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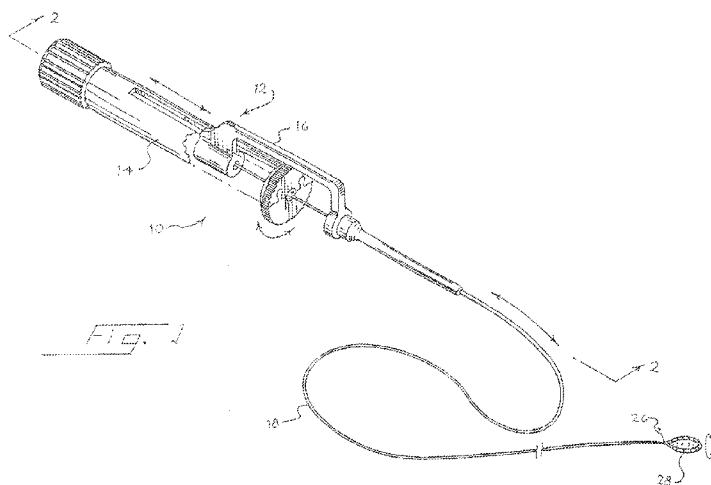
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(54) Title: ENDOSCOPIC STONE-EXTRACTION DEVICE



(57) Abstract: An endoscopic stone-extraction device is provided comprising a support filament (910) comprising an end portion, a sheath (930) comprising a lumen (940), wherein the support filament (910) is disposed in the lumen (940) such that the sheath (930) is slideable with respect to the support filament (910), and a handle comprising an actuator (1700). Movement of the actuator (1700) in a first direction retracts the sheath (930) and causes a shape to expand outside the lumen (940). Movement of the actuator (1700) in a second direction advances the sheath (930) and causes the shape to at least partially collapse inside the lumen (940). Other embodiments are provided, and any of these embodiments can be used alone or in combination.

Endoscopic Stone-Extraction Device

Cross-Reference to Related Application

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Patent Application No. 62/011,367, filed June 12, 2014, which is hereby incorporated by reference herein.

Background

[0002] Basket-type devices have been used for extracting stones such as ureteral stones, calaceal stones and other calculus and the like from the renal or biliary systems. Various types of stone extraction baskets have been used in the past to extract stones and stone fragments (or other debris) from various biological systems. A typical stone extraction basket includes a wire basket carried by one end of a wire that is received within the lumen of a sheath. The end of the wire opposite the basket is secured to a handle that is used to slide the sheath over the wire, thereby moving the basket into and out of the lumen of the sheath. When the basket is out of the sheath, it expands to receive a stone. The sheath is then moved toward the basket to reduce the size of the basket openings, and the basket and the enclosed stone are removed from the body. Ultrasonic, laser, and electro-hydraulic techniques have been used to fragment stones *in situ*. Typically, the stone fragments are left in the body to be excreted or can attempted to be removed with a stone extraction basket or the like.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0003] Figure 1 is a perspective view of an endoscopic stone extraction device of an embodiment.

[0004] Figure 2 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 2-2 of Figure 1.

[0005] Figures 3, 4 and 5 are detailed views of a thumb wheel included in the embodiment of Figures 1 and 2.

[0006] Figure 6 is an exploded perspective view of a portion of the handle and the end portion of the wire of the embodiment of Figures 1 and 2.

[0007] Figure 6a is an exploded perspective view of the elements 73, 74 of Figure 6 from another viewing angle.

[0008] Figure 7 is a cross-sectional view corresponding to that of Figure 2 of another embodiment.

[0009] Figure 8 is a fragmentary side view of selected elements of the embodiment of Figure 7.

- [0010] Figures 9-12 are illustrations of an endoscopic stone-extraction device of an embodiment having a tapered corkscrew shape.
- [0011] Figures 13-16 are illustrations of an endoscopic stone-extraction device of an embodiment having a non-tapered corkscrew shape.
- [0012] Figures 17-20 are illustrations of an endoscopic stone-extraction device of an embodiment having an arced corkscrew shape.
- [0013] Figures 21-24 are illustrations of an endoscopic stone-extraction device of an embodiment having a rake shape.
- [0014] Figures 25-26 are illustrations of an alternate rake shape of an embodiment.
- [0015] Figures 27A-30 are illustrations of an endoscopic stone-extraction device of an embodiment having an open basket, circular shape.
- [0016] Figures 31-32 are illustrations of an endoscopic stone-extraction device of an embodiment having a meshed basket, circular shape.
- [0017] Figures 33-36 are illustrations of an endoscopic stone-extraction device of an embodiment having an open and closed basket, rectangular shapes.
- [0018] Figures 37-40 are illustrations of an endoscopic stone-extraction device of an embodiment having an open and closed basket, triangular shapes.
- [0019] Figures 41-44 are illustrations of an endoscopic stone-extraction device of an embodiment having a two-dimensional meshed shape.
- [0020] Figure 45 is a handle of an endoscopic stone-extraction device of an embodiment.
- [0021] Figure 46 is a handle of an endoscopic stone-extraction device of an embodiment, wherein the handle has a laser fiber entry port.
- [0022] Figure 47A is an illustration of a cross-section of a sheath of an embodiment where a laser fiber is internal to a stone-extraction filament.
- [0023] Figure 47B is an illustration of a cross-section of a sheath of an embodiment where a laser fiber is external to a stone-extraction filament.
- [0024] Figure 48 is an illustration of a two-port endoscope that can be used with an endoscopic stone-extraction device of an embodiment.
- [0025] Figure 49 is an illustration of a Y-adaptor that can be used with the two-port endoscope of Figure 48.

Detailed Description of the Presently Preferred Embodiments

[0026] Introduction

[0027] In a stone-removal procedure, an endoscope (e.g., a ureteroscope) is inserted into the body, with the distal end of the scope near the stone to be extracted. As shown in Figure 48, an endoscope 200 typically has two ports 210, 220. One of the ports 210 is typically used as an irrigation port (for saline to be introduced into the extraction site), and the second port 220 is used for various instruments. In some situations, the second port 220 is initially used for the sheath that holds a stone extraction basket (however, other situations are possible, as will be discussed below).

[0028] The procedure begins with inserting the endoscope into the body (e.g., inserting the ureteroscope into the ureter) and identifying and locating the stone. Once the stone is identified, a decision is made whether the stone can be extracted out intact or whether the stone needs to be fragmented because it is too large to be extracted out. There are several technologies that are available for fragmentation, and a popular and effective technology is a laser. One of the problems faced during fragmentation is retropulsion, whereby the stone migrates up the ureter towards the kidney. Retropulsion makes the procedure more difficult and is associated with more complications.

[0029] To prevent migration of the stone, a mechanical device can be used as a backstop to the stone. When a mechanical backstop/trapping device is used, the scope is inserted, the stone is identified, and the mechanical backstop device is inserted through one of the ports of the scope (the other port is used as an irrigation channel). The mechanical backstop device is then placed beyond the stone and deployed. Since a two-port scope does not have any other access point for the laser fiber, the mechanical backstop is left in the body, while the ureteroscope is removed from the body and then reinserted. The stone is identified again, and the laser fiber is then inserted into the open port to fragment the stone. The fragmented stone can be left inside the ureter to be passed out or can be dragged into the bladder and then extracted out either by irrigation or by using a stone basket (the mechanical backstop device usually is not very effective in removing stone fragments, which is why the separate stone basket is used).

[0030] Instead of using a mechanical backstop device, a gel can be inserted into the body just beyond the stone, and the patient's body temperature heats the gel to form a

jelly that acts as a backstop to the stone. After the stone fragments have been removed, the physician introduces cold saline into the patient, which dissolves the jelly so it can drain out of the ureter. As another alternative to using a mechanical backstop device, a standard stone basket can be used to engage the stone. Once the stone is engaged, the basket filament and sheath are cut at the handle and left inside the body. The ureteroscope is then removed, and the procedure is carried out as mentioned above. However, some stone baskets, such as a four-wire basket, may not serve as an effective backstop since stone fragments can escape from the sides of the basket.

[0031] There are several difficulties associated with the current procedure. First, it is a multistep process, requirement the scope to be removed and re-inserted into the patient multiple times. Second, when a mechanical backstop device is used, it may not stay in place when the scope is removed and reinserted into the body (e.g., the backstop device can move up or down the ureter and sometimes into the kidney or come out in front of the stone instead of staying behind the stone). Third, stone fragments can escape around the backstop device (or a stone basket when a separate backstop device is not used) because these devices do not completely occlude the lumen.

[0032] The following endoscopic stone-extraction devices can function both as a trapping/backstop device and a stone extraction device, which eliminates at least one of the steps in the multi-step process described above. In addition to being more effective and useful, these devices can be easier to manufacture than traditional stone baskets.

[0033] Exemplary Endoscopic Stone-Extraction Devices

[0034] Figures 9-44 illustrate endoscopic stone-extraction devices of several embodiments. Turning first to Figure 9, the endoscopic stone-extraction device 900 in this embodiment has a support filament 910 comprising an end portion and a sheath 930 comprising a lumen 940, wherein the support filament 910 is disposed in the lumen 940 such that the sheath 930 is slideable with respect to the support filament 910. A handle 1700 (see Figure 45) comprises an actuator 1710. (Any type of handle with an actuator can be used, and other example of handles are provided below. Details of any particular handle design (discussed herein or otherwise) should not be read into the claims unless explicitly recited therein). Movement of the actuator 1710 in a first direction retracts the sheath 930 and causes the end portion to expand outside

the lumen in a corkscrew shape 950. Movement of the actuator in a second direction advances the sheath 930 and causes the corkscrew shape 950 to at least partially collapse inside the lumen 940. Figure 10-12 show how the endoscopic stone-extraction device can be deployed to hold a stone in place before destruction and collect the stone fragments after destruction.

[0035] In this embodiment, the corkscrew shape 950 is a conical-corkscrew shape that tapers from a larger portion closer to the lumen 940 to a smaller portion farther away from the lumen 940. However, other configurations are possible. For example, Figures 13-16 shows a non-tapered corkscrew shape 1000, and Figures 17-20 show a corkscrew shape 1010 that is arced in a direction generally perpendicular to an axis of the lumen 940, wherein the corkscrew shape 1010 is connected to the support filament via a plurality of secondary filaments 1020, 1030.

