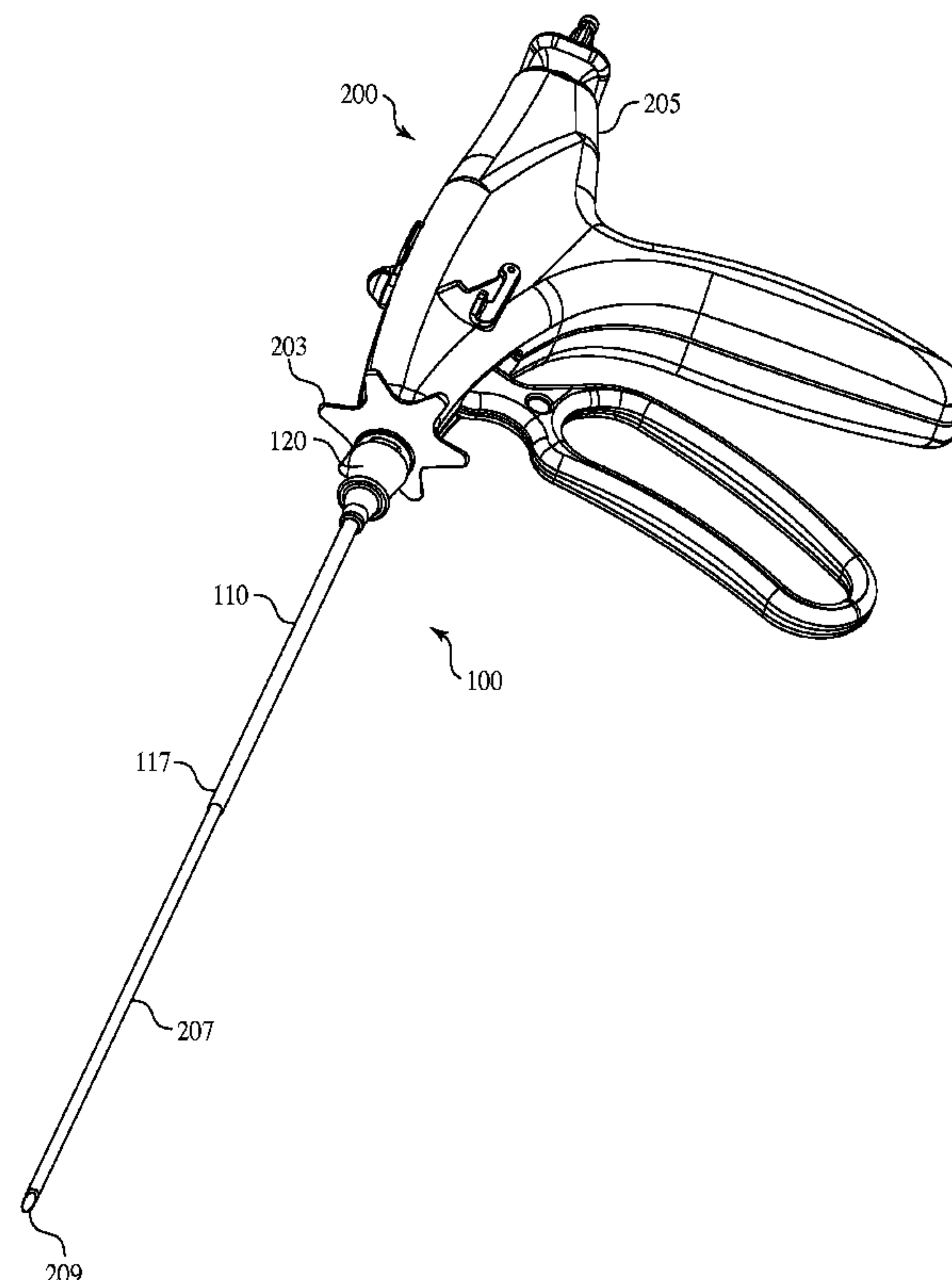




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(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

A surgical access port assembly including a cannula having a diameter of less than about 3 mm and a tapered hub, capable of attachment to a laparoscopic surgical instrument, connected to the proximal end of the cannula.

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(54) Title: EXCHANGER SURGICAL ACCESS PORT ASSEMBLY AND METHODS OF USE

(57) Abstract: A surgical access port assembly including a cannula having a diameter of less than about 3 mm and a tapered hub, capable of attachment to a laparoscopic surgical instrument, connected to the proximal end of the cannula.

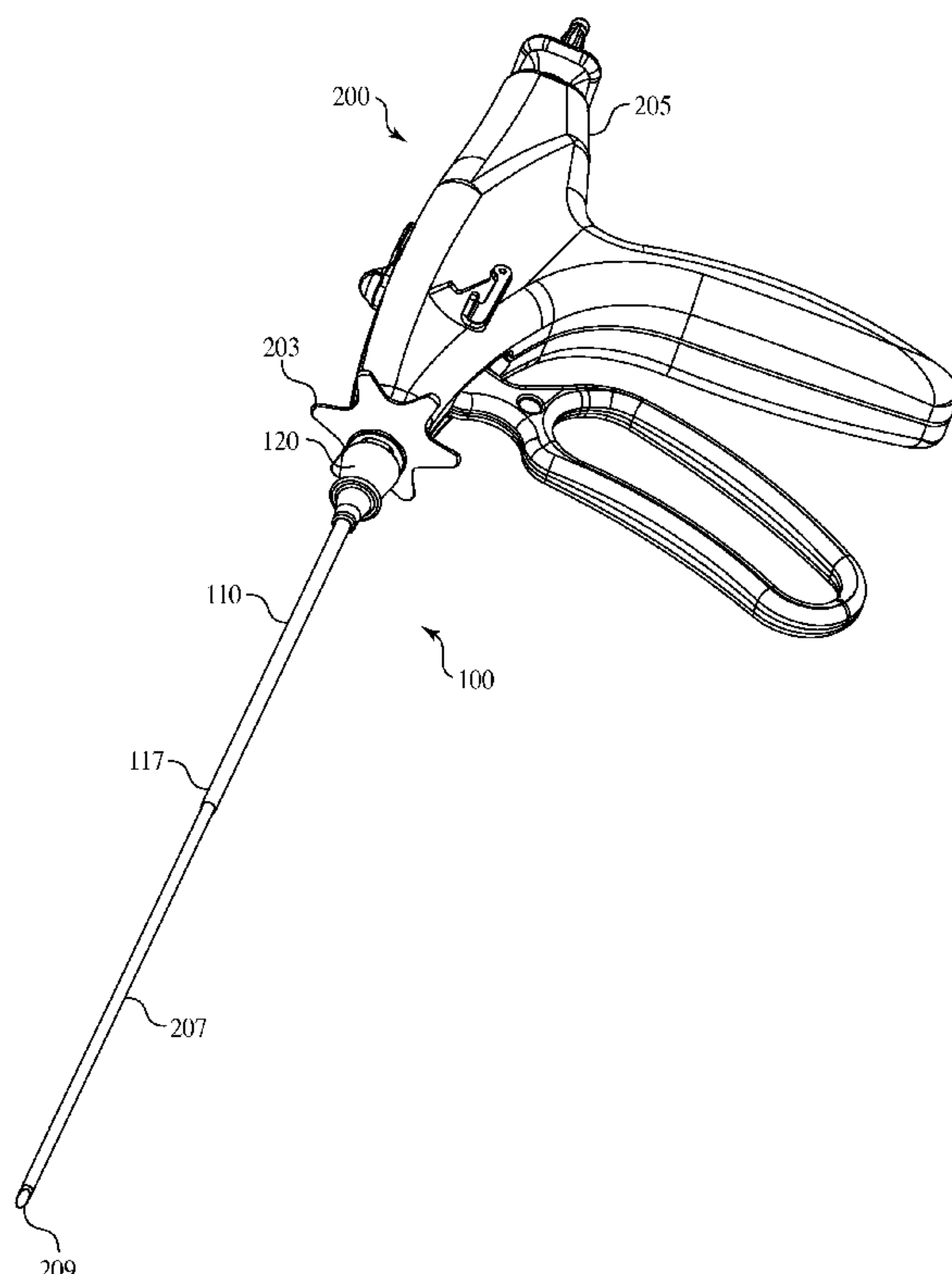


FIG. 1

WO 2015/047886 A1

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EXCHANGER SURGICAL ACCESS PORT ASSEMBLY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Related Applications

[0001] This application claims priority from a provisional application filed on September 19, 2013, No. 61/879,468 and another filed July 15, 2014, No. 62/024,999.

Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to surgical instruments and methods of their use, and more particularly to minimally invasive surgical instruments, an exchanger surgical access port assembly and methods using an exchanger surgical access port so that multiple surgical instruments can be used therein.

Description of Related Art

[0003] Over the last two decades, minimally invasive surgery has become the standard for many types of surgeries which were previously accomplished through open surgery. Minimally invasive surgery generally involves introducing an optical element (e.g., laparoscopic or endoscope) through a surgical or natural port in the body, advancing one or more surgical instruments through additional ports or through the endoscope, conducting the surgery with the surgical instruments, and withdrawing the instruments and scope from the body. In laparoscopic surgery (broadly defined herein to be any surgery where a port is made via a surgical incision, including but not limited to abdominal laparoscopy, arthroscopy, spinal laparoscopy, etc.), a port for a scope is typically made using a surgical trocar assembly.

[0004] The trocar assembly often includes a port, a pointed element extending through and beyond the distal end of the port, and at least in the case of abdominal laparoscopy, a sealing valve on the proximal portion of the port. The term trocar typically includes a combination of cooperating elements such as a cannula, a seal housing and an obturator. First the obturator, which has a blunt or pointed edge, cuts or pierces the body wall so that the cannula may be inserted. The cannula defines a pathway through a body wall through which the surgical instruments are placed. Finally the seal valve and seal housing provides an isolation of the cannula so that if insufflation is employed the body region remains distended and sealed. All three components are usually fitted together and used as a single unit for passage by one or more surgical instruments through the body wall and into a body cavity.

[0005] Laparoscopic surgery typically begins as the surgeon inserts a large bore needle through a body wall and into the internal region associated with the body wall. Next, an inflation or insufflation gas is pumped into the internal region until it is properly distended. The body wall and body cavity are now ready for insertion of trocars.

