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DESCRIPTION

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present disclosure relates to medical devices, specifically to medical endoscopes.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Endoscope systems are necessary equipments for diagnosis and treatment of diseases in modern medicine. Existing endoscope systems generally include an endoscope part and a host part, such as the endoscope systems described in the Chinese application with a publication number of CN103917148A. Referring to FIG. 1, the endoscope part generally includes a part 11 which will be inserted into a body cavity, and a mechanical control part 12. The part inserted into the body cavity mainly includes a tubular multi-joint mechanical arm 13 (whose specific configuration is not shown in the figures and may be understood referring to the Chinese application with a publication number of CN102341057A, etc) and a camera 14 mounted on the front end of the mechanical arm. Transmission wires (usually four, and not shown in the figures) are inserted into the multi-joint mechanical arm. One end of the transmission wires is fixed near the joint, and the other end is connected with the mechanical control part. An operator can control the bending of the multi-joint mechanical arm by manipulating the mechanical control part to move the transmission wires in the length direction, such that the camera is able to shoot the region of interesting within the body cavity to obtain videos. The part inserted into the body cavity of the existing endoscope is clad by several layers made from a variety of materials (the specific configuration is not shown in the figures). For example, an inner layer may be a hose made from twisted metal wires, outside of which is clad by polyurethane materials, etc. The video data collected by the camera is transmitted through a dedicated data line 15 which is extended from the mechanical control part and connected to a data interface 21 of the host part 20 through a dedicated data connector 16. The host part generally includes a data processing system 22 and a display 23, etc, for processing and displaying the collected image data.

[0003] The existing medical endoscope is reusable and expensive. The selling price of one endoscope is up to about 300,000 yuan. Since it needs to be reused, after being used, each endoscope must undergo a strict and complicated sterilization procedure to avoid cross infection between patients. According to the related sterilization criteria issued by the Ministry of Health, an used endoscope should undergo a cleaning and sterilization process of 6~10 steps which take at least 20 minutes.

[0004] The current situation of the medical endoscope industry is that, on the one hand, the endoscope is expensive and the great acquisition cost leads to that the number of equipped endoscopes is greatly limited; on the other hand, the hospital needs to set up a dedicated

sterilization chamber and equip it with dedicated sterilization equipments and corresponding operators, which further increases the operating cost of the endoscope, while the required sterilization procedure limits the frequency of reuse, which leads to that the patients need to pay not only the economic cost but also the time cost, and still take the risk of cross infection etc. caused by an imperfect sterilization. Furthermore, the frequent cleaning and sterilization processes will produce large amounts of liquid chemical waste and aggravate the environmental pollution.

[0005] For a long time, such a development path has been formed in the medical endoscope filed that the endoscope is expensive -> it needs to be reused -> it needs to be sterilized strictly -> the erosion caused by the sterilization needs to be resisted to extend the service life -> better materials and more sophisticated technologies are need -> and the endoscope becomes more expensive. This development path makes the development of the medical endoscope fall into a cycle of high cost and high consumption.

[0006] Although the endoscope has been developed from early fiber-optic endoscope to electronic endoscope which collects images based on photosensitive chip, the cycle is not broken yet. But in fact, with the rapid development of electronic technology, the price of the camera etc. as the core elements for image collection has already become very low. For example, the cost of a conventional 300,000 pixels color CMOS camera assembly is only about 10 yuan.

[0007] Furthermore, document US2010318100 discloses a disposable endoscope having a tubular part including a plurality of joints, and having transmission wires fixed on one side to one of the joints and fixed on the other side to one of a plurality of fixed connectors, wherein movement of the transmission wires causes the tubular part to bend.

[0008] Document US2008177285 discloses a disposable surgical instrument having a tubular part including a plurality of joints, and having transmission wires fixed on one side to one of the joints and fixed on the other side to one of a plurality of fixed connectors, wherein movement of the transmission wires causes the tubular part to bend.

SUMMARY

[0009] According to one aspect of the present disclosure, a disposable endoscope is provided. The disposable endoscope may include: a tubular part including a plurality of joints; linear transmission parts which are inserted into the tubular part, where one end of the linear transmission part is fixed with respect to one of the joints and the other end is provided with a first connector, the movement of the linear transmission parts along the length direction can cause the tubular part to bend, and the first connectors are used to be detachably engaged with the corresponding connectors of an external control seat; a camera unit mounted on the front end of the tubular part; a wire harness, where one end of the wire harness is connected with the camera unit and the other end is used to be connected with external power supply and

data processing device, and the wire harness is used to provide the camera unit with power and transmit image data collected; a cladding layer cladding the tubular part and the extending linear transmission parts and wire harness; a connection head arranged on the end of the linear transmission parts away from the tubular part, where the connection head is provided with through holes through which the first connectors pass; and a disposable fastener, where the disposable fastener is used to fix the first connectors with respect to the connection head, and after the disposable fastener is removed the first connectors are able to be moved in the through holes of the connection head along the length direction.

[0010] According to another aspect of the present disclosure, a disposable endoscope system is provided. The disposable endoscope system includes the disposable endoscope described above and a control seat which is used to be connected with the disposable endoscope. The control seat includes: the second connectors which are used to be detachably engaged with the first connectors; a conductive interface which is used to be electrically connected with the other end of the wire harness; a connection seat which is provided with through holes through which the second connectors pass, where when the first connectors are engaged with the second connectors the through holes of the connection seat are aligned with the through holes of the connection head; a driving mechanism which is connected with the second connectors and used to control the movement of the second connectors along the length direction; and a limiting switch which is used to fix or release the second connectors with respect to the connection seat.

