to methods and devices for drug delivery that do not require general anesthesia and/or retrobulbar anesthesia (also referred to as a retrobulbar block). Alternatively or additionally, a "non-surgical" ocular drug delivery method is performed with an instrument having a diameter of 28 gauge or smaller. Alternatively or additionally, "non-surgical" ocular drug delivery methods do not require a guidance mechanism that is typically required for ocular drug delivery via a shunt or cannula.

[1043] The non-surgical treatment methods and devices described herein are particularly useful for the local delivery of drug to the posterior region of the eye, for example the retinocchoroidal tissue, macula, retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) and optic nerve in the posterior segment of the eye. In some embodiments, the non-surgical methods and microneedles provided herein can be used to target drug delivery to specific posterior ocular tissues or regions within the eye or in neighboring tissue. In some embodiments, the methods described herein deliver drug specifically to the sclera, the choroid, the Brach's membrane, the retinal pigment epithelium, the subretinal space, the retina, the macula, the optic disk, the optic nerve, the ciliary body, the trabecular meshwork, the aqueous humor, the vitreous humor, and/or other ocular tissue or neighboring tissue in the eye of a human subject in need of treatment. The methods and microneedle assemblies provided herein can be used to target drug delivery to specific posterior ocular tissues or regions within the eye or in neighboring tissue.

[1044] In some embodiments, the methods described herein can be used for the treatment of a patient in need of treatment of macular edema associated with uveitis (e.g., infectious, non-infectious, intermediate, posterior or pan uveitis), macular edema associated with RVO (e.g., branch retinal vein occlusion (BRVO), hemiretinal vein occlusion (HRVO), or central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO)). In such embodiments, any of the devices or methods described herein
can be used to non-surgically administer a drug, e.g., an anti-inflammatory drug (e.g., triamcinolone) or a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) modulator (e.g., VEGF antagonist) to the suprachoroidal space of one or both eyes for at least one dosing session. Non-surgical administration can be achieved by inserting a microneedle having an infinitely variable length (within a range) into one or both eyes of the patient, for example the sclera, and injecting or infusing a drug formulation through the inserted microneedle and into the suprachoroidal space of the eye. In some embodiments, the effective amount of the drug administered to the SCS provides higher therapeutic efficacy of the drug, compared to the therapeutic efficacy of the drug when the identical dosage is administered intravitreally, topically, intracamerally, parenterally or orally. In some embodiments, the microneedle drug delivery methods described herein precisely deliver the drug into the SCS for subsequent local delivery to nearby posterior ocular tissues (e.g., the retina and choroid) in need of treatment. The drug may be released into the ocular tissues from the infused volume (or, e.g., from microparticles or nanoparticles in the drug formulation) for an extended period, e.g., several hours or days or weeks or months, after the non-surgical drug administration has been completed. This beneficially can provide increased bioavailability of the drug relative, for example, to delivery by topical application of the drug formulation to ocular tissue surfaces, or increased bioavailability compared to oral, parenteral on intravitreal administration of the same drug dosage.

[1045] According to the methods and using the needle assemblies described herein, the SCS drug delivery methods advantageously include precise control of the depth of insertion into the ocular tissue, so that the microneedle tip can be placed into the eye. This allows the drug formulation to flow into the suprachoroidal space and into one or more posterior ocular tissues surrounding the SCS, e.g., the choroid and retina. In some embodiments, insertion of the microneedle is in the sclera of the eye. The microneedle can then move, as a result of the fluid pressure within the injection device, to achieve the desired depth for SCS delivery. In some embodiments, drug flow into the SCS is accomplished without contacting underlying tissues with the microneedle, such as choroid and retina tissues.

[1046] The term "suprachoroidal space," is used interchangeably with suprachoroidal, SCS, suprachoroid and suprachoroidia, and describes the potential space in the region of the eye disposed between the sclera and choroid. This region primarily is composed of closely packed layers of long pigmented processes derived from each of the two adjacent tissues;
however, a space can develop in this region as a result of fluid or other material buildup in the suprachoroidal space and the adjacent tissues. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that the suprachoroidal space frequently is expanded by fluid buildup because of some disease state in the eye or as a result of some trauma or surgical intervention. In the present description, however, the fluid buildup is intentionally created by infusion of a drug formulation into the suprachoroid to create the suprachoroidal space (which is filled with drug formulation). Not wishing to be bound by theory, it is believed that the SCS region serves as a pathway for uveoscleral outflow (i.e., a natural process of the eye moving fluid from one region of the eye to the other through) and becomes a real space in instances of choroidal detachment from the sclera.

[1047] As used herein, "ocular tissue" and "eye" include both the anterior segment of the eye (i.e., the portion of the eye in front of the lens) and the posterior segment of the eye (i.e., the portion of the eye behind the lens). For reference, FIGS. 1-4 are various views of an eye 10 (with FIGS. 2-4 being cross-sectional views). While specific regions are identified, those skilled in the art will recognize that the proceeding identified regions do not constitute the entirety of the eye 10, rather the identified regions are presented as a simplified example suitable for the discussion of the embodiments herein. The eye 10 includes both an anterior segment 12 (the portion of the eye in front of and including the lens) and a posterior segment 14 (the portion of the eye behind the lens). The anterior segment 12 is bounded by the cornea 16 and the lens 18, while the posterior segment 14 is bounded by the sclera 20 and the lens 18. The anterior segment 12 is further subdivided into the anterior chamber 22, between the iris 24 and the cornea 16, and the posterior chamber 26, between the lens 18 and the iris 24. The cornea 16 and the sclera 20 collectively form a limbus 28 at the point at which they meet. The exposed portion of the sclera 20 on the anterior segment 12 of the eye is protected by a clear membrane referred to as the conjunctiva 45 (see e.g., FIGS. 2 and 3). Underlying the sclera 20 is the choroid 28 and the retina 27, collectively referred to as retinachoroidal tissue. A vitreous humour 30 (also referred to as the "vitreous") is disposed between a ciliary body 32 (including a ciliary muscle and a ciliary process) and the retina 27. The anterior portion of the retina 27 forms an ora serrata 34. The loose connective tissue, or potential space, between the choroid 28 and the sclera 20 is referred to as the suprachoroid. FIG. 2 illustrates the cornea 16, which is composed of the epithelium 40, the Bowman's layer 41, the stroma 42, the Descemet's membrane 43, and the endothelium 44. FIG. 3 illustrates the sclera 20 with surrounding Tenon's Capsule 46 or conjunctiva 45, suprachoroidal space 36, choroid 28, and retina 27.
substantially without fluid and/or tissue separation in the suprachoroidal space 36 (i.e., the in this configuration, the space is "potential" suprachoroidal space). As shown in FIG. 3, the sclera 20 has a thickness between about 500 µm and 700 µm. FIG. 4 illustrates the sclera 20 with the surrounding Tenon's Capsule 46 or the conjunctiva 45, suprachoroidal space 36, choroid 28, and retina 27, with fluid 50 in the suprachoroidal space 36.

[1048] The dashed line in FIG. I represents the equator of the eye 10. In some embodiments, the insertion site of any of the microneedles and/or methods described herein is between the equator and the limbus 38 (i.e., in the anterior portion 12 of the eye 10) For example, in some embodiments, the insertion site is between about two millimeters and 10 millimeters (mm) posterior to the limbus 38. In other embodiments, the insertion site of the microneedle is at about the equator of the eye 10. In still other embodiments, the insertion site is posterior the equator of the eye 10. In this manner, a drug formulation can be introduced (e.g., via the microneedle) into the suprachoroidal space 36 at the site of the insertion and can flow through the suprachoroidal space 36 away from the site of insertion during an infusion event (e.g., during injection).

[1049] In some embodiments, an injector assembly can be configured for non-surgical use, and can provide for precise control of the depth of insertion of a deliver): member or puncture member (e.g., a microneedle) into a target tissue. In this manner, the delivery member or puncture member can move, relative to a hub, during the insertion / injection operation such that the tip of the delivery member can be placed in the desired position within the target tissue. Such placement can allow the drug formulation to flow into the desired portion of the target tissue. For example, FIG. 5 is a schematic illustration of an injector assembly 1001 according to an embodiment. The injector assembly 1001 includes a medicament container 1130, a housing 1210, an adjustment member 1250, and a puncture member 1240.

[1050] The housing 1210 includes a proximal end portion 1211 and a distal end portion 1212. The proximal end portion 1211 can be coupled to the medicament container 1130. The medicament container 1130 can be any suitable container that defines a reservoir or volume 1133 within which a drug (also referred to as a medicament) can be contained. For example, in some embodiments, the medicament container 1130 can be a syringe that includes an actuation rod (not shown in FIG. 5) within the volume 1133. In such embodiments, the actuation rod can be reciprocated within the volume 1133 to either produce a vacuum within the medicament container 1130 (e.g., to draw a medicament into the volume 1133) or produce...
a pressure within the medicament container 1130 (e.g., to expel the medicament from the volume 1133). In some embodiments, the medicament container 1130 can be a prefilled (or prefillable) syringe, that includes one or more doses of any suitable substance (the medicament or drug) within the volume 1133. For example, in some embodiments, the medicament container contains at least one of a VEGF, a VEGF inhibitor, a PDGFR inhibitor, or a combination of any of the VEGF, the VEGF inhibitor, and the PDGFR inhibitor.

[1051] The proximal end portion 1211 of the housing 1210 can be coupled to the medicament container 1130 in any suitable manner. For example, in some embodiments, the housing 1210 can be removably coupled to the medicament container 1130, for example, by a Luer connector, a threaded joint, a snap-fit, a latch, a friction (or press-on) fit, or any other suitable coupling features. In this manner, the housing 1210 (and therefore the puncture member 1240) can be removed from the medicament container 1130 to allow a vial or other container to be coupled to the medicament container (e.g., to allow a dose of drug to be conveyed into the volume 1133). For example, in some embodiments, the injector assembly 1001 can be included within a kit that includes a needle assembly (e.g., the housing 1210, the puncture member 1240, and the adjustment member 1250), one or more drug vials, a vial adapter, and the medicament container 1130 (e.g., a syringe). In some embodiments, the injector assembly 1001 (or any of the injector assemblies described herein) can be included in any of the kits shown and described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/427,823, entitled "Ocular Injection Kit, Packaging, and Methods of Use," Filed February 8, 2017, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. In other embodiments, the housing 1210 can be permanently coupled to the medicament container 1130. Similarly stated, in some embodiments, the housing 1210 can be coupled to the medicament container 1130 in a manner that precludes removal of the housing 1210 from the medicament container 1130 during the intended (or "normal") use of the injector assembly 1001. In such embodiments, the housing 1210 can be permanently coupled to the medicament container 1130 by a weld joint, an adhesive, a bond, or the like. In yet other embodiments, the housing 1210 and the medicament container 1130 can be monolithically constructed.

[1052] The distal end portion 1212 of the housing 1210 includes a hub surface 1228 and defines an opening 1229 within the hub surface 1228. The hub surface 1228 is a contact surface having any suitable shape and/or size configured to contact a target surface S of a target tissue T during an injection operation (see FIGS. 6 and 7). For example, in some embodiments, the
hub surface 1228 is configured to deform the target surface S (e.g., the conjunctiva of the eye) when the distal end portion 1212 is brought into contact with the target surface S. In some embodiments, the hub surface 1228 can have a substantially convex shape, for example, a hemispherical shape, and can define a sealing portion that forms a substantially fluid-tight seal with the target surface S when the distal end portion 1212 is brought into contact with the target surface S. For example, in some embodiments, the hub surface 1228 can deform the target surface S to produce a substantially fluid-tight seal between the housing 1210 and the target surface S, about the opening 1229. In some embodiments, the hub surface 1228 can include any of the characteristics of any of the hubs or hub surfaces shown and described in U.S. Patent No. 9,180,047, entitled "Apparatus and Methods for Ocular Injection," which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[1053] The adjustment member 1250 is disposed within an inner volume 1224 defined by the housing 1210, and separates the inner volume into a first chamber 1221 (also referred to as a pressure chamber) and a second chamber 1222. As shown, the first (or pressure) chamber 1221 is in fluid communication with the medicament container 1130 (and/or the volume 1133) when the housing 1210 is coupled to the medicament container 1130. In this manner, as described herein, a medicament from the medicament container 1130 can be conveyed into the first chamber 1221. Moreover, the medicament within the first chamber 1221 can be pressurized to transition the adjustment member between a first configuration (FIGS. 5 and 6) and a second configuration (FIG. 7). Transitioning the adjustment member 1250 produces movement of the puncture member 1240, as described below. In some embodiments, the adjustment member 1250 can fluidically isolate the first chamber 1221 from the second chamber 1222 (e.g., via a seal or the like).

[1054] The puncture member 1240 can be any suitable device to puncture the target surface S and define a passageway within the target tissue T. The puncture member 1240 also provides a lumen through which the medicament can be delivered into the target tissue T (see FIG. 7, with medicament deliver) indicated by the arrow CC). As shown, the puncture member 1240 includes a proximal end portion 1241 and a distal end portion 1242, and defines a lumen through which the medicament can be conveyed from the medicament container 1130 and/or the first chamber 1221. The puncture member 1240 is coupled to the adjustment member 1250 such that the proximal end portion 1241 is in fluid communication with the first chamber 1221. In this manner, a substance (e.g., a drug or medicament) can be conveyed from
the medicament container 1130 through the puncture member 1240 via the first chamber 1221. The distal end portion 1242 of the puncture member 1240 includes a distal end surface 1245 that is beveled or a sharpened to facilitate puncturing the target tissue T. The distal end surface 1245 can have any suitable shape, size and/or geometry (e.g., bevel angle, bevel height, bevel aspect ratio or the like). For example, in some embodiments, the puncture member 1240 (and any of the puncture members described herein, including the puncture members 2240, 3240, and 4240) can include any of the beveled surfaces shown and described in International Patent Application Publication No. WO2014/036009, entitled, "Apparatus and Methods for Drug Deliver)' Using Microneedles," filed on Aug. 27, 2013, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

[1055] The distal end surface 1245 includes a distal tip 1243. Similarly stated, the distal tip 1243 is formed by the intersection of the distal end surface 1245 and an outer side wall of the puncture member 1240. Referring to FIG. 6, the distal tip 1243 of the puncture member extends from the hub surface 1228 (or through the opening 1229) by a first distance D1 when the adjustment member 1250 is in the first configuration. Referring to FIG. 7, the distal tip 1243 of the puncture member extends from the hub surface 1228 (or through the opening 1229) by a second distance D2 when the adjustment member 1250 is in the second configuration. In this manner, the position of the puncture member 1240 relative to the hub surface 1228 (also referred to as the effective length) can change during an injection operation to ensure that the distal tip 1243 (and therefore the opening in the beveled distal end surface 1245) is placed within the desired region of (or at the desired depth within) the target tissue T during medicament deliver'). Moreover, as described herein, the position of the distal tip 1243 relative to the hub surface 1228 is changed automatically and in an infinite number of positions (within a predefined range). Said another way, the position of the distal tip 1243 relative to the hub surface 1228 is changed in response to the user actuating the device without any additional input from the user. Thus, the user need not separately manipulate any needle adjustment features, and need not monitor the actual depth of the distal tip 1243 within the target tissue T.

[1056] The operation of the injector assembly is described with reference to FIGS. 6-9. To initiate an injection, the injector assembly 1001 is moved distally towards the target surface S when the adjustment member 1250 is in its first configuration (or position) within the housing 1210. Because the distal tip 1243 extends from the hub surface 1228 by the distance D1, the distal tip 1243 is the first portion of the injector assembly to contact the target surface S. Thus,
further distal movement of the injector assembly 1001, as shown by the arrow AA in FIG. 6, causes the distal tip 1243 to be inserted into a first region R1 of the target tissue. The insertion of the distal tip 1243 when the adjustment member is in its first configuration (or position) is referred to as the initial insertion operation.

[1057] In some embodiments, the initial insertion operation can include inserting the distal tip 1243 until hub surface 1228 contacts the target surface S. Thus, the insertion depth of the puncture member 1240 after the initial insertion is the same as the effective length of the puncture member 1240 (which is the distance D1). In some embodiments, the distal tip 1243 can be inserted until hub surface 1228 deforms the target surface S. For example, in some embodiments, the target tissue T is the eye 10. By deforming the target surface S and/or underlying target tissue T, the hub surface 1228 can form a substantially fluid-tight seal with the conjunctiva around the insertion site.

[1058] In some embodiments, the initial insertion operation can be performed such that a centerline CL of the puncture member 1240 and a surface line tangent to the target surface S define an angle of entry of between about 75 degrees and about 105 degrees. Similarly stated, an insertion angle of the puncture member 1240 relative to the target surface S is within the range of between about 75 degrees and about 105 degrees, inclusive of all ranges therebetween. In this manner, the size of the insertion zone can be reduced, thereby minimizing injury and inflammation, which can be caused by any lateral travel of the puncture member 1240 within the target tissue T. Furthermore, insertion of the puncture member 1240 substantially normal to the target surface S can also provide the shortest path for the distal tip 1243 to reach the desired depth within target tissue.

[1059] In some embodiments, the housing 1210 and/or the adjustment member 1250 can include a mechanism to limit and/or prevent proximal movement of the distal tip 1243. Said another way, in some embodiments, the housing 1210 and/or the adjustment member 1250 can include a mechanism to prevent transition of the adjustment member (either distally towards the second configuration, or proximally towards a configuration that is further proximal from the first configuration). For example, in some embodiments, the housing 1210 can include a shoulder (not shown) that engages a corresponding shoulder (not shown) of the adjustment member 1250 to prevent proximal movement of the distal tip 1243. In this manner, the proximal force exerted by the target tissue T on the distal end surface 1245 during initial insertion does not reduce the effective length to an amount less than the distance D1. Thus, the
effective length of the puncture member is maintained at the distance \( D \) during the initial insertion operation.

[1060] The injector assembly 1001 can be moved distally to complete the initial insertion operation in any suitable manner. For example, in some embodiments, the user can manually apply a force to a portion of the medicament container 1130 and/or the housing 1210. Said another way, the initial insertion operation can be a manual operation that does not rely on any stored energy device (e.g., springs, compressed gas containers, or the like) to produce the force to move the medicament container 1130 and/or the housing 1250.

[1061] After the initial insertion operation, a portion of the medicament from within the medicament container 1130 can then be conveyed from the volume 1133 of the medicament container 1130 into the first chamber 1221, as shown by the arrow BB in FIG. 7. Specifically, the medicament within the volume 1133 can be pressurized (e.g., shown by the pressure \( P_1 \)), and the medicament within the first chamber 1221 can be pressurized (e.g., shown by the pressure \( P_2 \)). By pressurizing the first chamber 1221, the forces acting on the adjustment member 1250 and the puncture member 1240 can, under certain circumstances, become unbalanced, causing the adjustment member 1250 to transition from its first configuration (FIG. 6) to its second configuration (FIG. 7). Similarly stated, the puncture member 1240 and the adjustment member 1250 are collectively configured such that the adjustment member 1250 can move within the housing 1210 from its first configuration (or position) towards its second configuration (or position) when the pressure \( P_2 \) within the first chamber 1221 is greater than a threshold pressure.