[0006] Typically, a small incision is made in the skin at a desired trocar location in the patient. The incision may be made via a scalpel or other sharp instrument. The trocar assembly, with the trocar extending out of the port, is then forced through the incision via the obturator which cuts or pierces the body wall, thereby widening the incision and permitting the port to extend through the incision, past any fascia, and into the body cavity. The obturator is then withdrawn, leaving the port in place.

[0007] If not already distended, an insufflation element may be attached to the trocar port in order to insufflate the surgical site. An optical element may then be

introduced through the trocar port. Additional incisions and trocars and ports are then typically used so that additional laparoscopic instruments may be introduced into the body.

[0008] Trocar assemblies are manufactured in different sizes. Typical trocar port
5 sizes include diameters of about 5 mm, 10 mm, and 12 mm, which are sized to permit variously sized laparoscopic instruments to be introduced therethrough including, e.g., graspers, dissectors, staplers, scissors, suction/irrigators, clamps, forceps, biopsy forceps, etc. While 5 mm diameter trocar ports are relatively small, in some
circumstances where internal working space is limited (e.g., children), it is difficult to
10 place multiple 5 mm diameter ports in the limited area. In addition, 5 mm diameter trocar ports tend to limit movement of instruments inside the body cavity to a great extent. Such a conventional 5 mm diameter trocar has a sealing valve and sealing mechanism and therefore the opening for the surgical instrument is limited.

[0009] Further, while laparoscopic surgery has reduced the trauma associated
15 with various surgical procedures and has concomitantly reduced recovery time from these surgeries, there always remains a desire in the art to further reduce the trauma to the patient.

[0010] One area of trauma associated with laparoscopic surgery identified by the inventor hereof as being susceptible of reduction are the scars which result from the
20 trocar ports used. In many laparoscopic surgeries, three or more trocar incisions are made. For example, in laparoscopic hernia repair surgery, four trocar incisions are typically made, with one incision for insufflating the abdomen and inserting the optical device, two incisions for trocar ports for inserting graspers therethrough, and a fourth

port for passing a stapler therethrough. Those skilled in the art and those who have undergone surgical procedures understand that even the 5 mm diameter trocar ports leave holes which must be stitched and which result in scars. Scar tissue may affect the internal portion of the fascia as well as the cosmetic appearance of the skin, which
5 may be detrimental for the patient or even a surgeon if that area of the skin is subject to a later incision or medical procedure.

[0011] A second area of trauma associated with laparoscopic surgery relates to trauma resulting from the manipulation (e.g., angling) of the trocar ports required in order to conduct the surgery due to inexact placement. The port may need to be angled
10 so that the instrument, for instance, can be placed within the body cavity to cut tissue or an organ, grasp it, or other actions during surgery. Angling of the port can cause tearing at the incision periphery. Such tearing can lead to extensive scar tissue and in general an extension of the incision area. Again, conventional 5 mm diameter trocars including a valve and sealing mechanism are hard to angle in regard to the opening for
15 the surgical instrument. Thus a need exists for a surgical access port that is not subject to tearing fascia at the point of incision into the patient.

[0012] A further problem with having multiple surgical instruments within a body cavity at the same time via multiple ports, especially where the surgical instrument includes a needle tip is inadvertent needle penetration in tissue and resulting scarring or
20 even more serious complications during the surgery if other tissue is nicked or penetrated unintentionally. Indeed, placing a sharp instrument such as an inflation needle or trocar obturator through a body wall and into an associated internal region comes with considerable risk. The human abdomen, for example, is a tightly packed

region that is filled with delicate structures and organs. There is no open space between the abdominal wall and those structures or organs until inflation gas is inserted and a pneumoperitoneum is established. Great care must be taken when placing inflation needles so as to avoid penetration of intestine, bowel or other structures. Even after
5 insufflation is established, there is a risk of injury during placement of additional sharp instruments through the distended body wall.

[0013] Yet another problem is the blunt force used by a surgeon in inserting a conventional trocar with an obturator. The body wall is comprised of skin, muscle, fat and a thin membrane. The wall may be thick, muscular and tough or it may be lean and
10 soft. As such, placement of a blunt or sharp obturator through the body wall requires great skill and knowledge of what lies within the internal region. The force required to insert a blunt or sharp obturator through a body wall can exceed forty pounds in some cases. This applied force easily overcomes the pneumoperitoneum and forces the body wall down and against delicate structures where there is the danger of piercing or
15 cutting those structures. Further, the force needed to pierce the body wall may result in excessive tearing of the skin and scarring.

[0014] To combat the need for such force of insertion of a typical trocar, some surgeons have also used a technique referred to as a "cut down" procedure where successive small incisions are made until the body wall is cut through, at which time a
20 blunt trocar or a trocar obturator is inserted with a certain level of force. This process may incur less force but it is time-consuming and may leave a deeper and larger scar.

[0015] Therefore a need exists for a surgical access port which is easier to insert into a body wall.

[0016] There continues to be a need in the art for a surgical access port which reduces trauma to the patient, reduces complications to the patient, does not lead to extension of the incision area, does not lead to increased scar tissue generation, is easy to make and use, and improves safety while reducing costs to health care providers and patients and reducing the surgical time for a procedure which in turn may reduce costs and complications. The inventive needlescopic surgical instrument including a surgical access port has a trocar having a cannula with a diameter of about 1 mm to about 3 mm which is inserted into a patient's skin and body wall via the needlescopic surgical instrument, meaning a surgical instrument which includes a needle tip on the lumen or cannula of the surgical instrument.

[0017] While conventional trocars, typically including an obturator, are known, the conventional art includes a cannula with a diameter exceeding about 5 mm. Thus there exists a need for a surgical access port which includes a smaller diameter cannula.

[0018] Further, the conventional trocars are inserted manually through force and thus a need exists where a surgical access port may be inserted via a needlescopic surgical instrument wherein the instrument has a needle for insertion into the patient's skin and body wall. These and other needs are met by the inventive surgical access port assembly and method for insertion and method of use.

[0019] Additionally, conventional trocars include a valve and sealing means so as to prevent gas leakage during insufflation. A need exists for a more streamlined surgical access port without an additional valve or sealing means while still maintaining sufficient insufflation during surgery. A need exists for a surgical access port without a sealing valve or sealing means while still maintaining an acceptable gas pressure level

or minimal leakage. A further needs exists for a surgical access port which is less expensive than expensive conventional trocar assemblies and laparoscopic instruments.

[0020] Other advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following description and appended claims.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0021] It is therefore an object of the invention to provide a minimally invasive surgical assembly which reduces trauma to the patient relative to presently used assemblies, such as trocars and conventional surgical access ports.

[0022] In accord with one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a surgical access port assembly capable of attachment to a surgical instrument, comprising:

- a hollow cannula defining an interior shaft extending longitudinally therethrough having a diameter of less than about 3 mm; and

- a tapered hub on a proximal end of the hollow cannula, the tapered hub having at least one inner ring configured to attach and secure the surgical instrument via compression of the at least one inner ring;

wherein the surgical access port assembly lacks a sealing valve and a sealing mechanism, and

wherein the at least one inner ring extends from an internal portion of the tapered hub towards a center of the tapered hub.

[0022a] In accordance with another aspect, there is also provided a surgical instrument, comprising:

- a surgical instrument defining a lumen having a distal needle tip and a handle assembly on a proximal end; and

a surgical access port assembly having a hollow cannula defining an interior shaft extending longitudinally therethrough having a diameter of less than about 3 mm, and a tapered hub on a proximal end of the hollow cannula, the tapered hub having at least one inner ring configured to attach and secure the surgical instrument via compression of the at least one inner ring;

wherein the surgical access port assembly lacks a sealing valve and a sealing mechanism, and

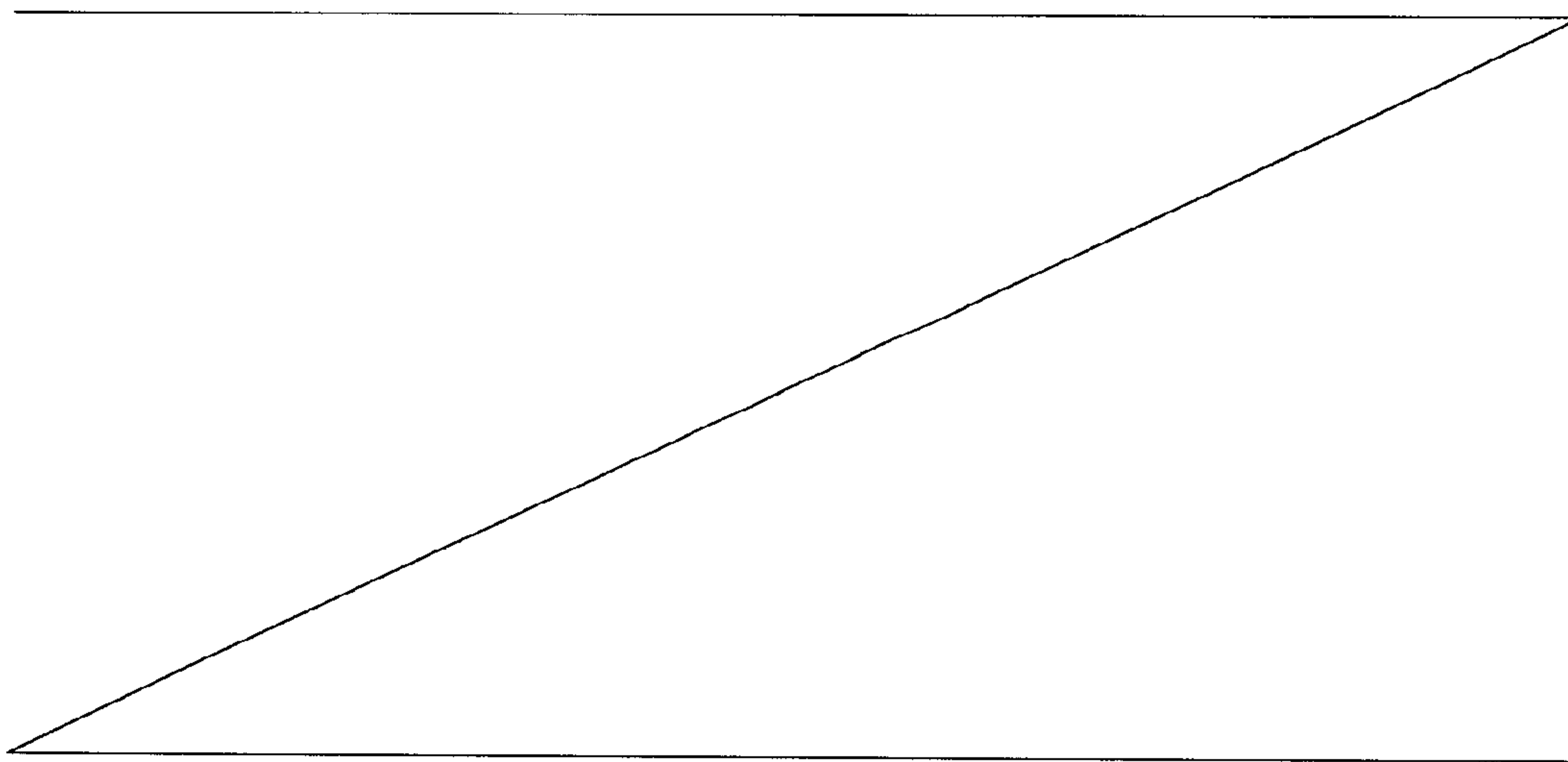
wherein the at least one inner ring extends from an internal portion of the tapered hub towards a center of the tapered hub.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0023] Figure 1 is one embodiment of the surgical access port assembly of the present invention connected to the needlescopic surgical instrument.