[0011] The disposable endoscope according to the present disclosure separates the driving parts and the image collection parts which need to be inserted into the body cavity. The linear transmission parts are connected with the driving mechanism by the cooperation of the connection head and the connection seat. Therefore, based on the situation that currently the electronic technology is mature, making the expensive device to be disposable is achieved. The advantages are not only that the complicated cleaning and sterilization processes are entirely omitted and the economic cost for the use of the endoscope is reduced, but also that the time cost for the use of the endoscope is also effectively reduced since the disposable endoscope can be equipped largely. The present disclosure will subvert the current industrial model of the endoscope industry and open up new directions for the development of the medical endoscope.

[0012] The embodiments of the present disclosure will be described in details in following with reference to the drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013]

FIG. 1 is a schematic view of an existing endoscope system;

FIG. 2 is a schematic view of a disposable endoscope according to the first embodiment;

FIG. 3 is a schematic view of a connection head in the first embodiment;

FIG. 4 is a schematic view showing a longitudinal section of the connection head in the first embodiment which passes through the through hole;

FIG. 5 is a schematic view of a tubular part in the second embodiment;

FIG. 6 is a radially projected schematic view of the tubular part in the second embodiment;

FIG. 7 shows the radially and axially projected schematic views of an annular unit of the tubular part in the second embodiment;

FIG. 8 is a schematic view of a disposable endoscope system according to the third embodiment;

FIG. 9 is a schematic view of the connection seat in the third embodiment;

FIG. 10 is schematic view showing a longitudinal section of the interconnected portions of the connection head and the connection seat in the third embodiment which does not pass through the through hole; and

FIG. 11 is a schematic view of a limiting switch in the third embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The first embodiment

[0014] One embodiment of the disposable endoscope according to the present disclosure is shown in FIG. 2 to FIG. 4. The disposable endoscope may include a tubular part 201, linear transmission parts 202, a camera unit 203, a wire harness (not shown), a cladding layer (not shown entirely), a connection head 205 and a disposable fastener 206.

[0015] The tubular part 201 includes a plurality of joints 2011. The tubular part may employ a variety of structures which are able to achieve a controllable bending operation through linear transmission parts, which will not be limited by the present embodiment, and what is shown in the figures is merely an example. Furthermore, in order to show the tubular part, the cladding layer which clads the tubular part is not shown in FIG. 2. Because it does not need to be reused, the tubular part may be made from materials of plastic, etc. in order to reduce the cost. For example, the tubular part may be made by a simple processing technology such as injection molding.

[0016] The linear transmission parts 202 are inserted into the tubular part. One end of the linear transmission parts 202 is fixed with respect to one of the joints of the tubular part (for example, is fixed near the forefront joint), and the other end is provided with first connectors 2021. The movement of the linear transmission parts along the length direction can lead to the bending of the tubular part. The linear transmission parts may generally employ steel wires, or may also employ other kinds of materials whose strength and stretchability meet the requirements.

[0017] The camera unit 203 is mounted on the front end of the tubular part. The camera unit may employ a variety of structures which can achieve digital image collection. For example, the camera unit generally may include a lens, a photosensitive chip, a lighting unit and an integrated circuit board which provides corresponding control functions. Preferably, the lighting unit may employ brightness-adjustable LED cold light source. The camera unit may employ an existing universal small camera assembly (for example, the common camera assembly used in mobile phone), or may also employ a dedicated camera assembly made for the disposable endoscope (for example, may be designed as having a cylindrical shape corresponding to the diameter of the tubular part). A person skilled in the art will understand that, since the camera technology is a very mature technology, the use of the dedicated camera assembly will not greatly increase the cost. It should be noted that the camera unit and the tubular part are divided into two parts based on respective functions and the mechanical structural parts of them can be combined with each other. For example, the package of the camera unit can be integrated with the front end of the tubular part, or the package of the camera unit itself can be a part of the front end of the tubular part.

[0018] The wire harness is hidden inside of the structure and thus not shown. One end of the wire harness is connected with the camera unit, and the other end is connected with an external power supply and a data processing device (for example, a host) so as to provide the camera unit with power and transmit the image data collected. It is worth mentioning that the existing endoscope system usually uses dedicated power supply and data transmission method, which leads to that the circuit is complicated and a specially designed electrical connector is needed, thereby forming a technical barrier. However, based on the mature camera technology, a simpler circuit is possible. Therefore, as a preferred example, the wire harness of the disposable endoscope according to the present disclosure may employ a common electrical connection (for example, a electrical connection based on a common USB protocol) to perform the transmission of the power and the data, which can not only reduce the number of lines in the wire harness (typically 5), but also lead to a good versatility of the circuit interface between the endoscope and the host. Therefore, the difficulty of the development of the host system is effectively reduced, thereby reducing the overall cost of the endoscope system. There is reason to believe that it is possible to implement the host of the endoscope system by installing appropriate processing soft wares in conventional computer hardware.

[0019] The cladding layer clads the tubular part, the extending linear transmission parts and the wire harness. It will be readily understood that, based on the different parts clad by the cladding layer, the cladding layer may include different sections which employ different

materials and different package methods. For example, since the tubular part itself includes supportive structures and needs to be bended, it can be clad by a film (not shown). While because the wires extending out of the tubular part have no supportive structures, the section extending from the rear end of the tubular part to the connection head can employ a hose 204 with a certain thickness as the cladding layer. Since it does not need to be reused and the resistance against the erosion caused by the harsh sterilization conditions does not need to be considered, as a preferred example, the cladding layer of the variety of sections can all be single layer. This way, not only the packaging process is simple, but also the diameter of the endoscope can be effectively reduced, thereby reducing the pain suffered by the patients during the examination. Since there is no requirement for durability and corrosion resistance for the cladding layer, generally the materials with good biocompatibility can be used. For example, the film may employ a medical thermoplastic elastomer film (TPE/TPR), etc. and the hose may employ medical silicone, etc.