[0036] In another embodiment (shown in Figure 21-24), movement of the actuator in a first direction retracts the sheath and causes the end portion to expand outside the lumen in a rake shape 1050, wherein the rake shape 1050 is connected to the support filament via a plurality of secondary filaments 1060, 1070. The rake shape comprises can have pointed prongs 1080 (as in Figure 21) or rounded prongs 1090 (as in Figures 25 and 26).

[0037] In yet another embodiment (shown in Figures 31 and 32), movement of the actuator in a first direction retracts the sheath and causes the end portion to expand outside the lumen in a basket shape 2000 that tapers from a larger portion 2010 closer to the lumen to a smaller portion 2020 farther away from the lumen, wherein the larger portion 2010 is an opening of the basket shape 2000, and the smaller portion 2020 is meshed. The basket shape 2000 is connected to the support filament via a plurality of secondary filaments 2030, 2040, and the larger and smaller portions 2010, 2020 are joined together by an additional plurality of filaments 2050, 2060. The sides of the basket shape can be meshed (as in Figures 31 and 32) or open (as in Figures 27A-30). Also, the smaller and larger portions can take any suitable shape, such as circular (as in Figures 27A-32), rectangular/square (as in Figures 33-36), or triangular (as in Figures 37-40). Of course, other shapes can be used.

[0038] In yet another embodiment, movement of the actuator in a first direction retracts the sheath and causes the end portion to expand outside the lumen in a two-dimensional mesh shape 2500 (see Figures 41-44) that is generally perpendicular to an axis of the lumen, wherein the two-dimensional mesh shape 2500 is connected to

the support filament via a plurality of secondary filaments 2510, 2520. The two-dimensional mesh shape can take any suitable shape, such as a square (as in Figure 41) or other shapes.

[0039] Regarding construction, the shapes can be formed from a plurality of individual filaments, all of which are joined (e.g., welded, soldered, swaged or otherwise held in place) to the support filament, or the shapes can be formed from a single filament. That single filament can be the support filament or can be a filament that is separate from but joined to the support filament. Further, shapes can be made from a shape memory metal, such as nitinol, although other materials can be used. In one embodiment, the shape can be made from preferably small, flexible, kink-resistant wires that are capable of collapsing together to fit within the lumen. Also, the shapes can be sized in any suitable fashion. For example, in one embodiment, the opening of the shape can be sized to admit a stone that is at least two millimeters in diameter (or less) or as large as 5 mm (or more) in diameter. Of course, other sizes and ranges can be used.

[0040] **Exemplary Handles**

[0041] As noted above, any type of handle can be used with the stone-extraction devices of these embodiments. For example, the handle 1700 can simply be a device with an actuator 1710 to deploy the plurality of loops (as in Figure 45). In another embodiment (see Figure 46), the handle 1800 not only has an actuator 1810, but also has a port 1820 for a laser fiber 1830. (The omniFORCE™ Laser Stone Cage by Omnitech Systems is an example of such a handle.) As shown in Figures 47A and 47B, the laser fiber 1830 can either be internal to (Figure 47A) or external to (Figure 47B) the filament 1900, 1910 within the sheath 1840. The advantage of using this type of handle 1800 is that a two-port scope does not need to be removed and reinserted into the body in order to provide a free port for the laser fiber, as the laser fiber is already provided in the sheath 1840. Another way of obtaining this advantage of not removing the scope is by using a Y-adaptor 2100 (see Figure 49) that would fit on one of the ports 220 of the scope 200, allowing both the stone-extraction sheath and the laser fiber to use the same port 220 on the scope 200. (The Y-adaptor used with the Escape® Basket from Boston Scientific is an exemplary adaptor.) In this alternative, it is preferred that the sheath and the laser fiber be sized so that they can both fit together inside the port 220.

[0042] As mentioned above, other handle designs can be used. The following paragraphs and drawings describe yet another handle design. Again, this and the other handle designs described herein are merely examples and should not be read into the claims.

[0043] Returning to the drawings, Figure 1 shows an endoscopic stone extraction device 10 of an embodiment. The device 10 includes a handle 12 that in turn includes a grip 14 and a slide 16. As explained in greater detail below, the slide 16 is mounted to slide longitudinally along the length of the grip 14.

[0044] A tubular sheath 18 is secured to the slide 16. The sheath 18 defines a lumen 19, and the sheath 18 can be formed of any suitable flexible material. A strain relief collar 20 is provided at the point where the sheath 18 is secured to the slide 16 to reduce the incidence of kinking.

[0045] The device also includes a filament 22 having a first end 24 (Figure 2) and a second end 26 (Figure 1). The first end 24 is rotatably secured to the grip 14 (Figure 2), and the second end 26 supports a stone extraction basket (this basket is of a different shape than the stone-extraction device discussed above, as this handle can be used with a variety of baskets). The filament 22 can be formed of any suitable material, and is typically formed of a flexible metallic wire. Preferably, the first end 24 is thicker and stiffer than the second end 26 to facilitate insertion and manipulation of the basket 28.

[0046] The following sections will first describe the handle 12 in greater detail.

[0047] As best shown in Figure 2, the handle 12 includes a tube 30 that defines a longitudinally extending slot 32. The tube 30 forms a bore 34 and terminates at one end in external threads 36. Protruding elements 38 extend away from the perimeter of the tube 30 to facilitate the grasping of the tube 30 by a physician during use. For purposes of discussion, the portion of the tube 30 adjacent the external threads 36 will be referred to as the rear portion 42, and the opposite end of the tube 30 will be referred to as the front portion 40. The tube 30 may for example be formed of any suitable, moldable thermoplastic material, though the widest variety of materials can be adapted for use.

[0048] Continuing with Figure 2, the slide 16 includes a guide cylinder 50 sized to slide along the bore 34 of the tube 30. This guide cylinder 50 defines a central opening 52 sized to pass the filament 22 with little or no friction therebetween. The slide 16 also includes an arm 54 that extends from the guide cylinder 50 through the

slot 32 to a plate 56. The arm 54 holds the plate 56 in alignment with the centerline of the tube 30. The slide 16 includes a gripping portion 58 that can be pushed or pulled by a physician during use to move the slide 16 along the longitudinal axis of the tube 30. As before, a wide range of materials can be used for the slide 16, including any suitable thermoplastic material.

[0049] As shown in Figures 1-5, a disk 60 is provided. This disk 60 is positioned adjacent the front portion 40 of the tube 30. The disk 60 is clamped onto the filament 22, and the disk 60 is rotatable with respect to both the tube 30 and the slide 16. As shown in Figures 3-5, the disk 60 includes half-disks 66, 68 that snap together in a releasable manner. The half-disks 66, 68 carry respective elastomeric gripping portions 69 designed to grip the filament 22 therebetween when the half-disks 66, 67 are snapped together.

[0050] As best shown in Figures 1, 2, 6 and 6a, the handle 12 carries a threaded cap 70 that defines a set of internal threads sized to mate with the external threads 36. The cap 70 includes a socket 71 that bears on a chuck 72. When the cap 70 is tightened in place, the chuck 72 is held between the socket 71 and an internal socket 31 formed by the tube 30. The chuck 72 is free to rotate but not to translate with respect to the tube 30.

[0051] The chuck 72 includes two parts 73, each having a central groove 77 sized to clamp against the filament 22. The groove 77 may be lined with an elastomeric layer to ensure good frictional contact between the chuck 72 and the filament 22. Each part 73 defines external threads, and the parts 73 are clamped against the filament by a cap nut 74 such that the chuck 72 rotates and translates in unison with the filament 22. The chuck 72 forms a convex surface 75 that engages the socket 31, and a convex surface 76 that engages the socket 71. The surfaces 75, 76 are shaped to allow low-friction rotation of the chuck 72 and the filament 22 relative to the tube 30. Thus, the chuck 72 and associated elements carried by the tube 30 form a rotational joint. Other types of rotational joints may be used, including ball-and-socket joints. For example, a ball-and-socket joint may be included in the filament 22 near the first end 24, and the first end 24 may be fixed to the tube 30. Also, the filament may have an enlarged end that forms part of the rotational joint, and the enlarged end may be sized to fit through the lumen of the sheath 18. Alternatively, the enlarged end may be too large to fit through the lumen of the sheath, and may be removable from the body of the filament 22, e.g. by disassembling the enlarged end from the filament 22.

[0052] In use, the device 10 is assembled as shown in Figures 1 and 2. Initially, the slide 16 is advanced (i.e. moved to the right in the view of Figure 2) to move the sheath 18 over the basket 28. This reduces the cross-sectional dimensions of the basket 28 and facilitates insertion of the basket 28 into a region of the body adjacent to the stone to be removed. The slide 16 is then moved to the left in the view of Figure 2 to expose the basket 28, which resiliently assumes an enlarged operational shape.

[0053] It should be apparent from the foregoing discussion that rotation of the disk 60 and the filament 22 occurs without rotation of the sheath 18, the slide 16 or the handle 12. This arrangement facilitates rotation of the filament 22 and the basket 28 inside the lumen of the body cavity in which it is inserted, since friction between the sheath 18 and the endoscopic device and between the sheath 18 and adjacent tissue do not impede rotation of the filament 22 and the basket 28. Rotation of the filament 22 is guided by the rotational joint that includes the chuck 72. Once a stone has been captured within the basket, the slide 16 is then moved to the right in the view of Figure 2 to move the sheath over at least a portion of the basket, thereby securely capturing the stone in the basket for removal.

[0054] On occasion, it may be necessary to remove the handle 12, the slide 16 and the sheath 18 while leaving the filament 22 and the basket 28 in place. This can readily be accomplished by unscrewing the cap 70 from the handle 12, removing the cap nut 74 from the parts 73, and then removing the parts 73, handle 12, slide 16 and sheath 18 from the filament 22.

[0055] The disk 60 is an example of a manipulator used to rotate the filament 22 relative to the handle 12. This manipulator can take other forms, including the form shown in Figures 7 and 8. The embodiment of Figures 7 and 8 is similar to that of Figures 1 and 2, except that the disk 60 has been replaced by a lever 80. This lever 80 defines a free end 82 and hinged end 84, and the free end 82 is positioned closer to the first end 24 of the filament 22 than is the hinged end 84. During normal use, the lever 80 is positioned as shown in Figure 7 in an extended position. In this position the user can apply torques to the lever 80 and therefore to the filament 22 to rotate the filament 22 as described above. The hinged end 84 is connected to the filament 22 at a hinged joint (e.g. a living hinge or a multiple-part hinge) and the lever 80 can be moved to the retracted position shown in dotted lines in Figure 8. In this retracted position, the

lever 80 can be moved through the lumen of the sheath 18, thereby allowing the handle, slide and sheath to be removed from the filament 22 as described above.

