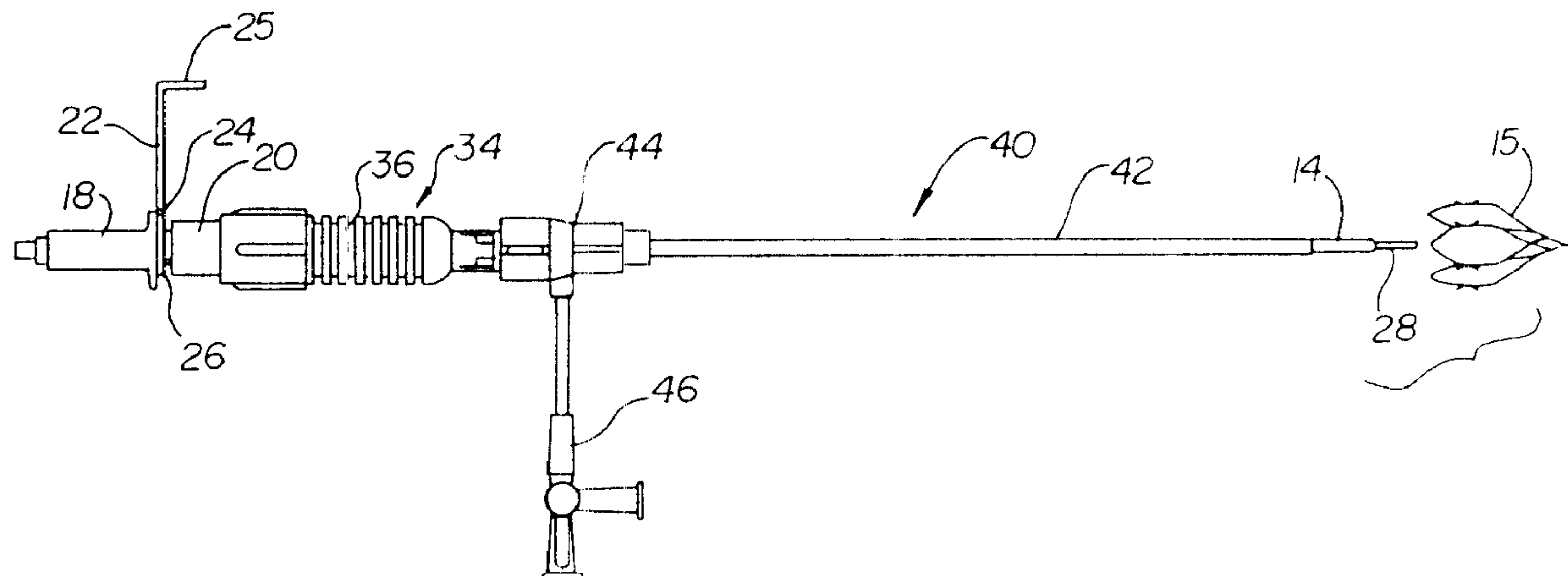




(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 1999/09/24
(87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 2000/03/30
(45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2007/11/06
(85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 2001/03/09
(86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: US 1999/022287
(87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 2000/016847
(30) Priorités/Priorities: 1998/09/24 (US60/101,638);
1999/09/23 (US09/404,115)

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *A61F 2/01* (2006.01)
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(54) Titre : DISPOSITIF DE MISE EN PLACE DE FILTRE
(54) Title: FILTER DELIVERY DEVICE



(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

Devices and methods for delivering a thrombus filter (15) are disclosed. A system in accordance with the present invention includes an elongate shaft (12) having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending therethrough, a hub (20) disposed about the shaft (12) proximate the proximal end thereof; a pull wire (30) having a proximal end, a distal end, and middle portion; the proximal end of the pull wire (30) being fixed to the hub (20); the middle portion of the pull wire (30) being disposed within the lumen of the shaft (12); the distal end of the pull wire (30) being fixed to a capsule disposed about a portion of the thrombus filter (15), and an elongate rod slidingly disposed within the lumen of the shaft.