[0020] The connection head 205 is arranged at the end of the linear transmission parts away from the tubular part, and is provided with through holes 2051 through which the first connectors pass. Since it is disposable and relatively simple, the connection head may be made from plastic materials and manufactured by a simple process such as injection molding, etc.

[0021] The disposable fastener 206 is used to fix the first connectors with respect to the connection head. After the disposable fastener is removed, the first connectors can be moved in the through holes of the connection head along the length direction. The disposable fastener is mainly used to fix the first connectors before the connection head is connected to the connection seat to facilitate the connection operation. After the connection operation is completed, the disposable fastener can be removed.

[0022] In the present embodiment, as a preferred structure, the first connectors 2021 are cylindrical in shape. The cross-sectional sizes of the first connectors match the cross-sectional sizes of the through holes 2051 of the connection head. The ends of the first connectors are provided with male connectors 20211 which are used to detachably engage the corresponding connectors of an external control seat. Specifically, the male connectors 20211 are used to snap with corresponding female connectors of the external control seat. It will be readily understood by a person skilled in the art that the first connectors are interchangeable with the connection structure of the corresponding connectors of the external control seat. For example, the recessed female connectors may be arranged in the first connectors while the protruded male connectors may be arranged on the external control seat.

[0023] It is worth mentioning that, since the first connectors are disposable parts while the external control seat is a permanent non-disposable part, it can be considered when designing the connection structures therebetween that the structures which are easy to manufacture or have low requirements for the materials are arranged at the first connectors while those which are relatively difficult to manufacture or have high reliability requirements are arranged on the control seat.

[0024] The structures of the first connectors of the present embodiment are merely examples. It will be readily understood by a person skilled in the art that the engagement of the first connectors with the corresponding connectors may be achieved by a variety of detachable mechanical structures. For example, in an embodiment, the end of the first connector may be a ring while the corresponding connector is provided with a pliers-shaped end which is controllable to open and close. The engagement can be implemented by closing the pliers-shaped end to grip the ring of the end of the first connector, and the detachment can be implemented by opening the pliers-shaped end to release the ring of the end of the first connector. In another example, the end of the first connector may employ the male connector according to the present embodiment, while the corresponding connector employs a gripping mechanism which is controllable to release and grip and the engagement can be implemented by gripping the neck of the male connector. It is obvious that a variety of achievable detachable engagements can be designed based on the existing knowledge of mechanics. Therefore, the specific structure of the first connector will not be interpreted as limitations to the present disclosure. Furthermore, the relative size of the first connector and the through hole of the connection head are related to the specific implementation of the connection and belong to design characteristics. In the present disclosure, the through hole of the connection head may serve as a position-limit mechanism which limits the first connector to move only along the length direction such that the displacement of the first connector can be better controlled. In other connections, for example in the case of the disposable fastener fixing the first connector in several dimensions, there may be great difference between the sizes of the first connector and the through hole of the connection head.

[0025] In the present embodiment, as a preferred structure, a limiting hole 2052 may be provided at the center of the end face of the connection head 205. The limiting hole 2052 may be used for snapping with a corresponding limiting pile on the external control seat. It will be readily understood that the positions of the limiting hole and the limiting pile are interchangeable. Since the connection head is disposable part, it is preferred that the limiting hole is arranged in the connection head for saving materials. This kind of structure connecting the center of the end face of the connection head with the center of the end face of the control seat can effectively increase the stability of the connection between the disposable endoscope and the permanent parts to ensure that the connections of the mechanical transmission parts can run smoothly. Similar to the first connector, the specific structures for the engagement of the limiting hole with the limiting pile can be designed based on the existing knowledge of mechanics. For example, a gripping structure using spring clips or a tight fit relying solely on the friction force between the materials can be used.

[0026] In the present embodiment, exemplarily, there are four first connectors 2021 and the through holes 2051 in the connection head 205 are arranged on a same circumference around the center of the end face of the connection head. Obviously, the number of the first connectors is determined by the number of the linear transmission parts. Therefore, based on the different mechanical transmission structures (the structures for matching the tubular part and the linear transmission part), the number of the first connectors may vary. The uniform

arrangement of the through holes 2051 in the present embodiment can facilitate the connection operation and provide better operational stability.

[0027] In the present embodiment, as a preferred structure, conductive contacts 2053 may further be arranged on the end face of the connection head 205. Each of the conductive contacts is electrically connected with a line in the wire harness, respectively. When the first connectors engage with the corresponding connectors of the external control seat, the conductive contacts are electrically connected with corresponding conductive interfaces of the control seat, thereby introducing external power supply and data processing devices through the lines of the control seat. This preferred structure achieves the connections of both the mechanical transmission and the electrical signal in a single connection operation of the connection head, and thus increases the convenience of using the disposable endoscope. In other embodiments, the structures similar to the existing endoscope may be used, i.e., the wire harness is extended out through a dedicated opening in the connection head and directly connected with a host which provides power supply and data processing functions.

[0028] In the present embodiment, as a preferred structure, the connection head 205 may further be provided with a biopsy entrance 2054 and a gas and water entrance 2055. Correspondingly, the package of the camera unit may be provided with through holes (not shown) which communicate with the interior of the tubular part. Passages starting from the biopsy entrance and the gas and water entrance may pass through the connection head and extend to the corresponding through holes located in the forefront package through the hose and the interior of the tubular part. This preferred structure further increases the degree of functional integration of the connection head and enables the disposable endoscope to be used in conjunction with the medical devices such as biopsy forceps, air pump and water pump, etc. In other embodiments, either or both of the biopsy entrance and gas and water entrance may not be used as required.