[0024] Figure 2 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the surgical access port assembly of the present invention.

[0025] Figure 3 is a view of an embodiment of the surgical access port assembly of the present invention looking inward from the hub.



[0026] Figure 4 is a side view of an embodiment of the surgical access port of the present invention.

[0027] Figure 5 is an embodiment of the surgical access port of the present invention including an optional cap.

5 [0028] Figure 6 is a top view of an embodiment of the surgical access port of the present invention connected to a needlescopic lumen.

[0029] Figure 7 is an exploded view of an embodiment of the surgical access port assembly of the present invention connected to the needlescopic surgical instrument.

10 [0030] Figures 8A through 8E are an embodiment of a method of use of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

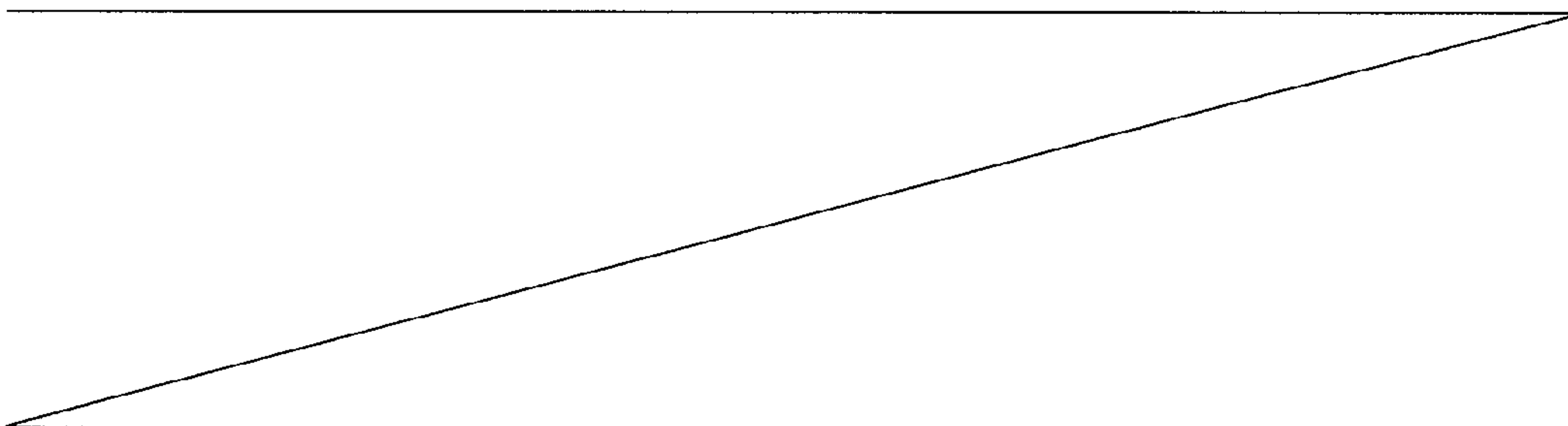
[0031] Reference will now be made to the drawings wherein like reference numerals identify similar structural features or aspects of the subject invention. For purposes of explanation and illustration, and not limitation, exemplary embodiments of a surgical access port assembly in accordance with the invention, or aspects thereof, are shown in Figures 1 through 8E. The surgical assembly of the invention is a low cost, easy to manufacture, surgical access port assembly, which can be used, for example, during minimally invasive surgical procedures to reduce trauma to a patient.

20 [0032] Examples of minimally invasive surgical assemblies and related equipment are described in U.S. Patent No. 7,766,937 to Ravikumar, U.S. Patent No. 8,230,863 to Ravikumar et al., U.S. Patent No. 8,313,507 to Ravikumar, U.S. Patent No. 8,133,255 to Ravikumar et al., U.S. Patent Application No. 11/685,522 to Ravikumar et al (published as U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2007/0250112), U.S. Patent Application No. 12/503,035 to Ravikumar (published as U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2010/0016884), U.S.

Patent Application No. 12/689,352 to Ravikumar et al (published as U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2010/0292724), U.S. Patent Application No. 11/610,746 to Ravikumar et al. (published as U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2007/0282170), and U.S. Patent Application No. 12/689,352 to Ravikumar et al. (published as U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2010/0292724).

[0033] The present invention includes an exchanger surgical access port assembly **100**, which includes a surgical access port including a cannula and a hub. The inventive surgical access port **100** is connected to a laparoscopic instrument having an elongated cannula, optionally including a needle (a needlescopic surgical instrument), such that the surgical access port is placed over cannula and thus does not require an obturator as the needle of the surgical instrument pierces the patient's skin and thereafter the surgical access port **100** is moved down the cannula and inserted into the incision at the surgical site.

[0034] The surgical access port assembly **100** includes a cannula **100** with a diameter of about 1 mm to about 5 mm ($\pm 20\%$) thereby reducing trauma to the patient and eliminates the need for a larger incision point or for a series of small incision cuts through the various layers of fascia. The diameter of the cannula **100** is preferably less than about 3 mm, preferably between about 2.0 mm to about 2.96 mm. The incision point may be about 4 mm or less depending on the diameter of the distal tip portion of the needle **209** of the laparoscopic surgical instrument **200**. The inventive surgical access port assembly has a smaller diameter and thus a smaller incision point and working area within the body wall of the patient. Thus the potential scarring area is



smaller and there is potential for reduced complications. Further, as the diameter of the cannula is smaller there is reduced tearing of the skin when the surgical access port assembly is angled during use in surgery when a surgical instrument is within the surgical access port. The smaller the diameter and surgical working area within the body wall (not the body cavity itself) the better during the surgery. The smaller diameter should not affect the working area within the body cavity during the surgery thus maintaining the effectiveness and efficacy of the surgical process. The smaller diameter of the cannula of the surgical access port assembly is particularly useful in pediatric patients, geriatric patients and other patients where the body wall may be negatively affected by a larger incision point and port access area.

[0035] Referring now to Figures 1 through 5, an embodiment of the present invention is shown of a surgical access port assembly **100**. The surgical access port **100** has an elongated cannula **110**. The distal end **117** of the elongated cannula **110** may be blunt or beveled. The elongated cannula **110** has a hollow shaft, a cannula shaft **115**, through which surgical instruments may enter when the surgical access port is in use. The elongated cannula **110** has a proximal end connected to a hub **120**. The hub **120** has a diameter, which expands outwardly from the proximal end of the elongated cannula **110**. The hub **120** includes a portion **122** connected to the proximal end of the elongated cannula **110**, an outer ring portion **125** which may be used for manual manipulation of the surgical access port **100**, and an open end tapered portion **126** of the hub with a diameter exceeding that of the elongated cannula **110**. The open end portion **126** of the hub **120** is capable of providing access for surgical instruments and devices during surgery. Further the open end portion **126** of the hub **120** may be

connected to a portion of proximal end **203** of a surgical instrument cannula **207**. The connection of the hub **120** of the inventive surgical access port **100** to the surgical instrument's hub **203** may be via friction, force, or snapped onto the hub **203**.

[0036] The surgical access port **100** may be made of various materials such as rigid materials such as metals, for example stainless steel, as well as rigid plastics such as liquid crystal polymer or polycarbonate, glass-filled polycarbonate, or the like. The material should be compatible with the human fascia, body wall and any body cavity into which it is inserted so as to prevent or reduce any allergic reaction by the patient upon insertion. Optionally, the surgical access port **100** may be covered on the outside or even within the cannula shaft **117** with an insulating material (not shown) to prevent electrical current transfer to the patient, for instance upon inadvertent contact with an electrical surgical apparatus such as a monopolar or bipolar surgical instrument. The insulating material may be a plastic shrink wrap or any other insulating materials such as plastics, polymers, elastomers and the like, and combinations thereof.

[0037] Turning to Figures 2 through 5, the hub **120** of the surgical access port **100** has an inner portion including at least one inner ring **118**, shown in Figures 3 and 4 as one embodiment of at least three inner rings **118A**, **118B** and **118C**. Each of these inner rings **118** is a securing means for attachment of the surgical access port **100** to a surgical instrument **200** or other device over such instrument's cannula **207**. Optionally, one of the inner rings **118** may be an O-ring made of a compressible material so as to seal a portion of the surgical access port **100** and deter the leakage of gas during surgical insufflation. For instance the O-ring may be made of rubbers, foams, plastics,

silicones, fluorocarbons, polymers, elastomers, nitriles and the like, including combinations thereof.

[0038] The surgical access port **100** may also include a cap **150**, as seen in Figure 5, connected to the hub **120** via a cap tether **160** and a ring **170** on the hub **120**.

5 In use, once the surgical access port **100** is inserted into the patient's body, during surgery there may be a time when the original incision surgical instrument is not being employed in the patient's body and it is withdrawn such that the surgical access port **100** is not in use, therefore the cap **150** may be inserted into the open end portion **126** of the hub **120** and the opening sealed for anti-contamination reasons and also resulting
10 in less gas leakage during surgical insufflation. For instance, when one surgical instrument is removed and before the next is exchanged or inserted the cap **150** may be employed. Thereafter at any time during the surgery when the exchanger surgical access port does not include any surgical instrument within the elongated cannula **110** the cap **150** may be used.