[1062] Referring to FIG. 8, after the first chamber 1221 is pressurized, the primary forces acting on the adjustment member 1250 include the pressure force \( F_p \), the friction force \( F_f \), and the tissue back-pressure force \( F_{BP} \). The pressure force \( F_p \) is produced by the pressurized medicament in the first chamber 1221, and acts in a distal direction on a proximal surface of the adjustment member 1250, as shown by the arrows \( F_p \). The magnitude of the pressure force \( F_p \) can be influenced by, among other things, the magnitude of the pressure \( P_2 \) and the area or diameter \( \Phi_1 \) of the proximal surface. The friction force \( F_f \) is the force opposing motion between the portions of the adjustment member 1250 that are in contact with the inner surface of the housing 1210. The magnitude of the friction force can be influenced by the static coefficient of friction (also referred to as "sticktion force") and the kinetic coefficient of friction between the mating pieces, as well as the area of contact. The tissue back-pressure force \( F_{BP} \) is the force
exerted by the target tissue T on both the distal end surface 1245 and the medicament present at the distal end surface 1245. Specifically, the target tissue T must deform and/or otherwise "make room" for both movement of the distal end surface and any bolus of medicament exiting the distal end surface 1245. Thus, the resistance of the tissue to deform exerts an opposing force on the distal end surface 1245 and the medicament. The tissue back-pressure force FBP is influenced by the area (or diameter \( \Phi_2 \)) of the distal end surface 1245, the properties of the target tissue T within which the distal tip 1243 is disposed, and the properties of the medicament. Specifically, target tissue T having a low density and/or a high porosity results in a lower tissue back-pressure force FBP than that which is produced within tissue having a high density and/or a low porosity. Similarly, a highly viscous medicament results a higher back-pressure force FBP than that which is produced in connection with a less viscous medicament.

[1063] Thus, when the pressure force \( FP \) is greater than the sum of the friction force \( F_f \) and the tissue back-pressure force FBP, the adjustment member 1250 transitions from its first configuration (FIG. 6) towards its second configuration (FIG. 7). When the pressure \( P_2 \) is reduced such that the pressure force \( FP \) is less than the sum of the friction force \( F_f \) and the tissue back-pressure force FBP, however, the transition of the adjustment member 1250 stops. Thus, depending on the region of tissue (e.g., the first region R1 or the second region R2) within which the distal tip 1243 is disposed and the pressure \( P_2 \) applied within the first chamber 1221, the adjustment member 1250 can transition between the first configuration, the second configuration, and an infinite number of configurations therebetween. This, in turn, causes the distal tip 1243 to move distally within the target tissue. The additional insertion of the distal tip 1243 when the adjustment member 1250 is transitioned towards its second configuration (or position) is referred to as the secondary insertion operation.

[1064] The pressure force FP also acts to produce a flow of the medicament from the first chamber 1221 through the puncture member 1240, and into the target tissue T. To produce a flow of the medicament, the pressure \( P_2 \) must be sufficient to overcome both the internal resistance (or friction loss) through the puncture member and the tissue back-pressure force FBP, discussed above. In certain circumstances, the pressure \( P_2 \) of the medicament within the first chamber 1221 can be modeled by the Hagen-Poiseuille law, as indicated below:

\[
(1) \quad P_2 = \frac{(8*\mu*L*Q)}{(n*R^4)}
\]
where \( P_2 \) is the pressure of the medicament within the first chamber 1221, \( \mu \) is the viscosity of the medicament, \( L \) is the length of the puncture member 1240, \( Q \) is the flow rate of the medicament through the puncture member 1240, and \( R \) is the radius of the lumen defined by the puncture member 1240. Because the pressure (and/or force) required to inject a high viscosity fluid through a small-bore the puncture member 1240 is proportional to the inverse of the radius of the lumen of the needle to the fourth power, the pressure of the medicament within the medicament container necessary to achieve the desired flow rate can, at times, be relatively high.

In some embodiments, puncture member 1240 and the adjustment member 1250 are collectively configured such that the adjustment member 1250 transitions from the first configuration towards the second configuration when the pressure \( P_2 \) within the first chamber 1221 is greater than the threshold pressure. Additionally, the puncture member 1240 is configured such that the substance is maintained within the first chamber 1221 when: A) the distal tip 1243 of the puncture member 1240 is within a region (e.g., the first region R1) of the target tissue having a density greater than a threshold density, and B) the pressure \( P_2 \) within the first chamber 1221 is greater than the threshold pressure. Similarly stated, in some embodiments, when the distal tip 1243 is within a region of tissue having a higher density and/or lower porosity and when the pressure \( P_2 \) is greater than a threshold pressure, the balance of forces acting on the adjustment member 1250 and the puncture member 1240 can be such that the adjustment member 1250 transitions towards its second configuration, but a flow of medicament through the puncture member 1240 is prevented. In this manner, even though the medicament is pressurized, the distal tip 1243 can move distally (i.e., the secondary insertion) without the medicament flowing out of the puncture member 1240. Said another way, in some embodiments, the injector assembly 1001 can be actuated to pressurize the first chamber 1221 at a pressure that is sufficient to move the distal tip 1243 within the target tissue, while maintaining the medicament within the first chamber 1221 and/or puncture member 1240.

This arrangement can facilitate injection of the drug within a specific region of the target tissue, such as, for example, the SCS. For example, in some embodiments, the first region R1 of the target location T can have a first density and the second region R2 can have a second density, which is lower than the first density. Thus, the first region R1 of the target location T produces a first tissue back-pressure (FBP) on the distal end surface 1245, and the second region R2 produces a second tissue back-pressure (FBP) on the distal end surface 1245,
which is lower than the first tissue back-pressure. In other words, the first region \( R_1 \) of the target location \( T \) produces a first pressure that resists and/or opposes flow from the puncture member 1240, and the second region \( R_2 \) produces a second pressure that resists and/or opposes flow from the puncture member 1240, which is less than the first pressure. In some embodiments, the target location \( T \) can be an eye, the first region \( R_1 \) is a sclera of the eye, and the second region \( R_2 \) is a suprachoroidal space of the eye. After the initial insertion (see, e.g., FIG. 6), the medicament within the container 1130 is pressurized. As described above, the pressure \( P_2 \) can be such that the adjustment member 1250 transitions towards the second configuration, thereby moving the distal tip 1243 further into the target tissue (see, e.g., FIG. 7 showing the secondary insertion). Moreover, because the first region \( R_1 \) (e.g., the sclera) has a higher density, the pressure \( P_2 \) is insufficient to cause the medicament to flow out of the puncture member 1240. This is shown graphically in FIG. 9, which is a conceptual plot showing both the pressure \( P_2 \) and the flow rate of the medicament \( Q \) as a function of the position of the distal tip 1243. As shown, the pressure \( P_2 \) initially increases to overcome the static friction (or "sticktion") of the stationary adjustment member 1250. Then, while the distal tip moves within the first region \( R_2 \), the pressure \( P_2 \) remains substantially constant. The medicament is maintained within the first chamber 1221, and thus the flow rate \( Q \) is substantially zero.

[1068] When the distal tip 1243 advances through the first region \( R_1 \) (e.g., the sclera) and into the SCS (or the region at which the SCS will be produced), the density of the target tissue decreases, and the tissue back-pressure (FBP) on the distal end surface 1245 also decreases. Accordingly, the lower tissue back-pressure allows the medicament to flow from the first chamber 1221 and through the puncture member 1240. This is shown in FIG. 9 by the increase in the flow rate \( Q \) after the distal tip 1243 reaches the second region \( R_2 \) (e.g., the SCS). The flow of the medicament also causes the pressure \( P_2 \) within the first chamber 1221 to decrease, thereby slowing and/or stopping the transition (or movement) of the adjustment member 1250. This is shown in FIG. 9 by the decrease in the pressure \( P_2 \) after the distal tip 1243 reaches the second region \( R_2 \) (e.g., the SCS). Thus, when the distal tip 1243 reaches the second region \( R_2 \), movement of the distal tip 1243 slows or stops, and the medicament flows into the second region (as indicated by the arrow CC in FIG. 7). Although the second region \( R_2 \) is described as the SCS, in other embodiments, the second region \( R_2 \) can include at least one of a suprachoroidal space, a lower portion of the sclera, a choroid of the eye, a subretinal space of the eye, or a retina of the eye.
[1069] The pressure $P_i$ within the medicament container 1130 and/or the pressure $P_2$ within the first chamber 1221 can be produced in any manner. For example, in some embodiments, the pressure $P_1$ and/or the pressure $P_2$ can be produced by moving an actuation rod (not shown) within the medicament container 1130. Similarly stated, in some embodiments, the pressure $P_1$ and/or the pressure $P_2$ can be produced in response to a force exerted on a proximal end portion of an actuation rod. In some such embodiments, the force can have magnitude of less than about 6N, which is a force threshold above which users generally do not like to apply to the eye during ocular injection.

[1070] As shown in FIGS. 5-7, when the adjustment member 1250 transitions from the first configuration to the second configuration, the adjustment member 1250 moves within the housing 1210 and relative to the housing 1210 and the medicament container 1130. Thus, when the adjustment member 1250 transitions from the first configuration to the second configuration, the puncture member 1240 also moves relative to the housing 1210 and the medicament container 1130. In this manner, the movement of the distal tip 1243 from its first effective length (e.g., the distance $D_i$) to its second effective length (e.g., the distance $D_2$) occurs when the housing 1210 (including the hub surface 1228) and the medicament container 1130 are in a fixed position relative to the target surface $S$. This arrangement improves the precision of the second insertion operation, and also allows the hub surface 1228 to remain in firm contact with the target surface $S$.

[1071] Although the adjustment member 1250 is shown as moving linearly within the housing 1210 from a first position to a second position when the adjustment member 1250 transitions from the first configuration to the second configuration, in other embodiments, an injection assembly can include an adjustment member that does not move linearly when transitioning. For example, in some embodiments, an injection assembly can include an adjustment member that rotates when transitioning from a first configuration to a second configuration. In other embodiments, an injection assembly can include an adjustment member that deforms (e.g., expands) when transitioning from a first configuration to a second configuration. For example, FIGS. 10 and 11 are schematic illustrations of an injector assembly 2001 according to an embodiment. The injector assembly 2001 includes a medicament container 2130, a housing 2210, an adjustment member 2250, and a puncture member 2240.
The housing 2210 includes a proximal end portion 2211 and a distal end portion 2212. The proximal end portion 2211 can be coupled to the medicament container 2130. The medicament container 2130 can be any suitable container that defines a reservoir or volume 2133 within which a drug (also referred to as a medicament) can be contained. For example, in some embodiments, the medicament container 2130 can be a syringe that includes an actuation rod (not shown in FIGS. 10 and 11) within the volume 2133. In such embodiments, the actuation rod can be reciprocated within the volume 2133 to either produce a vacuum within the medicament container 2130 (e.g., to draw a medicament into the volume 2133) or produce a pressure within the medicament container 2130 (e.g., to expel the medicament from the volume 2133). In some embodiments, the medicament container 2130 can be a prefilled (or prefillable) syringe, that includes one or more doses of any suitable substance (the medicament or drug) within the volume 2133. For example, in some embodiments, the medicament container contains at least one of a VEGF, a VEGF inhibitor, a PDGFR inhibitor, or a combination of any of the VEGF, the VEGF inhibitor, and the PDGFR inhibitor.

The proximal end portion 2211 of the housing 2210 can be coupled to the medicament container 2130 in any suitable manner. For example, in some embodiments, the housing 2210 can be removably coupled to the medicament container 2130, for example, by a Luer connector, a threaded joint, a snap-fit, a latch, a friction (or press-on) fit, or any other suitable coupling features. In this manner, the housing 2210 (and therefore the puncture member 2240) can be removed from the medicament container 2130 to allow a vial or other container to be coupled to the medicament container (e.g., to allow a dose of drug to be conveyed into the volume 2133). In some embodiments, the injector assembly 2001 (or any of the injector assemblies described herein) can be included in any of the kits shown and described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/427,823, entitled "Ocular Injection Kit, Packaging, and Methods of Use," Filed February 8, 2017, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. In other embodiments, the housing 2210 can be permanently coupled to the medicament container 2130. Similarly stated, in some embodiments, the housing 2210 can be coupled to the medicament container 2130 in a manner that precludes removal of the housing 2210 from the medicament container 2130 during the intended (or "normal") use of the injector assembly 2001. In such embodiments, the housing 2210 can be permanently coupled to the medicament container 2130 by a weld joint, an adhesive, a bond, or the like. In yet other embodiments, the housing 2210 and the medicament container 2130 can be monolithically constructed.
The distal end portion 2212 of the housing 2210 includes a hub surface 2228, which is a contact surface having any suitable shape and/or size configured to contact a target surface of a target tissue during an injection operation (the target tissue is not shown in FIGS. 10 and 11, but can be similar to the target tissue shown in FIGS. 6 and 7). For example, in some embodiments, the hub surface 2228 is configured to deform the target surface (e.g., the conjunctiva of the eye) when the distal end portion 2212 is brought into contact with the target surface. In some embodiments, the hub surface 2228 can have a substantially convex shape, for example, a hemispherical shape, and can define a sealing portion that forms a substantially fluid-tight seal with the target surface when the distal end portion 2212 is brought into contact with the target surface S. For example, in some embodiments, the hub surface 2228 can deform the target surface to produce a substantially fluid-tight seal between the housing 2210 and the target surface. In some embodiments, the hub surface 2229 can include any of the characteristics of any of the hubs or hub surfaces shown and described in U.S. Patent No. 9,180,047, entitled "Apparatus and Methods for Ocular Injection," which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

The adjustment member 2250 is disposed within an inner volume defined by the housing 2210, and separates the inner volume into a first chamber 2221 (also referred to as a pressure chamber) and a second chamber 2222. As shown, the first chamber 2221 is in fluid communication with the medicament container 2130 (and/or the volume 2133) when the housing 2210 is coupled to the medicament container 2130. In this manner, as described herein, a medicament from the medicament container 2130 can be conveyed into the first chamber 2221. Moreover, the medicament within the first chamber 2221 can be pressurized to transition the adjustment member between a first configuration (FIG. 10) and a second configuration (FIG. 11). Transitioning the adjustment member 2250 produces movement of the puncture member 2240, as described below.

As shown, the adjustment member 2250 includes an edge 2265 and an expandable portion 2266. The edge 2265 is fixedly coupled to an inner surface of the housing 2210 to fluidically isolate the first (or pressure) chamber 2221 from the second chamber 2222. The edge 2265 can be fixed to the inner surface of the housing 2210 in any suitable manner. For example, in some embodiments, the edge 2265 can be coupled within the housing 2210 by an adhesive, by a plastic weld, by a thermal bonding process, or the like. The expandable portion 2266 is constructed from a material that expands to transition the adjustment member from its
first configuration to its second configuration when the first (pressure) chamber 2221 is pressurized (see FIG. 11). In some embodiments, the expandable portion 2266 can be constructed from a compliant material, such as an elastomer (e.g., polyurethane, Nylon elastomers, thermoplastic elastomers, or the like), that stretches or elastically deforms when the pressure within the first chamber 2221 is increased. In other embodiments, the expandable portion 2266 can be constructed from a substantially non-compliant material, such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET). By using a non-compliant expandable portion, the overall shape of the adjustment member 2250 can be maintained relatively independent of the pressure within the first chamber 2211.

[1077] The puncture member 2240 can be any suitable device to puncture the target surface and define a passageway within the target tissue (not shown in FIGS. 10 and 11). The puncture member 2240 also provides a lumen through which the medicament can be delivered into the target tissue (shown by the arrow EE in FIG. 11). As shown, the puncture member 2240 includes a proximal end portion 2241 and a distal end portion 2242, and defines a lumen through which the medicament can be conveyed from the medicament container 2130 and/or the first chamber 2221 (shown by the arrow DD in FIG. 11). The puncture member 2240 is coupled to the adjustment member 2250 such that the proximal end portion 2241 is in fluid communication with the first chamber 2221. In this manner, a substance (e.g., a daig or medicament) can be conveyed from the medicament container 2130 through the puncture member 2240 via the first chamber 2221. The distal end portion 2242 of the puncture member 2240 includes a distal end surface 2245 that is beveled or a sharpened to facilitate puncturing the target tissue. The distal end surface 2245 can have any suitable shape, size and/or geometry (e.g., bevel angle, bevel height, bevel aspect ratio or the like).

[1078] The distal end surface 2245 includes a distal tip 2243. Similarly stated, the distal tip 2243 is formed by the intersection of the distal end surface 2245 and an outer side wall of the puncture member 2240. Referring to FIG. 10, the distal tip 2243 of the puncture member extends from the hub surface 2228 by a first distance D₁ when the adjustment member 2250 is in the first configuration. Referring to FIG. 11, the distal tip 2243 of the puncture member extends from the hub surface 2228 by a second distance D₂ when the adjustment member 2250 is in the second configuration. In this manner, the position of the puncture member 2240 relative to the hub surface 2228 (i.e., the effective length) can change during an injection operation to ensure that the distal tip 2243 (and therefore the opening in the beveled distal end
surface 2245) is placed within the desired region of (or at the desired depth within) the target tissue during medicament delivery. Moreover, as described herein, the position of the distal tip 2243 relative to the hub surface 2228 is changed automatically and in an infinite number of positions (within a predefined range). Said another way, the position of the distal tip 2243 relative to the hub surface 2228 is changed in response to the user actuating the device without any additional input from the user. Thus, the user need not separately manipulate any needle adjustment features, and need not monitor the actual depth of the distal tip 2243 within the target tissue.

[1079] The operation of the injector assembly 2001 is similar in many respects to the operation of the injector assembly 1001 as described above, and is therefore not described in detail below. For example, the initial insertion operation of the injector assembly 2001 is similar to that described above for use of the injector assembly 2001. Specifically, in some embodiments, the initial insertion operation can include inserting the distal tip 2243 until hub surface 2228 contacts the target surface. Thus, the insertion depth of the puncture member 2240 after the initial insertion is the same as the effective length of the puncture member 2240 (which is the distance D₁). Moreover, as with the injector assembly 1001, in some embodiments, the injector assembly 2001 can include a mechanism to limit and/or prevent proximal movement of the distal tip 2243. Said another way, in some embodiments, the housing 2210 and/or the adjustment member 2250 can include a mechanism to prevent transition of the adjustment member (either distally towards the second configuration, or proximally towards a configuration that is further proximal from the first configuration).

[1080] After the initial insertion operation, a portion of the medicament from within the medicament container 2130 can then be conveyed from the volume 2133 of the medicament container 2130 into the first chamber 2221, as shown by the arrow DD in FIG. 11. Specifically, the medicament within the volume 2133 can be pressurized, which, in turn, pressurizes the medicament within the first chamber 2221. By pressurizing the first chamber 2221, the forces acting on the adjustment member 2250 (including the expandable portion 2266) and the puncture member 2240 can, under certain circumstances, cause the adjustment member 2250 to transition from its first configuration (FIG. 10) to its second configuration (FIG. 11). Similarly stated, the puncture member 2240 and the adjustment member 2250 are collectively configured such that the adjustment member 2250 can transition within the housing 2210 from
its first configuration (or position) towards its second configuration (or position) when the pressure \( P_2 \) within the first chamber 2221 is greater than a threshold pressure.

[1081] After the first chamber 2221 is pressurized, the primary forces acting on the adjustment member 2250 include the pressure force (similar to the pressure force \( F_p \) described with reference to FIG. 8) and the tissue back-pressure force (similar to the back-pressure force \( F_{BP} \) described with reference to FIG. 8). The pressure force is produced by the pressurized medicament in the first chamber 2221, and acts in a distal direction on a proximal surface of the adjustment member 2250. Because the adjustment member 2250 is fixedly coupled to the inner surface of the housing 2210, there is no friction force acting to resist the distal movement of the adjustment member 2250. Instead, the material properties of the adjustment member 2250, including the expandable portion 2266 resist the transition (or expansion) of the adjustment member 2250. As described above, the tissue back-pressure force is the force exerted by the target tissue on both the distal end surface 2245 and the medicament present at the distal end surface 2245.