[0029] In the present embodiment, as a preferred structure, the disposable fastener 206 may be an arcuated buckle, the shape of which matches the cross-sectional profile of the connection head 205. The inner wall of the arcuated buckle is provided with an inward protrusion 2061. The side wall of the connection head is provided with a positioning hole 2056 which extends to the through hole 2051. The side of the first connector is provided with a recessed hole 20212 which corresponds to the position of the positioning hole. The protrusion of the arcuated buckle passes through the positioning hole and snaps into the recessed hole on the side of the first connector to fix the first connector. In order to ensure the nature of disposability, the arcuated buckle may be made from brittle materials such that it will be broken when being removed from the connection head and thus can not be reused. Or, in other embodiments, the two ends of the arcuated buckle may be connected by a vulnerable part to form a closed ring. When used, the arcuated buckle may be released and removed from the connection head by removing the vulnerable part. It will be readily understood that the specific structures of the disposable fastener are not limited to the example above. Rather, when the design of the connection structure varied, a disposable fastening structure which matches the connection structure can also be designed based on the existing knowledge of mechanics.

The second embodiment

[0030] The present embodiment provides a preferred structure of the tubular part of the disposable endoscope according to the present disclosure. Referring to FIG. 5 to FIG. 7, the tubular part with this preferred structure includes a plurality of annular units 501. Each annular unit includes a cylindrical body 5011 and lugs which are located at both sides of the cylindrical body and extend along the axial direction. The cross sections of the cylindrical body are provided with through holes 5013 through which the linear transmission parts (not shown) pass. The ends of the lugs are provided with pins 50121 which are radially outwardly protruded, and the side wall of the cylindrical body is provided with connection holes 50111 which cooperate with the pins. The lugs and the connection holes in the same cylindrical body are crosswise arranged. One annular unit is connected to an adjacent annular unit by snapping its pins into the connection holes of the adjacent annular unit, and the junction forms the joint. The profile of the interconnected portions of the two adjacent annular units is wedge (show by dash lines in FIG. 6) and the vertex of the wedge is located at the joint. It will be readily understood that the annular units which are located at the head end and/or tail end may have different structures from those which are located at the middle so as to facilitate the connection of other parts. For example, the annular unit located at the tail end may be provided with an extending cylindrical tail part in order to facilitate the connection of the hose. For another example, the annular unit located at the head end may be integrated with the package of the camera unit installed. The annular unit located at the head end may not be provided with the lugs, but merely include the connection hole which will be connected by subsequent annular unit. The "a plurality of annular units" mentioned above may be understood as the group of the annular units of the tubular which are located the middle and have the same structure, except those located at the head end and the tail end.

[0031] The preferred structure of the tubular part mentioned above have many advantages. On the one hand, the annular unit may be made from plastic materials with a certain elasticity and manufactured by injection molding, and the connection of two adjacent annular units can be achieved by pressing the lugs of one of the two annular units by one hand (to reduce the distance between the lugs), pressing the cylindrical body of the other of the two annular units by the other hand (to increase the distance between the connection holes), snapping the pins of the lugs into the connection holes of the cylindrical body, and removing the pressing force to let the annular units restore, therefore the assembly of the tubular part can be done by hand without the use of any tools and the assembly process is simple; on the other hand, the wedge-shaped back angle between two adjacent annular units which is formed by the shape of the annular units enables each of the joints to have greater activity space, which facilitates the tubular part to achieve greater bending angle such that the disposable endoscope have more flexible observation range.

The third embodiment

[0032] One embodiment of the disposable endoscope system according to the present disclosure is shown in FIG. 8, which includes a disposable endoscope 200 and a control seat 300. The disposable endoscope 200 may employ the structures described in the first embodiment. The structures of the control seat 300 are described in FIG. 8 to FIG. 11, which includes second connectors 301, a conductive interface 302, a connection seat 303, a driving mechanism 304 and a limiting switch 305.

[0033] The second connectors 301 detachably engage the first connectors. Based on the correspondence with the structures in the first embodiment, in the present embodiment, as a preferred structure, the second connectors are cylindrical in shape and the cross-sectional sizes of the second connectors are same with the cross-sectional sizes of the first connectors, and the end of the second connectors are provided with recessed female connectors 3011 which correspond to the first connectors. The side of the female connector is provided with an opening such that the corresponding male connector is able to be rotated into the female connector through the opening to achieve the snap engagement. Similarly corresponding to the first connectors, there are four second connectors which are arranged on a same circumference around the center of the end face of the connection seat.

[0034] The conductive interface 302 is used to be electrically connected with the wire harness of the disposable endoscope. Since the wire harness in the first embodiment is conducted through the conductive contacts 2053 arranged on the end face of the connection head 205, in the present embodiment, as a preferred structure, the conductive interface 302 is arranged on the end face of the connection seat 303, and the location of the conductive interface is designed in such a way that when the first connectors engage the second connectors the conductive contacts are able to contact with the conductive interface to achieve the electrical connection. Particularly preferably, when the wire harness of the disposable endoscope employs USB-based transmission, the conductive interface 302 may have 5 contacts (which specifically may be, for example, spring contacts slightly protruding out of the end face) to increase the reliability of the connection with the conductive contacts of the connection head of the endoscope.

[0035] The connection seat 303 is provided with through holes 3031 through which the second connectors 301 pass. Similar to the fit relationship between the first connectors and the through holes of the connection head, the size of the cross sections of the through holes of the connection seat matches the size of the cross sections of the second connectors. When the first connector engages the second connector, the through hole 3031 of the connection seat is aligned with the through hole 2051 of the connection head such that after the engagement of the two connectors, the two connectors can be moved in the connected through holes to smoothly transfer the driving force to the linear transmission parts. Based on the correspondence with the structure in the first embodiment, in the present embodiment, as a preferred structure, the center of the end face of the connection seat may be further provided with a limiting pile 3032 which corresponds to the center of the end face of the connection head. The limiting pile is used to be engaged with the limiting hole 2052. As an exemplary

structure, the limiting pile is provided with locking protrusions 30321 which are extended along the radial direction, and the inner wall of the limiting hole is provided with axial slides 20521 (see FIG. 3) which cooperate with the locking protrusion and a circumferential slide 20522 which is located at a depth corresponding to the axial location of the locking protrusion such that the limiting pile can snap with the limiting hole by rotation after being inserted into the limiting hole. The rotation of the limiting pile and the limiting hole is synchronous with the rotation of the male connectors into the female connectors.