15 [0039] Figures 6 and 7 show another embodiment of the present invention wherein the surgical access port **100** is connected to a needle lumen **400** having a lumen shaft **420** and an end effector such as a needle **410**, which needle lumen **400** may be inserted into a resposable handgrip surgical instrument or any other surgical instrument. The needle lumen **400** is inserted into an aperture of the surgical access
20 port **100** via the open end tapered portion **126** of the hub **120** through to the shaft **117** of the elongated cannula **110**. As seen in Figure 7, the surgical access port **100** is thus connected to the needle lumen **400** in this embodiment by friction and light compression

of the inner rings **118A**, **118B** and **118C** of the hub **120** against a hub **430** of the needle lumen **400**. Other connection or securing means may be used in other embodiments.

[0040] In use the needle of the needlescopic surgical instrument is used to penetrate the patient's fascia, the exchanger surgical access port assembly **100** is moved in an axial movement down the needle lumen via manual manipulation of the outer ring **125** and the surgical access port **100** is inserted into the patient's fascia and through the body wall. Generally, the surgical access port **100** is attached to the lumen of a percutaneous instrument, or single needle lumen, by pressure, friction or snapping on to the back of the exposed lumen. The surgical access port **100** is then advanced along the lumen, away from the percutaneous instrument, into the patient's fascia, through the body wall and into a body cavity when and as required and will remain in the body cavity as the lumen is removed and such initial instrument may be exchanged and replaced with a different instrument.

[0041] Further disclosed is a surgical instrument including a surgical access port **100**. For instance, a needlescopic instrument having a lumen with a diameter of less than about 3 mm, preferably between about 2.3 mm to about 2.96 mm, with the lumen including a needle and optionally additional end-effectors such as jaws, dissectors, scissors, spatulas, cauterizers and the like including any known or later developed end-effectors. The exchanger surgical access port assembly **100** can be placed around the lumen that in normal working of the surgical instrument is outside of the patient, but can be unattached, and inserted into the patient's fascia, providing a guide for additional percutaneous instruments to be exchanged and inserted therein.

[0042] The following refers to Figures 8A through 8E and describe one method in which the surgical access port **100** could be utilized when in surgery wherein the surgical access port **100** is connected to a surgical instrument. In such an embodiment the percutaneous surgical instrument **200** could be pre-packaged with surgical access port **100** connect in place or the surgical access port **100** could be separate and is placed onto percutaneous instrument **200** by the user prior to inserting the distal end of a lumen **207**, or a needle **209**, of the instrument into the patient's fascia, body wall **300** and body cavity **350** as seen in Figure 8A. Next the percutaneous instrument shaft traverses the body wall **300** and the instrument working end is used as an operative instrument. At some time the surgeon withdraws the surgical instrument **200** as shown in Figure 8C. Then the surgical access port **100** is used by the surgeon to insert a different instrument into the same position as the original instrument. As seen in Figure 8B, the surgical access port **100** is advanced over the instrument shaft, or lumen, into the body wall **300** and into a body cavity **350**. The surgeon may then employ the surgical instrument **200** and engaged the end effectors, in this embodiment shown as graspers **210**. Thereafter as shown in Figure 8C the original instrument is removed from the body and is independent from the surgical access port **100**. At this point in the method the surgical access port **100** is left in the body cavity **350** as seen in Figure 8D. The body cavity **350** is therefore accessible for various surgical instruments via the surgical access port **100**. Optionally, if included, a cap **150** on the hub **120** of the surgical access port **100** may be inserted to seal the body cavity **350** opening accessible through the surgical access port **100**. At a later time during the surgery a new instrument **600** (not shown) is exchanged and inserted into the surgical access port

100 as seen in Figure 8E with the cannula **607** and the needle end **609** being set for insertion into the surgical access port **100** via the hub opening **126**. A number of instruments may be exchanged and access the body cavity **350** via the surgical access port **100** throughout the surgery. In this embodiment the further surgical instrument is shown with a needle tip **609** but also could be any known end-effector such as a grasper, dissector, spatula, scissors and the like including any known or later developed end-effectors and in other embodiments the further surgical instrument could be a specimen retrieval bag and other known or later developed surgical instruments. Once the surgery is complete the surgical access port **100** may be removed manually, or may be slid back up the last instrument's shaft or lumen (*i.e.*, **507**), connected onto the back of said instrument's lumen, and removed from the patient's body cavity **350**, back through the body wall **300** and out of the patient's fascia. Optionally, based on the smaller incision point in the body wall and smaller diameter of the cannula of the inventive surgical access port assembly, the surgeon may forgo the step of suturing the incision point once the surgical access port assembly is removed, resulting in a faster surgical time and reduced scarring to the patient's fascia.

[0043] Further advantages of the surgical access port assembly **100** of the present invention include retention of abdominal pressure during an abdominal surgery. Also the inventive device when in use during a surgery may be self-sealing without compromising insufflation pressure. While not being bound by theory, it is opined that dynamic friction between the outer edge of the small diameter cannula **110** and the patient's fascia and body wall **300** result in minimal gas leakage during insufflation. Thus in use the surgical access assembly **100** of the present invention has a smaller

diameter, smaller incision point, better angle for surgical instrument access into the body cavity, while still maintaining sufficient insufflation. The absence of a sealing valve and sealing mechanism results in lower friction, which in turn may improve precision during the surgery. Such improved precision also reduces the surgical time and duration of the surgery which in turn improves surgical recovery by the patient and may reduce surgical complications and scarring.

[0044] Unlike typical trocars, the inventive surgical access port **100** would be attached to the back end of the percutaneous instrument and would only be slid down the shaft of the instrument into the patient's body to provide re-access to the same site location if the percutaneous instrument were to be removed or exchanged. While trocars are independently inserted in to the body cavity, the surgical access port **100** differs as it is slid into the body cavity over an instrument pre-inserted into the body wall.

[0045] In one embodiment the surgical access port **100** and percutaneous surgical instrument could come packaged as a kit, whereby the surgical access port **100** is placed onto and snapped onto the lumen of the surgical instrument. It is also envisioned where the surgical access port **100** would be packaged separately, as a stand-alone product and is utilized whenever needed.

[0046] The following benefits, structure, and advantages are also contemplated by the present invention: improved surgical precision, reduced surgical time resulting in reduced trauma to the patient and possibly less scarring, reduced recovery time, less pain, easier angling, easier handling by the user of a surgical instrument inserted into the surgical access port assembly during surgery, and other benefits.

[0047] The methods and systems of the present invention, as described above and shown in the drawings, provide for minimally invasive surgical assemblies including exchanger surgical access port assemblies with superior properties including ease of assembly, use and operation. While the apparatus and methods of the subject invention have been shown and described with reference to preferred embodiments, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate that changes and/or modifications may be made thereto without departing from the scope of the subject invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A surgical access port assembly capable of attachment to a surgical instrument, comprising:
 - a hollow cannula defining an interior shaft extending longitudinally therethrough having a diameter of less than about 3 mm; and
 - a tapered hub on a proximal end of the hollow cannula, the tapered hub having at least one inner ring configured to attach and secure the surgical instrument via compression of the at least one inner ring;

wherein the surgical access port assembly lacks a sealing valve and a sealing mechanism, and

wherein the at least one inner ring extends from an internal portion of the tapered hub towards a center of the tapered hub.
2. A surgical access port assembly according to claim 1, wherein the hollow cannula has a distal end that is blunt.
3. A surgical access port assembly according to claim 1, wherein the hollow cannula has a distal end that is sharp.
4. A surgical access port assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the at least one inner ring is comprised of three inner rings.
5. A surgical access port assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the at least one inner ring is an O-ring.
6. A surgical access port assembly according to claim 5, wherein the O-ring is made of rubbers, foams, plastics, silicones, fluorocarbons, polymers, elastomers, nitriles, or a combination thereof.
7. A surgical access port assembly according to any one of claims 1 to 6, further comprising a cap that seals the tapered hub.
8. A surgical instrument, comprising:

a surgical instrument defining a lumen having a distal needle tip and a handle assembly on a proximal end; and

a surgical access port assembly having a hollow cannula defining an interior shaft extending longitudinally therethrough having a diameter of less than about 3 mm, and a tapered hub on a proximal end of the hollow cannula, the tapered hub having at least one inner ring configured to attach and secure the surgical instrument via compression of the at least one inner ring;

wherein the surgical access port assembly lacks a sealing valve and a sealing mechanism, and

wherein the at least one inner ring extends from an internal portion of the tapered hub towards a center of the tapered hub.

9. A surgical instrument according to claim 8, wherein the hollow cannula has a distal end that is blunt.
10. A surgical instrument according to claim 8, wherein the hollow cannula has a distal end that is sharp.
11. A surgical instrument according to any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein the at least one inner ring is comprised of three inner rings.
12. A surgical instrument according to any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein the at least one inner ring is an O-ring.
13. A surgical instrument according to claim 12, wherein the O-ring is made of rubbers, foams, plastics, silicones, fluorocarbons, polymers, elastomers, nitriles, or a combination thereof.
14. A surgical instrument according to any one of claims 8 to 13, further comprising a cap connected to the surgical access port assembly that seals the tapered hub.