[1082] Thus, when the pressure force is greater than the sum of the internal forces produced by the adjustment member and the tissue back-pressure force, the adjustment member 2250 transitions from its first configuration (FIG. 10) towards its second configuration (FIG. 11). When the pressure within the pressure chamber 2221 is reduced such that the pressure force is less than the sum of the internal force and the tissue back-pressure force, however, the transition of the adjustment member 2250 stops. Thus, depending on the region of tissue within which the distal tip 2243 is disposed and the pressure applied within the first chamber 2221, the adjustment member 2250 can transition between the first configuration, the second configuration, and an infinite number of configurations therebetween. This, in turn, causes the distal tip 2243 to move distally within the target tissue during a secondary insertion operation.

[1083] In some embodiments, puncture member 2240 and the adjustment member 2250 are collectively configured such that the adjustment member 2250 transitions from the first configuration towards the second configuration when the pressure within the first chamber 2221 is greater than a threshold pressure. Additionally, the puncture member 2240 is configured such that the substance is maintained within the first chamber 2221 when: A) the distal tip 2243 of the puncture member 2240 is within a region (e.g., a sclera) of the target tissue having a density greater than a threshold density, and B) the pressure \( P_2 \) within the first chamber 2221 is greater than the threshold pressure. Similarly stated, in some embodiments,
when the distal tip 2243 is within a region of tissue having a higher density and/or lower porosity and when the pressure within the pressure chamber 2221 is greater than a threshold pressure, the balance of forces acting on the adjustment member 2250 and the puncture member 2240 can be such that the adjustment member 2250 transitions towards its second configuration, but a flow of medicament through the puncture member 2240 is prevented. In this manner, even though the medicament is pressurized, the distal tip 2243 can move distally (i.e., the secondary insertion) without the medicament flowing out of the puncture member 2240. Said another way, in some embodiments, the injector assembly 2001 can be actuated to pressurize the first chamber 2221 at a pressure that is sufficient to move the distal tip 2243 within the target tissue, while maintaining the medicament within the first chamber 2221 and/or puncture member 2240. This arrangement can facilitate injection of the drug within a specific region of the target tissue, such as, for example, the SCS, as described above.

[1084] Any of the needle assemblies described herein (e.g., the needle assembly that includes the housing 1210, the puncture member 1240, and the adjustment member 1250 or the needle assembly that includes the housing 2210, the puncture member 2240, and the adjustment member 2250) can be included with any suitable injector assembly and can be used to perform any of the methods described herein. For example, in some embodiments, any of the needle assemblies described herein can be used with any of the injector assemblies (or to perform any of the methods) described in International Patent Application No. WO2015/195842, entitled "METHODS AND DEVICES FOR TREATING POSTERIOR OCULAR DISORDERS" and U.S. Patent No. 9,180,047, entitled "APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR OCULAR INJECTION," each of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[1085] FIGS. 12-20 show an injector assembly 3001 according to an embodiment that can be configured for non-surgical use, and can provide for precise control of the depth of insertion of a microneedle into a target tissue. As described, the microneedle 3240 can move, relative to the hub housing 3210 and/or the medicament container 3130, during the insertion / injection operation such that the tip of the microneedle can be placed in the desired position within the target tissue. Such placement can allow the drug formulation to flow into the desired portion of the target tissue. Specifically, the injector assembly 3001 includes a handle 3110, a medicament container (also referred to as a barrel) 3130, an actuation rod 3120, and a needle assembly 3200 (also referred to as a hub or hub assembly).
The handle 3110 can be any suitable shape, size, and/or configuration. For example, in some embodiments, the handle 3110 can have an ergonomic shape and/or size, which can enable a user to manipulate the injector 3100 with one hand or with two hands. The handle 3110 has a proximal end portion 3111 and a distal end portion 3112, and defines an inner volume 3113 that receives and/or is configured to house at least a portion of the barrel 3130 and the actuation rod 3120. As shown in FIG. 14, the handle 110 is formed by coupling a first handle member 3115A to a second handle member 3115B. The handle member 3115A and the handle member 3115B can be relatively thin shelled or the like, and can be formed from any suitable material such as the biocompatible materials described herein. In other words, the handle members 3115A and 3115B can be substantially hollow and/or can define the inner volume 3113.

The actuation rod 3120 is configured to be moved within the medicament container 3130 to either produce a vacuum (to draw a dose of medicament into the medicament container 3130) or to produce to a positive pressure (to deliver the dose of medicament out of the medicament container 3130). Referring to FIG. 14, the actuation rod 3120 includes a proximal end portion 3121 and a distal end portion 3122. The proximal end portion 3121 is configured to be disposed within the inner volume 3113 of the handle 3110, and includes an engagement portion 3126. The engagement portion 3126 defines an opening through which a retention member (not shown) of the handle member 3115A is disposed to fixedly couple the actuation rod 3120 to the handle 3110. In this manner, movement of the handle 3110 relative to the medicament container 3130 and/or the needle assembly 3200 results in movement of the actuation rod 3120 relative to and/or within the medicament container 3120.

The distal end portion 3122 of the actuation rod 3120 includes and/or is coupled to an elastomeric member 3128. In some embodiments, the elastomeric member 3128 can be monolithically formed with the actuation rod 3120 (e.g., overmolded or the like). In other embodiments, the elastomeric member 3128 can be formed independently of the actuation rod 3120 and coupled thereto. The elastomeric member 3128 can be constructed from an inert and/or biocompatible material, which can have any suitable hardness and/or durometer. For example, in some embodiments, the elastomeric member 3128 can be formed from and/or constituted out of a rubber, silicone, plastic, nylon, polymers, any other suitable material or combination thereof. The distal end portion 3122 of the actuation rod 3120 is disposed in the medicament container 3130 such that a surface of the elastomeric member 218 is in contact
with an inner surface of the medicament container 3130. In some embodiments, the elastomeric member 3128 and the inner surface of the medicament container 3130 collectively form a substantially fluid-tight seal and/or a hermetic seal, which can prevent leakage, out gassing, contamination, and/or the like of a substance (e.g., a medicament) disposed within the medicament container 3130. In this manner, movement of the handle 3110 relative to the medicament container 3130 causes the actuation rod 3120 (and thus, the elastomeric member 3128) to move within the medicament container 3130 either to produce a vacuum (to draw a dose of medicament into the barrel) or to produce a positive pressure (to deliver the dose of medicament out of the barrel).

[1089] The medicament container (or barrel) 3130 of the injector 3100 can be any suitable shape, size, or configuration. As shown in FIGS. 12-14, the barrel 3130 has a proximal end portion 3131 and a distal end portion 3132, and defines a lumen therethrough. The barrel 3130 has an outer surface that includes a grip portion 3137. The grip portion 3137 can facilitate the use of the medical injector 3001 by providing a user with a predetermined location at which to engage the injector 3001. The grip portion 3137 can have any suitable surface finish or the like, which can, in some instances, increase a friction between the grip portion 3137 and a user’s fingers and/or hand. In other embodiments, the barrel 3130 does not include a grip portion.

[1090] As described above, the barrel 3130 movably receives at least the distal end portion 3122 of the actuation rod 3120, and defines a medicament volume configured to receive, store, house, and/or otherwise contain a medicament (e.g., a corticosteroid such as triamcinolone acetonide, or any other medicament described herein). For example, in some embodiments, the medicament container 3130 contains at least one of a VEGF, a VEGF inhibitor, a PDGFR inhibitor, or a combination of any of the VEGF, the VEGF inhibitor, and the PDGFR inhibitor. In some embodiments, at least a portion of the barrel 3130 can be substantially transparent and/or can include an indicator or the like configured to allow a user to visually inspect a volume of fluid (e.g., medicament/therapeutic formulation) therein. In some instances, such an indicator can be, for example, any number of lines and/or markings associated with a volume of fluid disposed within the barrel 3130. In other embodiments, the barrel 3130 can be substantially opaque and/or does not include an indicator or the like.

[1091] The proximal end portion 3131 of the barrel 3130 includes a flanged end that is disposed within the inner volume 3113 of the handle 3110. Specifically, at least the proximal end portion 3131 of the barrel 3130 can be inserted into the handle 3110 in such a manner that
the handle 3110 can be moved relative to the barrel 3130. In other words, at least the proximal end portion 3131 of the barrel 3130 is movably disposed within the inner volume defined by the handle 3110. In this manner, during the injection operation, substantially all of the force applied by the user to the handle 3110 will urge the handle 3110 (and therefore the actuation rod 3120) in the distal direction relative to the medicament container (or barrel) 3120.

[1092] The distal end portion 3132 of the barrel 3130 includes the threads 3138 that can facilitate the removable coupling of the barrel 3130 to the needle assembly 3200 or a vial adapter (not shown). The vial adapter can include any of the vial adapters shown and described in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/427,823, entitled “Ocular Injection Kit, Packaging, and Methods of Use,” Filed February 8, 2017, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety, and can be used as part of a dosage preparation operation to prepare a dose of a substance (i.e., drug or medicament) within the barrel 3130 for subsequent delivery. Although the distal end portion 3132 is shown as including the threads 3138, in other embodiments, the distal end portion 3132 can include any suitable coupling mechanism to which the needle assembly 3200 can be coupled (either removably or permanently).

[1093] Referring to FIGS. 15-20, the needle assembly 3200 includes a housing (also referred to as a “hub housing” or “hub member”) 3210, an adjustment member 3250, a microneedle (also referred to as a puncture member) 3240, and a needle cover (or cap) 3270. The housing 3210 includes a proximal end portion 3211 and a distal end portion 3212, and is configured to be removably coupled to the medicament container 3130. The proximal end portion 3211 includes an outer wall 3213 and a container protrusion 3218. The outer wall 3213 defines an opening (or recess) 3214 and includes threads 3215. The container protrusion 3218 defines a lumen 3219. This arrangement facilitates the removably coupling between the proximal end portion 3211 of the hub housing 3210 and the medicament container 3130. In use, the distal end portion 3132 of the medicament container 3130 is disposed within the recess 3214. More particularly, the threads 3138 are engaged with the threads 3215 to securely couple the hub housing 3210 to the medicament container 3130. When the hub housing 3210 is coupled to the medicament container 3130, the container protrusion 3218 is disposed within the lumen of the medicament container 3130, thereby placing the medicament container 3130 in fluid communication with the needle assembly 3200 via the lumen 3219. In some embodiments, an outer surface of the container protrusion 3218 can be tapered or can include a sealing member to fluidically isolate the medicament container 3130 and the lumen 3219.
from external volumes (e.g., to prevent leaks). For example, in some embodiments, the container protrusion 3218 is a tapered Luer fitting that matingly engages an opening of the medicament container 3130.

[1094] The distal end portion 3212 of the hub housing 3210 includes a wall 3123 that has an inner surface 3125, and a distal-most hub surface 3228. The inner surface 3125 defines an inner volume 3124 within which the adjustment member 3150 is movably disposed, as described below. The hub surface 3228 defines an opening 3229 in fluid communication with the inner volume 3124 and within which a portion of the microneedle 3240 is movably disposed. The hub surface 3228 is a contact surface having any suitable shape and/or size configured to contact a target surface (e.g., the conjunctiva 45, as shown in FIG. 22) of a target tissue (e.g., the eye) during an injection operation (see FIGS. 21 and 22). For example, in some embodiments, the hub surface 3228 is configured to deform the target surface (e.g., the conjunctiva 45 of the eye) when the distal end portion 3212 is brought into contact with the target surface. In some embodiments, the hub surface 3228 can have a substantially convex shape, for example, a hemispherical shape, and can define a sealing portion that forms a substantially fluid-tight seal with the target surface when the distal end portion 3212 is brought into contact with the target surface. In some embodiments, the hub surface 3228 can deform the target surface to produce a substantially fluid-tight seal between the hub housing 3210 and the target surface, about the opening 3229. In some embodiments, the hub surface 3228 can include any of the characteristics of any of the hubs or hub surfaces shown and described in U.S. Patent No. 9,180,047, entitled "Apparatus and Methods for Ocular Injection," which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

[1095] The adjustment member 3250 is disposed within an inner volume 3224 defined by the housing 3210, and separates the inner volume into a first chamber 3221 (also referred to as a pressure chamber) and a second chamber 3222. As shown, the first (or pressure) chamber 3221 is in fluid communication with the medicament container 3130 via the lumen 3219 when the housing 3210 is coupled to the medicament container 3130. In this manner, as described herein, a medicament from the medicament container 3130 can be conveyed into the first chamber 3221. Moreover, the medicament within the first chamber 3221 can be pressurized to transition the adjustment member 3250 between a first configuration (FIG. 17) and a second configuration (FIG. 18). Transitioning the adjustment member 3250 produces movement of the microneedle 3240, as described below.
The adjustment member 3250 includes a proximal end portion 3251 and a distal end portion, and defines a lumen within which the microneedle 3240 is fixedly coupled. The microneedle 3240 can be coupled to and within the adjustment member 3250 via any suitable mechanism, such as by an interference fit, an adhesive, or the like. As shown in FIGS. 19 and 20, the proximal end portion 3251 includes an end surface 3253 that defines a recess 3254 and includes a shoulder 3255. Along with a portion of the inner surface 3225 of the housing 3210, the end surface 3253 (including the portion defining the recess 3254) forms a boundary of the pressure chamber 3221. Thus, the pressure of the medicament within the pressure chamber 3221 acts upon the end surface 3253 to produce a pressure force (similar to the pressure force $F_p$ shown and described above with reference to the adjustment member 1250) to urge the adjustment member to transition from its first configuration (or position) towards its second configuration (or position). The magnitude of the pressure force can be influenced by, among other things, the magnitude of the pressure and the area (or diameter $\Phi_1$) of the end surface 3253.

As shown in FIG. 17, the shoulder 3255 is configured to contact a corresponding shoulder 3216 to limit proximal movement of the distal tip 3243 when the adjustment member 3250 is in its first position. In this manner, the proximal force (e.g., the tissue back-pressure force) exerted by the target tissue on the distal end surface 3245 of the microneedle 2340 during initial insertion does not reduce the effective length of the microneedle 3240 to an amount less than the distance $D_i$. Thus, the effective length of the microneedle 3240 is maintained at the distance $D_1$ during the initial insertion operation. The distance $D_1$ can be any suitable value. For example, in some embodiments, the distance $D_1$ can be selected to ensure that the microneedle 3240 can penetrate a sufficient distance within the target tissue during the initial insertion operation without penetrating too far. Specifically, in some embodiments, the distance $D_1$ can be selected to ensure that the microneedle 3240 can penetrate a sufficient distance within the sclera 20 (see FIG. 22), while ensuring that the distal tip 3243 will not likely penetrate the choroid 28 or retina 27. In this manner, the selection of the distance $D_1$ can increase the likelihood that the distal tip 3243 will reach the SCS during the secondary insertion operation. In some embodiments, the distance $D_i$ can be between about 650 $\mu\text{m}$ and about 1100 $\mu\text{m}$. In other embodiments, the distance $D_i$ can be between about 850 $\mu\text{m}$ and about 1050 $\mu\text{m}$. In yet other embodiments, the distance $D_i$ can be about 950 $\mu\text{m}$. 

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The distal end portion 3252 includes a shoulder 3256 to contact a corresponding shoulder 3226 to limit distal movement of the distal tip 3243 when the adjustment member 3250 is in its second position (see FIG. 18). In this manner, the pressure force exerted on the end surface 3253 during the secondary insertion will not cause the effective length of the microneedle 3240 extend greater than the distance $D_2$. Thus, the effective length of the microneedle 3240 is limited to a maximum amount of the distance $D_2$ during the secondary insertion operation. The distance $D_2$ can be any suitable value. For example, in some embodiments, the distance $D_2$ can be selected to ensure that the microneedle 3240 can penetrate a sufficient distance within the target tissue during the secondary insertion operation without penetrating too far. Specifically, in some embodiments, the distance $D_2$ can be selected to ensure that the microneedle 3240 can penetrate a sufficient distance to reach the SCS 36 (see FIG. 22), while ensuring that the distal tip 3243 will not likely penetrate the choroid 28 or retina 27. In this manner, the selection of the distance $D_2$ can increase the likelihood that the distal tip 3243 will reach the SCS during the secondary insertion operation. In some embodiments, the distance $D_1$ can be between about 1050 µm and about 1450 µm. In other embodiments, the distance $D_1$ can be between about 150 µm and about 1350 µm. In yet other embodiments, the distance $D_1$ can be about 1250 µm.

The adjustment member 3250 includes a seal 3260 that forms a substantially fluid-tight seal with the inner surface 3225 of the hub housing 3210. In this manner, the seal 3260 can fluidically isolate the first chamber 3221 from the second chamber 3222. Although shown as being an O-ring, in other embodiments, the adjustment member 3250 (or any of the adjustment members described herein) can include any suitable seal. For example, in some embodiments, the adjustment member 3250 (or any of the adjustment members described herein) can include an overmolded seal. In other embodiments, the adjustment member 3250 (or any of the adjustment members described herein) can include multiple sealing members.

The microneedle (or puncture member) 3240 can be any suitable device to puncture the target surface (e.g., the conjunctiva 45 and/or sclera 20) and define a passageway within the target tissue. As shown, the microneedle 3240 includes a proximal end portion 3241 and a distal end portion 3242, and defines a lumen 3244 through which the medicament can be conveyed from the medicament container 3130 and/or the first chamber 3221. The microneedle 3240 is coupled to the adjustment member 3250 such that the proximal end portion 3241 is in fluid communication with the first chamber 3221 and/or the lumen 3219. In this
manner, a substance (e.g., a drug or medicament) can be conveyed from the medicament container 3130 through the microneedle 3240 via the first chamber 3221 and/or the lumen 3219. The distal end portion 3242 of the microneedle 3240 includes a distal end surface 3245 that is beveled or a sharpened to facilitate puncturing the target tissue. Further, as shown in FIG. 20, the distal end portion 3242 has a diameter \( \Phi_2 \), which, as described above, can influence the magnitude of the tissue back-pressure force exerted on the microneedle 3240 during an insertion / injection operation. The distal end surface 3245 can have any suitable shape, size and/or geometry (e.g., bevel angle, bevel height, bevel aspect ratio or the like). For example, in some embodiments, the microneedle 3240 can include any of the beveled surfaces shown and described in International Patent Application Publication No. WO2014/036009, entitled, "Apparatus and Methods for Drug Delivery Using Microneedles," filed on Aug. 27, 2013, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

[1101] The distal end surface 3245 includes a distal tip 3243. Similarly stated, the distal tip 3243 is formed by the intersection of the distal end surface 3245 and an outer side wall of the microneedle 3240. Referring to FIG. 17, the distal tip 3243 of the puncture member extends from the hub surface 3228 (through the opening 3229) by a first distance \( D_1 \) when the adjustment member 3250 is in the first configuration. Referring to FIG. 18, the distal tip 3243 of the puncture member extends from the hub surface 3228 (or through the opening 3229) by a second distance \( D_2 \) when the adjustment member 3250 is in the second configuration. In this manner, the position of the microneedle 3240 relative to the hub surface 3228 (i.e., the effective length) can change during an injection operation to ensure that the distal tip 3243 (and therefore the opening in the beveled distal end surface 3245) is placed within the desired region of (or at the desired depth within) the target tissue during medicament delivery. Moreover, as described herein, the position of the distal tip 3243 relative to the hub surface 3228 is changed automatically and in an infinite number of positions (within a predefined range). Said another way, the position of the distal tip 3243 relative to the hub surface 3228 is changed in response to the user actuating the device without any additional input from the user. Thus, the user need not separately manipulate any needle adjustment features, and need not monitor the actual depth of the distal tip 3243 within the target tissue.