**PCT**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ :

A61M 29/00

A1

(11) International Publication Number:

WO 00/16847

(43) International Publication Date:

30 March 2000 (30.03.00)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/22287

(22) International Filing Date: 24 September 1999 (24.09.99)

(30) Priority Data:

60/101,638	24 September 1998 (24.09.98)	US
Not furnished	23 September 1999 (23.09.99)	US

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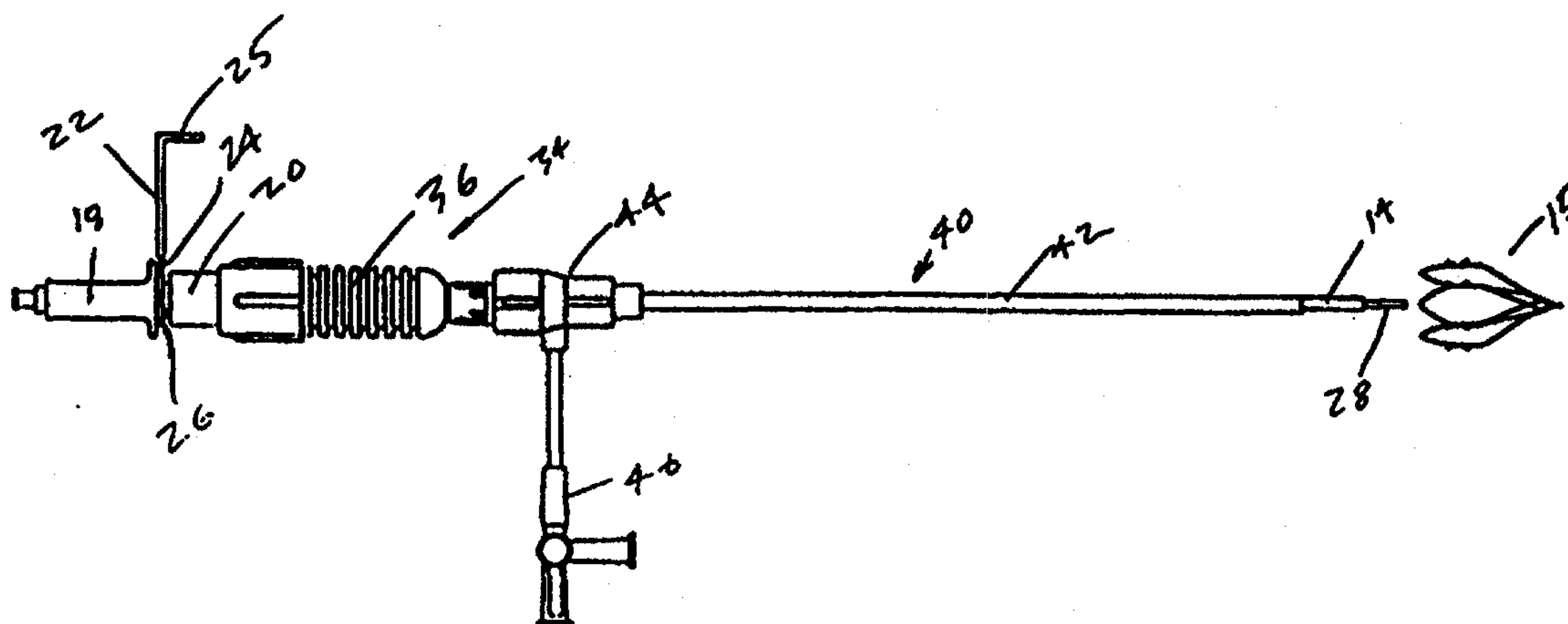
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(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE).