[0056] Conclusion

[0057] It should be apparent from the foregoing detailed description that improved endoscopic stone extraction devices have been described that are well suited to the collection of a wide variety of stones, including stone fragments. The baskets described above are well suited for the removal of many types of debris, including for example, stones, stone fragments, and cholesterol plaque fragments. The devices described above can be used with the widest variety of endoscopes, including ureteroscopes, nephroscopes and other endoscopic devices, and they can be used within the lumens of many body tissues, including for example, ureters, bile ducts, and blood vessels.

[0058] As used herein, the term “stone” is intended broadly to encompass a wide variety of biological stones, calculus and the like, including fragments of stones, calculus and the like formed by any of the techniques described above or other techniques developed in the future. Urinary tract stones and biliary tract stones are two examples.

[0059] The term “end portion” is intended broadly to encompass the end of structure such as a filament along with an adjacent portion of the structure.

[0060] The term “surface” is intended broadly to encompass perforated surfaces.

[0061] The term “filament” is intended broadly to encompass wires and other elongated structures formed of any of a wide range of materials, including metals, plastics, and other polymers.

[0062] Also, any of the embodiments in the following documents, which are hereby incorporated by reference, can be used in combination with the embodiments discussed herein: U.S. Patent Nos. 6,743,237; 7,087,062; 6,419,679; 6,494,885; 6,551,327; and U.S. patent application no. 13/963,780.

[0063] The foregoing detailed description has discussed only a few of the many forms that this invention can take. For this reason, this detailed description is intended by way of illustration and not limitation. It only the following claims, including all equivalents, that are intended to define the scope of this invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An endoscopic stone-extraction device comprising:
 - a support filament comprising an end portion;
 - a sheath comprising a lumen, wherein the support filament is disposed in the lumen such that the sheath is slideable with respect to the support filament; and
 - a handle comprising an actuator;wherein movement of the actuator in a first direction retracts the sheath and causes the end portion to expand outside the lumen in a corkscrew shape; and
 - wherein movement of the actuator in a second direction advances the sheath and causes the corkscrew shape to at least partially collapse inside the lumen.

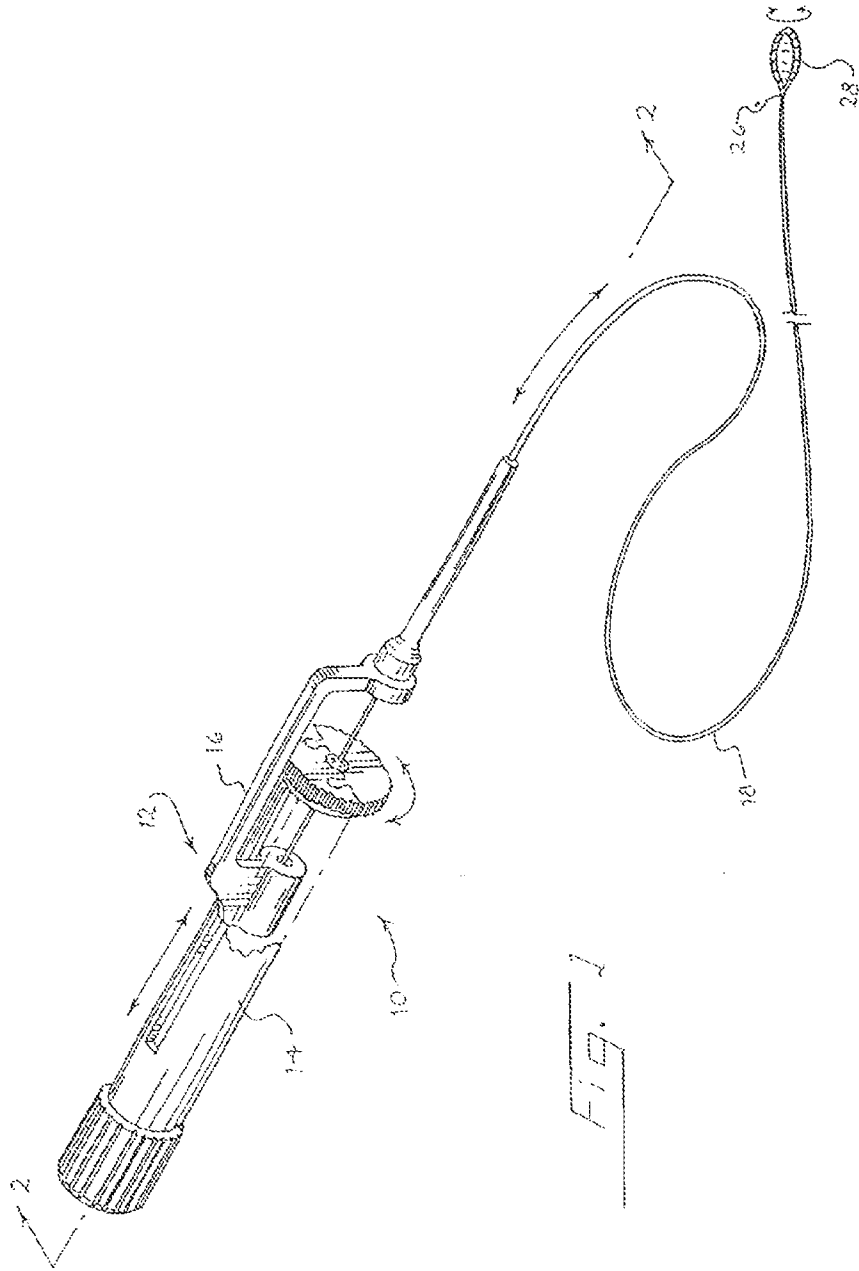
2. The endoscopic stone-extraction device of Claim 1, wherein the corkscrew shape is a conical-corkscrew shape that tapers from a larger portion closer to the sheath to a smaller portion farther away from the sheath.

3. The endoscopic stone-extraction device, wherein the corkscrew shape is arced in a direction generally perpendicular to an axis of the lumen, and wherein the corkscrew shape is connected to the support filament via a plurality of secondary filaments.

4. An endoscopic stone-extraction device comprising:
 - a support filament comprising an end portion;
 - a sheath comprising a lumen, wherein the support filament is disposed in the lumen such that the sheath is slideable with respect to the support filament; and
 - a handle comprising an actuator;wherein movement of the actuator in a first direction retracts the sheath and causes the end portion to expand outside the lumen in a rake shape, wherein the rake shape is connected to the support filament via a plurality of secondary filaments; and
 - wherein movement of the actuator in a second direction advances the sheath and causes the rake shape to at least partially collapse inside the lumen.

5. The endoscopic stone-extraction device of Claim 4, wherein the rake shape comprises pointed prongs.
6. The endoscopic stone-extraction device of Claim 4, wherein the rake shape comprises rounded prongs.
7. An endoscopic stone-extraction device comprising:
 - a support filament comprising an end portion;
 - a sheath comprising a lumen, wherein the support filament is disposed in the lumen such that the sheath is slideable with respect to the support filament; and
 - a handle comprising an actuator;wherein movement of the actuator in a first direction retracts the sheath and causes the end portion to expand outside the lumen in a basket shape that tapers from a larger portion closer to the sheath to a smaller portion farther away from the sheath, wherein the large portion is an opening of the basket shape, wherein the smaller portion is meshed, and wherein the basket shape is connected to the support filament via a plurality of secondary filaments; and
 - wherein movement of the actuator in a second direction advances the sheath and causes the basket shape to at least partially collapse inside the lumen.
8. The endoscopic stone-extraction device of Claim 7, wherein the larger and smaller portions are circular shapes.
9. The endoscopic stone-extraction device of Claim 7, wherein the larger and smaller portions are rectangular shapes.
10. The endoscopic stone-extraction device of Claim 7, wherein the larger and smaller portions are triangular shapes.

11. The endoscopic stone-extraction device of Claim 7, wherein the larger and smaller portions are joined together by an additional plurality of filaments.
12. The endoscopic stone-extraction device of Claim 7, wherein sides of the basket shape are meshed.
13. The endoscopic stone-extraction device of Claim 7, wherein sides of the basket shape are open.
14. An endoscopic stone-extraction device comprising:
 - a support filament comprising an end portion;
 - a sheath comprising a lumen, wherein the support filament is disposed in the lumen such that the sheath is slideable with respect to the support filament; and
 - a handle comprising an actuator;wherein movement of the actuator in a first direction retracts the sheath and causes the end portion to expand outside the lumen in a two-dimensional mesh shape that is generally perpendicular to an axis of the lumen, wherein the two-dimensional mesh shape is connected to the support filament via a plurality of secondary filaments; and
 - wherein movement of the actuator in a second direction advances the sheath and causes the two-dimensional mesh shape to at least partially collapse inside the lumen.
15. The endoscopic stone-extraction device of Claim 7, wherein sides of the two-dimensional mesh shape is a square.