[1102] The cap 3270 of the needle assembly 3200 is removably coupled to the hub housing 3210, and is configured to substantially house, cover, enclose, protect, isolate, etc. at least a portion of the microneedle 3240. This arrangement limits contact between the user and the
distal end 3242 of the microneedle 3240. Moreover, in some embodiments, the distal end of the cap 3270 can be used to measure and/or mark the surface of the eye, and thus minimizing contact between the user and the areas that will directly contact the eye.

[1103] The operation of the injector assembly 3001 is similar in many respects to the operation of the injector assembly 1001 as described above. For example, the initial insertion operation of the injector assembly 3001 is similar to that described above for use of the injector assembly 1001. Specifically, in some embodiments, the injector assembly 3001 can be used to perform an injection of a substance into the SCS. Referring to FIG. 21, in some embodiments, the initial insertion operation can be performed at an injection site at predetermined distance from the limbus 32. For example, the injection site can be a distance D₃ from the limbus 32 that is about 1 mm, about 2 mm, about 3 mm, about 4 mm, about 5 mm, about 6 mm, about 7 mm, about 8 mm, about 9 mm, about 10 mm, or more. In other instances, an injection site can be relative to any suitable portion of the eye. The initial insertion operation can include inserting the distal tip 3243 until hub surface 3228 contacts the target surface, as shown by the arrow FF in FIG. 21. Thus, the insertion depth of the puncture member 3240 after the initial insertion is the same as the effective length of the puncture member 3240 (which is the distance D₁).

[1104] Referring to FIG. 22, in some embodiments, initial insertion force can be maintained such that the hub surface 3238 deforms, indents, and/or otherwise forms a "dimple" in the target surface (e.g., the conjunctiva 45 of the eye 10). The "dimple" can facilitate a desired transfer of the medicament from the medicament container 1130 to the target region (e.g., the SCS 36) via the microneedle 3240. The hub surface 3238 can be maintained in such a position throughout the procedure (e.g., the injection of medicament into a SCS 36). In this manner, the "dimple" (e.g., the interface between the distal surface of the hub surface 3238 and the surface of the target location) can limit and/or prevent seepage of the medicament from the target region during injection and post-injection, thereby promoting desirable transfer of the medicament to the target region (e.g., the SCS 36). In some embodiments, the hub surface 3238 can include a sealing portion, which can be a convex surface, a surface having a smooth finish (e.g., with a surface finish of less than Ra = 1.6 μm) or the like.

[1105] The force to complete the initial insertion can be transferred to the hub surface 3228 and/or the distal tip 3243 via the outer surface (e.g., the ridges 3137) of the medicament container 3130. Moreover, as described above, the shoulder 3255 is maintained in contact with
the shoulder 3216 to maintain the effective length at the distance D1 during the initial insertion operation.

[1106] After the initial insertion operation, a portion of the medicament from within the medicament container 3130 can then be conveyed from the medicament container 3130 into the lumen 3219 and/or the first chamber 3221. This procedure can be performed by applying a force on the handle 3110 to move the elastomerie member 3128 within the medicament container 3130. The force applied to the handle 3110 can be any suitable force. For example, in some embodiments, the force exerted can be about 2 N, about 3 N, about 4 N, about 5 N, about 6 N or more and inclusive of all ranges therebetween. This pressurizes the medicament within the medicament container 3130, which, in turn, pressurizes the medicament within the lumen 3219 and/or the first chamber 3221. By pressurizing the first chamber 3221, the forces acting on the adjustment member 3250 (and the puncture member 3240) can, under certain circumstances, cause the adjustment member 3250 to transition from its first configuration (FIG. 17) to its second configuration (FIG. 18). Similarly stated, the puncture member 3240 and the adjustment member 3250 are collectively configured such that the adjustment member 3250 can transition within the housing 3210 from its first configuration (or position) towards its second configuration (or position) when the pressure P2 within the first chamber 3221 is greater than a threshold pressure.

[1107] After the first chamber 3221 is pressurized, the primary forces acting on the adjustment member 3250 include the pressure force (similar to the pressure force Fp described with reference to FIG. 8), the friction force (similar to the pressure force Fp described with reference to FIG. 8), and the tissue back-pressure force (similar to the back-pressure force FBP described with reference to FIG. 8). The pressure force is produced by the pressurized medicament in the first chamber 3221, and acts in a distal direction on the end surface 3253 of the adjustment member 3250. The friction force is produced by the sliding contact between the seal 3260 and the inner surface 3225 of the hub housing 3210, and acts to oppose the distal movement of the adjustment member 3250. As described above, the tissue back-pressure force is the force exerted by the target tissue on both the distal end surface 3245 and the medicament present at the distal end surface 3245.

[1108] Thus, when the pressure force is greater than the sum of the friction force and the tissue back-pressure force, the adjustment member 3250 transitions from its first configuration (FIG. 17) towards its second configuration (FIG. 18). When the pressure within the pressure
chamber 3221 is reduced such that the pressure force is less than the sum of the friction force and the tissue back-pressure force, however, the transition of the adjustment member 3250 stops. Thus, depending on the region of tissue within which the distal tip 3243 is disposed and the pressure applied within the first chamber 3221, the adjustment member 3250 can transition between the first configuration, the second configuration, and an infinite number of configurations therebetween. This, in turn, causes the distal tip 3243 to move distally within the target tissue during a secondary insertion operation.

[1109] In some embodiments, puncture member 3240 and the adjustment member 3250 are collectively configured such that the adjustment member 3250 transitions from the first configuration towards the second configuration when the pressure within the first chamber 3221 is greater than a threshold pressure. Additionally, the puncture member 3240 is configured such that the substance is maintained within the first chamber 3221 when: A) the distal tip 3243 of the puncture member 3240 is within a region (e.g., the sclera) of the target tissue having a density greater than a threshold density, and B) the pressure within the first chamber 3221 is greater than the threshold pressure. Similarly stated, in some embodiments, when the distal tip 3243 is within a region of tissue having a higher density and/or lower porosity and when the pressure within the pressure chamber 3221 is greater than a threshold pressure, the balance of forces acting on the adjustment member 3250 and the puncture member 3240 can be such that the adjustment member 3250 transitions towards its second configuration, but a flow of medicament through the puncture member 3240 is prevented. In this manner, even though the medicament is pressurized, the distal tip 3243 can move distally (i.e., the secondary insertion) without the medicament flowing out of the puncture member 3240. Said another way, in some embodiments, the injector assembly 3001 can be actuated to pressurize the first chamber 3221 at a pressure that is sufficient to move the distal tip 3243 within the target tissue, while maintaining the medicament within the first chamber 3221 and/or puncture member 3240.

[1110] This arrangement can facilitate injection of the drug within a specific region of the target tissue, such as, for example, the SCS. Specifically, after the initial insertion operation, the distal tip 3243 can be within the sclera 20. When the handle 3110 is moved relative to the medicament container 3130, the pressure produced within the pressure chamber 3221 can be such that the adjustment member 3250 transitions towards the second configuration, thereby moving the distal tip 1243 further into the eye, as shown by the arrow GG in FIG. 22.
Moreover, because the sclera 36 has a higher density than the SCS (or region where the SCS is to be opened or formed), the pressure is insufficient to cause the medicament to flow out of the puncture member 3240 when the distal tip is within the sclera 45. In other words, the injector assembly 3001 is specifically configured or "calibrated" such that the force applied to the handle 3110 under normal operating conditions is insufficient to convey the drug formulation to the sclera 20.

[1111] Referring to FIG. 22, when the distal tip 1243 advances through the sclera 45 and into the SCS 36 (or the region at which the SCS will be produced), as shown by the arrow GG, the density of the target tissue decreases, and the tissue back-pressure on the distal end surface 3245 also decreases. Accordingly, the lower tissue back-pressure allows the medicament to flow from the first chamber 3221 and through the puncture member 1240. This is shown by the arrows HH in FIG. 22, which show the flow in the SCS 36. The flow of the medicament also causes the pressure within the first chamber 3221 to decrease, thereby slowing and/or stopping the transition (or movement) of the adjustment member 3250. Thus, when the distal tip 3243 reaches the SCS 36, movement of the distal tip 3243 slows or stops, and the medicament flows into SCS. Although the flow of the medicament is shown as being within the SCS, in other embodiments, the flow can be conveyed into at least one of a lower portion of the sclera, a choroid of the eye, a subretinal space of the eye, or a retina of the eye.

[1112] In some embodiments, a method includes delivering a substance to a predetermined region (e.g., the SCS) within a target tissue. Such methods can be performed using any of the injection devices described herein. FIG. 23 is a flow chart of a method 100 of delivering a substance according to an embodiment. Although the method 100 is described in conjunction with the injector assembly 3001 shown and described above, in other embodiments, the method 100 can be performed using any suitable injector. The method includes inserting a distal tip (e.g., the tip 3243) of a puncture member (e.g., the microneedle 3240) of a medical injector (e.g., the injector 3001) into a first region of a target tissue, at 102. The medical injector includes a medicament container, a hub, and the puncture member (e.g., which can be a part of the needle assembly 3200). The distal tip of the puncture member extends from a distal end surface of the hub by a first distance before and during the inserting. This operation is similar to the "initial insertion" operation described above with reference to the injector assemblies 1001, 2001, and 3001.
[1113] In some embodiments, the distal tip is inserted such that a centerline of the puncture member and a surface line tangential to the target surface defines an angle of entry of between about 75 degrees and about 105 degrees. Moreover, in some embodiments, the distal tip can be inserted until a hub surface (e.g., the surface 3228) contacts a target surface of the target tissue.

[1114] A substance (e.g., a drug) is then conveyed from the medicament container into a pressure chamber defined within the hub when the distal tip is within the target tissue to produce a pressure within the pressure chamber, at 104. The pressure causes the distal tip of the puncture member to move within the first region of the target tissue such that the distal tip of the puncture member extends from the distal end surface of the hub by a second distance greater than the first distance. The pressure is insufficient to produce a flow of the substance from the pressure chamber through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within the first region of the target tissue. The pressure is sufficient to produce a flow of the substance from the pressure chamber through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within a second region of the target tissue.

[1115] In some embodiments, the target tissue is an eye, the first region is an upper portion of the sclera of the eye, and the second region includes at least one of a suprachoroidal space, a lower portion of the sclera, a choroid of the eye, a subretinal space of the eye, or a retina of the eye.

[1116] In some embodiments, the substance includes at least one of a VEGF, a VEGF inhibitor, a PDGFR inhibitor, or a combination of any of the VEGF, the VEGF inhibitor, and the PDGFR inhibitor.

[1117] In some embodiments, the substance is conveyed by manually exerting a force of less than about 6N on an actuation rod (e.g., the actuation rod 3120) to move a distal end portion of the actuation rod within the medicament container.

[1118] In some embodiments, the pressure within the pressure chamber decreases to a second pressure in response to the flow of the substance from the pressure chamber through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within the second region of the target tissue. This is shown, for example, in the graph in FIG. 9. In such embodiments, the second pressure is insufficient to move the puncture member relative to the distal end surface of the hub. In this manner, the effective length of the puncture member is changed
automatically and in an infinite number of positions (within a predefined range). Said another way, the position of the distal tip relative to the hub surface is changed in response to the user actuating the device without any additional input from the user.

[1119] FIG. 24 is a flow chart of a method 200 of delivering a substance according to an embodiment. Although the method 200 is described in conjunction with the injector assembly 3001 shown and described above, in other embodiments, the method 200 can be performed using any suitable injector. The method includes inserting a distal tip (e.g., the tip 3243) of a puncture member (e.g., the microneedle 3240) of a medical injector (e.g., the injector 3001) into a first region of a target tissue, at 202. The medical injector includes a medicament container, a hub, and the puncture member (e.g., which can be part of the needle assembly 3200). The distal tip of the puncture member extends from a distal end surface of the hub by a first distance before and during the inserting. This operation is similar to the "initial insertion" operation described above with reference to the injector assemblies 1001, 2001, and 3001.

[1120] A force is manually exerted on a proximal end portion of an actuation rod to move a distal end portion of the actuation rod within the medicament container, at 204. The movement of the distal end portion of the actuation rod causes the following. First, the distal tip of the puncture member moves in a distal direction relative to the distal end surface of the hub from the first region of the target tissue to a second region of the target tissue, at 204A. The force is insufficient to produce a flow of the substance from the pressure chamber through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within the first region of the target tissue. Second, the substance flows from the pressure chamber through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within a second region of the target tissue, at 204B.

[1121] While various embodiments of the invention have been described above, it should be understood that they have been presented by way of example only, and not limitation. Where methods described above indicate certain events occurring in certain order, the ordering of certain events may be modified. Additionally, certain of the events may be performed concurrently in a parallel process when possible, as well as performed sequentially as described above.
For example, although the puncture member 1240 is shown as defining a lumen having a relatively constant diameter, in other embodiments, any of the puncture members and/or microneedles described herein can include a variable diameter lumen of the types shown and described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 2017/0095369, entitled "Variable Diameter Cannula and Methods for Controlling Insertion Depth for Medicament Delivery," the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Although the needle assembly 3200 is shown and described as being removably coupled to the barrel 3130, in other embodiments, the needle assembly 3200 (or any of the hub housings or needle assemblies described herein) can be coupled to a medicament container in a manner that precludes removal from the medicament container during the intended (or "normal") use of the injector assembly. In such embodiments, the needle assembly can be permanently coupled to the medicament container by a weld joint, an adhesive, a bond, or the like.

In some embodiments, any of the needle assemblies described herein, including the needle assembly 3200, can include a mechanism by which the distance D1 and/or the distance D2 can be adjusted during assembly. For example, in some embodiments, a hub housing can include an opening through which an adjustment tool, shim, or the like can be inserted to adjust either or both of the distance D1 or the distance D2. Such adjustment can be useful to ensure that either or both of the distance D1 or the distance D2 are within the desired tolerance, which can be impacted by slight changes in the position of the microneedle within the adjustment member, changes in the position of the "end stop" shoulders (e.g., the shoulders 3216 and 3226) due the coupling of the distal portion of the needle assembly and the proximal portion of the needle assembly, or the like.

For example, FIG. 25 is a side view of a needle assembly 4200 according to an embodiment, which can be used with any of the injector assemblies described herein. The needle assembly 4200 is similar in many respects to the needle assembly 3200, and is therefore not described in detail below. As shown, the needle assembly 4200 includes a housing (also referred to as a "hub housing" or "hub member") 4210, an adjustment member 4250, and a microneedle (also referred to as a puncture member) 4240. The housing 4210 includes a proximal end portion 4211 and a distal end portion 4212, and is configured to be removably coupled to any of the medicament containers described herein (e.g., the medicament container 3130). The proximal end portion 4211 is similar to the portion 3211 described above, and can
be removably coupled to a medicament container. Moreover, as shown the outer wall of the proximal end portion 4211 includes a series of ridges (or protrusions) 4231 that can be grasped and/or manipulated by the user during the coupling (or de-coupling) of the needle assembly 4200 from the medicament container.

[1126] The distal end portion 4212 of the hub housing 4210 includes a wall that has a distal-most hub surface 4228. Like the hub housing 3210, the distal end portion 4212 defines an inner volume within which the adjustment member 4150 is movably disposed. The hub surface 4228 defines a first opening in fluid communication with the inner volume and within which a portion of the microneedle 4240 is movably disposed. The wall of the distal end portion 4212 defines a second opening 4232, which is also in fluid communication with the inner volume, and through which a portion of the adjustment member 4250 and/or the inner volume can be accessed.

[1127] Like the needle assembly 3200 described above, the adjustment member 4250 is fixedly coupled to the microneedle 4240, and is disposed within the inner volume defined by the housing 4210. The adjustment member separates the inner volume into a first chamber (not shown, but similar to the pressure chamber 3221) and a second chamber. Thus, when a substance is pressurized within the first chamber, the adjustment member 4250 is moved from a first position to a second position. Transitioning the adjustment member 4250 produces movement of the microneedle 4240, as described above.

[1128] Although not shown in FIG. 25, the needle assembly 4200 includes a mechanism (e.g., shoulders, end stops, or the like) to limit proximal movement of the distal tip 4243 when the adjustment member 4250 is in its first position. In this manner, the proximal force (e.g., the tissue back-pressure force) exerted by the target tissue on the microneedle 2340 during initial insertion does not reduce the effective length of the microneedle 4240 to an amount less than a first distance (e.g., the distance D1 as described above with reference to the needle assembly 3200). Similarly, the needle assembly 4200 includes a mechanism (e.g., shoulders, end stops, or the like) to limit distal movement of the distal tip 4243 when the adjustment member 4250 is in its second position. In this manner, the pressure force exerted on the adjustment member 4250 during the secondary insertion will not cause the effective length of the microneedle 4240 extend greater than a second distance (e.g., the distance D2 as described above with reference to the needle assembly 3200).
During assembly or before an injection operation, a user can access the inner volume and/or the adjustment member 4250 via the opening 4232 to adjust either or both of the distance $D_1$ as or the distance $D_2$. For example, in some embodiments, a shim or other structure can be placed into the inner volume (e.g., in contact with a shoulder therein) to adjust either or both of the distance $D_1$ as or the distance $D_2$. In other embodiments, the needle assembly 4200 can include a threaded calibration mechanism that can be adjusted (e.g., by turning a set screw) via the opening 4232.

In some embodiments, any of the needle assemblies described herein, can include a spring or biasing member to maintain the adjustment member in its first configuration or position. For example, in some embodiments, the needle assembly 3200 can include a biasing member within the inner volume 3224, for example, between the distal shoulder 3226 and the distal-most portion of the adjustment member 3250. In this manner, the adjustment member 3250 will not inadvertently transition distally towards the second configuration (or position) before the pressure in the pressure chamber 3221 reaches a threshold value.

In some embodiments, any of the needle assemblies described herein, can include a magnetic member to maintain the adjustment member in a desired position. For example, in some embodiments, the needle assembly 3200 can include a magnetic member to maintain the adjustment member 3250 in its first configuration or position. In this manner, the adjustment member 3250 is prevented from prematurely transitioning towards its second configuration. In other embodiments, the needle assembly 3200 can include a magnetic member that limits movement of the adjustment member after the distal tip 3243 has reached the second region R2. As described above, when the distal tip 3243 reaches the second region (e.g., the SCS), the substance will begin to flow from the microneedle, resulting in a pressure drop within the pressure chamber 3221. If the user continues applying the distal force (e.g., on the handle 3110) or even increases the distal force, the pressure within the pressure chamber 3221 may increase again. Specifically, in some instances, when the distal tip exits the first region (e.g., the sclera), the space or volume of the second region (e.g., the SCS) is not yet fully formed. In such instances, the flow of the substance can produce or increase the second region (e.g., the SCS), thereby producing the space or volume within which the remainder of the substance can flow. Thus, the fluid pressure to "open up" or produce the second region (e.g., the SCS) can result in a temporary increase in the pressure within the pressure chamber. In such instances, a magnetic member can be used to produce a hysteresis effect that prevents further distal
movement of the adjustment member 3250 after the initial pressure drop (indicating that the distal tip 3243 is within the desired tissue region).