1/9

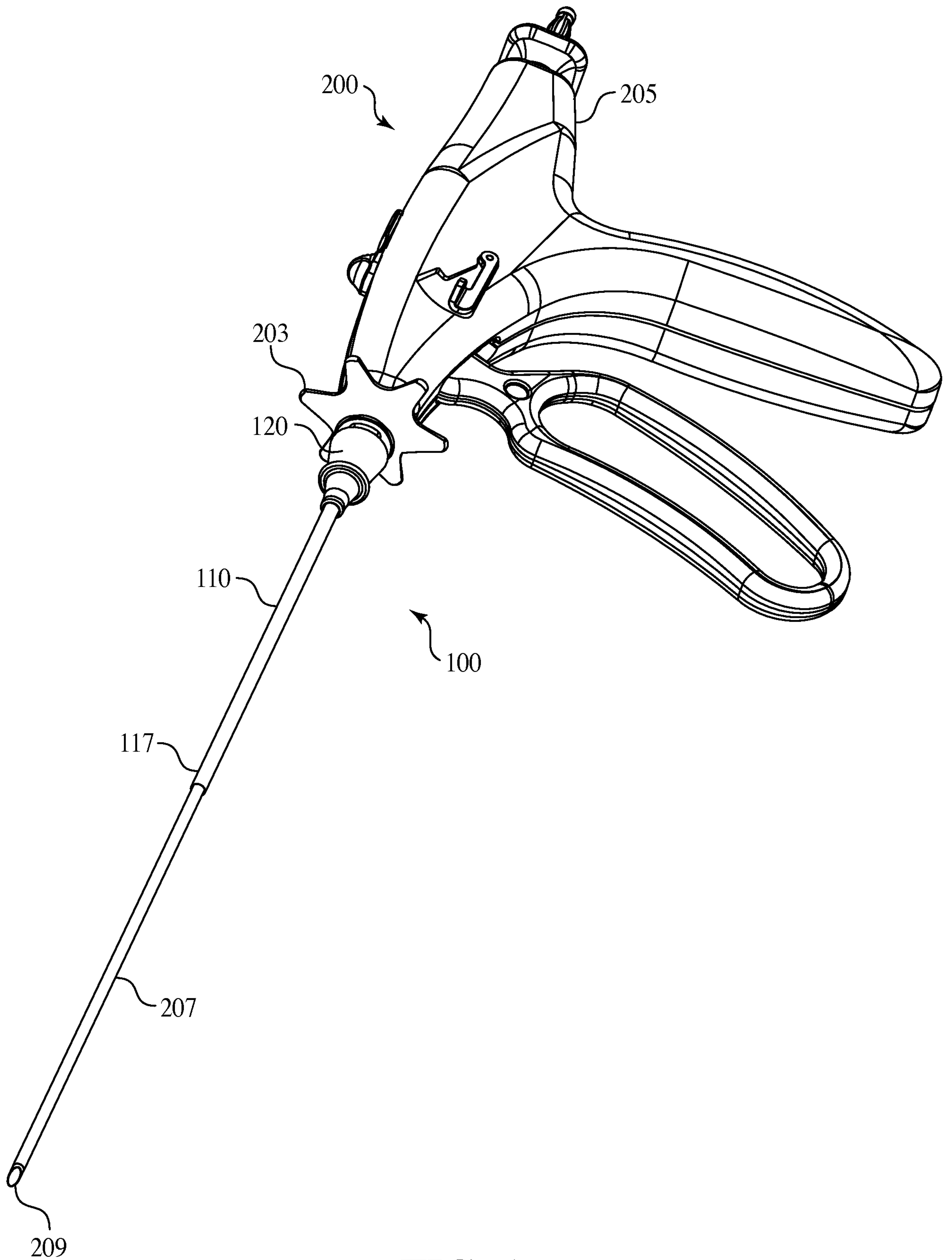


FIG. 1

2/9

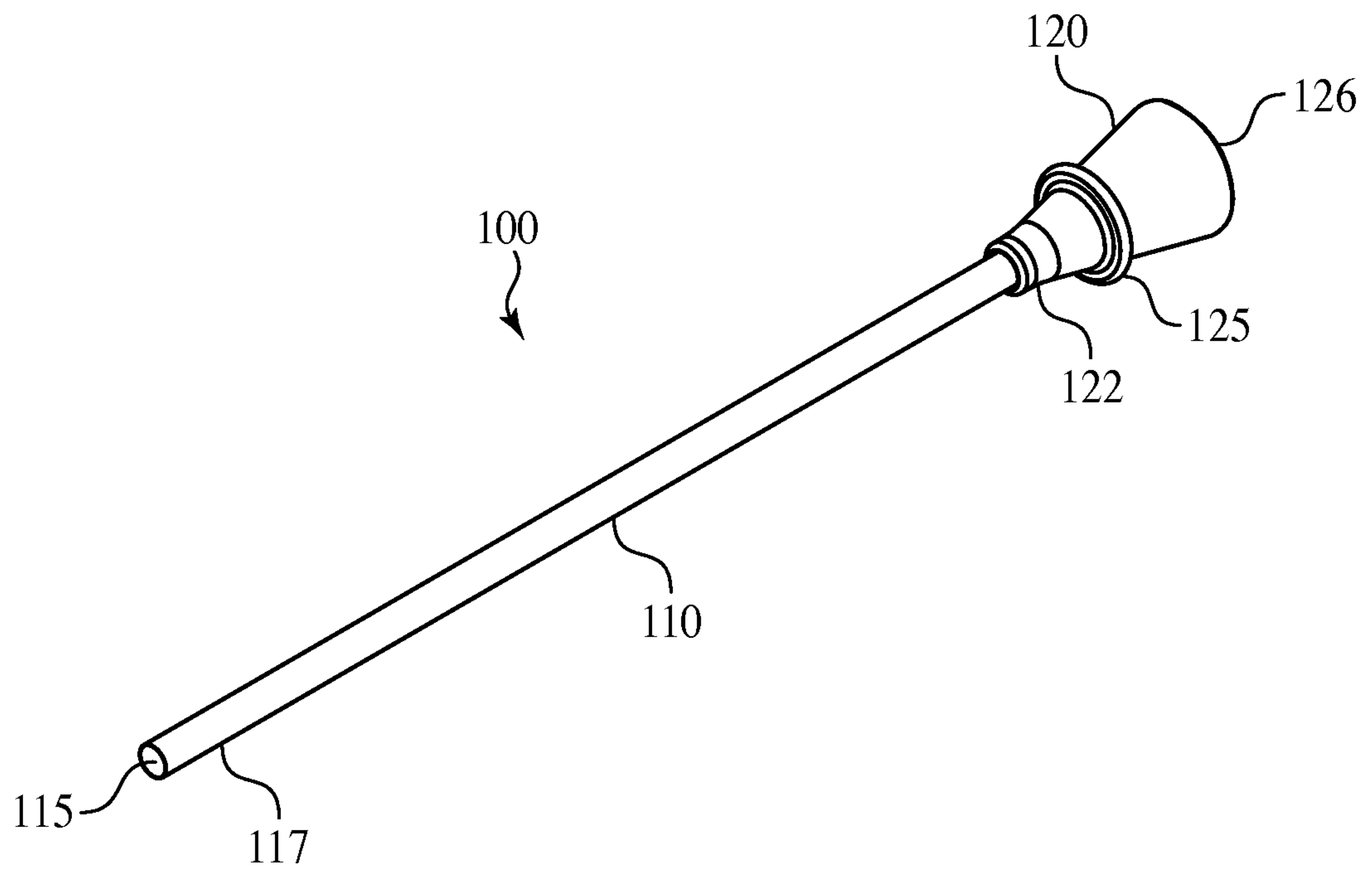


FIG. 2

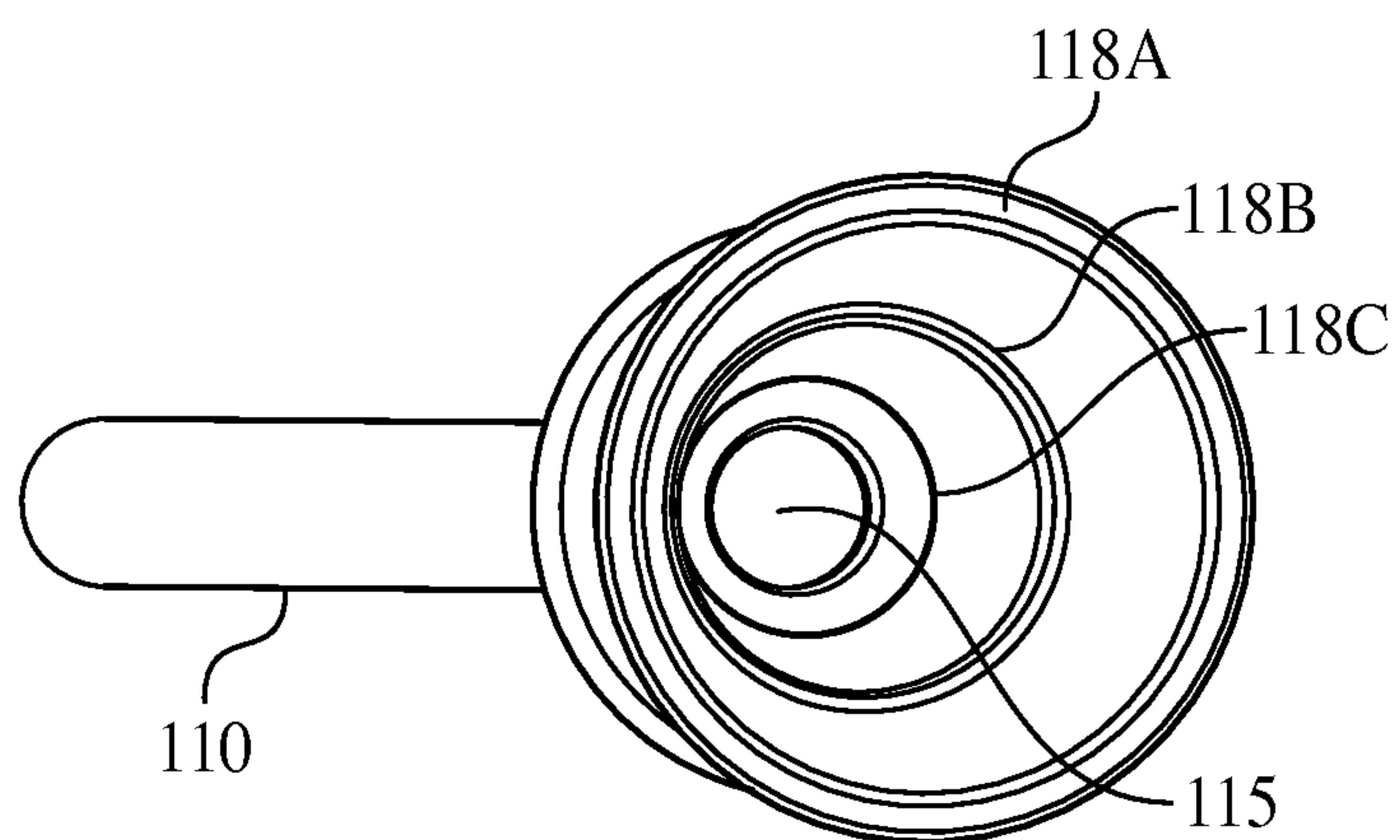


FIG. 3