[0036] The driving mechanism 304 is connected with the second connectors and used to control the movement of the second connectors along the length direction. It will be readily understood that the driving mechanism can employ a variety of appropriate mechanical or electrical driving modes and the driving mode and the specific structures of the driving mechanism are not limited by the present embodiment. For example, the structure that a pulley is driven by a stepper motor and a belt driven by the pulley is fixed at the tail end of the second connector may be used.

[0037] The limiting switch 305 is used to fix or release the second connectors with respect to the connection seat. Before performing the connection operation, the function of the limiting switch is similar to the disposable fastener, which is fixing the second connectors so as to facilitate the performance of the connection operation. After the connection operation is completed, the limiting switch needs to release the second connectors such that they can move along the through hole. The difference from the disposable fastener is that, after the disposable endoscope is used, the limiting switch needs to fix the second connectors again so as to facilitate the remove of the connection. Therefore, the limiting switch can be understood as a mechanical structure with two work states which can be alternately switched, and the specific structures of it thus can be accordingly designed by the person skilled in the art.

[0038] In the present embodiment, as a preferred structure, the limiting switch 305 is arranged on the back side of the connection seat 303 and includes a slider 3051 and a limiting plate 3052. The slider is arranged in the slide 3053 which is extended along the movement direction of the second connector and can move along the slide between a locking position and a releasing position. The length of the slide is greater than the maximum travel of the second connector (for example, generally 2 to 3 centimeters). The limiting plate is fixedly connected with the slider. When the slider is positioned at the locking position AA, the limiting plate abuts against the rear end face BB of the second connector and limits the second connector in the through hole of the connection seat. When the slider is positioned at the releasing position CC, the second connector can move in the space in front of the limiting plate. Further preferably, in order to increase the reliability and the stability of the operation, the slider and the slide may be symmetrically arranged at both sides of the movement direction of the second connector and the limiting plate may be located between two sliders. Specifically, the slide may be arranged in a frame which forms the housing of the connection seat, and the shape of the slider may be designed as a shape which facilitates the push of the finger. It will be readily understood that, based on the preferred structure above, the length of the second connector is the same with the length of the through hole of the connection seat. Therefore, when the connection

operation is to be performed, the limiting plate limits the second connector in the through hole of the connection seat and the female connector at the top of the second connector is just flush with the end face of the connection seat, while the male connector at the top of the first connector fixed by the disposable fastener is also just protruded out of the end face of the connection head, which enable the interconnection of the two connectors.

[0039] For better understanding of the embodiments above, the working process of the disposable endoscope system based on the third embodiment will be described briefly in following.

1. 1. Preparation: confirming that the disposable fastener 206 of the disposable endoscope 200 is intact, and confirming that the limiting switch 305 of the control seat 300 is positioned at the locking position.
2. 2. Connection: aligning the limiting hole 2052 in the connection head of the disposable endoscope with the limiting pile 3032 on the connection seat. Specifically, the locking protrusions 30321 is aligned with and then inserted into the axial slides 20521. When the end faces of the connection head and the connection seat contact with each other, the male connector 20211 of the first connector is inserted into the opening at the side of the female connector 3011 of the second connector. Then the connection head is rotated along the direction of entering the opening (in order to facilitate the operation of the user, an arrow identifying the direction may be marked on the body of the connection seat) such that the male connector is snapped with the female connector and simultaneously the limiting hole is snapped with the limiting pile. At this time, the through hole of the connection head is aligned with the through hole of the connection seat, and the conductive contacts 2053 on the end face of the connection head are electrically connected with the conductive interface 302 on the end face of the connection seat.
3. 3. Usage: removing the disposable fastener after the connection is completed and pushing the limiting switch to the releasing position. Then the location and angle of the camera unit 203 can be controlled by controlling the driving mechanism 304 (for example, by manipulating the buttons on the control panel of the driving mechanism or manipulating a remote control) to obtain the image data collected by the camera unit.
4. 4. Remove: restoring the limiting switch to the locking position after the usage is completed (it may be achieved by directly pushing the second connector back into the through hole using the limiting switch to synchronously complete the restoration and limiting operations, or by controlling the driving mechanism to restore the second connector first, and then limiting the second connector using the limiting switch), rotating the connection head in the direction opposite to its rotation direction when it is connected to the connection seat, and pulling out the connection head after the snap engagement is released. The removed disposable endoscope may be discarded and a new disposable endoscope may be used to repeat the processes above to continue to examine the patients without waiting.

[0040] The principle and embodiments of the present disclosure are described wither

reference to the specific examples hereinabove. It should be understood that the embodiments above are merely used to facilitate understanding the present disclosure, but should not be interpreted as limitations to the present disclosure. For a person ordinarily skilled in the art, variations to the specific embodiments above may be made according to the concept of the present disclosure.