[1132] In some embodiments, any of the needle assemblies described herein can include any suitable mechanism for producing such a hysteresis effect on the adjustment member therein. For example, although the seal 3260 is shown and described as fluidically isolating the pressure chamber 3221 from the second chamber 3222, in other embodiments, the first chamber 3221 and the second chamber 3222 can be selectively fluidically isolated. For example, in some embodiments, the adjustment member 3250 (or any of the adjustment members shown herein) can include a valve that selectively places the first chamber 3221 in fluid communication with the second chamber 3222. The valve can be actuated, for example, when the pressure within the first chamber 3221 drops below a threshold value after having been elevated. In other words, the valve can be configured to open only when the pressure threshold is crossed from an "upper" direction (e.g., from a high pressure to a low pressure). When opened, the valve can then allow the pressure within the first chamber 3221 to "bleed" thereby preventing further movement of the adjustment member.

[1133] Any of the needle assemblies described herein, including the hub housings, the adjustment members and/or the microneedles (or puncture members) described herein, can be formed or constructed from any suitable biocompatible material or combination of materials, including metals, glasses, semi-conductor materials, ceramics, or polymers. Examples of suitable metals include pharmaceutical grade stainless steel, gold, titanium, nickel, iron, gold, tin, chromium, copper, and alloys thereof. The polymer can be biodegradable or non-biodegradable. Examples of suitable biocompatible, biodegradable polymers include polylactides, polyglycolides, polylactide-co-glycolides (PLGA), poly(anhydrides), polyorthoesters, poiyetheresters, polycaproactones, poiyesteramides, poly(butyric acid), poly(valeric acid), polyurethanes and copolymers and blends thereof. Representative non-biodegradable polymers include various thermoplastics or other polymeric structural materials known in the fabrication of medical devices. Examples include nylons, polysteres, polycarbonates, polyaerylates, polymers of ethylene-vinyl acetates and other acyl substituted cellulose acetates, non-degradable polyurethanes, polystyrenes, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl fluoride, poly(vinyl imidazole), chlorosulphonate polyolefins, polyethylene oxide, blends and copolymers thereof.
[1134] A wide range of ocular diseases and disorders may be treated by the methods and
with the kits described herein. Non-limiting examples of such ocular diseases include uveitis,
glaucoma, diabetic macular edema or retinopathy, macular degeneration, retinoblastoma, and
genetic diseases. The methods described herein are particularly useful for the local delivery of
drugs that need to be administered to the posterior region of the eye, for example the
retinocchoroidal tissue, macula, and optic nerve in the posterior segment of the eye. In one
embodiment, the delivery methods and devices described herein may be used in gene-based
therapy applications. For example, the methods may administer a fluid daig formulation into
the suprachoroidal space to deliver select DNA, RNA, or oligonucleotides to targeted ocular
tissues

[1135] Any of the medicament containers (e.g., vials) and/or kits shown and described
herein can include and/or be used with any suitable drug, medicament or therapeutic agent of
the types mentioned herein. As used herein, the term “drag” refers to any prophylactic,
therapeutic, or diagnostic agent (e.g., a contrast agent). The drug may be selected from suitable
proteins, peptides and fragments thereof, which can be naturally occurring, synthesized or
recombinantly produced. Representative examples of types of drugs for delivery to ocular
tissues include antibodies, anti-viral agents, chemotherapeutic agents (e.g., topoisomerase
inhibitors), analgesics, anesthetics, aptamers, antihistamines, anti-inflammatory agents, and
anti-neoplastic agents. In one embodiment, the drug is triamcinolone or triamcinolone
acetonide.

[1136] In some embodiments, any of the medicaments or drags described herein (or used
in any of the assemblies or methods described herein) can have any suitable viscosity and/or
density. As described above, the viscosity can affect the pressure within the pressure chamber
that is required to produce a flow within the puncture member. In some embodiments, for
example, the medicament can have a viscosity of at least 100 centiPoise. In other embodiments,
the medicament or daig can be a high viscosity substance for treatment of the eye (e.g., gel-
like substance, a paste-like substance, an emulsion including both a liquid component and a
solid component, or the like). In some embodiments, the medicament can have a viscosity of
at least about 1000 centiPoise. In some embodiments, the medicament can have a viscosity of
at least about 10,000 centiPoise. In other embodiments, the medicament can have a viscosity
of at least 100,000 centiPoise (cps). In other embodiments, the medicament can have a
viscosity of between about 40,000 cps and about 60,000 cps.
The term "antibody" is intended to refer broadly to any immunologic binding agent such as IgG, IgM, IgA, IgD and IgE. An antibody can be monoclonal or polyclonal, and in one embodiment, is a humanized antibody. The term "antibody" is also used to refer to any antibody-like molecule that has an antigen binding region, and includes antibody fragments such as Fab', Fab, F(ab')2, single domain antibodies (DABs), Fv, scFv (single chain Fv), and engineering multivalent antibody fragments such as dibodies, tribodies and multibodies. The techniques for preparing and using various antibody-based constructs and fragments are well known in the art (see, e.g., Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1988, incorporated herein by reference).

Non-limiting examples of specific drugs and classes of drugs include β-adrenoceptor antagonists (e.g., carteolol, cetamoiol, betaxiol, levobunolol, metipranolol, timolol), miotics (e.g., pilocarpine, carbachol, physostigmine), sympathomimetics (e.g., adrenaline, dipivefrine), carbonic anhydrase inhibitors (e.g., acetazolamide, dorzolamide), topoisomerase inhibitors (e.g., topotecan, irinotecan, camptothecin, lamellarin D, etoposide, tenyposide, doxorubicin, mitoxantrone, amsaerine), prostaglandins, anti-microbial compounds, including anti-bacterial and anti-fungal (e.g., chloramphenicol, chlortetraacycline, ciprofloxacin, framycetin, fusidic acid, gentamicin, neomycin, norfloxacins, ofloxacin, polymyxin, trimamidine, tetracycline, tobramycin, quinolines), anti-viral compounds (e.g., acyclovir, cidofovir, idoxuridine, interferons), aldose reductase inhibitors, anti-inflammatory and/or anti-allergy compounds (e.g., steroidal compounds such as betamethasone, dexamethasone, dexamethasone, fluorometholone, hydrocortisone, prednisolone and non-steroidal compounds such as antazoline, bromfenac, diclofenac, indomethacin, lodoxamide, soprofen, sodium cromoglycate), artificial tear/dry eye therapies, local anesthetics (e.g., amethocaine, lignocaine, oxbupocaine, proxymetacaine), cyclosporine, diclofenac, urogastrone and growth factors such as epidermal growth factor, mydriatics and cycloplegics, mitomycin C, and collagenase inhibitors and treatments of age-related macular degeneration (e.g. pegaptanib sodium, ranibizumab, aflibercept and bevacizumab), and glutocorticoid receptor antagonists (e.g., fosdagrocortat, dagrocortat, mapracorat, mifepristone).

In some embodiments, a kit and/or vial includes an integrin antagonist, a selectin antagonist, an adhesion molecule antagonist (e.g., intercellular adhesion molecule (ICAM)-1, ICAM-2, ICAM-3, platelet endothelial adhesion molecule (PCAM), vascular cell adhesion molecule (VCAM)), a leukocyte adhesion-inducing cytokine or growth factor antagonist (e.g.,

[1137]

[1138]

[1139]
tumor necrosis factor-a (TNF-a), interleukin-1β (IL-1β), monocyte chemotactic protein-1 (MCP-1), or a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF). In some embodiments, a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitor is included within a kit and/or administered with one of the microneedles described herein. In some embodiments, two drugs are included within a kit and/or are delivered by the methods described herein. The compounds may be administered in one formulation, or administered serially, in two separate formulations. For example, both a VEGF inhibitor and VEGF are provided. In some embodiments, the VEGF inhibitor is an antibody, for example a humanized monoclonal antibody. In further embodiments, the VEGF antibody is bevaecizumab. In another embodiment, the VEGF inhibitor is ranibizumab, aflibercept or pegaptanib. In still other embodiments, the devices and methods described herein can be used to deliver one or more of the following VEGF antagonists: AL8326, 2C3 antibody, AT001 antibody, HyBEV, bevaecizumab (Avastin), ANG307Q, APX003 antibody, APX004 antibody, ponatinib (AP24534), BDM-E, VGX100 antibody (VGX100 ORCADIAN), VGX200 (c-fos induced growth factor monoclonal antibody), VGX300, CQSMIX, DLX903/1008 antibody, ENMD2076, Sutent (sunitinib malate), INDUS815C, R84 antibody, KD019, NM3, allogenic mesenchymal precursor cells combined with an anti-VEGF agent or antibody, MGCD265, MG516, VEGF-Receptor kinase inhibitors, MP0260, NT503, anti-DLL4/VEGF bispecific antibody, PAN90806, Palomid 529, BD0801 antibody, XV615, lucitanib (AL3810, E3810), AMG706 (motesanib diphostate), AAV2-sFLT01, soluble Flt receptor, Cediranib (Recentin), AV-951 (Tivozanib, KRN-951), Stivarga (regorafenib), Volasertib (BI6727), CEP11981, KH903, Lenvatinib (E7080), terameprocol (EM1421), ranibizumab (Lucentis), Votrient (pazopanib hydrochloride), PF00337210, PRS050, SPO1 (curcumin), Carboxymidotriazole orotate, hydroxychloroquine, linifanib (ABT869, RG3635), liuvien (fluocinolone acetonide), ALGIOOI, AGN150998, DARPin MP01 12, AMG386, ponatinib (AP24534), AVA101, Vargatef (nintedanib), BMS690514, KH9Q2, golovanti (E7050), Afmitor (everolimus), Dovitinib lactate (TIK258, CHIR258), ORA101, ORA102, Axitinib (Inyta, AG013736), Plitidepsin (Aplidin), Lenvatinib mesylate, PTC299, aflibercept (Zaltrap, Eylea), pegaptanib sodium (Macugen, LI900015), Visudyne (verteporfom), bucillamine (Rimatil, Lamin, Brimani, Lamit, Boomiq), R3 antibody, AT001/r84 antibody, troponin (BLS0597), EG3306, vatalanib (PTK787), Bmabi00, GSK2136773, Anti-VEGFR Altersase, Avila, CEP7055, CLT009, ESBA903, HuMax-VEGF antibody, GW654652, HMPL010, GEM220, HYB676, JNJ17029259, TAK593, XtendVEGF antibody, Nova21012, Nova21013, CP564959, Smart Anti-VEGF antibody, AG028262, AG13958, CVX241, SU14813, PRS055, PG501, PG545, PTI101, TGI 00948, ICS283, XL647, enzastaurin.
hydrochloride (LY3 17615), BC194, quinoines, COT601M06.1, COT604M06.2, MabionVEGF, SIR-Spheres coupled to anti-VEGF or VEGF-R antibody, Apatinib (YN968D1), and AL3818. In addition, delivery of a VEGF inhibitor or VEGF antagonist using the microneedle devices and methods disclosed herein may be combined with one or more agents listed herein or with other agents known in the art.

[1140] In one embodiment, delivery of a VEGF antagonist to the suprachoroidal space of the eye using the kits, devices, and methods disclosed herein is used to treat, prevent and/or ameliorate a disease or disorder selected from leukemia, relapsed/refractory leukemia, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, Acute myelogenous leukemia, relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukemia, atopic dermatitis, recurrent or metastatic carcinoma of the urothelium, advanced urothelial carcinoma, blood disorders, myelofibrosis, brain tumor, glioblastoma, glioma, menigioma, cancer, carcinomatous meningitis (neoplastic meningitis), choroidal neovascularization (CNV), subfoveal choroidal neovascularization, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, chronic myelogenous leukemia, refractory chronic myelogenous leukemia, colon cancer, colorectal cancer, degenerative nerve diseases, Neurodegenerative diseases, diabetic macular edema, visual Impairment due to diabetic macular edema, diabetic retinopathy, dry eye syndrome (inflammation and corneal tissue damage of dry Eye), endometrial cancer, eye diseases, ocular diseases, ocular neovascularization, eye cancer, Neurofibromatosis Type II, head and neck cancer, hematological malignancies, Kaposi's Sarcoma, Hepatocellular Carcinoma, Lung cancer, macular degeneration, age related macular degeneration, exudative age-related macular degeneration, neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD)), subfoveal Neovascular Age-Related macular degeneration, macular edema, macular edema associated with Branch Retinal Vein Occlusion, macular edema following retinal vein occlusion, macular edema with Retinal Vein Occlusion (RVO), multiple myeloma, relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma, multiple sclerosis, myopia, pathological myopia, neuroendocrine tumor, carcinoid tumor, neuroendocrine tumor, non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma, Non-Small-Cell Lung cancer, Non-Squamous Non-Small-Cell Lung cancer, Non-small -cell-lung Adenocarcinoma, Squamous Non-Small-Cell Lung cancer, corneal graft rejection, osteoarthritis, recurrent symptomatic malignant ascites, peripheral T-cell lymphoma, androgen Independent Psoriasis, pulmonary Fibrosis, Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis, respiratory diseases, retinal detachment, retinal disorders, retinitis pigmentosa, retinal vein occlusion, branch retinal vein occlusion, central retinal vein occlusion, rheumatoid arthritis, sarcoma, alveolar soft part sarcoma, soft tissue sarcoma, scleroderma/systemic sclerosis, solid
tumors, refractory germ cell tumors, thyroid cancer, differentiated or medullar thyroid cancer, and West Syndrome (Infantile Spasm).

[1141] In certain embodiments, the drug delivered to the suprachoroidal space using the kits, devices, and methods disclosed herein is rapamycin (Sirolimus, Rapamune). In one embodiment, the devices (e.g., microneedle devices) and methods disclosed herein are used in conjunction with rapamycin to treat, prevent and/or ameliorate a wide range of diseases or disorders including, but not limited to: abdominal neoplasms, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, acute coronary syndrome, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, acute myelocytic leukemia, acute non-lymphoblastic leukemia, adenocarcinoma, adenoma, adenomyoepithelioma, adnexal diseases, anaplastic astrocytoma, anaplastic large cell lymphoma, anaplastic plasmacytoma, anemia, angina pectoris, angioimmunoblastic lymphadenopathy with dysproteinemia, angiomyolipoma, arterial occlusive diseases, arteriosclerosis, astrocytoma, atherosclerosis, autoimmune diseases, B-cell lymphomas, blood coagulation disorders, blood protein disorders, bone cancer, bone marrow diseases, brain diseases, brain neoplasms, breast neoplasms, bronchial neoplasms, carcinoid syndrome, carcinoid Tumor, carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, central nervous system diseases, central nervous system neoplasms, choroid diseases, choroid plexus neoplasms, choroidal neovascularization, choroiditis, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, chronic myeloid leukemia, chronic myelomonocytic leukemia, chronic myeloproliferative disorders, chronic neutrophilic leukemia, clear cell renal cell carcinoma, colonic diseases, colonic neoplasms, colorectal neoplasms, coronary artery disease, coronary disease, coronary Occlusion, coronary restenosis, coronary stenosis, coronary thrombosis, cutaneous T-cell lymphoma, diabetes mellitus, digestive system neoplasms, dry eye syndromes, ear diseases, edema, endocrine gland neoplasms, endocrine system diseases, endometrial neoplasms, Endometrial stromal tumors, Ewing's sarcoma, exanthema, eye neoplasms, fibrosis, follicular lymphoma, gastrointestinal diseases, gastrointestinal neoplasms, genital neoplasms, glioblastoma, glioma, gliosarcoma, graft vs host disease, hematologic diseases, hematologic neoplasms, hemorrhagic disorders, hemostatic disorders, Hodgkin disease, Hodgkin lymphoma, homologous wasting disease, immunoblastic lymphadenopathy, immunologic deficiency syndromes, immunoproliferative disorders, infarction, inflammation, intestinal diseases, intestinal neoplasms, ischemia, kidney cancer, kidney diseases, kidney neoplasms, leukemia, B-Cell, leukemia, lymphoid, liver cancer, liver diseases, lung diseases, lymphatic diseases, lymphoblastic lymphoma, lymphoma, macular degeneration, macular edema, melanoma, mouth neoplasms, multiple myeloma.
myelodysplastic syndromes, myelofibrosis, myeloproliferative disorders, neuroectodermal tumors, neuroendocrine tumors, neuroepithelioma, neurofibroma, renal cancer, respiratory tract diseases, retinal degeneration, retinal diseases, retinal neoplasms, retinoblastoma, rhabdomyosarcoma, thoracic neoplasms, uveitis, vascular diseases, Waldenstrom Macroglobulinemia, and wet macular degeneration. In addition, delivery of rapamycin using the microneedle devices and methods disclosed herein may be combined with one or more agents listed herein or with other agents known in the art.

Allbupen, Allmol, Allochrysine, allogeneic endothelial cells, allogeneic mesenchymal precursor cells, allogeneic mesenchymal stem cells, aminoprophene, alpha 1 antitrypsin, Alpha 7 nicotinic agonists, alpha amylase, alpha chymotrypsin, alpha fetoprotein, alpha linolenic acid, Alpha 1-antitrypsin, Alpha2BetAl Integrin Inhibitors, Alphacort, Alphafen, alpha-hexidine, alpha-trypsin, Alphintern, Alpinned mobility omega 3, Alpoxen, AL-Revl, Alterase, ALX0061, ALX0761, ALXN1007, ALXN1102, AM3840, AM3876, AMAB, AMAP102, Amason, Ambene, AmbezimG, amcinonide, AME133v, Ameciti, Ameloteks, A-Methapred, Amevive, AMG108, AMG139, AMG162, AMG181, A.