Published*With international search report.**Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.*

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**(57) Abstract**

Devices and methods for delivering a thrombus filter (15) are disclosed. A system in accordance with the present invention includes an elongate shaft (12) having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending therethrough, a hub (20) disposed about the shaft (12) proximate the proximal end thereof; a pull wire (30) having a proximal end, a distal end, and middle portion; the proximal end of the pull wire (30) being fixed to the hub (20); the middle portion of the pull wire (30) being disposed within the lumen of the shaft (12); the distal end of the pull wire (30) being fixed to a capsule disposed about a portion of the thrombus filter (15), and an elongate rod slidably disposed within the lumen of the shaft.

FILTER DELIVERY DEVICE

Background of the Invention

5 The present invention pertains to the field of intra vena cava filters. In particular, the present invention pertains to the delivery of intra vena cava filters.

Intra vena cava filters are implanted in patients at risk for blood clotting. One such filter is disclosed by Nott et al., in U.S. Patent No. 5,709,704, which issued January 20, 1998 and is entitled "Blood Clot Filtering".

10 Summary of the Invention

The present invention pertains to a delivery device for a self-expanding vena cava filter such as the one disclosed by Nott et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,709,704. The filter is preferably formed from super-elastic NiTi alloy wire with anchoring hooks circumferentially disclosed on the filter. The filter hooks have sharp ends to engage the intima wall of the vena cava to
15 stabilize the filter therein. The delivery device in accordance with the present invention includes a protective capsule into which the filter is placed such that the hooks are disposed within the capsule for transport to a filter deployment site.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a side view of a catheter in accordance with the present invention having a filter capsule disposed at its distal end;

Figure 2 is a view of the catheter of Figure 1, wherein the distal end is
5 disposed within a cheater;

Figure 3 is a view of the catheter and cheater of Figure 2, wherein the cheater is connected to an introducer sheath;

Figure 4 is a view of the catheter, cheater and introducer sheath of Figure 3, wherein the capsule has been advanced through the introducer sheath; and

10 Figure 5 is a view of the catheter, cheater and introducer sheath of Figure 4 and a deployed filter.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Referring now to the drawings wherein like reference numerals refer to
15 like elements throughout the several views, Figure 1 is a side view of the preferred embodiment of a filter delivery catheter 10 in accordance with the present invention. Catheter 10 includes an elongate catheter shaft 12 having a proximal and distal end. A capsule 14 is disposed at the distal end of shaft 12. For purposes of illustration, a filter 15, such as that disclosed by Nott et al. in U.S.
20 Patent No. 5,709,704, is shown disposed within capsule 14. Not visible are the hooks circumferentially disposed on filter 15 which engage the intima wall of the vena cava when filter 15 is disposed therein. Capsule 14 is thus preferably sufficiently durable to resist puncture by the hooks. The materials which could be

used to form capsule 14 include, among others, metals, such as in the form of stainless steel hypotube, and high density polymer or composite materials. The materials can also be radiopaque to improve visibility under fluoroscopy.

A handle assembly 16 is disposed at the proximal end of shaft 12. Handle assembly 16 includes a handle 18 and a hub 20 connected to shaft 12. Disposed between handle 18 and hub 20 is a locking member 22 pivotally connected to handle 18 by hinge 24. The end of locking member 22, opposite hinge 24, includes a portion disposed generally perpendicularly to the length of catheter 10. Portion 25 is preferably configured to friction fit into a slot 26 within hub 20. An elongate rod 28 extends distally from handle 18, and slidably through hub 20, shaft 12 and capsule 14 into filter 15. A capsule pull wire having a proximal end and a distal end preferably extends through an elongate lumen 32 disposed through a portion of shaft 12. The proximal end of pull wire 30 is preferably connected to hub 20 and the distal end is connected to capsule 14. Figure 1A is a detailed view of the distal end of shaft 12, capsule 14 and filter 15 taken from Figure 1.

Figure 2 is a side view of catheter 10, wherein capsule 14 and filter 15 have been inserted into a cheater 34. Cheater 34 includes a handle 36 and a coupling 38.