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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Patent documents cited in the description

- CN103917148A [0002]
- CN102341057A [0002]
- US2010318100A [0007]
- US2008177285A [0008]

PATENTKRAV**1. Engangsendoskop omfattende:**

en rørformet del (201), der indbefatter en flerhed af led (2011);
lineære overføringsdele (202) indsat i den rørformede del, hvor én ende af den
5 lineære overføringsdel er fastgjort i forhold til ét af leddene, den anden ende er
forsynet med første konnektorer (2021), en bevægelse af den lineære
overføringsdel langs dens længderetning kan bevirke, at den rørformede del
bøjes, og den første konnektor anvendes til aftageligt at gå i indgreb med en
tilsvarende konnektor af et udvendigt styresæde;
10 en kameraenhed (203) monteret på en frontende af den rørformede del;
et ledningsbundt, hvor én ende af ledningsbundtet er forbundet med
kameraenheden, den anden ende anvendes til at blive forbundet med en ekstern
strømforsyning og en databehandlingsenhed, og ledningsbundtet anvendes til at
forsyne kameraenheden med strøm og overføre indsamlede billeddata;
15 et beklædningslag (204), der beklæder den rørformede del, de lineære
forlængelsesoverføringsdele og ledningsbundtet;
et forbindelseshoved (205) anbragt ved én ende af de lineære overføringsdele
væk fra den rørformede del, hvor forbindelseshovedet er forsynet med
gennemgående huller (2051), hvorigennem de første konnektorer passerer; og
20 en engangsfastgørelsesanordning (206), der anvendes til at fastgøre de første
konnektorer i forhold til forbindelseshovedet, hvor, efter at
engangsfastgørelsesanordningen er fjernet, de første konnektorer kan bevæges
ind i det gennemgående hul i forbindelseshovedet langs deres længderetning.

25 **2. Engangsendoskop ifølge krav 1, hvor den første konnektor er af cylindrisk form og**
tværsnitsstørrelser af den første konnektor svarer til tværsnitsstørrelser af det
gennemgående hul i forbindelseshovedet, en ende af den første konnektor er forsynet
med en fremstående hankonnektor eller en forsænket hunkonnektor, der anvendes til at
trykke en tilsvarende hunkonnektor eller hankonnektor af det udvendige styresæde
30 sammen, og en side af hunkonnektoren er forsynet med en åbning, således at den
tilsvarende hankonnektor kan drejes ind i hunkonnektoren gennem åbningen.

3. Engangsendoskop ifølge krav 2, hvor en midte af en endeflade af forbindelseshovedet er forsynet med et begrænsningshul (2052) eller en begrænsningsstav, der anvendes til sammentrykning med en tilsvarende begrænsningsstav af eller begrænsningshul i det udvendige styresæde.

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4. Engangsendoskop ifølge krav 3, hvor der er fire første konnektorer og de gennemgående huller i forbindelseshovedet er anbragt på en samme periferi omkring midten af forbindelseshovedets endeflade.

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5. Engangsendoskop ifølge krav 1, hvor ledende kontakter er anbragt på forbindelseshovedets endeflade, hver af de ledende kontakter er henholdsvis elektrisk forbundet med en ledning i ledningsbundtet, og når de første konnektorer går i indgreb med det udvendige styresædes tilsvarende konnektorer, forbindes de ledende kontakter elektrisk med en tilsvarende ledende grænseflade af styresædet.

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6. Engangsendoskop ifølge krav 1, hvor en kameraenhedspakke er forsynet med gennemgående huller, der står i forbindelse med det indre af den rørformede del, forbindelseshovedet endvidere er forsynet med en biopsiindgang (2054) og/eller en gas- og vandindgang (2055), og en passage, der starter ved biopsiindgangen og/eller gas- og vandindgangen går gennem forbindelseshovedet og strækker sig til det gennemgående hul i pakken.

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7. Engangsendoskop ifølge krav 1, hvor den rørformede del indbefatter en flerhed af ringformede enheder (501), den ringformede enhed indbefatter et cylindrisk legeme (5011) og flanger, der er placeret på begge sider af det cylindriske legeme og strækker sig i en aksial retning, tværsnit af det cylindriske legeme er forsynet med gennemgående huller (5013), hvorigennem de lineære overføringsdele passerer, en ende af flangen er forsynet med en stift (50121), der rager radialt udefter, en sidevæg af det cylindriske legeme er forsynet med et forbindelseshul (50111), der samvirker med stiften, flangerne og forbindelseshullerne i et samme cylindrisk legeme er anbragt på tværs, én ringformet enhed forbindes med en tilstødende ringformet enhed ved at trykke dens stifter ind i forbindelseshullerne af den tilstødende ringformede enhed og samlestykket danner

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leddet, og en profil af de indbyrdes forbundne del af det to tilstødende ringformede enheder er en kile, hvis toppunkt er placeret ved leddet.

- 5 **8.** Engangsendoskop ifølge krav 1, hvor engangsfastgørelsesanordningen er et bueformet spænde, hvis form svarer til en tværsnitsprofil af forbindelseshovedet, en indvendig væg af det bueformede spænde er forsynet med et indadvendt fremspring (2061), en sidevæg af forbindelseshovedet er forsynet med et positioneringshul (2056), der strækker sig til det gennemgående hul, en side af den første konnektor er forsynet med et forsænket hul (20212), der svarer til positioneringshullets position, og det
- 10 bueformede spændes fremspring passerer gennem positioneringshullet og trykkes ind i det forsænkede hul på siden af den første konnektor for at fastgøre den første konnektor.

- 9.** Engangsendoskopsystem, der omfatter et engangsendoskop (200) som defineret i krav 1 og et styresæde (300),
- 15 hvor styresædet omfatter:
- anden konnektorer (301), der anvendes til aftageligt at gå i indgreb med engangsendoskopets første konnektorer;
 - en ledende grænseflade (302), der anvendes til at blive elektrisk forbundet med den anden ende af engangsendoskopets ledningsbundt;
 - 20 et forbindelsessæde (303), der er forsynet med gennemgående huller (3031), hvorigennem de anden konnektorer passerer, hvor, når de første konnektorer går i indgreb med de anden konnektorer, forbindelsessædets gennemgående huller justeres efter det gennemgående hul i forbindelseshovedet;
 - en drivmekanisme (304), der er forbundet med de anden konnektorer og
 - 25 anvendes til at styre en bevægelse af de anden konnektorer langs deres længderetning; og
 - en begrænsningsomskifter (305), der anvendes til at fastgøre eller frigøre de anden konnektorer i forhold til forbindelsessædet.