[snip]
Cicloderm-C, Ciclopren, Cicporal, Cilamin, Cinzia, cinchophen, cinmetacin, cinnoxicam, Cinoderm, Cinolone-S, Cimryze, Cipcorlin, cipemastat, Cipol-N, Cipridanol, Cipzen, Citax F, Citogon, Citoken T, Civamide, CJ042794, CJ14877, c-Kit monoclonal antibody, cladribine, Clafen, Clanza, Claversal, clazakizumab, Clearoid, Clease, Clevegen, Clevian, Clidol, Clindac, Ciinoil, Cliptol, Clobenate, Clobequad, clotetasol butyrate, clotetasol propionate, Clodol, clofarabine, Clofen, Clofenal LP, Clolar, Clonac, Clongamma, cionixin lysine, Clotasoe, Clovacort, Clovana, Cloxin, CLTOOI, CLT008, C-MAF Inhibitor, CMPX1023, Cnac, CNDO201, CNI1493, CNTQ136, CNT0148, CNT01959, Cobefen, CoBenCoDerm, Cobix, Cofenac, Cofenac, COG24I, COL 179, colchicine, Colchicum Dispert, Colchimax, Colcibra, Coledes A, Colesol, Colifoam, Colirest, collagen, type V, Comcort, complement component (3b/4b) receptor 1, Complement Component C1s Inhibitors, complement component C3, complement factor 5a receptor antibody, complement factor 5a receptor antibody, complement factor D antibody, Condrosulf, Condrotec, Condrothin, conestat alfa, connective tissue growth factor antibody, Coolpan, Copaxone, Copiron, Cordelia, Corhydron, Cort S, Cortan, Cortate, Cort-Dome, Cortecetine, Corteft, Corteroid, Corticap, Corticas, Cortic-DS, corticotropin, Cortiderm, Cortide, Cortiflam, Cortinet M, Cortinil, Cortipyren B, Cortiran, Cortis, Cortisolu, cortisone acetate, Cortival, Cortone acetate, Cortopin, Cortoral, Cortexl, Cortypiren, Cosamine, Cosone, cosyntropin, COT Kinase Inhibitor, Cotilam, Cotrisone, Cotson, Covox, Cox B, COX-2/5-LO Inhibitors, Coxetor, Coxflam, Coxicam, Coxitor, Coxtral, Coxypar, CP 195543, CP412245, CP424174, CP461, CP629933, CP690550, CP751871, CPS12364, C-quin, CR039, CR074, CR106, CRA102, CRAC channel inhibitor, CRACM Ion Channel Inhibitor, Cratisone, CRB15, CRC4273, CRC4342, C-reactive protein 2-methoxy ethyl phosphorothioate oligonucleotide, CreaVax-RA, CRH modulators, critic-aid, Crocam, Crohnsvax, Croraogiyic acid, cromolyn sodium, Cronocorteroid, Cronodicasone, CRTX803, CRxl 19, CRxl39, CRxlSO, CS502, CS670, CS706, CSF1R Kinase Inhibitors, CSL324, CSL.718, CSL742, CT112, CT1501R, CT200, CT2008, CT2009, CT3, CT335, CT340, CT5357, CT637, CTP05, CTPo, CT-P13, CTP17, Cuprenil, Cuprimine, Cuprindo, Cupripen, Curaquin, Cutfen, CWF0808, CPW271, CX1020, CXI 030, CX1040, CX5011, Cx6l 1, Cx621, Cx911, CXC chemokine receptor 4 antibody, CXCL13 antibodies, CXCR3 antagonists, CXCR4 antagonist, Cyathus 1104 B, Cyclo-2, Cyclocort, cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor, cyclophosphamide, Cyciorine, Cyclosporin A Prodrug, Cyclosporin analogue A, cyclosporine, Cyrevia, Cyrin CLARIS, CYT007TNFqb, CYT013ILbQb, CYT01 5IL17Qb, CYT020TNFqb, CYT107, CYT387, CYT99007, cytokine inhibitors, Cytopan, Cytoprol, CZC24832, DI927, D9421C, daclizumab, danazol, Danilase, Dantes, Danzen, dapsone, Dase-D, Daypro, Daypro Alta,
Dayrun, Dazen, DB295, DBTP2, D-Cort, DDI, DD3, DE096, DE098, Debio\textsuperscript{0}406, Debio\textsuperscript{0}512, Debio\textsuperscript{0}615, Debio\textsuperscript{0}618, Decaderm, Decadrale, Decadron, Decadronal, Decalon, Decan, Decason, Decdan, Decilone, Declophen, Decopen, Decorex, Decorten, Dedema, Dedron, Deexa, Defcort, De-flam, Deflamat, Deflan, Deflanil, Deflaren, Deflaz, deflazacort, Defnac, Defnalone, Defnii, Defosaic, Defsure, Defza, Dehydrocortison, Dekort, Delagil, delcaserib, delmitide, Delphicort, Deltacorsolone, Deltacortril, Deltafluorene, Deltasolone, Deltasone, Deltastab, Deltonin, Demarin, Demisone, Denebola, denileukin diftitox, denosumab, Denzo, Depocortin, Depo-medrol, Depomethotrexate, Depopred, Deposet, Depyrin, Derinase, Dennol, Dermolar, Dermonate, Dermosone, Dersone, Desketo, desonide, desoxy cortisol acetate, Deswon, Dexa, Dexasone, Dexacip, Dencort, Dencortisone, Dencotisil, Dexadin, Dextrad, Dexcelon, Dexafar, Dexahii, Dexamab, Dexamal, Dexcelaf, Dexcelat, Dexalgen, Dexcelion, Dexcelocal, Dexualone, Dexa-M, Dexamecortin, Dexamend, Dexamedis, Dexameral, Dexameti, Dexamethasone, dexamethasone acetate, dexamethasone palmitate, dexamethasone phosphate, dexamethasone sodium metasulfobenzoate, dexamethasone sodium phosphate, Dexamine, Dexamapenth, Dextra-S, Dexasone, Dextabor, Dextatopic, Dexamat, Dexamen, Dexazolidin, Dexamzone, Dercor, Dextibu, dexibuprofen, Dexico, Dexamifen, Dexamune, dextketoprofen, dextketoprofen trametamol, Dexmark, Dexomet, Dexon I, Dexonalin, Dexonex, Dexony, Dexpertifen, Dexpin, Dextan-Plus, dextran sulfate, Dezacor, Dfz, diacerein, Diannexin, Diastone, DICAROL, DICLORAN, Diclasone, Dick, Diclofen, Diclofenac, Diclofenac alpha-Dimethylaminoethanol, Diclofenac deanol, Diclofenac diethylamine, Diclofenac epolamine, Diclofenec potassium, Diclofenac resinate, dicalfenec sodium, Diclogen AGIO, Diclogen Plus, Diclokim, Diclomed, Diclo-NA, Diclonac, Dicloramin, Dicloran, Dicloreum, Diclorism, Diclotec, Diclovit, Diclowal, Diclozem, Dico P, Dicofen, Dicoliv, Dicorsone, Dicron, Dicser, Difenam, Diffutab, diflunisal, dilmapimod, Dilora, dimethyl sulfone, Dinac, D-Indomethacin, Dioxaflax Protect, Dipagesic, Dipenopen, Dipexin, Dipro AS, Diprobeta, Diprobetasone, Diproklenat, Dipromet, DiproNova, Diprosone, Diprovate, Diproxen, Disaraain, Diser, Disopain, Dispain, Dispercam, Distamine, Dizox, DLT303, 0 L.T404, DM199, DM99, DM19523, dnaJPl, DNX02070, DNX04042, DNX2000, DNX4000, docosanoi, Docz-6, Doiamide, Dolaren, Doichis, Dolex, Dollflom, Dollre, Doigist, Dolmax, Dolmina, Doio Ketazon, Dolobest, Dolobid, Doloc, Dolocam, Dolocartigen, Doloflt, Dolokind, Dolomed, Dolonac, Dolonex, Dolotre, Doloz, Dolquine, DomO(00, Dom0400, DomOSOO, Domet, Dometon, Dominadel, Dongipap, Donica, Donitsanin, dorapimod, Dorixina Relax, Dormelox, Dorzine Plus, Doxatar, Doxtran, DP NEC, DP4577, DP50, DP6221, D-Penamine, DPIV/APN Inhibitors, DR1 Inhibitors, DR4
Inhibitors, DRA161, DRA162, Drenex, DRF4848, DRL15725, Drossadin, DSP, Duexis, Duo-
Minocort, Mioil ex, Miolox, Miprofen, Miridacin, Mirloks, Misocol, Mlsfenac, MISTB03, MISTB04, Mitiior, mizoribine, MK0359, MK0812, MK0873, MK2 Inhibitors, MK50, MK8457, MK8808, MKC204, MLN0002, MLN0415, MLN1202, MLN273, MLN3126, MLN37Q1, MLN3897, MLNM002, MMQ93, MM7XX, MN8001, Mobic, Mobicani, Mobicox, Mobi fen Plus, Mobilat, Mobitil, Mocox, Modigraf, Modrasone, Modulin, Mofecept, Mofetyl, mofezolac sodium, Mofiiet, Molace, molgramostim, Molslide, Momekin, Momen Gele, Moment 100, Momesone, Momesun, Mometamed, Mometasone, Mometasone furoate, Monimate, monosodium alpha-luminol, Mopik, MORI 03, MORI 04, MOR105, MOR208 antibody, MORAb022, Moicam, morniflumate, Mosuolit, Motoral, Movaxin, Mover, Movex, Movix, Mox Forte, Moxen, moxiiloxacin hydrochloride, Mozobil, MP, MP0210, MP0270, MP1000, MP103L, MP196, MP435, MPA, mPGES-1 inhibitor, MPSS, MRX7EAT, MSL, MT203, MT204, mTOR Inhibitor, MTRX101A, Mucolase, Multieort, MultiStem, muramidase, muramidase, muramidase hydrochloride, muromonab-CD3, Muslax, Muspinil, Mutaze, Muvera, MX65, Mycect, Mycocell, Mycocept, Mycofet, Mycolate, Mycoldosa, Mycomun, Myconol, Mycophenolate mofetil, Mycophenolate sodium, mycophenolic acid, Myfortic, Myfraction, Mygrafi, Myochrysine, Mycorisin, Myprodoï, Mysone, nab-Cyclosporine, Nabentac, nabiximols, Nab ton, Nabuco, Nabucox, Nabuflam, Nabumet, Nabumetone, Nabuton, Nac Plus, Nacta, Nacton, Nadium, Naklofen SR, NAL1207, NAL1216, NAL1219, NAL1268, NAL8202, Nalvon, Nalgesin S, namilumab, Namsafe, Nantazumab, Naxdom, Naxen, Nazovil, NC2300, ND07, NDC01352, Nebumetone, NecLipGCSF, Neclsulide, Necsunim, Nelsid-S, Neo Clobenate, Neo Swiflox FC, Neocof'an, Neo-Drol, Neo-Eblimon, Neo-Hydro, Neoplanta, Neopar, Neopreol, Neoprox, Neoral, Neotrexate, Neso, Nepra, Nestacort, Neumega, Neupogen, Neuprex, Neurofenac, Neurogesic, Neurolab, Neuroteradol, Neuroxicam, Neutain, neutrazumab, Neuzym, New Panazo, Newfenstop, NewGam, Newmafen, Newmatal, Newsicam, NEX1285, sFcRIIB, Nextomab, NF-kappaB Inhibitor, NF-κB inhibitor, NGD20001, NHP554B, NHP554P, NIO101 antibody, NIO401, NIO501 antibody, NIO701, NIO71, N11201 antibody, N11401, Nicip, Niconas, Nicool, NiCord, Nicox, Niflumate, Nigaz, Nikam, Nilitis, Nimace, Nimaid, Nimark-P, Nimaz, Nimcet Juicy, Nime, Nimed, Nimepast, nimesulide, Nimesulix, Nimesulon, Nimica Plus, Nimkul, Nimlin, Nimnat, Nimodol, Nimpidase, Nimsaid-S, Nimser, Nimsy-SP, Nimupep, Nimusol, Nimutal, Nimuwin, Nimvon-
S, Nincort, Niofen, Nipan, Nipent, Nise, Nisolone, Nisopred, Nisulid, nitazoxanide, Nitcon, nitric oxide, Nizhvisai B, Nizon, NL, NMRI947, NN8209, NN8210, NN8226, NN8555, NN8765, NN8828, NNC014100000100, NNC051869, Noak, Nodevex, Nodia, Nofenac, Noflagram, Nofilam, Noflamer, Non-flux, Non-antibacterial Tetracyclines, Nonpiron, Nopain, Normferon, Notpel, Notritis, Novacort, Novagent, Novarin, Novigesic, NOXA12, NOXD19, Noxen, Noxon, NPIl302a-3, NPI1342, NPI1387, M-M390, NPRCS1, NPRCS2, NPRCS3, NPRCS4, NPRCS5, NPS3, NPS4, pPT-ery, NU3450, nuclear factor NF-kappa-B p65 subunit oligonucleotide, Nucort, Nulojix, Numed-Plus, Nurokin Ortho, Nusone-H, Nutrikemia, Nuvion, NV07alpha, NX001, Nyclobate, Nyox, Nysa, Obercort, OC002417, OC2286, ocaratuzumab, OCTSG815, Oedemase, Oedemase-D, ofatumumab, Ofgyl-O, Ofvista, OHR118, OKi, Okifen, Oksamen, Olai, olokizumab, Omeprase E, Omnacortil, Omneed, Omniclor, Omnigi, Omniwel, onercept, ONO4057, ONS1210, ONS1220, Ontac Plus, Ontak, ONX0914, OPC6535, opebacan, OPN101, OPN201, OPN302, OPN305, OPN401, oprelvekin, OPT66, Optifer, Optiflur, OptiMIRA, Orabase Hca, Oradexon, Orailex, OralFenac, Oralog, Oralpred, Ora-sed, Orasone, obBec, Orborne forte, Orel, ORE 10002, ORE 10002, Orecia, Org214007, Org217993, Org219517, Org223119, Org37663, Org39141, Org48762, Org48775, Orgadrone, Ormoxen, Orfen Plus, Oromylase Biogaran, Orthal Forte, Ortho Flex, Orthoclone OKT3, Orthofen, Orthoflam, Orthogescis, Orthoglu, Ortho-II, Orthomac, Ortho-Plus, Ortinims, Ortofen, Orudis, Oruvail, OS2, Oscart, Osmetone, Ospan, Ossilife, Otelox, Oteluc, Osteocerin, osteopontin, Osteral, otelixizumab, Otipax, Ou Ning, OvaSave, OX40 Ligand Antibody, Oxa, Oxagesic CB, Oxalgin DP, oxaprozin, OXCQ, Oxeno, Oxib MD, Oxibut, Oxicam, Oxiklorin, Oximal, Oxynai, oxyphenbutazone, Oxyphenbutazone, ozoralizumab, P13 peptide, P1639, P21, P2X7 Antagonists, p38 Alpha Inhibitor, p38 Antagonist, p38 MAP kinase inhibitor, p38alpha MAP Kinase Inhibitor, P7 peptide, P7170, P979, PA401, PAS17, Pabidiexamethasone, PAC, PAC 10649, paclitaxel, Painoxam, Paldon, Palima, pamapimod, Pamatase, Panaforcort, Panafcort, Panafcortione, Panewin, PanGraf, Paninmun Bioral, Panmesone, Panodin SR, Panslay, Panzern, Panzern NCD, PAP, papain, Papirzin, Pappen K Pap, Paptinitim-D, paquinimod, PAR2 Antagonist, Paracetamol, Paradic, Parafen TAJ, Paramidin, Paranc, Parapar, Parci, parecoxib, Parixam, Parry-S, Partaject Busulfan, pateclizumab, Paxceed, PBI0032, PBI71101, PBI1390, PBI1607, PBI1737, PBI2856, PBI4419, PBI4419, PC-Cam, PCD 1523, PCI32765, PCI34051, CI45261, CI45292, CI45308, PD360324, PD360324, PDA001, PDE4 inhibitor, PDE-IV Inhibitor, PDL241 antibody, PDL252, Pediapred, Pefree, pegacaristim, Peganix, Peg-Interleukin 12, pegsunercept, Pegsunercept, PEGylated arginine deiminase, peldesine, peiubiprofen, Penacle,
Tamalgen, Tamceton, Tamezon, Tandrilax, tannins, Tannosynt, Tantum, tanzisertib, Tapain-beta, Tapoein, Tarenac, tarenflurbil, Taririnus, Tarproxen, Tauxib, Tazornust, TBR652, TC5619, T-cell, immune regulator 1, ATPase, H+ transporting, lysosomal V0 subunit A3 antibody, TCKI, T-cort, T-Dexa, Tecelac, Tecon, teduglutide, Teecort, Tegeine, Tementil, temoporfm, Tencam, Tendrone, Tenefuse, Tenfly, tenidap sodium, Tenocam, Tenoflex, Tenoksan, Tenotil, tenoxicam, Tilur, T-inimmune, Timocon, Tiorase, Tissop, TKB662, TL011, TLR4 antagonists, TLR8 inhibitor, TM120, TM400, TMX302, TNF Alpha inhibitor, TNF alpha-TNF receptor antagonist, TNF antibody, TNF receptor superfamily antagonists, TNF TWEAK Bi-Specific, TNF-Kinoid, TNFQb, TNFR1 antagonist, TNR001, TNX100, TNX224, TNX336, TNX558, tocilizumab, iofacitinib, Tokuhon happ, TOL101, TOL102, Tolectin, ToieriMab, Toierostem, Tolido, toll-like receptor 4 antibody, toll-like receptor antibody, tolmetin sodium, Tongkeeper, Tonmex, Topflame, Topicort, Toplecon, Topdac, Toppin Ichthammol, toraiizumab, Toraren, Torcoxia, Toroxx, Tory, Toselac, Totaryl, Touchmed, Touchron, Tovok, Toxic apis, Toyolyzom, TP4179, TPCA1, TP1526, TR14035, Tradil Fort, Traficet-EN, Tramace, tramadol hydrochloride, tranilast, Transimune, Transporina, Tratui, Trexall, Triacort, Triakort, Trialon, Triam, triamcinolone, triamcinolone acetate, triamcinolone acetonide, triamcinolone acetonide acetate, triamcinolone hexacetonide, Triamcort, Triamsicort, Trianex, Tricin, Tricort, Tricortone, TricOs T, Triderm, Trilac, Trilisate, Trinocort, Trinolone, Triolex, triplotide, Trisfen, Trivaris, TRKI70, TRK530, Trocade, troianne salicylate, Trolovol, Trosera, Trosera D, Troycort, TRX1 antibody, TRX4, Trymoto, Trymoto-A, TT301, TT302, TT32, TT32, TT33, TTI314, tumor necrosis factor, tumor necrosis factor 2-methoxy ethyl phosphorothioate oligonucleotide, tumor necrosis factor antibody, tumor necrosis factor kinoid, tumor necrosis factor oligonucleotide, tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily, member 1B antibody, tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily IB oligonucleotide, tumor necrosis factor superfamily, member 12 antibody, tumor necrosis factor superfamily, member 4 antibody, tumor protein p53 oligonucleotide, tumour necrosis factor alpha antibody, TuNEX, TXA127, TX-RAD, TYK2 inhibitors, Tyasabri, ubidecarenone, Ucerase, ulodesine, Ultiflam, Ultrafastin, Ultrafen, Ultralan, U-Nice-B,

[1143] In some embodiments, a drug that reduces, inhibits, prevents and/or ameliorates inflammation, for example, one of the drugs provided above, is delivered to the suprachoroidal space of the eye using the kits, microneedle devices, and methods disclosed herein, and is used to treat, prevent and/or ameliorate a disease or disorder selected from arthritis, degenerative arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, arthritic disorders, arthritic pain, arthrosis, autoimmune arthritis, autoimmune diseases, autoimmune disorders, axial spondylarthitis, chronic prosthetic joint
infection, collagen induced arthritis, osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, senile arthritis, seronegative oligoarthritis of the knee, allergic and autoimmune inflammatory diseases, inflammatory diseases, inflammatory disorders, collagen diseases, discoid Lupus Emhematosus, immune deficiencies, immune diseases, immune disorders, immunodeficiency diseases, immunodeficiency disorders, immunoglobulin (IgG2) deficiency, immunoglobulin deficiency, Inflammation, Lambert-Eaton myasthenia syndrome, polymyositis, dermatomyositis, polyneuritis, post-operative ocular inflammation, polychondritis, sporadic inclusion body myositis, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, T cell deficiency, TNF-receptor associated periodic syndrome, tropical lupus erythematous, X-linked severe combined immunodeficiency disease, Behcet's disease, Crohn's disease, Crohn's Fistula, cutaneous lupus erythematosus, acute inflammation, acute inflammatory edema, adrenocortical insufficiency, cerebral inflammation, chronic lung inflammation, corticoid-responsive inflammatory skin disorders, cutaneous inflammation, dermal inflammation, dry skin inflammatory disease, ear edema, ear inflammation, glossitis, inflammatory bowel disease, inflammatory degenerative disease, inflammatory disorders of the eye and/or ear, inflammatory lesions in fungal infections, inflammatory lesions, inflammatory pain, inflammatory skin diseases or disorders, mouth and gum inflammation, mouth and throat inflammation, musculoskeletal disorders, otitis, pelvic inflammatory disease, perianal inflammation, post operative inflammation, pulmonary inflammation, rectal inflammation, refractory idiopathic inflammatory myopathies, seborrhoecic dermatitis, swelling, aphthous ulcerations, chronic polyarthritis, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatic diseases, Sjogren's syndrome, ophthalmic for Sjogren's syndrome, transplant rejection, acute allograft rejection, chrome graft rejection, graft versus host disease, humoral rejection in heart transplantation, humoral rejection in kidney transplantation, organ rejection in renal transplantation, solid organ transplant rejection, bronchiolitis obliterans after lung transplantation, rejection of bone marrow transplant, chronic lung transplant rejection, Corneal graft rejection, delayed graft function in kidney transplantation, heart transplant rejection, Homotransplantation rejection, immune rejection of hES-derived therapeutic grafts, kidney transplant rejection, liver transplant rejection, lung transplant rejection, organ rejection, pancreatic islet transplantation rejection in type I diabetes, renal transplant rejection and xenograft rejection.