Figure 3 is a view of the catheter and cheater of Figure 2, wherein coupling 38 has been inserted into a complimentary coupling 44 of an introducer sheath 40. In addition to coupling 44, introducer sheath includes an elongate shaft tube 42. Coupling 44 can also serve as a manifold to which a further coupling 46

WO 00/16847

PCT/US99/22287

can be connected for infusion of contrast medium, saline or other fluids into a patient's vasculature.

Figure 4 is a side view of handle assembly 16 of catheter 10, cheater 34 and introducer sheath 40. As shown in Figure 4, shaft 12 of catheter 10 has been
5 advanced distally through handle 36 and introducer shaft 42 such that hub 20 is disposed adjacent cheater 34 and filter 15 and capsule 14 are disposed distally of the distal end of shaft 42.

Figure 5 is a side view of handle 18 of catheter 10, cheater 34 and delivery sheath 40. Locking member 22 of handle 16 has been pivoted about hinge 24
10 such that portion 25 has been removed from slot 26. This allows, as shown in Figure 5, handle 18 to moved distally toward hub 20 such that shaft 28 is shifted distally relative to capsule 14 while wire 30 retains capsule 14 in position relative to hub 20. Shaft 28 thus advanced distally pushes filter 15 out of capsule 14. Alternately handle 36 and hub 20 could be pulled proximally to pull capsule 14
15 off of filter 15. Once filter 15 is unconstrained by capsule 14, it assumes its expanded shape in the vena cava.

In use, it can be appreciated that the distal end of shaft 42 of delivery sheath 40 can be advanced to the desired placement location of filter 15 in the vena cava. Shaft 42 can be advanced by way of a femoral, brachial, or jugular
20 vein approach. Capsule 14 and filter 15 can be advanced through shaft 42 as shown in Figure 4. Then shaft 28 is advanced to deploy filter 15 into the vena cava.

WO 00/16847

PCT/US99/22287

Numerous characteristics and advantages of the invention covered by this document have been set forth in the foregoing description. It will be understood, however, that this disclosure is, in many respects, only illustrative. Changes may be made in details, particularly in matters of shape, size and ordering of steps
5 without exceeding the scope of the invention. The invention's scope is, of course, defined in the language in which the appended claims are expressed.

What is claimed is:

1. A thrombus filter delivery system comprising:

an elongate shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending

5 therethrough;

a pull wire having a proximal end, a distal end, and middle portion;

a hub disposed about the shaft proximate the proximal end;

the proximal end of the pull wire being fixed to the hub proximate its proximal end,

and the middle portion of the pull wire being disposed within the lumen of the shaft;

10 the distal end of the pull wire being fixed to a capsule disposed about a portion of a
thrombus filter;

an elongate rod slidably disposed within the lumen of the shaft; and

a handle disposed at a proximal end of the elongate rod, a locking member having a
first end and a second end, and a hinge connecting the first end of the locking member to the
15 handle.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the elongate rod includes a distal end adapted to
engage the thrombus filter.

20 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the second end of the locking member is
adapted to engage the hub.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the lumen of the shaft has a shaft lumen diameter, and the capsule has an outer diameter which is less than the shaft lumen diameter.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the thrombus filter has a plurality of anchors,
5 and the capsule is disposed proximate the anchors of the thrombus filter.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the thrombus filter has a plurality of hooks, and the capsule is disposed proximate the hooks of the thrombus filter.

10 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the thrombus filter has a plurality of sharp projections, and the capsule is disposed proximate the sharp projections of the thrombus filter.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the thrombus filter and the capsule are disposed within the lumen of the shaft.

15 9. A thrombus filter delivery system comprising:

an elongate shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending therethrough;

a hub disposed about the shaft proximate the proximal end thereof;

20 a pull wire having a proximal end, a distal end, and middle portion;

the proximal end of the pull wire being fixed to the hub and the middle portion of the pull wire being disposed within the lumen of the shaft;

the distal end of the pull wire being fixed to a capsule disposed about a portion of a thrombus filter; and

an elongate rod slidingly disposed within the lumen of the shaft.