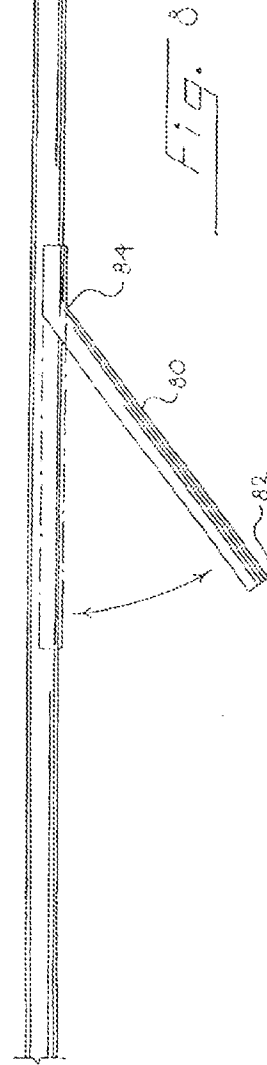
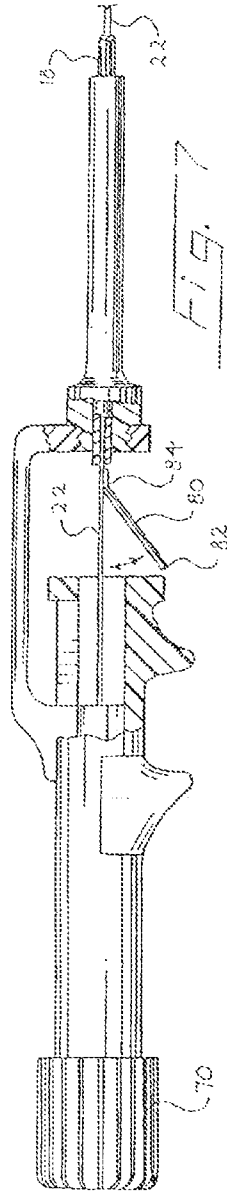
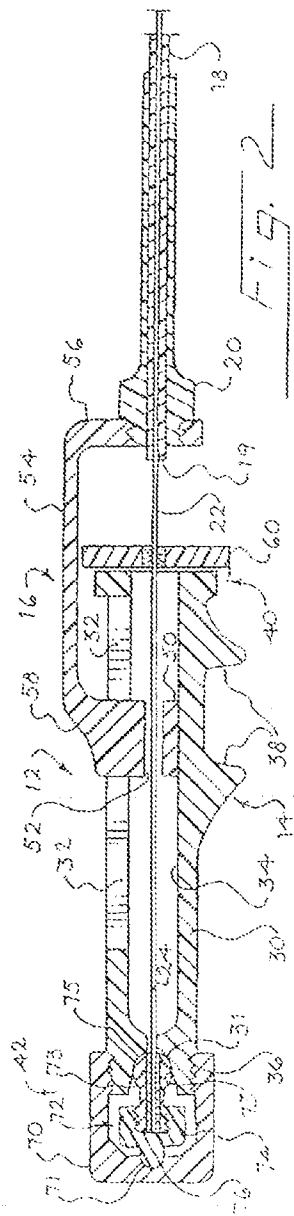


Fig. 3

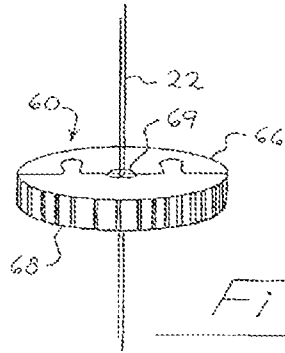
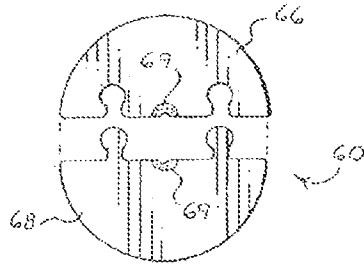
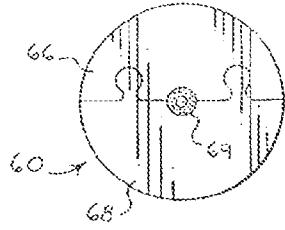


Fig. 5

Fig. 4

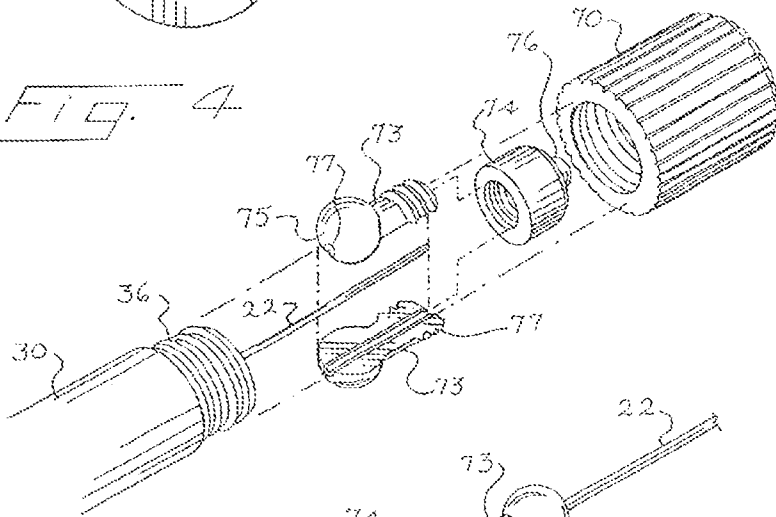


Fig. 6

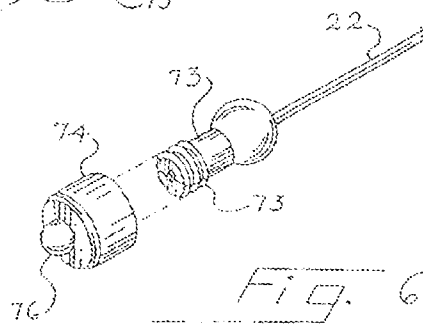


Fig. 6a

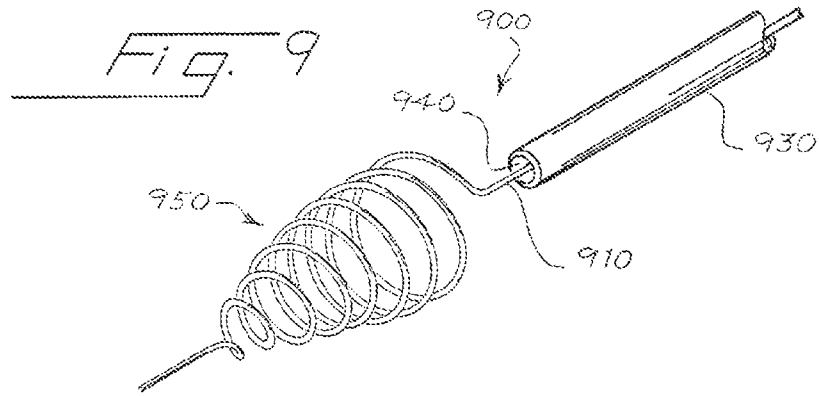


Fig. 10

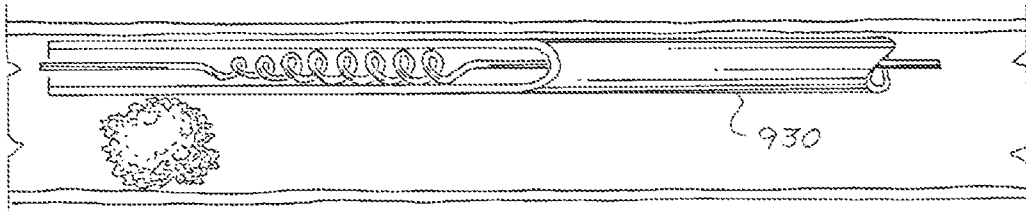


Fig. 11

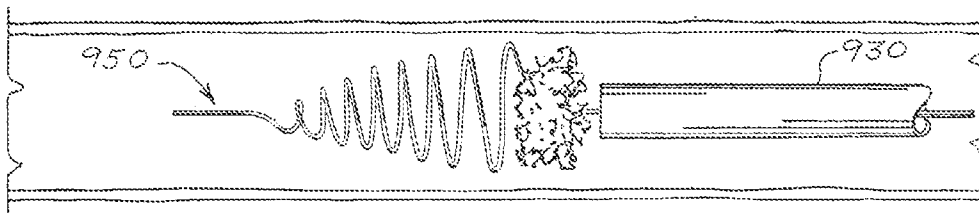
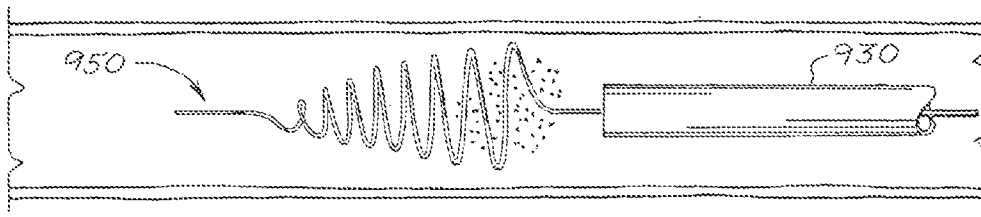
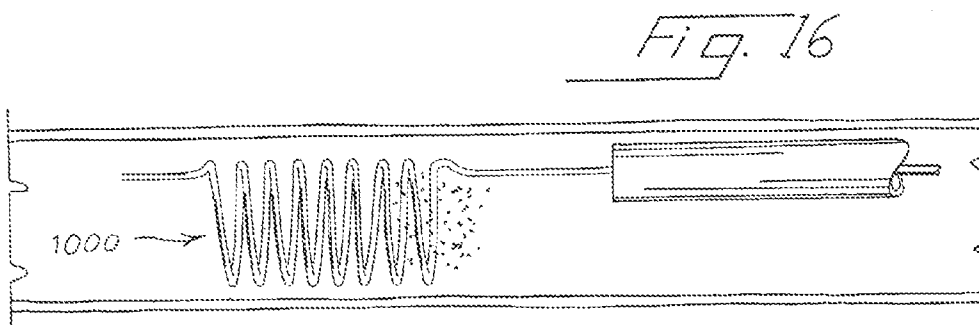
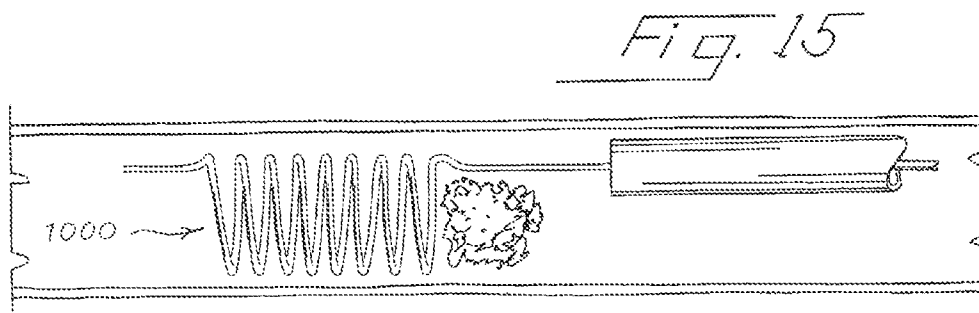
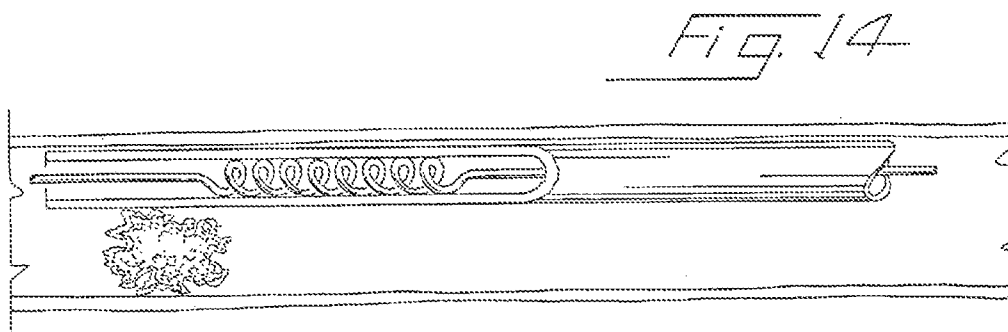
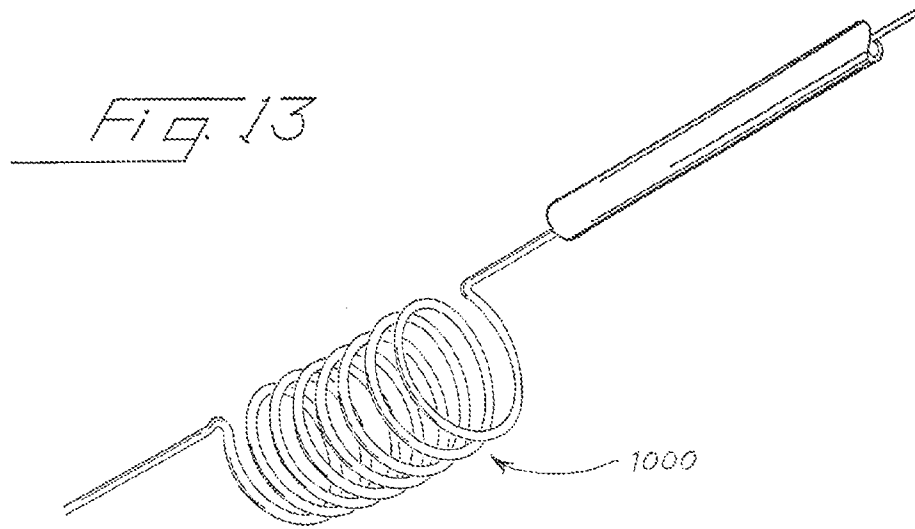