In some embodiments, the drug delivered to the suprachoroidal space using the kits, microneedle devices, and methods disclosed herein treats, prevents, and/or ameliorates macular degeneration (e.g., age related macular degeneration, dry age related macular degeneration.
exudative age-related macular degeneration, geographic atrophy associated with age related macular degeneration, neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration, neovascular maculopathy and age related macular degeneration, occult with no classic choroidal neovascularization (CNV) in age-related macular degeneration, Stargardt's disease, Subfoveal wet Age-Related macular degeneration, and Vitreomacular Adhesion (VMA) associated with Neovascular Age Related macular degeneration). Examples of drugs that treat, prevent and/or ameliorate macular degeneration that can be used in conjunction with the devices and methods described herein include, but are not limited to: A0003, A36 peptide, AAV2-sFLT01, ACE041, ACU02, ACU3223, ACU4429, AdPEDF, aflibercept, AG! 3958, aganirsen, AGN1 50998, AGN745, AL39324, AL78898A, AL8309B, ALN-VEG01, alprostadil, AMI 101, amyloid beta antibody, anecortave acetate, Anti-VEGFR-2 Alerase, Aptocine, APX003, ARC 1905, ARC 1905 with Lucentis, ATG3, ATP-binding cassette, sub-family A, member 4 gene, ATXS10, Avastin with Visudyne, AVT101, AVT2, bertilimumab, bevacizumab with verteportfm, bevasiranib sodium, bevasiranib sodium; with ranibizumab, brimonidine tartrate, BVA301, canakinumab, CandS, CandS with Lucentis, CERE140, ciliary neurotrophic factor, CLT009, CNT02476, collagen monoclonal antibody, complement component 5 aptamer (pegylated), complement component 5 aptamer (pegylated) with ranibizumab, complement component C3, complement factor B antibody, complement factor D antibody, copper oxide with lutein, vitamin C, vitamin E, and zinc oxide, dalantercept, DE109, dexamethasone with ranibizumab and verteportfm, disitertide, DNA damage inducible transcript 4 oligonucleotide, E10030, E10030 with Lucentis, EC400, eculizumab, EGP, EHT204, embryonic stem cells, human stem cells, endoglin monoclonal antibody, EphB4 RTK Inhibitor, EphB4 Soluble Receptor, ESBA1008, ETX6991, Evizon, Eyebar, EyePromise Five, Eyevi, Eylea, F200, FCFD4514S, fenretinide, fluocinolone acetonide, fluocinolone acetonide with ranibizumab, fms-related tyrosine kinase 1 oligonucleotide, fms-related tyrosine kinase 1 oligonucleotide with kinase insert domain receptor 169, fosbetabulin tromethamine, Gamunex, GEM220, GS101, GSK933776, HC3 1496, Human n-CoDeR, HYB676, IBI-20089 with Lucentis, iCo-008, [conl, I-Gold, Ilaris, Iluvien, Iluvien with Lucentis, immunoglobulins, integrin α/β2/β3 βAl immunoglobulin fragments, Integrin inhibitor, IRIS Lutein, I-Sense Ocushield, Isonep, isopropyl unoprostone, JPE1375, JSM6427, KH902, LentiVue, LFG316, LP590, LPO1010AM, Lucentis, Lucentis with Visudyne, Lutein ekstra, Lutein with myrtillus extract, Lutein with zeaxanthin, M200, M200 with Lucentis, Macugen, MCI 101, MCT355, mecamylamine, Microplasmin, motexafin lutetium, MP01 [2, NADPH oxidase inhibitors, Neoretina, neurotrophin 4 gene, Nova21012, Nova21013, NT501, NT503, Nutri-Stulln,
ocriplasmin, OcuXan, Oftan Macula, Optrin, ORA102 with Avastin, P144, P17, Palomid 529, PAN90806, Panzem, Panzem, PARP Inhibitors, pazopanib hydrochloride, pegaptanib sodium, PF4523655, PG1 1047, piribedil, platelet-derived growth factor beta polypeptide aptamer (pegylated), platelet-derived growth factor beta polypeptide aptamer (pegylated) with ranibizumab, PLGIOI, PMX20005, PMX53, POT4, PRS055, PTK787, ranibizumab, ranibizumab with triamcinolone acetonide, ranibizumab with verteporfin, ranibizumab with volociximab, RD27, Rescula, Retacna, retinal pigment epithelial cells, RetinoStat, RG7417, RN6G, RT101, RTU007, SB267268, serpin peptidase inhibitor, clade F, member 1 gene, shark cartilage extract, Shefl, SIR1046, SIR1076, Sirna027, sirolimus, SMTD004, Snelvit, SOD Mimetics, Solids, sonepcizumab, squalamine lactate, ST602, StarGen, T2TrpRS, TA106, tauroursodeoxychoiic acid, Tauroursodeoxychoiic acid, TG100801, TKI, TLCx99, TRC093, TRC105, triamcinolone acetonide with verteporfin, Trivastal Retard, TT30, Ursa, ursodiol, Vangiolut, VAR10200, vascular endothelial growth factor antibody, vascular endothelial growth factor B, vascular endothelial growth factor kinoid, vascular endothelial growth factor oligonucleotide, VAST Compounds, vatalanib, VEGF Inhibitor, verteporfin, Visudyne, Visudyne with Lucentis and dexamethasone, Visudyne with triamcinolone acetonide, Vivis, volociximab, Votrient, XV615, zeaxanthin, ZFP TF, zinc-monocysteine and Zybrestat. In one embodiment, one or more of the macular degeneration treating drugs described above is combined with one or more agents listed above or herein or with other agents known in the art.

[1145] In one embodiment, the kits, methods, and devices provided herein are used to deliver triamcinolone or triamcinolone acetonide to the suprachoroidal space of an eye of a patient in need thereof. In a further embodiment, the triamcinolone or triamcinolone acetonide is delivered for the treatment of sympathetic ophthalmia, temporal arteritis, uveitis and/or ocular inflammatory conditions. In one embodiment, triamcinolone or triamcinolone acetonide is delivered to the suprachoroidal space of the eye in a patient in need of treatment of sympathetic ophthalmia with the methods and devices described herein. In another embodiment, triamcinolone or triamcinolone acetonide is delivered to the suprachoroidal space of the eye in a patient in need of treatment of temporal arteritis with the methods and devices described herein. In yet another embodiment, triamcinolone or triamcinolone acetonide is delivered to the suprachoroidal space of the eye in a patient in need of treatment of uveitis, with the methods and devices described herein. In another embodiment, triamcinolone or triamcinolone acetonide is delivered to the suprachoroidal space of the eye in a patient in need of treatment of one or more ocular inflammatory conditions, with the methods and devices described herein.
The triamcinolone composition provided herein, in one embodiment, is a suspension comprising microparticles or nanoparticles of triamcinolone or triamcinolone acetonide. The microparticles, in one embodiment, have a D50 of about 3 \( \mu \text{m} \) or less. In a further embodiment, the D50 is about 2 \( \mu \text{m} \). In another embodiment, the D50 is about 2 \( \mu \text{m} \) or less. In even another embodiment, the D50 is about 1000 nm or less. The microparticles, in one embodiment, have a D99 of about 10 \( \mu \text{m} \) or less. In another embodiment, the D99 is about 10 \( \mu \text{m} \). In another embodiment, the D99 is less than about 10 \( \mu \text{m} \) or less than about 9 \( \mu \text{m} \) or less.

In one embodiment, the triamcinolone composition comprises triamcinolone microparticles. In a further embodiment, the composition comprises polysorbate 80. In another embodiment, the triamcinolone composition comprises one or more of CaCl2, MgCl2, sodium acetate and sodium citrate. In one embodiment, the composition comprises polysorbate 80 at a w/v % of 0.02% or about 0.02%, 0.015% or about 0.015%.

In certain embodiments, the drug delivered to ocular tissues using the kits, microneedle devices, and methods disclosed herein treats, prevents, and/or ameliorates fibrosis (e.g. myelofibrosis, fibrosis in diabetic nephropathy, cystic fibrosis, scarring, and skin fibrosis).

In some embodiments, a drug that treats, prevents and/or ameliorates fibrosis is used in conjunction with the kits, devices, and methods described herein, and is delivered to the suprachoroidal space of the eye. In a further embodiment, the drug is Actimmune with Pirfenidone, ACUHTR028, AlphaVBetaS, aminobenzoate potassium, amyloid P, ANG1 122, ANG1 170, ANG3062, ANG3281, ANG3298, ANG401 i, Anti-CTGF RNAi, Aplidin, astragalus membranaceus extract with salvia and schisandra chinensis, atherosclerotic plaque blocker, Azol, AZX100, BB3, connective tissue growth factor antibody, CT140, danazol, Esbriet, EXCOO1, EXCO02, EXCO03, EXCO04, EXCO05, F647, FG3019, Fibrocorin, Follistatin, FT011, Galectin-3 inhibitors, GKT137831, GMCT01, GMCT02, GRMD01, GRMD02, GRN510, Heberon Alfa R, interferon alfa-2b, interferon gamma-1b with pirfenidone, ITMN520, JKB119, JKB121, JKB122, KRX168, LPA1 receptor antagonist, MGN4220, MTA2, microRNA 29a oligonucleotide, MMi0100, noscapine, PBI4050, PBI4419, PDGFR inhibitor, PF-06473871, PGN0052, Pirespa, Pirfenex, pirfenidone, platiedepsin, PRM151, Px102, PYN17, PYN22 with PYN17, Relivergen, rhPTX2 Fusion Proteins, RXI109, secretin, STX100, TGF-beta Inhibitor, transforming growth factor, beta receptor 2 oligonucleotide, VA999260 or XV615. In one embodiment, one or more of the fibrosis treating
drugs described above is combined with one or more agents listed above or herein or with other agents known in the art.

[1150] In some embodiments, a drug that treats, prevents and/or ameliorates diabetic macular edema is used in conjunction with the kits, devices, and methods described herein, and is delivered to the suprachoroidal space of the eye. In a further embodiment, the drug is AKB9778, bevasiranib sodium, Candy5, choline fenofibrate, Cortiect, c-raf 2-methoxy ethyl phosphorothioate oligonucleotide, DE109, dexamethasone, DNA damage inducible transcript 4 oligonucleotide, FOV2304, iCo007, KH902, MP01 12, NCX434, Optina, Ozurdex, PF4523655, SARI 118, sirolimus, SK0503 or TriLipix. In one embodiment, one or more of the diabetic macular edema treating drugs described above is combined with one or more agents listed above or herein or with other agents known in the art.

[1151] In some embodiments, a drug that treats, prevents and/or ameliorates macular edema is used in conjunction with the kits, devices, and methods described herein, and is delivered to the suprachoroidal space of the eye. In a further embodiment, the drug is denufosol tetrasodium, dexamethasone, ecaliantide, pegaptanib sodium, ranibizumab or triamcinolone. In addition, the drugs delivered to ocular tissues using the microneedle devices and methods disclosed herein which treat, prevent, and/or ameliorate macular edema, as listed above, may be combined with one or more agents listed above or herein or with other agents known in the art.

[1152] In some embodiments, a drug that treats, prevents and/or ameliorates ocular hypertension is used in conjunction with the kits, devices, and methods described herein and is delivered to the suprachoroidal space of the eye. In a further embodiment the drug is 2-MeS-beta gamma-CC12-ATP, Aceta Diazol, acetazolamide, Aristomol, Arteoptic, AZD4017, Betalmic, betaxolol hydrochloride, Betimol, Betoptic S, Brimodin, Brimonal, brimonidine, brimonidine tartrate, Brinidin, Caite, carteoiol hydrochloride, Cosopt, CS088, DE092, DEI 04, DEI 11, dorzolamide, dorzolamide hydrochloride, Dorzolamide hydrochloride with Timolol maleate, Droptimol, Fortinol, Glaumol, Hypadil, Ismotic, isopropyl unoprostone, isosorbide, Latalux, latanoprost, Latanoprost with Timolol maleate, levobunolol hydrochloride, Lotensin, Mannigen, mannitol, metipranolol, mifepristine, Mikelan, Minims Metipranolol, Mirol, nipradilol, Nor Tenz, Ocupress, olmesartan, Ophtalol, pilocarpine nitrate, Piobaj, Rescula, RU486, Rysmon TG, SAD448, Saflutan, Shemoi, Taflotan, tafluprost, tafluprost with timolol, Thiaboot, Timocomod, timolol, Timolol Actavis, timolol hemihydrate, timolol maleate,
Travast, travoprost, Unilat, Xalacorn, Xalatan or Zomiol. In addition, the drugs delivered to ocular tissues using the microneedle devices and methods disclosed herein which treat, prevent, and/or ameliorate ocular hypertension, as listed above, may be combined with one or more agents listed above or herein or with other agents known in the art.

[1153] In some embodiments, a drug that inhibits angiogenesis is used in conjunction with the kits, devices, and methods described herein and is delivered to the suprachoroidal space of the eye. In some embodiments, the angiogenesis inhibitor is an antagonist of a member of the platelet derived growth factor (PDGF) family, for example, a drug that inhibits, reduces or modulates the signaling and/or activity of PDGF-receptors (PDGFR). For example, the PDGF antagonist delivered to the suprachoroidal space for the treatment of a choroidal malady, in one embodiment, is an anti-PDGF aptamer, an anti-PDGF antibody or fragment thereof, an anti-PDGFR antibody or fragment thereof, or a small molecule antagonist. In one embodiment, the PDGF antagonist is an antagonist of the PDGFR-a or PDGFR-β. In one embodiment, the PDGF antagonist is the anti-PDGF-β aptamer E10030, sunitinib, axitinib, sorafenib, imatinib, imatinib mesylate, nintedanib, pazopanib HCl, ponatinib, MK-2461, dovitinib, pazopanib, crenolanib, PP-121, telatinib, imatinib, KRN 633, CP 673451, TSU-68, Ki8751, amuvatinib, tivozanib, masitinib, motesanib diphosphate, dovitinib dilactic acid, linifanib (ABT-869).

[1154] In certain embodiments one or more drugs may be delivered to ocular tissues and/or into the suprachoroidal space via the systems and devices described herein. Delivery of one or more drugs into the suprachoroidal space using the microneedle device described herein may be accomplished by using one or more microneedles. In addition, combinations of one or more drugs may be delivered to the suprachoroidal space using the microneedle device described herein in combination with deliver) of one or more drugs via intravitreal (IVT) administration (e.g., intravitreal injection, intravitreal implant or eye drops). Methods of IVT administration are well known in the art. Examples of drugs that can be administered via IVT include, but are not limited to: A0003, A0006, Acedolone, AdPEDF, afibercept, AG!3958, aganirsen, AGN208397, AKB9778, AL78898A, amyloid P, Angiogenesis Inhibitor Gene Therapy, ARC 1905, Aurocort, bevasiranib sodium, brimonidine, Brimonidine, brimonidine tartrate, bromfenac sodium, Candy 5, CERE 140, Ciganclor, CLTOO!, CLT003, CLT004, CLT005, complement component 5 aptamer (pegylated), complement factor D antibody, Cortiject, c-raf 2-methoxy ethyl phosphorothioate oligonucleotide, cyclosporine, triamcinolone, DE109, denufosol tetrasodium, dexamethasone, dexamethasone phosphate, disitertide, DNA damage
inducible transcript 4 oligonucleotide, E10030, ecallantide, EG3306, EosOB, ESBA1008, ESBA105, Eylea, FCFD4514S, fluoroceine acetomde, fms-related tyrosine kinase 1 oligonucleotide, fomiviren sodium, fosbretublin tromethamine, FOV2301, FOV2501, ganciclovir, ganciclovir sodium, GS101, GS156, hyaluronidase, IB120089, iCo007, Iluvien, INS37217, Isonep, JSM6427, Kalbitor, KH902, lerdelimumab, LFG316, Lucentis, M200, Macugen, Makyueido, Micropiasmin, MK0140, MP01 12, NCX434, neurotrophin 4 gene, OCIOX, ocriplasmin, ORA102, Ozurdex, P144, P17, Palomid 529, pazopanib hydrochloride, pegaptanib sodium, Plasma Kallikrein Inhibitors, platelet-derived growth factor beta polypeptide aptamer (pegylated), POT4, PRM167, PRS055, QPI1007, ranibizumab, resveratrol, Retilone, retinal pigment epithelium-specific protein 65 kDa gene, Retisert, rod derived cone viability factor, RPE65 Gene Therapy, RPGR Gene Therapy, RTP801, SdrxRNA, serpin peptidase inhibitor clade F member 1 gene, Sirna027, sirolimus, sorapcizumab, SRT501, STP601, TG100948, Trabio, triamcinolone, triamcinolone acetonide, Trivaris, tumor necrosis factor antibody, VEGF/rGel-Op, verteporfin, Visudyne, Vitrase, Vitraser, Vit rave, Vitreals, volociximab, Votrient, XG102, Xibrom, XV615, and Zybrestat. Accordingly, the methods of the present invention include administrating via IVT one or more of the drugs listed above in combination with one or more drugs disclosed herein administered into the suprachoroidal space using the microneedle device described herein.

[1155] In some embodiments, the drug is formulated for storage and delivery via the kits, microneedle devices, and methods described herein. The "drug formulation" is a formulation of a drug, which typically includes one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipient materials known in the art. The term "excipient" refers to any non-active ingredient of the formulation intended to facilitate handling, stability, dispersibility, wettability, release kinetics, and/or injection of the drug. In one embodiment, the excipient may include or consist of water or saline.

[1156] In some embodiments, the fluid drug formulation includes microparticles or nanoparticles, each of which can include at least one drug. Desirably, the microparticles or nanoparticles provide for the controlled release of drug into the ocular tissue. As used herein, the term "microparticle" encompasses microspheres, microcapsules, microparticles, and beads, having a number average diameter of 1 to 100 µm, most preferably 1 to 25 µm. The term "nanoparticles" are particles having a number average diameter of 1 to 1000 nm. Microparticles may or may not be spherical in shape. "Microcapsules" are defined as microparticles having
an outer shell surrounding a core of another material. The core can be liquid, gel, solid, gas, or a combination thereof. In one case, the microcapsule may be a "microbubble" having an outer shell surrounding a core of gas, wherein the drug is disposed on the surface of the outer shell, in the outer shell itself, or in the core. Microbubbles may respond to acoustic vibrations as known in the art for diagnosis and/or can be used to burst the microbubble to release its payload at/into a select ocular tissue site. "Microspheres" can be solid spheres, can be porous and include a sponge-like or honeycomb structure formed by pores or voids in a matrix material or shell, or can include multiple discrete voids in a matrix material or shell. The microparticle or nanoparticles may further include a matrix material. The shell or matrix material may be a polymer, amino acid, saccharide, or other material known in the art of microencapsulation.