5 10. The system of claim 9, further including a handle disposed at a proximal end of the elongate rod.

11. The system of claim 9, wherein the elongate rod includes a distal end adapted to engage the thrombus filter.

10

12. The system of claim 9, further including a handle disposed at a proximal end of the elongate rod, a locking member having a first end and a second end, and a hinge connecting the first end of the locking member to the handle.

15

13. The system of claim 9, wherein the lumen of the shaft has a shaft lumen diameter, and the capsule has an outer diameter which is less than the shaft lumen diameter.

14. The system of claim 9, wherein the thrombus filter has a plurality of anchors, and the capsule is disposed proximate the anchors of the thrombus filter.

20

15. The system of claim 9, wherein the thrombus filter has a plurality of hooks, and the capsule is disposed proximate the hooks of the thrombus filter.

16. The system of claim 9, wherein the thrombus filter has a plurality of sharp projections, and the capsule is disposed proximate the sharp projections of the thrombus filter.

17. The system of claim 9, wherein the thrombus filter and the capsule are disposed
5 within the lumen of the shaft.

18. A thrombus filter delivery system comprising:
an elongate shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending
therethrough;
10 a hub disposed about the shaft proximate the proximal end thereof;
a pull wire having a proximal end, a distal end, and middle portion;
the proximal end of the pull wire being fixed to the hub and the middle portion of the
pull wire being disposed within the lumen of the shaft;

the distal end of the pull wire being fixed to a capsule disposed about a portion of a
15 thrombus filter;

an elongate rod slidably disposed within the lumen of the shaft;
a handle disposed at a proximal end of the elongate rod and a distal end of the elongate
rod being adapted to engage the thrombus filter;

a locking member having a first end and a second end;
20 a hinge connecting the first end of the locking member to the handle; and
the second end of the locking member being adapted to engage the hub.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the lumen of the shaft has a shaft lumen diameter, and the capsule has an outer diameter which is less than the shaft lumen diameter.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein the thrombus filter has a plurality of anchors,
5 and the capsule is disposed proximate the anchors of the thrombus filter.

21. The system of claim 18, wherein the thrombus filter has a plurality of hooks,
and the capsule is disposed proximate the hooks of the thrombus filter.

10 22. The system of claim 18, wherein the thrombus filter has a plurality of sharp
projections, and the capsule is disposed proximate the sharp projections of the thrombus filter.