3/9

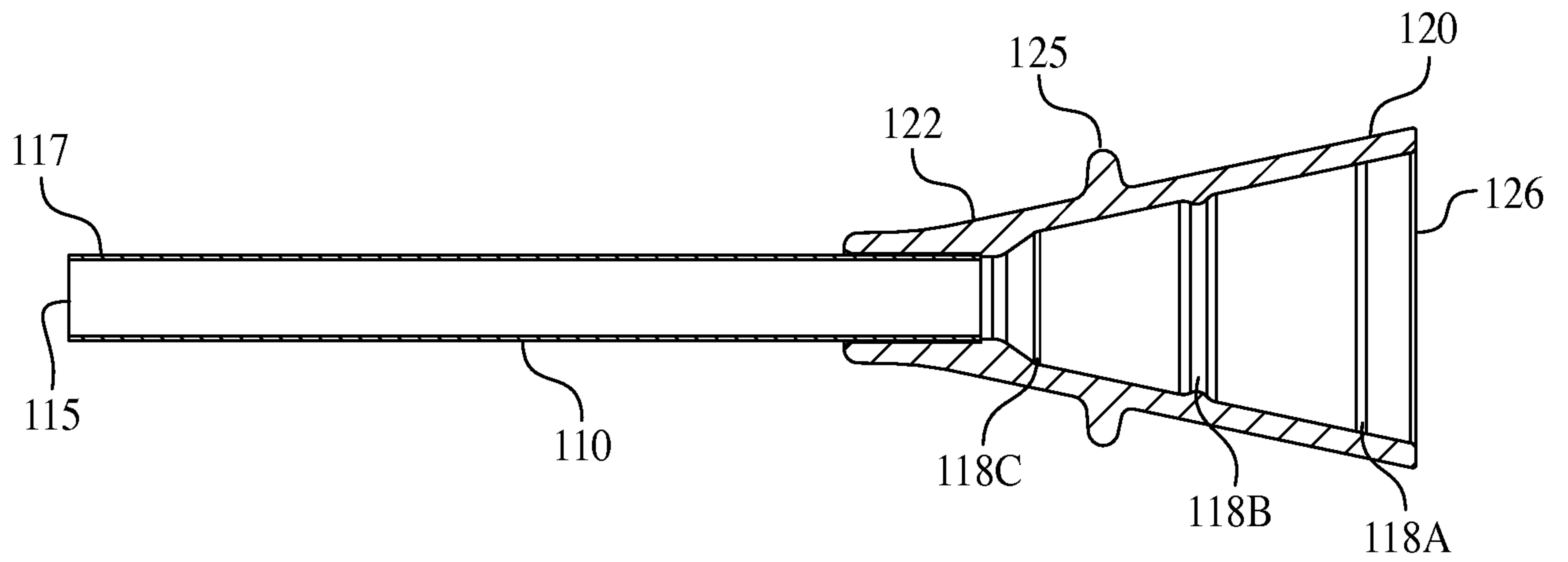


FIG. 4

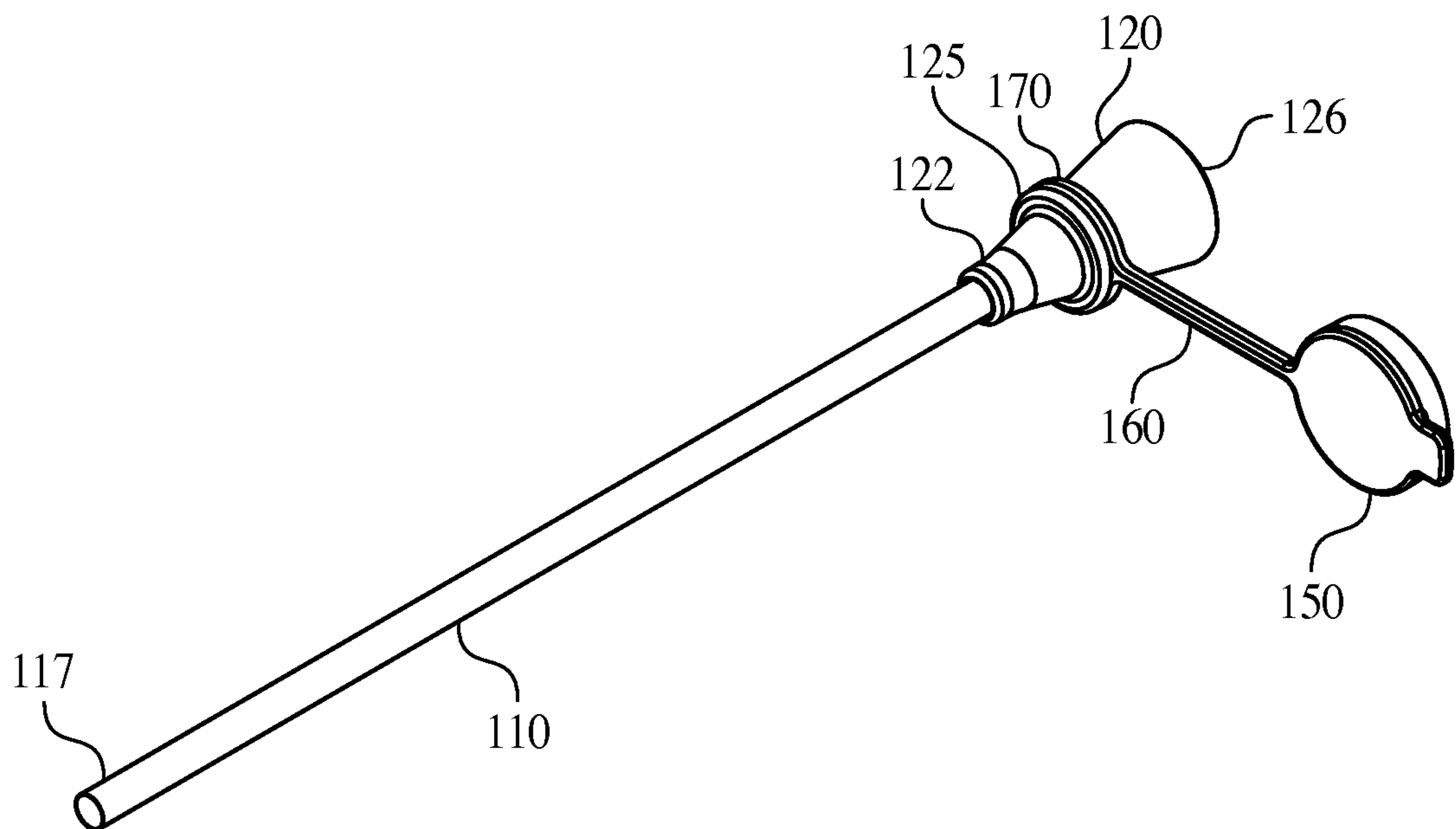


FIG. 5

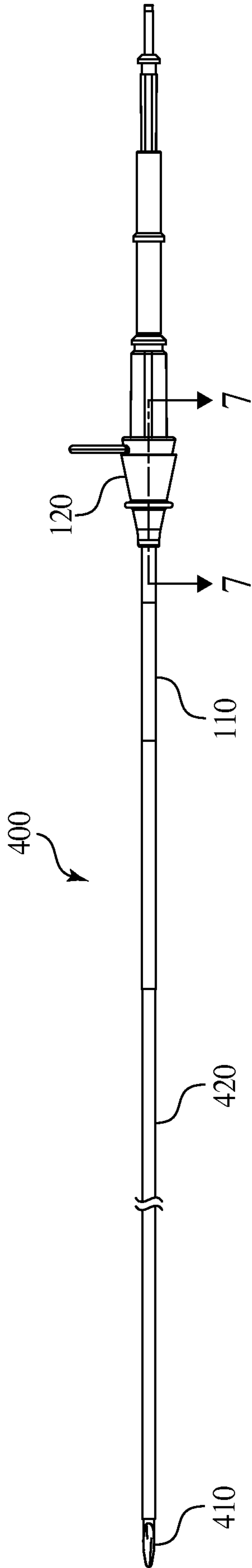


FIG. 6