[1157] The drug-containing microparticles or nanoparticles may be suspended in an aqueous or non-aqueous liquid vehicle. The liquid vehicle may be a pharmaceutically acceptable aqueous solution, and optionally may further include a surfactant. The microparticles or nanoparticles of drug themselves may include an excipient material, such as a polymer, a polysaccharide, a surfactant, etc., which are known in the art to control the kinetics of drug release from particles.

[1158] In one embodiment, the fluid drug formulation further includes an agent effective to degrade collagen or GAG fibers in the sclera, which may enhance penetration/release of the drug into the ocular tissues. This agent may be, for example, an enzyme, such as a hyaluronidase, a collagenase, or a combination thereof. In a variation of this method, the enzyme is administered to the ocular tissue in a separate step from—preceding or following—infusion of the drug. The enzyme and drug are administered at the same site.

[1159] In another embodiment, the drug formulation is one that undergoes a phase change upon administration. For instance, a liquid drug formulation may be injected through hollow microneedles into the suprachoroidal space, where it then gels and the drug diffuses out from the gel for controlled release.

[1160] While the embodiments and methods herein describe delivering a medicament to a target tissue, the embodiments described herein can be configured to facilitate a biopsy procedure and/or removal of a substance from a target location.

[1161] While the embodiments have been described above in use on ocular tissue, in some instances, the embodiments and methods described herein can be used on any other suitable
bodily tissue. For example, in some instances, the use of an adjustable length needle can be beneficial in conjunction with standard phlebotomy techniques during drug infusion and/or blood draw from a vein. Thus, while the embodiments and methods are specifically described above in use on ocular tissue, it should be understood that the embodiments and methods have been presented by way of example only, and not limitation.

[1162] Although various embodiments have been described as having particular features and/or combinations of components, other embodiments are possible having a combination of any features and/or components from any of embodiments where appropriate. For example, in some embodiments, the needle assembly 3200 can include a housing having an opening similar to the housing 4210 (having the opening 4232).
What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:
   a housing defining an inner volume, a proximal end portion of the housing configured to be coupled to a medicament container, a distal end portion of the housing including a hub surface, the hub surface configured to contact a target surface of a target tissue; an adjustment member disposed within the inner volume such that the inner volume is separated into a first chamber and a second chamber, the first chamber in fluid communication with the medicament container when the proximal end portion of the housing is coupled to the medicament container, the adjustment member configured to transition within the inner volume between a first configuration and a second configuration; and a puncture member coupled to the adjustment member, a proximal end portion of the puncture member in fluid communication with the first chamber such that a substance can be conveyed from the medicament container through the puncture member via the first chamber, a distal tip of the puncture member extending from the hub surface by a first distance when the adjustment member is in the first configuration, the distal tip of the puncture member extending from the hub surface by a second distance when the adjustment member is in the second configuration, the second distance greater than the first distance.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first chamber is fluidically isolated from the second chamber by the adjustment member.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
   the first chamber is fluidically isolated from the second chamber by the adjustment member; and a size of the first chamber increases when the adjustment member transitions within the inner volume from the first configuration towards the second configuration.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
   the adjustment member includes a seal member in sliding contact with an inner surface of the housing, the seal member fluidically isolating the first chamber from the second chamber, and
the adjustment member is configured to move from a first position to a second position when the adjustment member transitions within the inner volume from the first configuration towards the second configuration.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the adjustment member is configured to expand when the adjustment member transitions within the inner volume from the first configuration towards the second configuration.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein an edge portion of the adjustable member is fixedly coupled to an inner surface of the housing to fluidically isolate the first chamber from the second chamber; at least a portion of the adjustment member is constructed from an elastomeric material such that the adjustment member expands when the adjustment member transitions within the inner volume from the first configuration to the second configuration.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
   the first chamber is fluidically isolated from the second chamber by the adjustment member,
   the puncture member and the adjustment member are collectively configured such that the adjustment member transitions within the inner volume from the first configuration towards the second configuration when a pressure of the substance within the first chamber is greater than a threshold pressure; and
   the puncture member is configured such that the substance is maintained within the first chamber when A) the distal tip of the puncture member is within the target tissue having a density greater than a threshold density, and B) the pressure of the substance within the first chamber is greater than the threshold pressure.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the substance has a viscosity of at least 100 centiPoise.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising:
   the medicament container; and
an actuation rod, a distal end portion of the actuation rod movably disposed within the medicament container, the pressure within the first chamber being produced in response to a force exerted on a proximal end portion of the actuation rod.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the distal end portion of the actuation rod is sized such that the threshold pressure within the first chamber is produced when the force has a magnitude of less than about 6N.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein
the first chamber is fluidically isolated from the second chamber by the adjustment member;
the puncture member and the adjustment member are collectively configured such that the adjustment member transitions within the inner volume from the first configuration towards the second configuration to extend the distal tip of the puncture member from the hub surface when A) the distal tip of the puncture member is within a first region of the target tissue and
B) a pressure of the substance within the first chamber is above a threshold pressure, a flow of the substance from the first chamber through the puncture member being limited when the distal tip of the puncture member is within the first region of the target tissue; and
the puncture member and the adjustment member are collectively configured such that when the distal tip of the puncture member is within a second region of the target tissue A) movement of the adjustment member towards the second configuration is limited and B) the substance flows from the first chamber through the puncture member.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:
the first region of the target tissue has a first density; and
the second region of the target tissue has a second density, the second density less than the first density.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:
the target tissue is an eye, the target surface is any one of a conjunctiva of the eye or a sclera of the eye;
the first region is an upper portion of the sclera of the eye; and
the second region includes at least one of a suprachoroidal space, a lower portion of the sclera, a choroid of the eye, a subretinal space of the eye, or a retina of the eye.
14. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

the medicament container containing the substance, the substance being at least one of a VEGF, a VEGF inhibitor, a PDGFR inhibitor, or a combination of any of the VEGF, the VEGF inhibitor, and the PDGFR inhibitor.

15. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

the medicament container containing the substance, the substance including at least one of mycophenolate, infliximab, nepafenac, azathioprine, cyclophosphamide, dexamethasone, difluprednate, fluocinolone, fluorometholone, leteprednol, prednisolone acetate, prednisolone sodium phosphate, rimexolone, triamcinolone, bromfenac, diclofenac, fluibiprofen, ketorolac, adalimumab, etanercept, certolizumab, gotimumab, daclizumab, rituximab, abatacept, basiliximab, belimumab, anakinra, efalizumab, alefacept, and nataizumab.

16. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:

the medicament container containing the substance, the substance including at least one of triamcinolone or triamcinolone acetonide.

17. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the distal tip of the puncture member includes a distal surface configured to penetrate the target tissue when the distal tip of the puncture member is moved relative to the hub surface in a distal direction;

the adjustment member includes a seal member in sliding contact with an inner surface of the housing, the seal member fluidically isolating the first chamber from the second chamber, a proximal surface of the adjustment member defining a boundary of the first chamber, the adjustment member configured to move from a first position to a second position when the adjustment member transitions within the inner volume from the first configuration to the second configuration;

a ratio of an area of the distal surface of the puncture member to an area of the proximal surface of the adjustment member is such that the adjustment member moves within the inner volume from the first position towards the second position to extend the distal tip of the puncture member from the hub surface when A) the distal tip of the puncture member is within a first region of the target tissue and B) a pressure of the substance within the first chamber is above a threshold pressure; and
the ratio is such that when the distal tip of the puncture member is within a second
region of the target tissue A) movement of the adjustment member towards the second position
is limited and B) the substance flows from the first chamber through the puncture member.

18. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the distal tip of the puncture member moves relative
to the medicament container when the adjustment member transitions from the first
configuration towards the second configuration.

19. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein

the housing is fixed relative to the medicament container when the adjustment member
transitions from the first configuration towards the second configuration; and

the adjustment member moves relative to the housing and the medicament container
when the adjustment member transitions from the first configuration towards the second
configuration.

20. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the proximal end portion of the housing includes a
connector configured to be removably coupled to the medicament container.

21. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the proximal end portion of the housing includes a proximal contact surface configured
to contact a proximal portion of the adjustment member to limit movement of the adjustment
member in a proximal direction such that the distal tip of the puncture member always extends
from the hub surface by at least the first distance, and

the distal end portion of the housing includes a distal contact surface configured to
contact a distal portion of the adjustment member to limit movement of the adjustment member
in a distal direction such that the distal tip of the puncture member does not extend from the
hub surface by greater than the second distance.

22. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a biasing member configured to bias the adjustment member towards the first
configuration.
23. An apparatus, comprising;
   a housing having an inner surface defining an inner volume, a proximal end portion of
   the housing configured to be coupled to a medicament container, a distal end portion of the
   housing including a hub surface configured to contact a target surface of a target tissue;
   an adjustment member disposed within the inner volume such that the inner surface and
   a proximal surface of the adjustment member define a pressure chamber, the pressure chamber
   in fluid communication with the medicament container when the proximal end portion of the
   housing is coupled to the medicament container, the adjustment member configured to move
   within the inner volume and relative to the medicament container between a first position and
   a second position; and
   a puncture member coupled to the adjustment member, a proximal end portion of the
   puncture member in fluid communication with the pressure chamber such that a substance can
   be conveyed from the medicament container through the puncture member via the pressure
   chamber, a distal tip of the puncture member extending from the hub surface by a first distance
   when the adjustment member is in the first position, the distal tip of the puncture member
   extending from the hub surface by a second distance when the adjustment member is in the
   second position, the second distance greater than the first distance.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein
   the puncture member and the adjustment member are collectively configured such that
   the adjustment member moves from the first position towards the second position when a
   pressure of the substance within the pressure chamber is above a threshold pressure; and
   the puncture member is configured such that a flow of the substance from the pressure
   chamber through the puncture member is limited when the distal tip of the puncture member is
   moving within a region of the target tissue having a density greater than a threshold density,
   the puncture member moving in response to the adjustment member moving from the first
   position towards the second position.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein:
   the puncture member is a microneedle having a size of 30 gauge or smaller; and
   the medicament has a viscosity of at least 100 centiPoise.
26. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein
the puncture member and the adjustment member are collectively configured such that
A) the adjustment member moves from the first position towards the second position to extend
the distal tip of the puncture member from the hub surface when the distal tip of the puncture
member is within a first region of the target tissue and B) a flow of the substance from the
pressure chamber through the puncture member is limited when the distal tip of the puncture
member is within the first region of the target tissue; and
the puncture member and the adjustment member are collectively configured such that
when the distal tip of the puncture member is within a second region of the target tissue A) the
substance flows from the pressure chamber through the puncture member and B) movement of
the adjustment member towards the second position is limited.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein:
the first region of the target tissue has a first density; and
the second region of the target tissue has a second density, the second density less than
the first density.

28. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein:
the target tissue is an eye, the target surface is any one of a conjunctiva of the eye or a
sclera of the eye;
the first region is an upper portion of the sclera of the eye; and
the second region includes at least one of a suprachoroidal space, a lower portion of the
sclera, a choroid of the eye, a subretinal space of the eye, or a retina of the eye.

29. The apparatus of claim 26, further comprising:
the medicament container; and
an actuation rod, a distal end portion of the actuation rod movably disposed within the
medicament container, the pressure within the pressure chamber being produced in response to
a force exerted on a proximal end portion of the actuation rod.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the distal end portion of the actuation rod is sized
such that the threshold pressure within the first chamber is produced when the force has a
magnitude of between about 4N and about 6N.
31. A method, comprising:

inserting a distal tip of a puncture member of a medical injector into a first region of a
target tissue, the medical injector including a medicament container, a hub, and the puncture
member, the distal tip of the puncture member extending from a distal end surface of the hub
by a first distance before and during the inserting; and

conveying a substance from the medicament container into a pressure chamber defined
within the hub when the distal tip is within the target tissue to produce a pressure within the
pressure chamber, the pressure causing the distal tip of the puncture member to move within
the first region of the target tissue such that the distal tip of the puncture member extends from
the distal end surface of the hub by a second distance greater than the first distance, the pressure
insufficient to produce a flow of the substance from the pressure chamber through the puncture
member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within the first region of the target tissue,
the pressure producing the flow of the substance from the pressure chamber through the
puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within a second region of the
target tissue.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein:

the first region of the target tissue has a first density; and

the second region of the target tissue has a second density, the second density less than
the first density.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein:

the target tissue is an eye;

the first region is an upper portion of the sclera of the eye; and

the second region includes at least one of a suprachoroidal space, a lower portion of the
sclera, a choroid of the eye, a subretinal space of the eye, or a retina of the eye.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the substance includes at least one of a VEGF, a
VEGF inhibitor, a PDGFR inhibitor, or a combination of any of the VEGF, the VEGF inhibitor,
and the PDGFR inhibitor.

35. The method of claim 31, wherein the conveying the substance includes exerting a force
on an actuation rod to move a distal end portion of the actuation rod within the medicament
container.
36. The method of claim 35, wherein the exerting the force includes manually exerting the force by manipulating a proximal end portion of the actuation rod.

37. The method of claim 31, wherein the conveying the substance includes manually exerting a force of less than about 6N on an actuation rod to move a distal end portion of the actuation rod within the medicament container.

38. The method of claim 31, wherein:
   the pressure is a first pressure; and
   the first pressure within the pressure chamber decreases to a second pressure in response to the flow of the substance from the pressure chamber through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within the second region of the target tissue, the second pressure insufficient to move the puncture member relative to the distal end surface of the hub.

39. The method of claim 31, wherein the inserting the distal tip of the puncture member includes:
   inserting the distal tip such that a centerline of the puncture member and a surface line tangential to a target surface of the target surface defines an angle of entry of between about 75 degrees and about 105 degrees; and
   contacting the distal end surface of the hub with the target surface of the target tissue.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein the contacting includes deforming the target surface with the distal end surface of the hub.

41. A method, comprising:
   inserting a distal tip of a puncture member of a medical injector into a first region of a target tissue, the medical injector including a medicament container, a hub, and the puncture member, the distal tip of the puncture member extending from a distal end surface of the hub before and during the inserting; and
   manually exerting a force on a proximal end portion of an actuation rod to move a distal end portion of the actuation rod within the medicament container, movement of the distal end portion of the actuation rod causing:
the distal tip of the puncture member to move in a distal direction relative to the
distal end surface of the hub from the first region of the target tissue to a second region
of the target tissue, the force being insufficient to produce a flow of a substance from a
pressure chamber defined at least in part within the hub through the puncture member
when the distal tip of the puncture member is within the first region of the target tissue;
and
the substance to flow from the pressure chamber through the puncture member
when the distal tip of the puncture member is within a second region of the target tissue.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein a density of the first region is greater than a density
of the second region.

43. The method of claim 41, wherein the manually exerting the force includes manually
exerting the force of less than about 6N on the actuation rod.

44. The method of claim 41, wherein movement of the distal end portion of the actuation
rod causes the substance to flow from the medicament container into the pressure chamber, the
pressure urging an adjustment member to move the distal tip of the puncture member in the
distal direction.

45. The method of claim 41, wherein:
the target tissue is an eye;
the first region is an upper portion of the sclera of the eye; and
the second region includes at least one of a suprachoroidal space, a lower portion of the
sclera, a choroid of the eye, a subretinal space of the eye, or a retina of the eye.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein the substance includes at least one of a VEGF, a
VEGF inhibitor, a PDGFR inhibitor, or a combination of any of the VEGF, the VEGF inhibitor,
and the PDGFR inhibitor.
FIG. 7
102
Insert a distal tip of a puncture member of a medical injector into a first region of a target tissue, the medical injector including a medicament container, a hub, and the puncture member, a distal tip of the puncture member extending from a distal end surface of the hub by a first distance before and during the inserting.

104
Convey a substance from the medicament container into a pressure chamber defined within the hub when the distal tip is within the target tissue to produce a pressure within the pressure chamber. The pressure causing the distal tip of the puncture member to move within the first region such that the distal tip extends from the distal end surface of the hub by a second distance greater than the first distance. The pressure being insufficient to produce a flow of the substance from the pressure chamber through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within the first region of the target tissue. The pressure being sufficient to produce the flow of the substance when the distal tip of the puncture member is within a second region of the target tissue.

FIG. 23
Insert a distal tip of a puncture member of a medical injector into a first region of a target tissue. The medical injector includes a medicament container, a hub, and the puncture member, a distal tip of the puncture member extending from a distal end surface of the hub before and during the inserting.

Manually exert a force on a proximal end portion of an actuation rod to move a distal end portion of the actuation rod within the medicament container, movement of the distal end portion of the actuation rod causing:

The distal tip of the puncture member to move in a distal direction relative to the distal end surface of the hub from the first region of the target tissue to a second region of the target tissue. The force being insufficient to produce a flow of the substance through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within the first region of the target tissue.

The substance to flow from the pressure chamber through the puncture member when the distal tip of the puncture member is within a second region of the target tissue.

FIG. 24
### A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61F9/00 A61M5/46

ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A61F A61M A61B

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

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

EPO-Internal , WPI Data

### C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category*</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>WO 2014/197317 A1 (CLEARSIDE BIOMEDICAL INC [US]) 11 December 2014 (2014-12-11) paragraphs [0002], [0007], [0038] - [0052], [0067], [1096] - [1113]; figures 5-8</td>
<td>1-6, 9, 10, 12-16, 18, 20</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>WO 2015/196085 A2 (CLEARSIDE BIOMEDICAL INC [US]) 23 December 2015 (2015-12-23) paragraphs [1011], [1030], [1081] - [1087], [1115], [1129]; claims 1-3, 7, 9, 21, 27-30; figures 2-4, 12-15</td>
<td>1-22</td>
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</table>

* Special categories of cited documents:

  - "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
  - "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
  - "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
  - "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
  - "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

  - "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
  - "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
  - "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
  - "A" document member of the same patent family

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 4 December 2017

Date of mailing of the international search report: 13/12/2017

Name and mailing address of the ISA:

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

Authorized officer: Merte, Birgit

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (April 2005)
This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. X Claims Nos.: 31-46 because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

   see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

2. X Claims Nos.: 23, 30 because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

   see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. □ Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

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

1. □ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. □ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3. □ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.: 

4. □ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest
□ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
□ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
□ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.
Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 31-46

The method of claim 31 comprises the step "inserting a distal tip of a puncture member of a medical injector into a first region of a target tissue", with the consequence that the whole method is a method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery in the sense of Rule 39.1(iv) PCT. This is to be seen in the context of [1161] of the description - "While the embodiments have been described above in use on ocular tissue, in some instances, the embodiments and methods described herein can be used on any other suitable bodily tissue."

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Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 23-30

Although claims 1 and 23 have been drafted as separate independent claims, they appear to relate effectively to the same subject-matter and to differ from each other only with regard to the definition of the subject-matter for which protection is sought and in respect of the terminology used for the features of that subject-matter. Comparing the entire scope of claims 1-22 with the entire scope of claims 23-30 the information on content is essentially the same. The aforementioned claims therefore lack conciseness and as such do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT. Consequently, no search of claims 23-30 was carried out.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EP0 policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the applicant proceeds into the regional phase before the EP0, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EP0 (see EP0 Guidelines C-IV, 7.2), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.
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<th>Patent document cited in search report</th>
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<th>Patent family member(s)</th>
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