23. The system of claim 18, wherein the thrombus filter and the capsule are
disposed within the lumen of the shaft.

15

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Fig. 1A

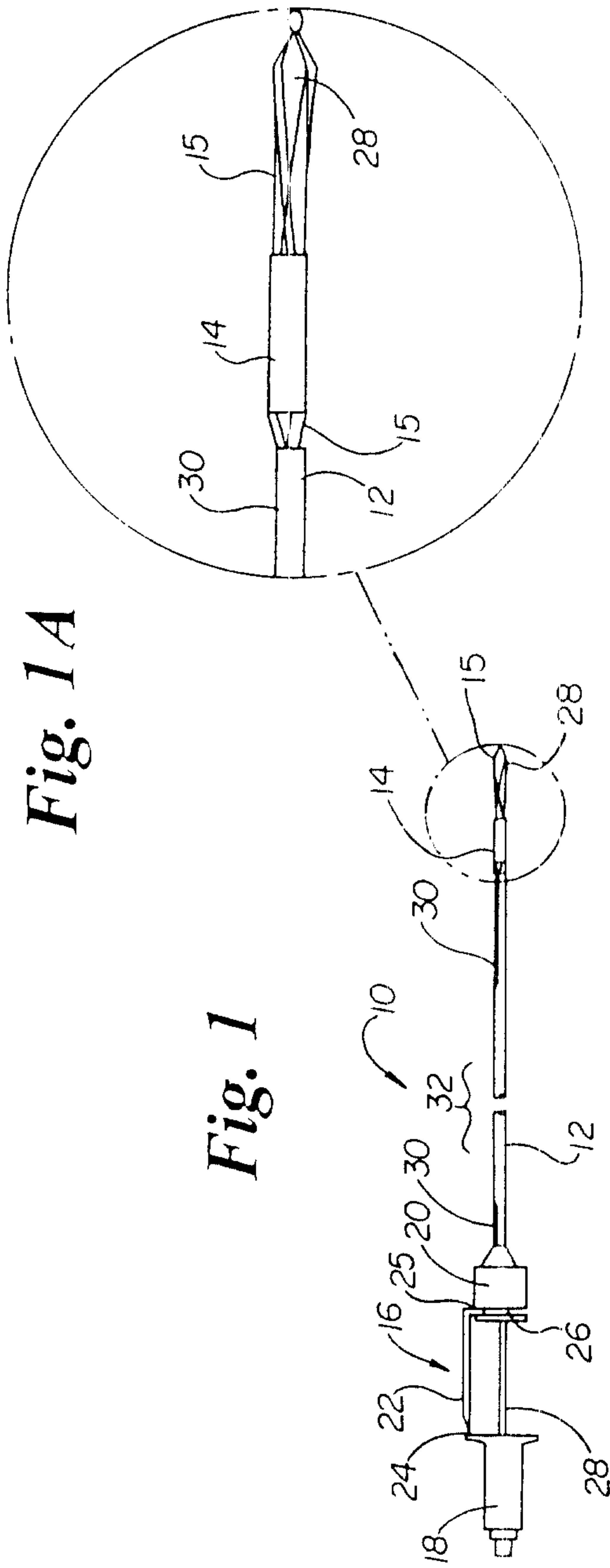