Fig. 12





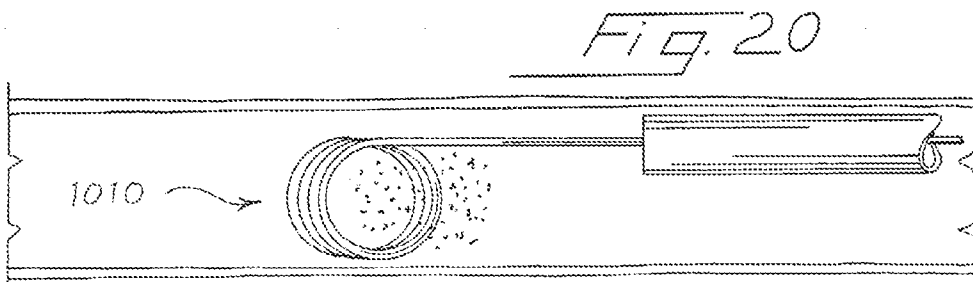
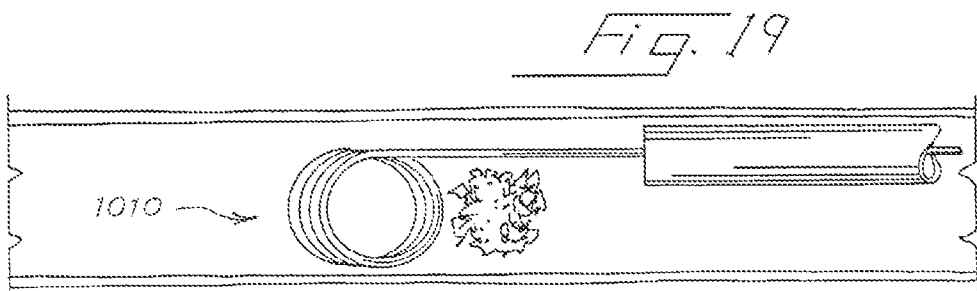
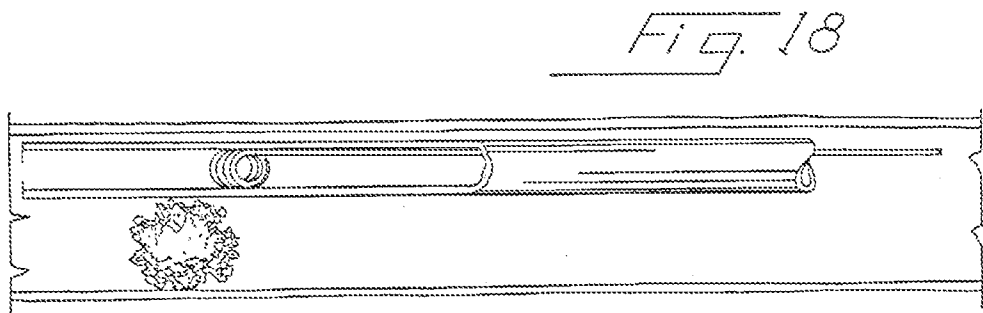
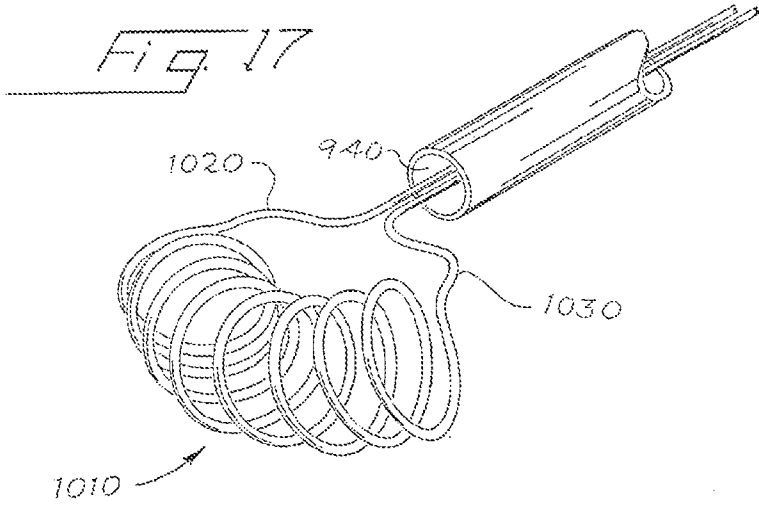