- 30 **10.** System ifølge krav 9, hvor:
- den første konnektor er af cylindrisk form og den første konnektors tværsnitsstørrelser svarer til tværsnitsstørrelser af det gennemgående hul i

forbindelseshovedet, og en ende af den første konektor er forsynet med en fremstående hankonnektor eller en forsænket hunkonnektor;

den anden konektor er af cylindrisk form og den anden konnektors tværsnitsstørrelser svarer til tværsnitsstørrelser af forbindelsessædets

5 gennemgående hul og er de samme som tværsnitsstørrelserne af den første konektor, og en ende af den anden konektor er forsynet med en forsænket hunkonnektor eller en fremstående hankonnektor, der svarer til den første konektor; og

10 en side af hankonnektoren er forsynet med en åbning, således at den tilsvarende hankonnektor kan drejes ind i hunkonnektoren gennem åbningen for at opnå et trykindgreb.

11. System ifølge krav 10, hvor

15 en midte af en endeflade af forbindelseshovedet endvidere er forsynet med et begrænsningshul (2052) eller en begrænsningsstav, en midte af en endeflade af forbindelsessædet endvidere er forsynet med en begrænsningsstav (3032) eller et begrænsningshul, der svarer til midten af forbindelseshovedets endeflade; og begrænsningsstaven kan trykkes sammen med begrænsningshullet.

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12. System ifølge krav 11, hvor

begrænsningsstaven er forsynet med et låsefremspring (30321), der strækker sig i en radial retning, og en indvendig væg af begrænsningshullet er forsynet med en aksial glider (20521), der samvirker med låsefremspringet, og en periferisk glider (20522), der
25 er placeret i en dybde svarende til et aksialt sted for låsefremspringet, således at begrænsningsstaven kan trykkes sammen med begrænsningshullet ved drejning efter at være indsat i begrænsningshullet; og drejningen af begrænsningsstaven og begrænsningshullet er synkron med drejningen af hankonnektoren ind i hunkonnektoren.

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13. System ifølge krav 12, hvor der er fire første konnektorer og fire anden konnektorer, og henholdsvis de gennemgående huller i forbindelseshovedet og de gennemgående

huller i forbindelsessædet er anbragt på en samme periferi omkring den tilsvarende midte af en endeflade.

14. System ifølge krav 9, hvor

- 5 endefladen af forbindelseshovedet endvidere er forsynet med ledende kontakter (2053), der henholdsvis hver især er elektrisk forbundet med en ledning i ledningsbundtet; den ledende grænseflade (302) er anbragt på endefladen af forbindelsessædet; og, når de første konnektorer er i indgreb med de anden konnektorer, de ledende kontakter er elektrisk forbundet med den ledende grænseflade.

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15. System ifølge krav 10, hvor

- begrænsningsomskifteren er anbragt på en bagside af forbindelsessædet og indbefatter en glider (3051) og en begrænsningsplade (3052), glideren er anbragt i et glidestykke (3053), der strækker sig i en bevægelsesretning for den anden konektor og kan
- 15 bevæges langs glideren mellem en låseposition (AA) og en frigørelsesposition (CC), en længde af glidestykket er længere end en maksimal bevægelse af den anden konektor, og begrænsningspladen er fast forbundet med glideren; og
- når glideren er placeret ved låsepositionen, ligger begrænsningspladen an mod en bagendeflade (BB) af den anden konektor og begrænser den anden konektor i det
- 20 gennemgående hul i forbindelsessædet, og når glideren er placeret ved frigørelsespositionen, kan den anden konektor bevæges ind i et rum foran begrænsningspladen.