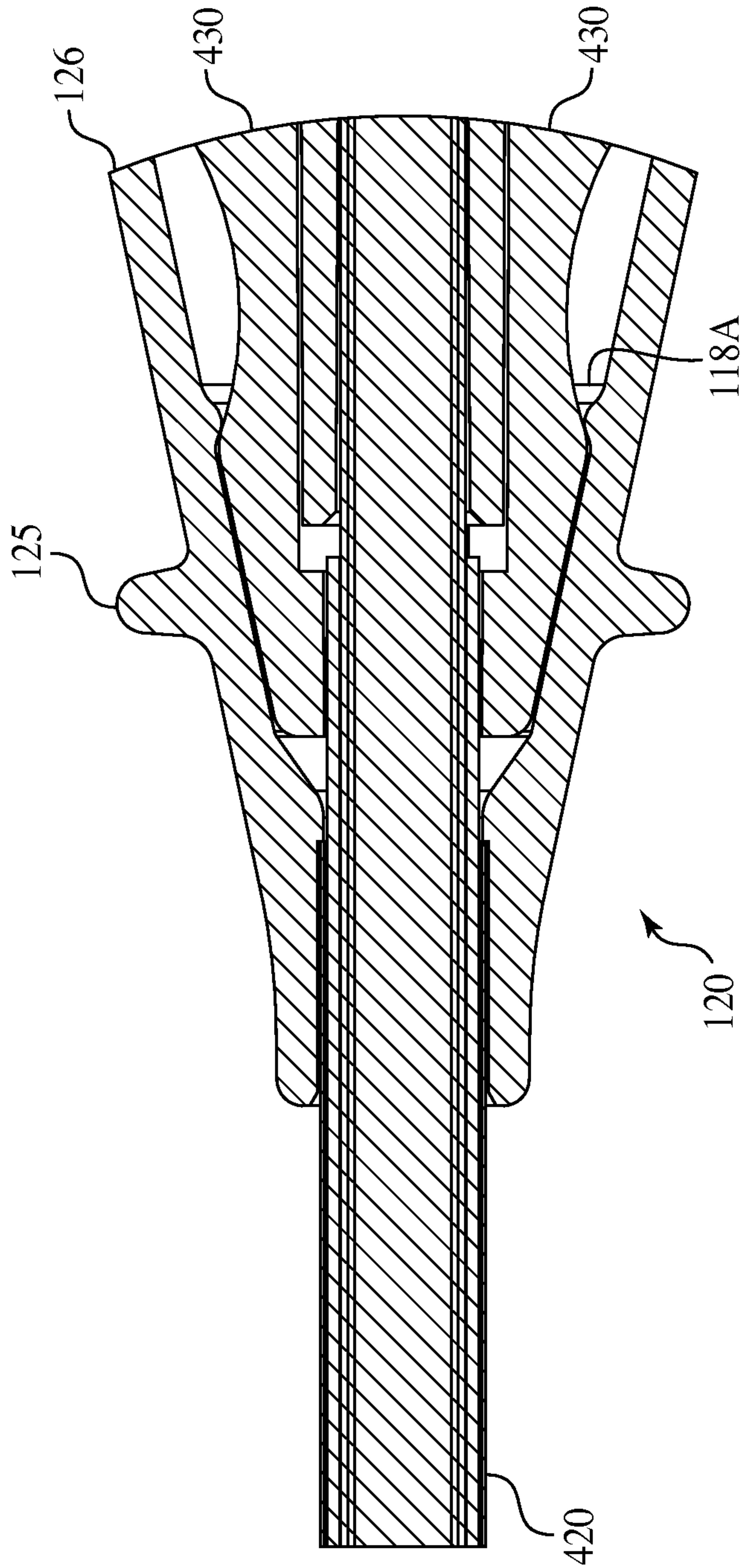


FIG. 7

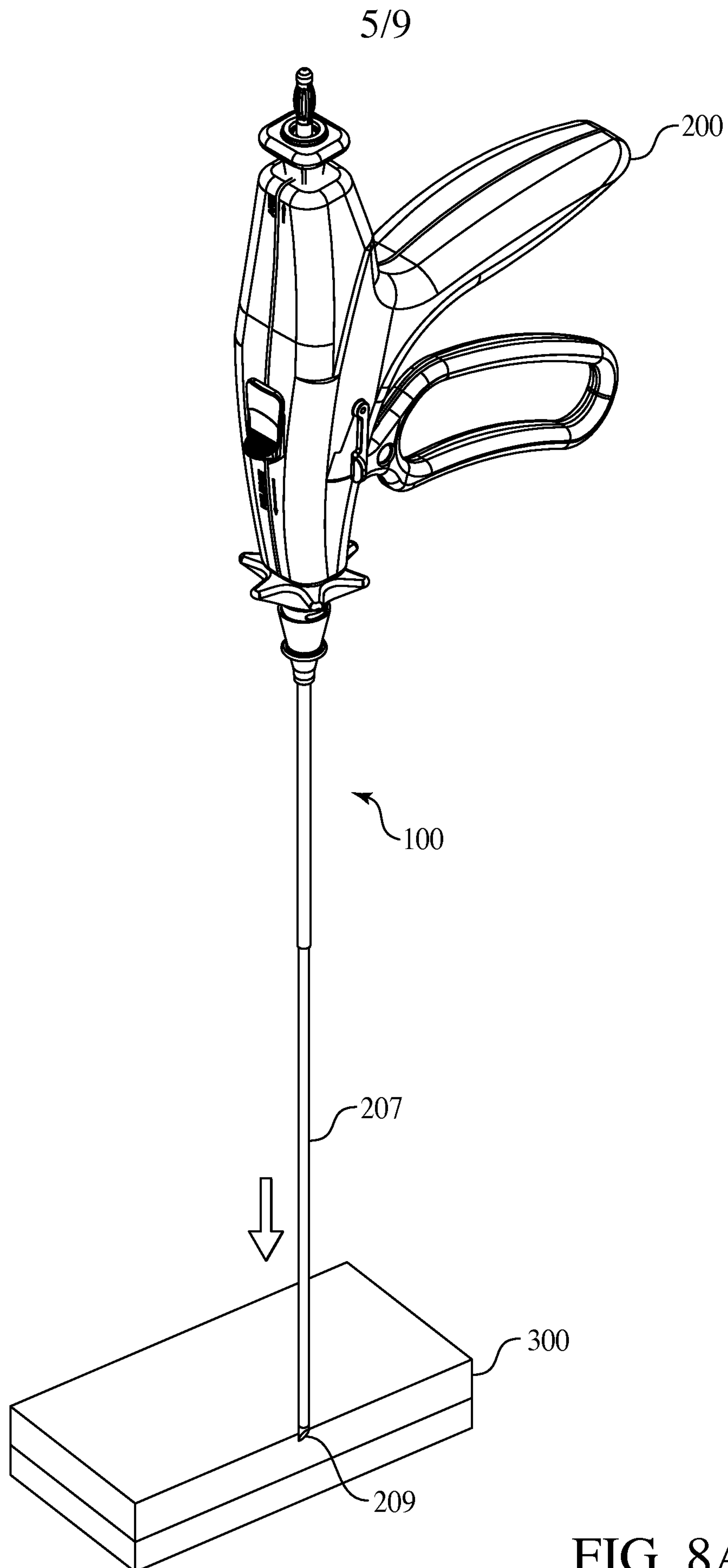


FIG. 8A

6/9

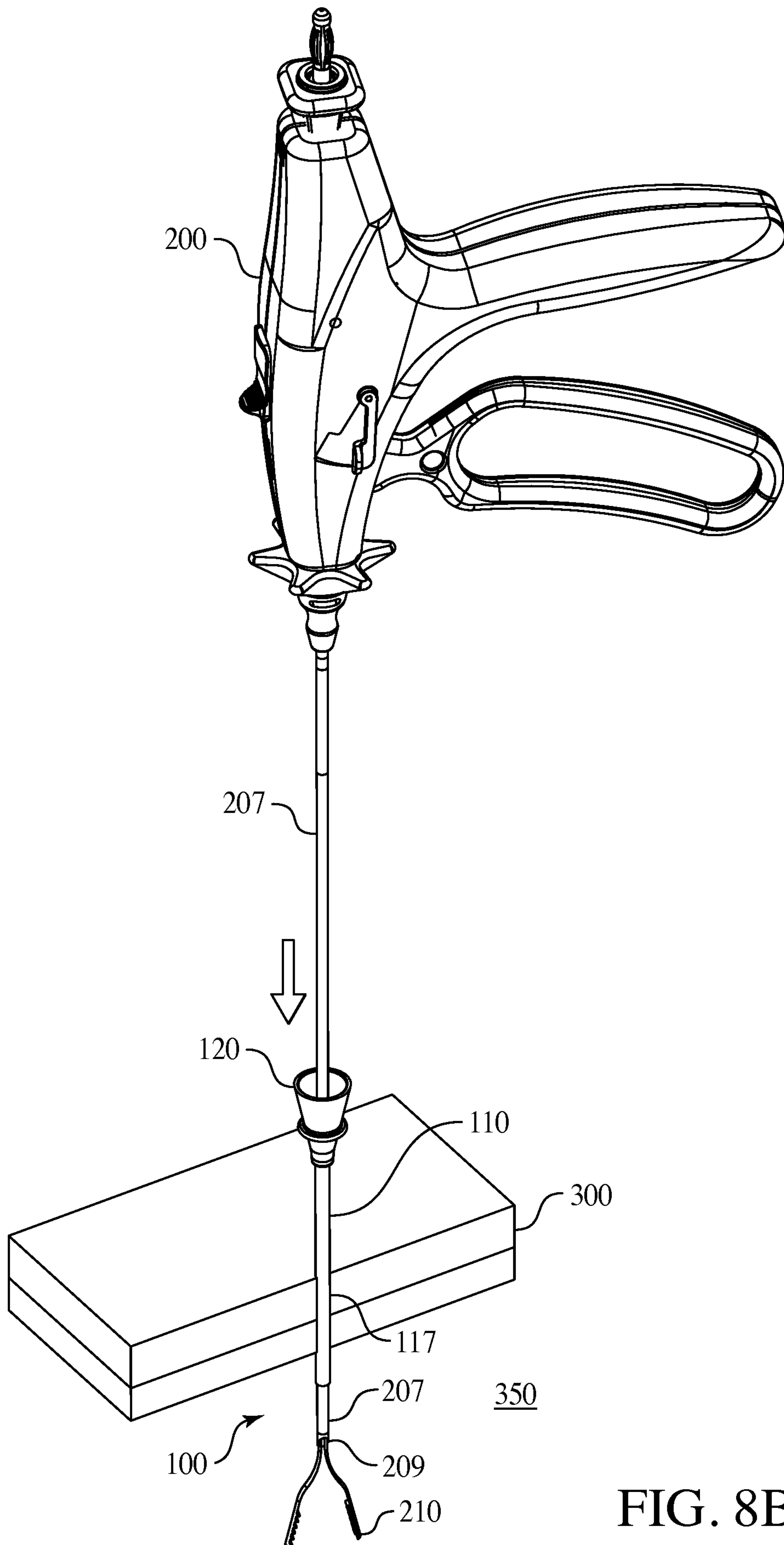


FIG. 8B

7/9