Fig. 2

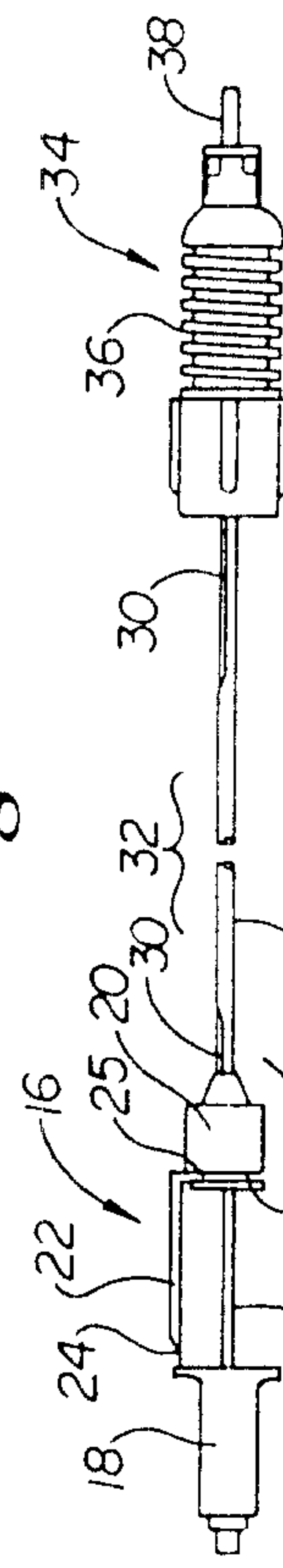
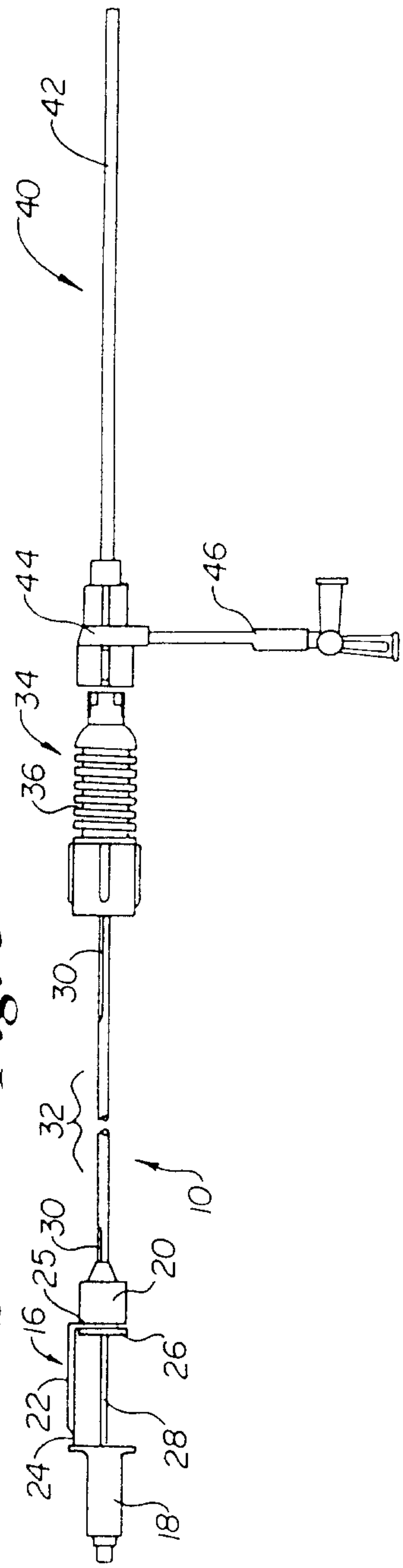
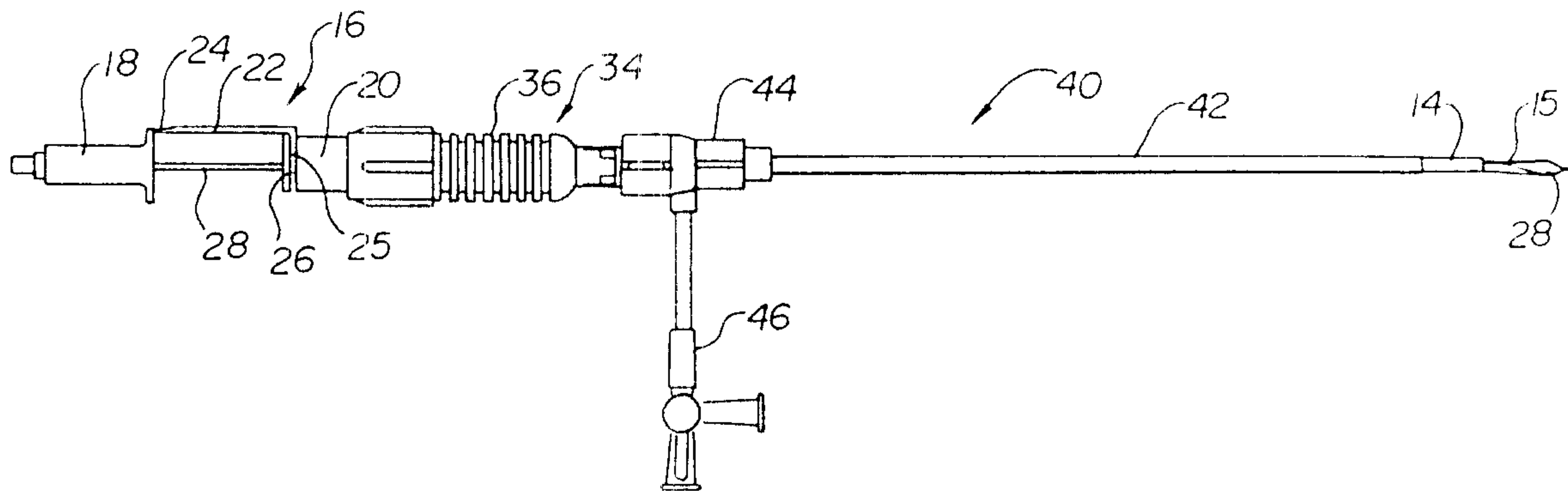


Fig. 3



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Fig. 4**Fig. 5**