Fig. 21

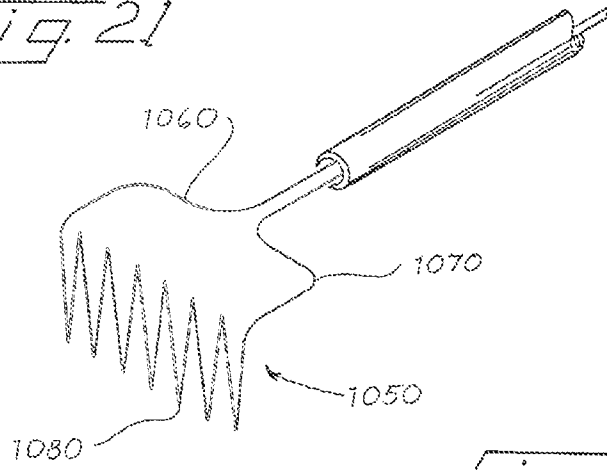


Fig. 22

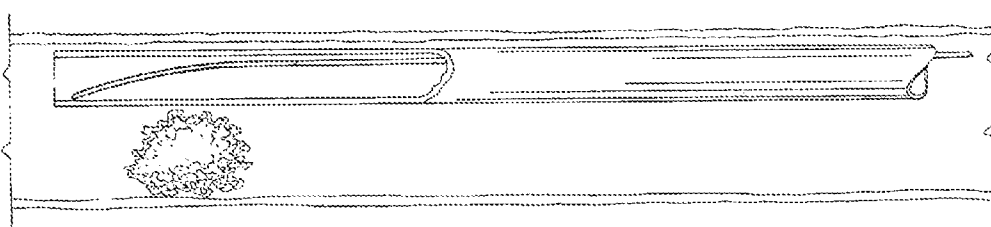


Fig. 23

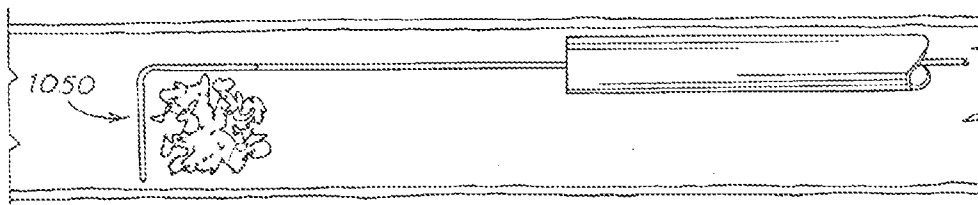


Fig. 24

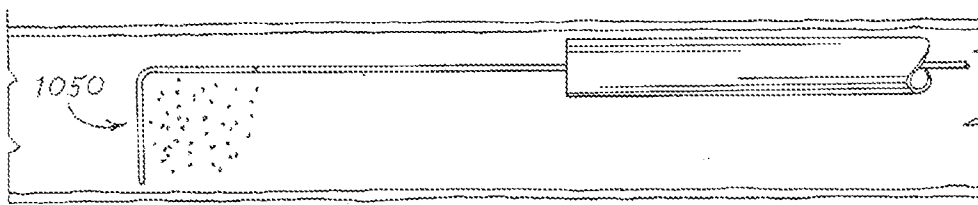


Fig. 25

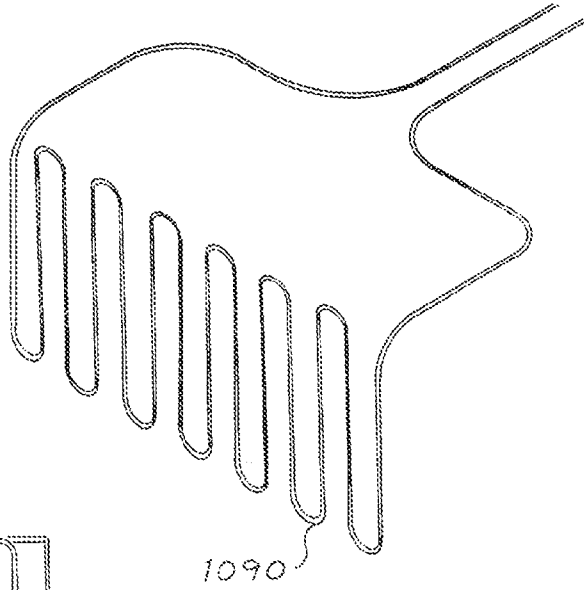


Fig. 26

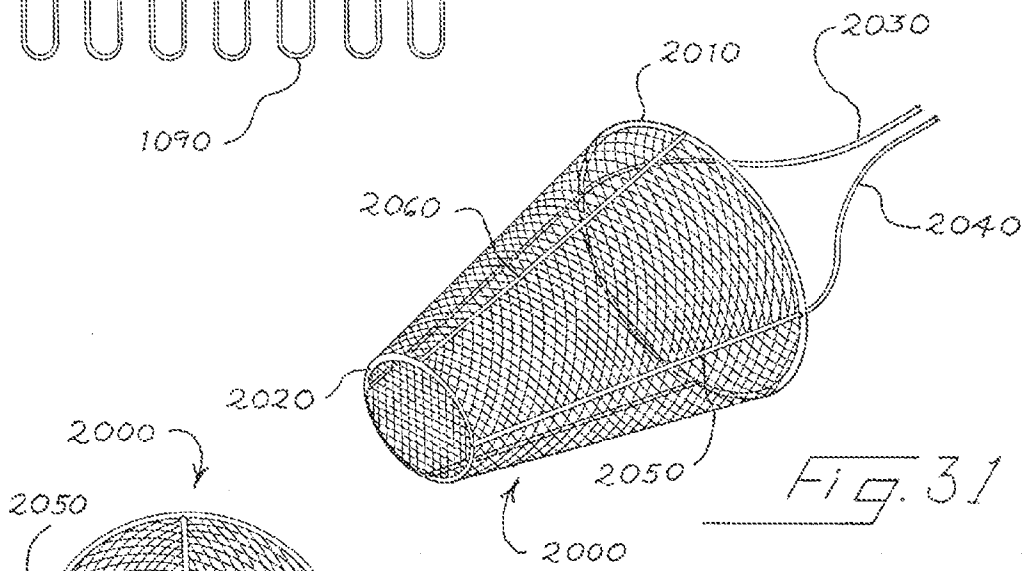
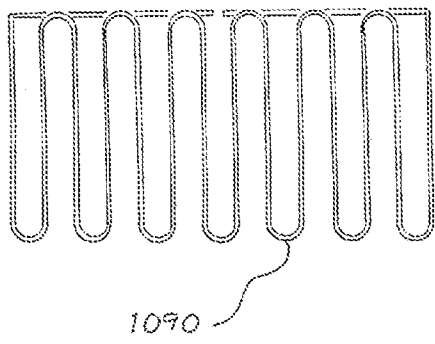


Fig. 31

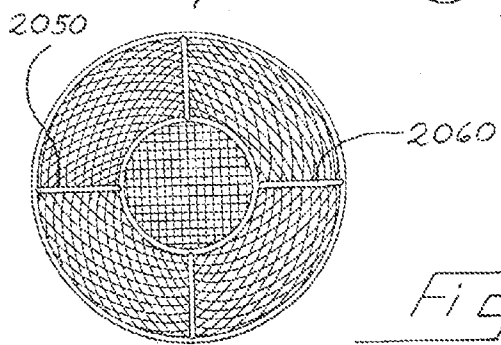
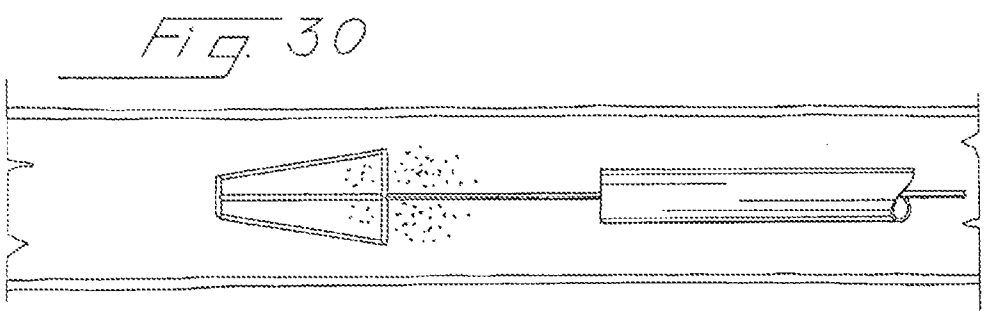
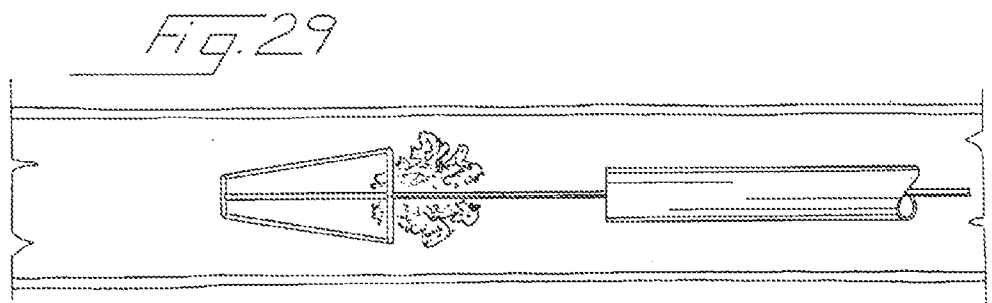
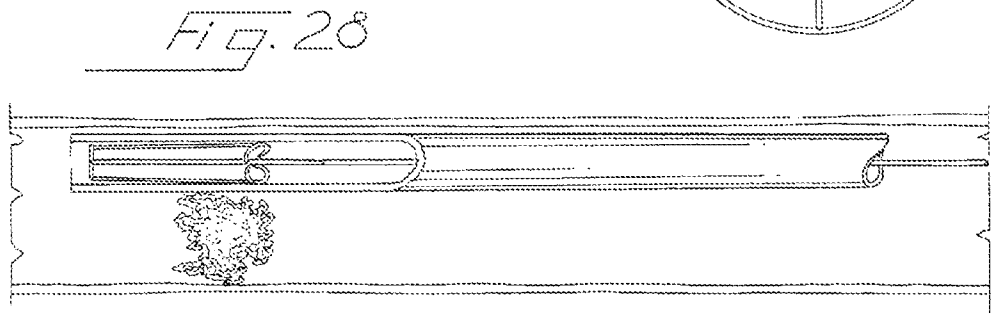
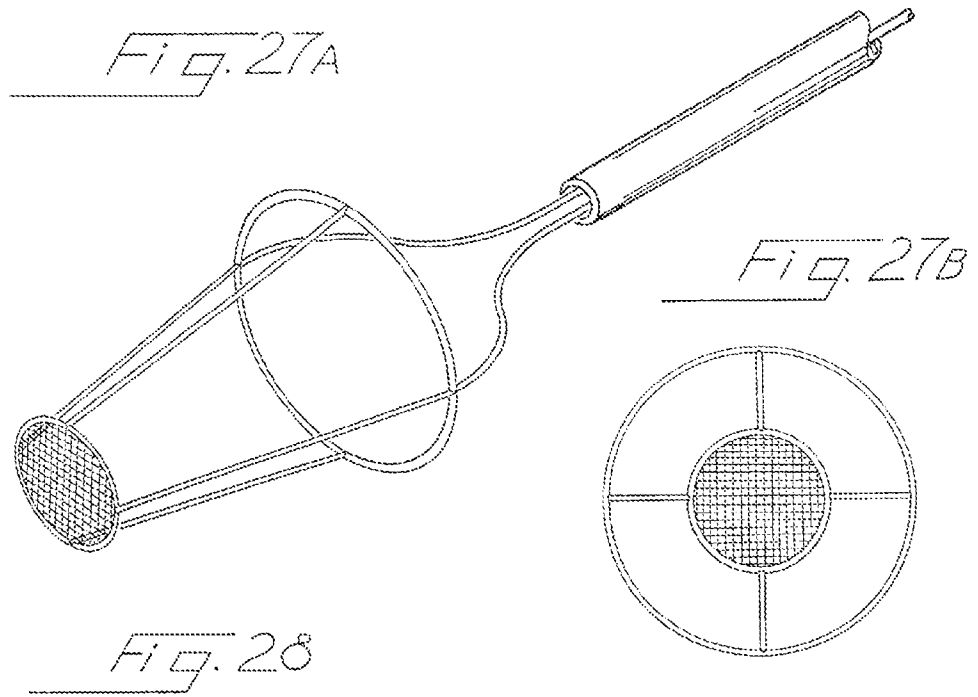
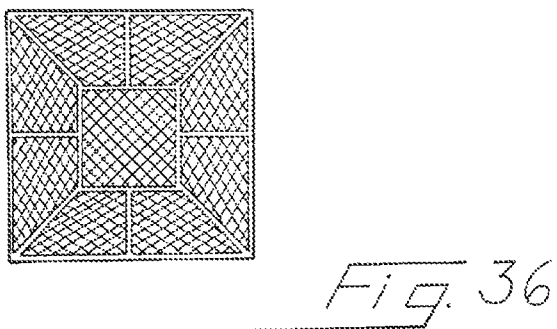
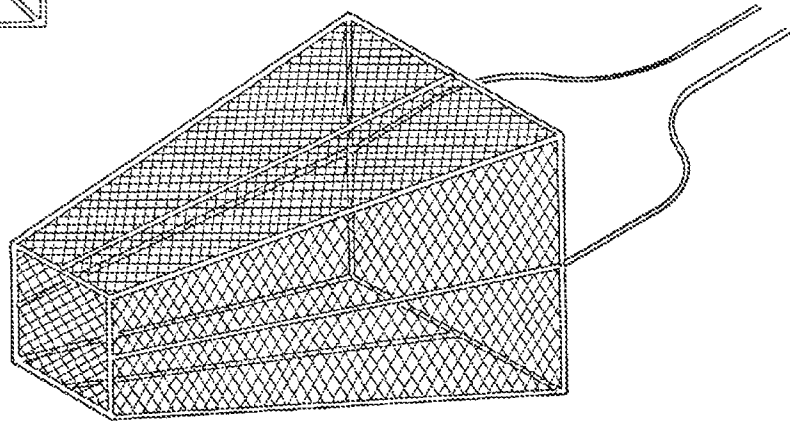
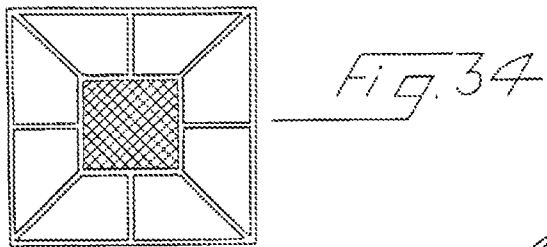
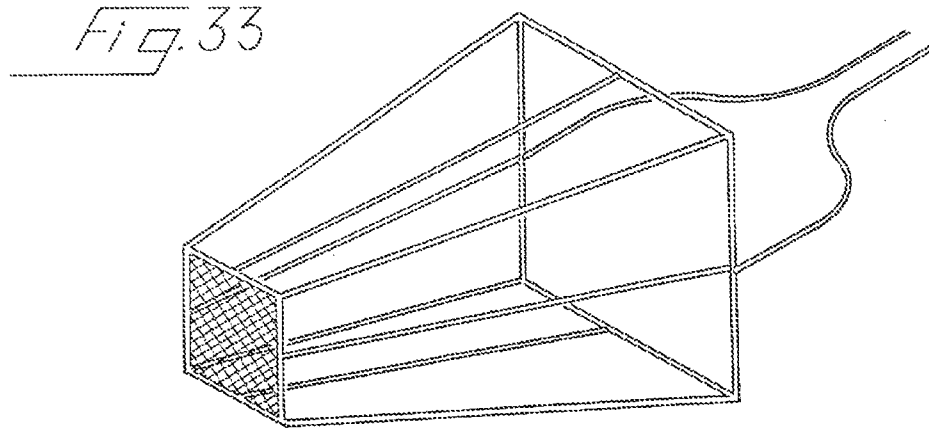