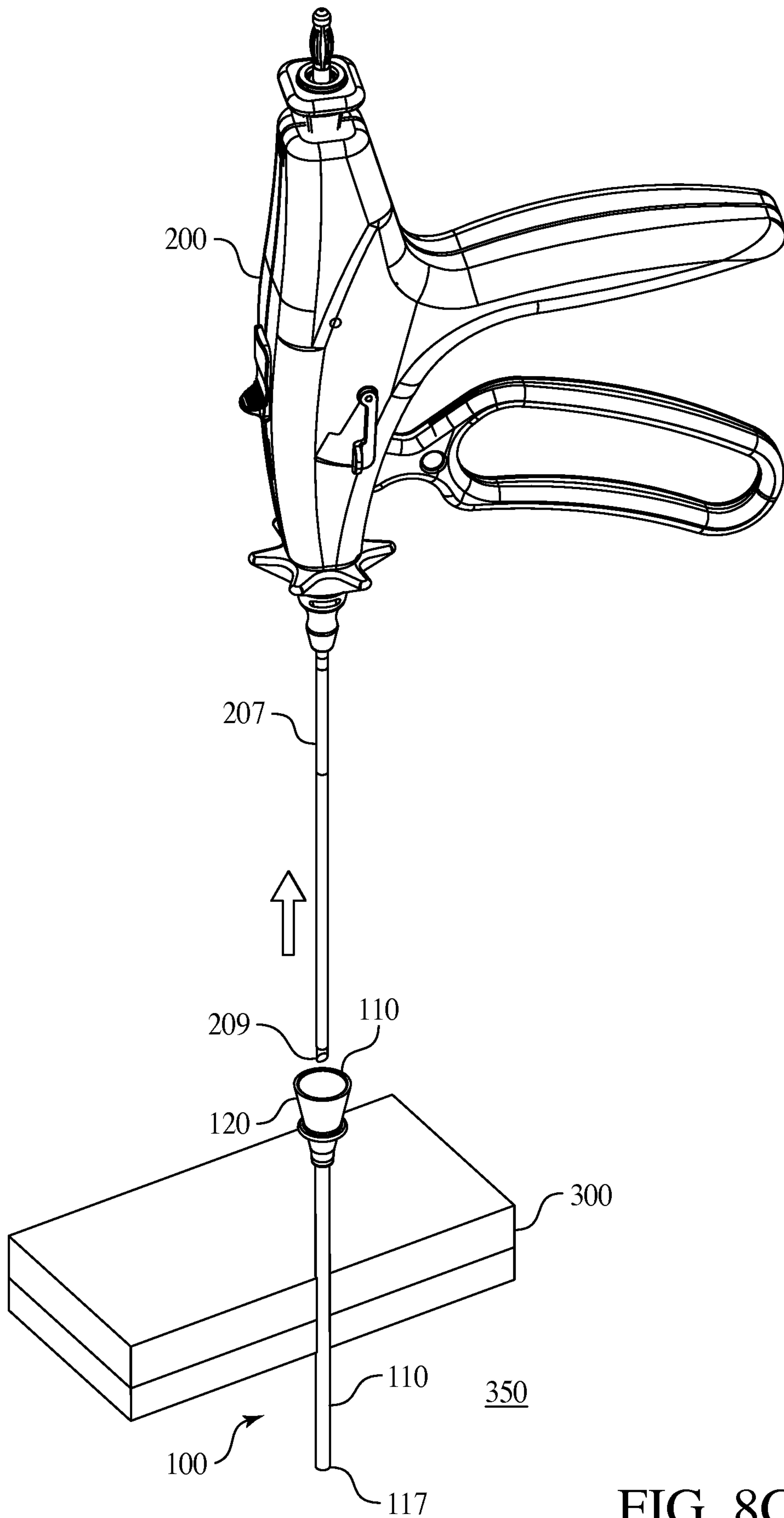


FIG. 8C

8/9

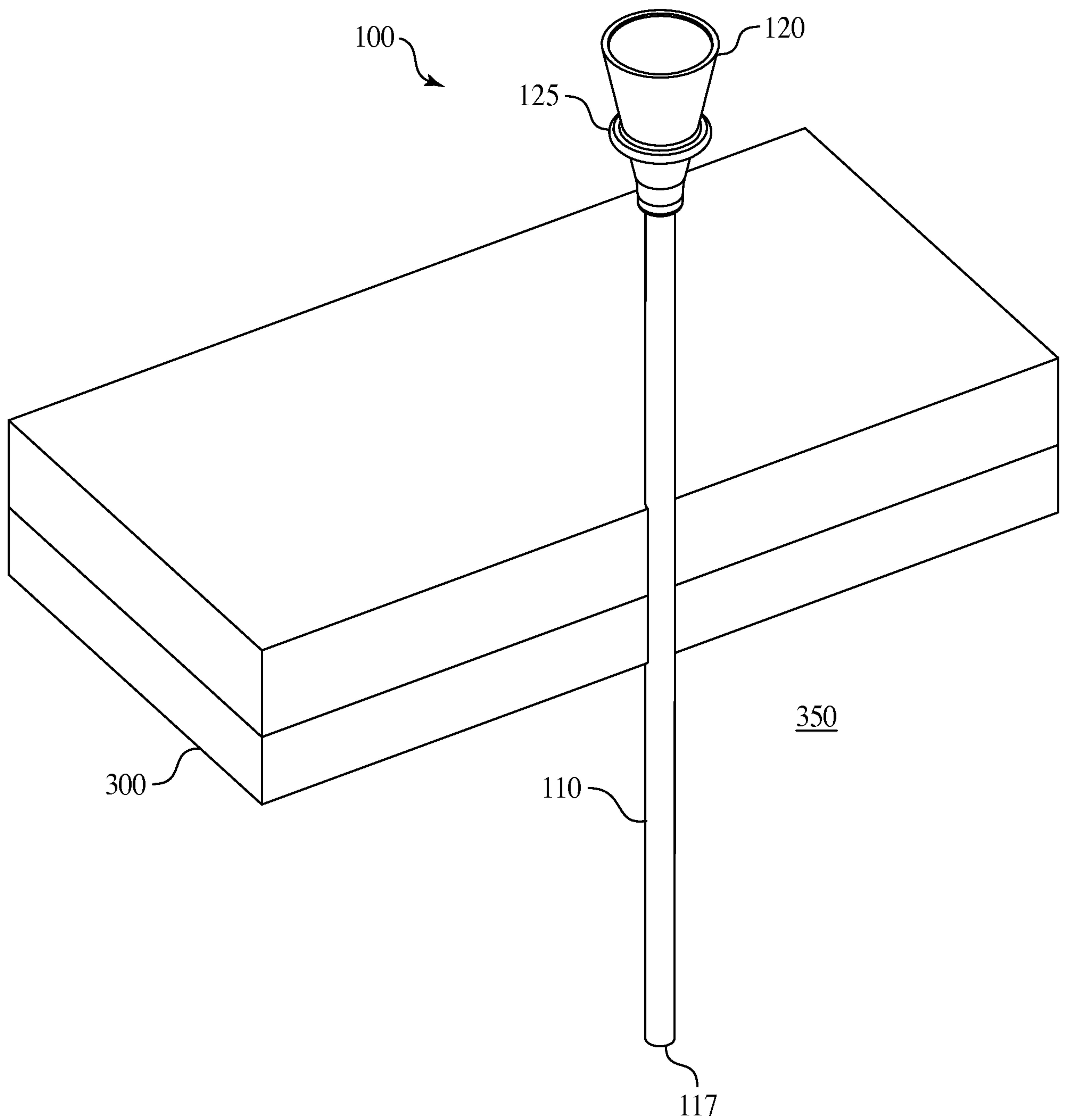


FIG. 8D

9/9

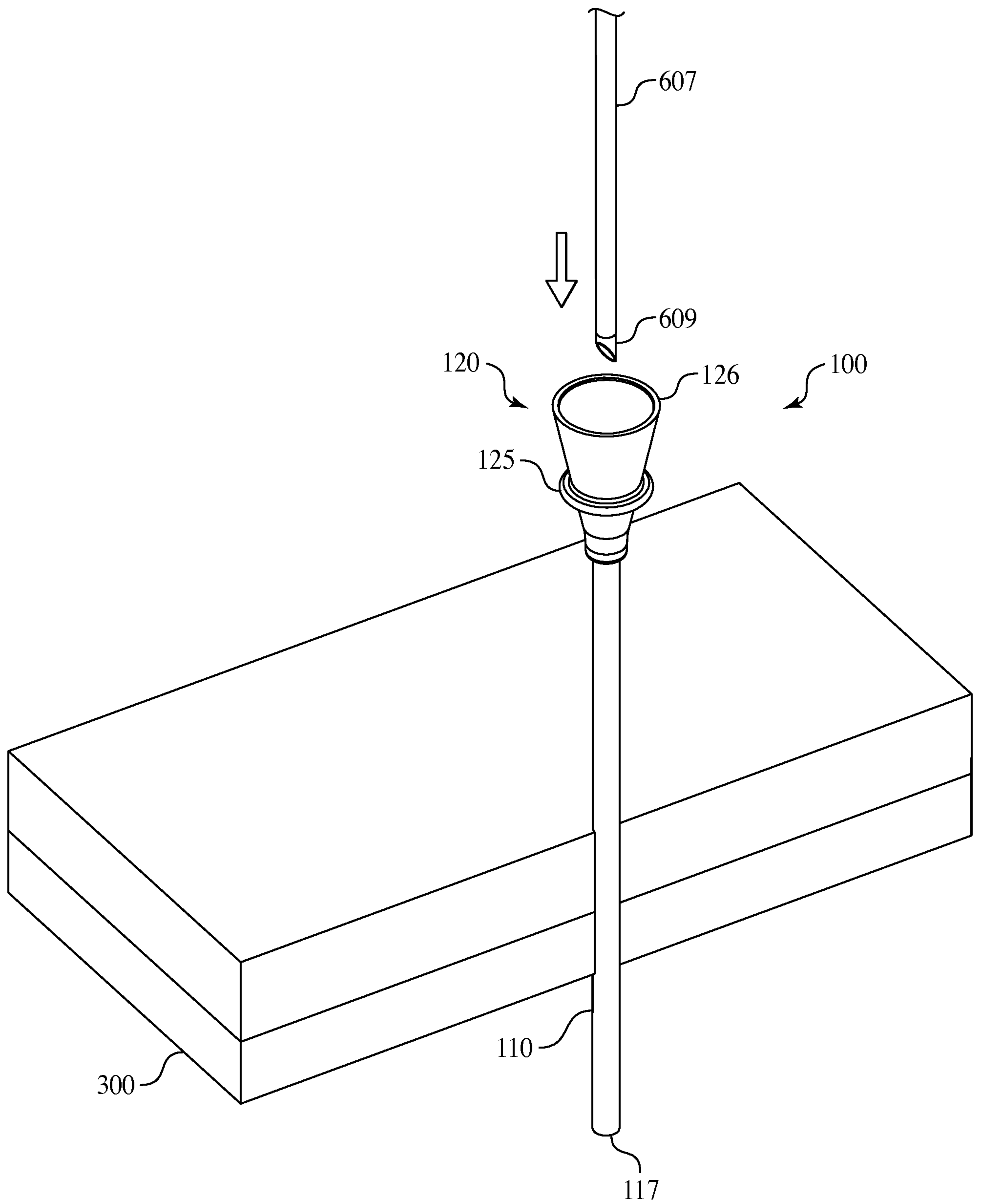


FIG. 8E