Fig. 32





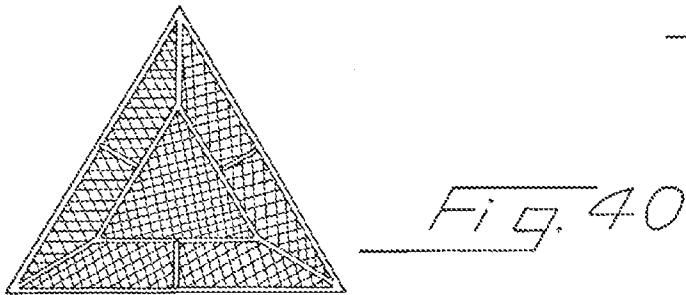
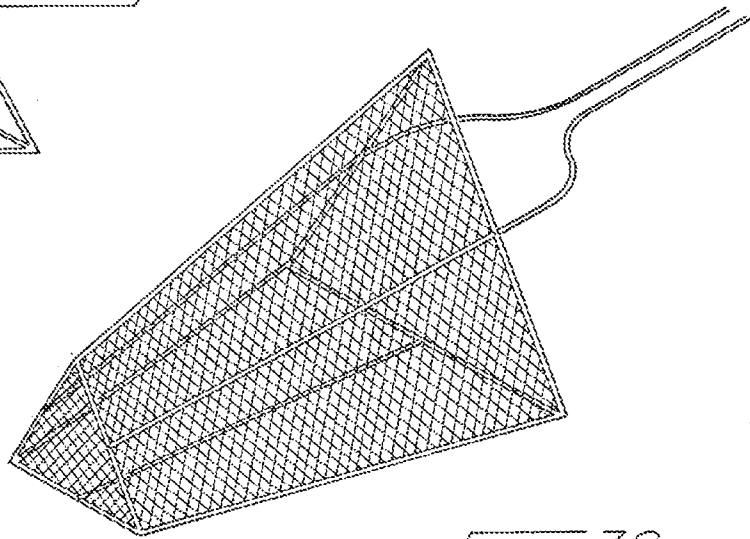
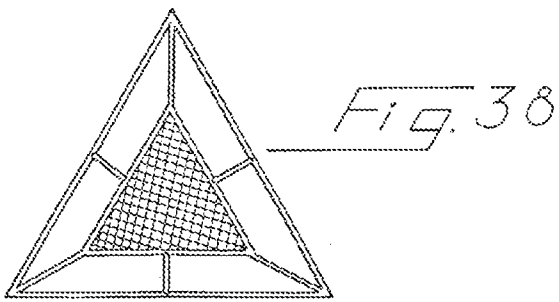
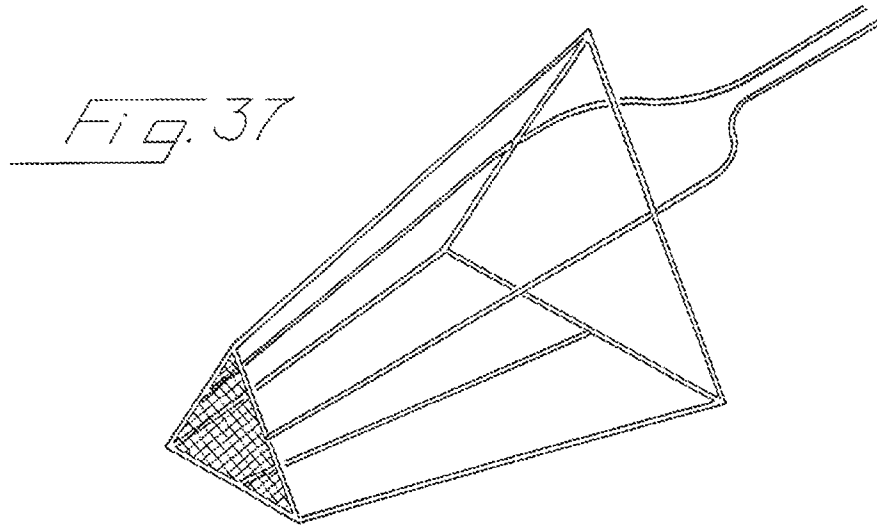


Fig. 41

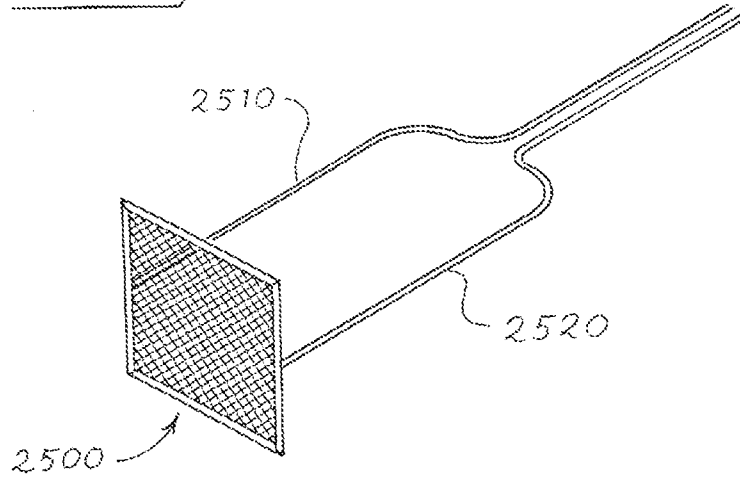


Fig. 42

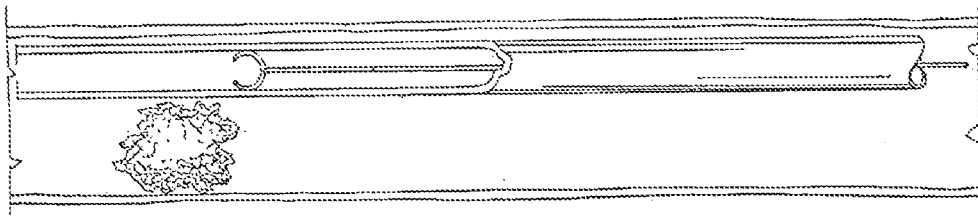


Fig. 43

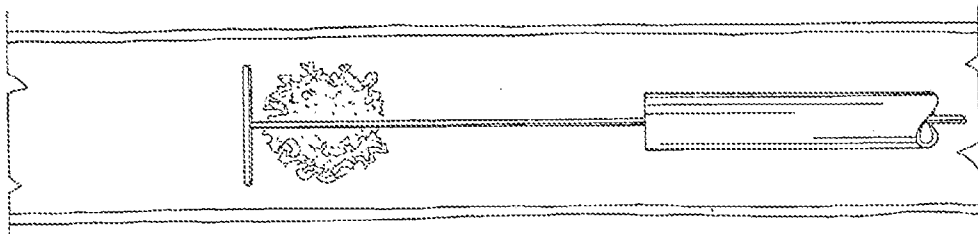
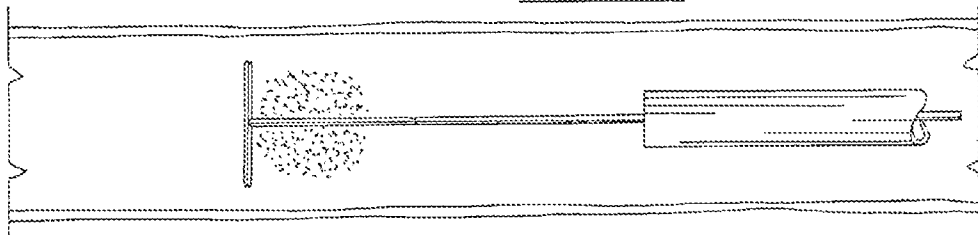


Fig. 44



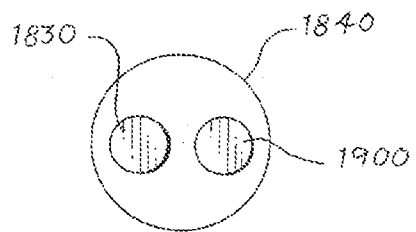
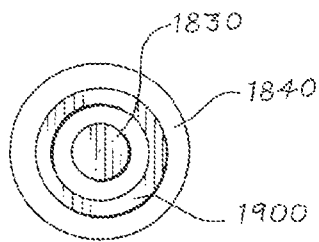
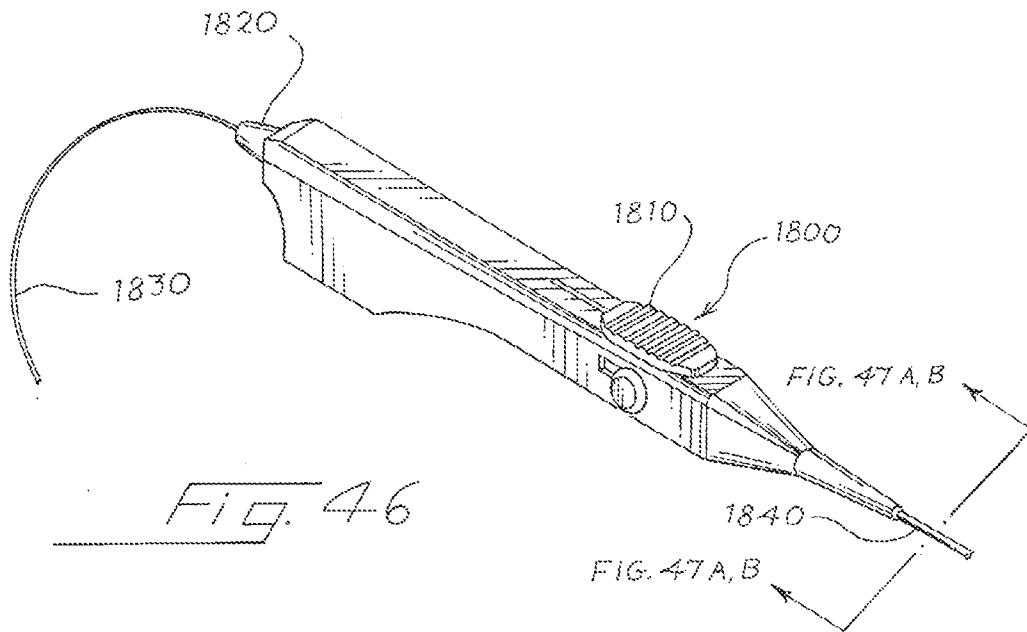
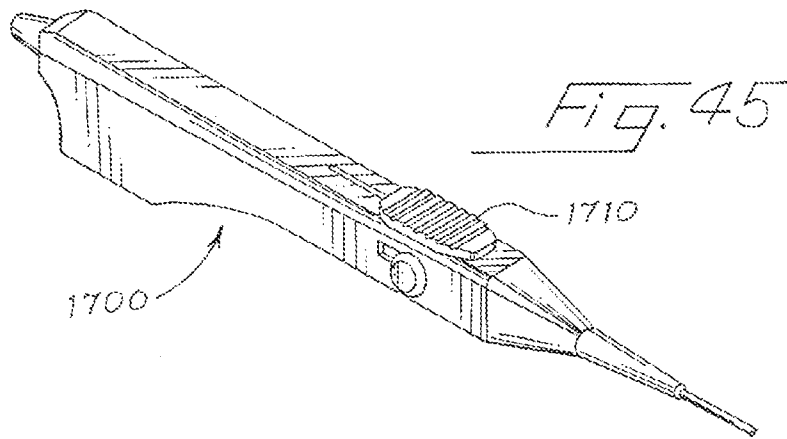


Fig. 48

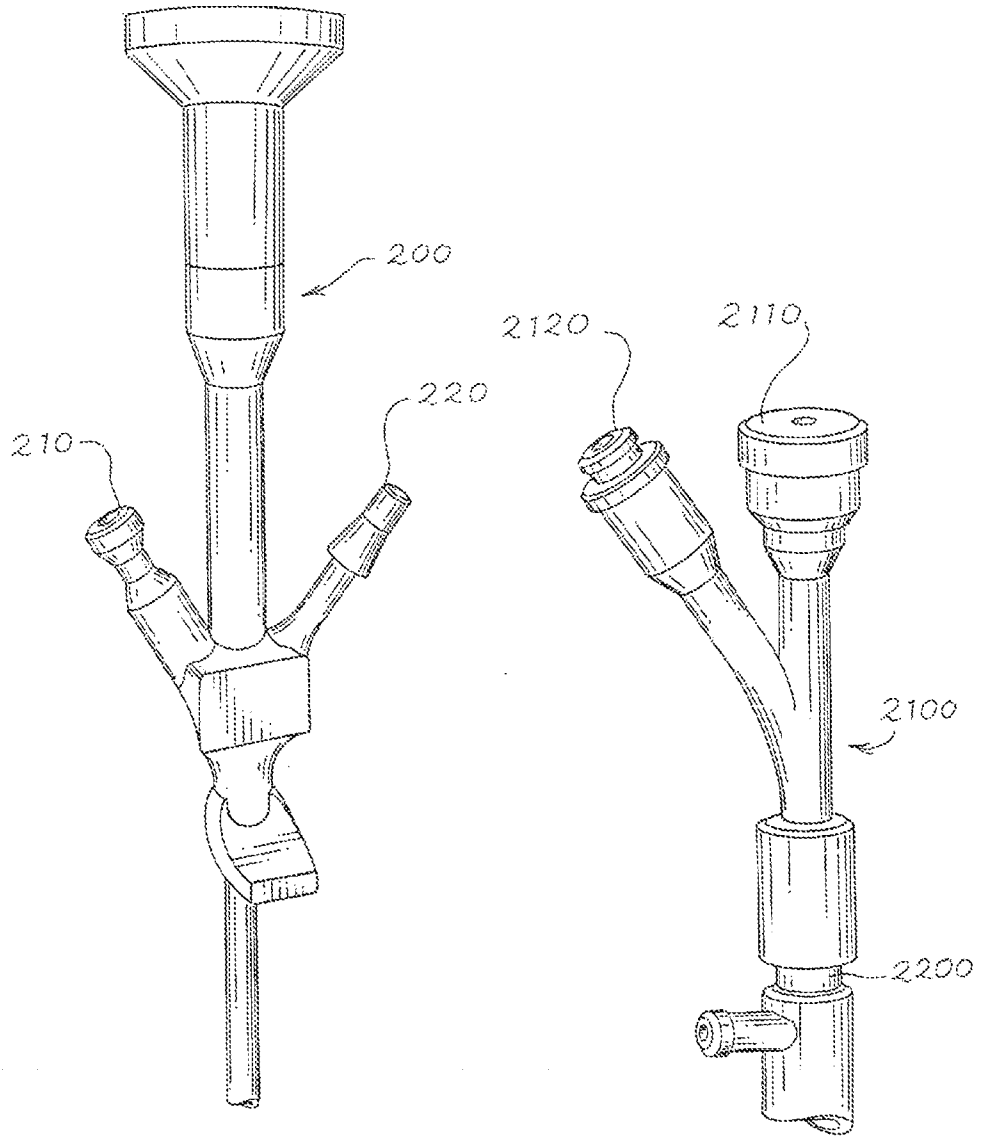


Fig. 49

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 15/32750

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - A61B 17/22 (2015.01) CPC - A61B 2017/2217 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) CPC: A61B 2017/2217 IPC(8): A61B 17/22 (2015.01)		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched USPC: 606/127 CPC: A61B 2017/2215 (keyword limited; terms below)		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) PatBase; Google Patents; Google Search Terms Used: : corkscrew, helical, spiral, coil, filament%, wire%, handle, slide, actuator, manipulator, retract*, withdraw*, stone, calculi, remov*, retriev*, trap*		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2009/0326549 A1 (WOLFE) 31 December 2009 (31.12.2009) fig 1, 2, 4, abstract, para [0013]-[0017], [0021]-[0022]	1, 3
Y	US 2004/0097964 A1 (DHINDSA) 20 May 2004 (20.05.2004) fig 1, para [0028]-[0030], [0037]-[0038]	1-2
Y	US 2011/0295305 A1 (MORERO) 01 December 2011 (01.12.2011) fig 20, 21	1-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/>		
* Special categories of cited documents:		
"A"	document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"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
"E"	earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"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
"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)	"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
"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P"	document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
Date of the actual completion of the international search 14 October 2015 (14.10.2015)		Date of mailing of the international search report 12 NOV 2015
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-8300		Authorized officer: Lee W. Young PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 15/32750

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

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

2. Claims Nos.:
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:

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).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In order for all inventions to be examined, the appropriate additional examination fees must be paid.

Group I: Claims 1-3, directed to an endoscopic stone-extraction device having a support filament with a corkscrew shaped end.
Group II: Claims 4-6 directed to an endoscopic stone-extraction device having a support filament with a rake shaped end.
Group III: Claims 7-13, directed to an endoscopic stone-extraction device having a support filament with a basket shaped end.
Group IV: Claims 14-15, directed to an endoscopic stone-extraction device having a support filament with a two-dimensional mesh shaped end.

---Continued on Supplemental Page---

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 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.:
1-3

- 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 III: Observations where unity of invention is lacking

The inventions listed as Groups I-IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

SPECIAL TECHNICAL FEATURES

The invention of Group I includes the special technical feature of a support filament with a corkscrew shaped end, not required by the claims of Groups II-IV.

The invention of Group II includes the special technical feature of a support filament with a rake shaped end, not required by Groups I or III-IV.

The invention of Group III includes the special technical feature of a method of a support filament with a basket shaped end, not required by the claims of Groups I-II or IV.

The invention of Group IV includes the special technical feature of a support filament with a two-dimensional mesh shaped end that is generally perpendicular to the lumen axis, not required by the claims of Groups I-III.

COMMON TECHNICAL FEATURES

Groups I-IV share the common technical features of an endoscopic stone-extraction device comprising: a support filament comprising an end portion; a sheath comprising a lumen, wherein the support filament is disposed in the lumen such that the sheath is slideable with respect to the support filament; and a handle comprising an actuator; wherein movement of the actuator in a first direction retracts the sheath and causes the end portion to expand outside the lumen; and wherein movement of the actuator in a second direction advances the sheath and causes the end to at least partially collapse inside the lumen.

However, these shared technical features do not represent a contribution over prior art as being anticipated by US2004/0097964 A1 (DHINDSA), which teaches an endoscopic stone-extraction device (10, fig 1, abstract) comprising: a support (22) filament comprising an end portion (26, fig 1, para [0030]); a sheath (18) comprising a lumen (19), wherein the support filament is disposed in the lumen such that the sheath is slideable with respect to the support filament (fig 1, 2, para [0029], [0037]-[0038]); and a handle (12) comprising an actuator (16, fig 1, para [0028]); wherein movement of the actuator in a first direction retracts the sheath and causes the end portion to expand outside the lumen (para [0038]); and wherein movement of the actuator in a second direction advances the sheath and causes the end to at least partially collapse inside the lumen (para [0038]).

As the common technical features were known in the art at the time of the invention, these cannot be considered special technical feature that would otherwise unify the groups.

Therefore, Groups I-IV lack unity under PCT Rule 13 because they do not share a same or corresponding special technical feature.

Claim 15 lacks proper antecedent basis for two-dimensional mesh shape. Claim 15 was assumed to depend from claim 14 to resolve the antecedent issue.