DRAWINGS

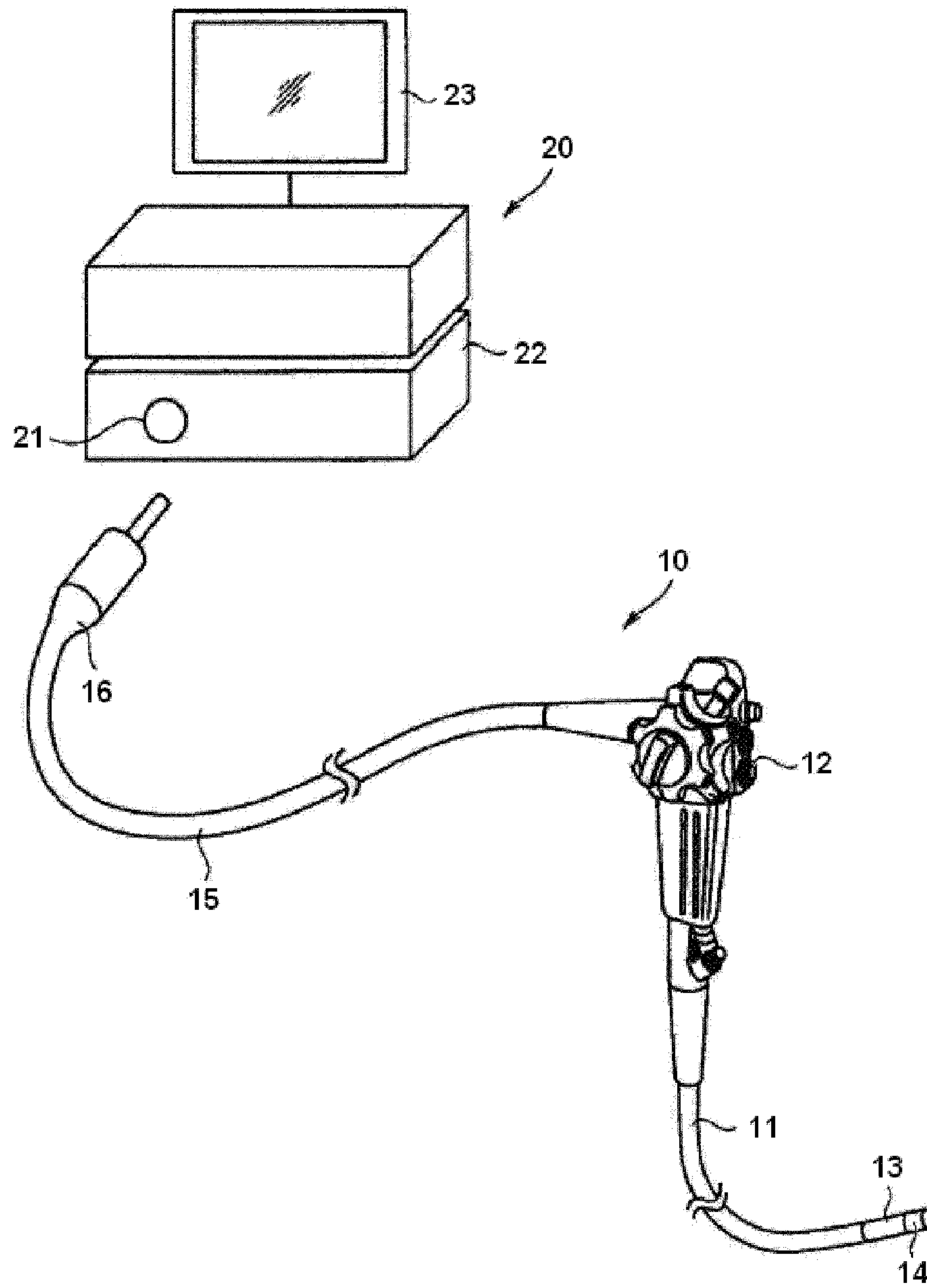


FIG. 1

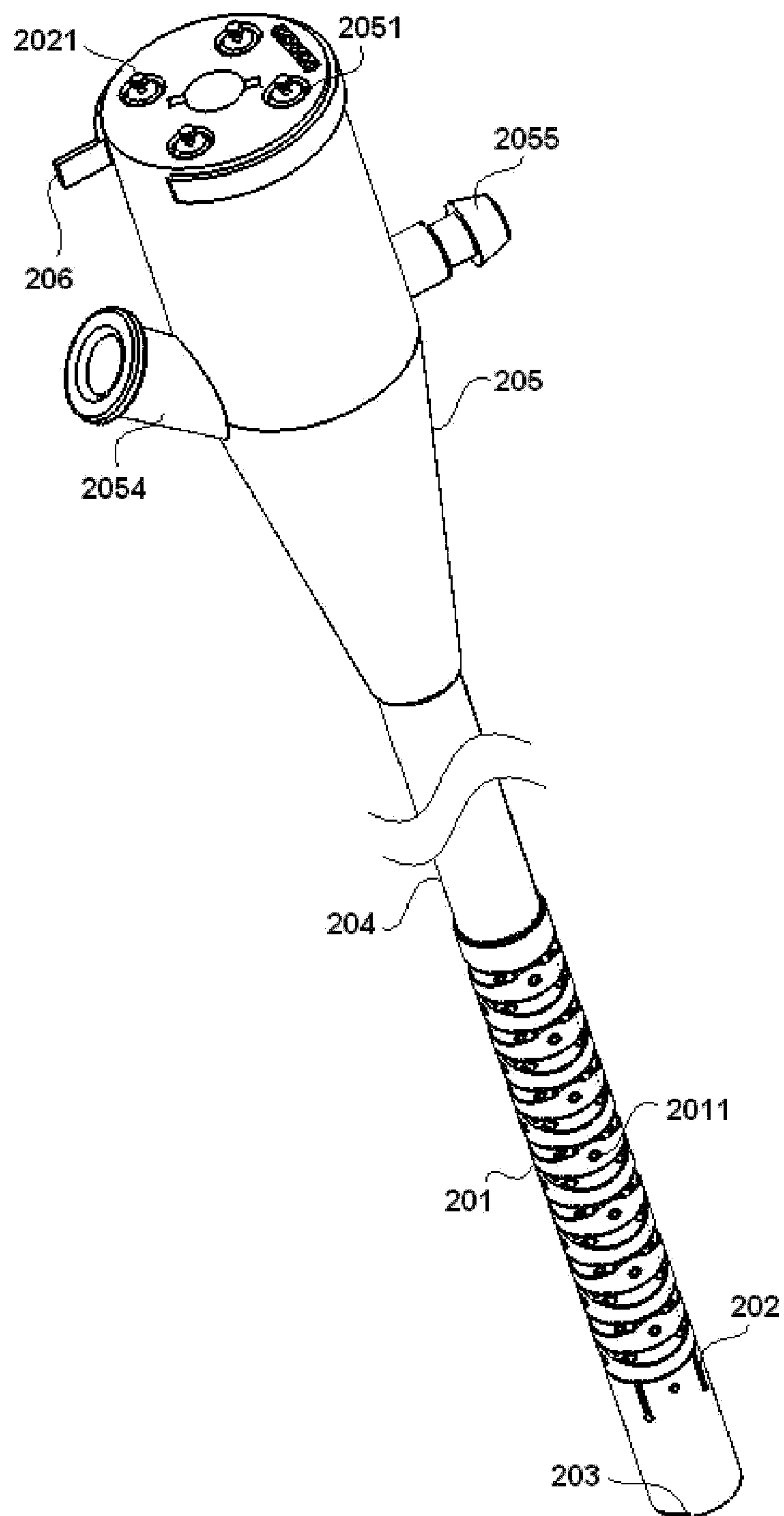


FIG. 2

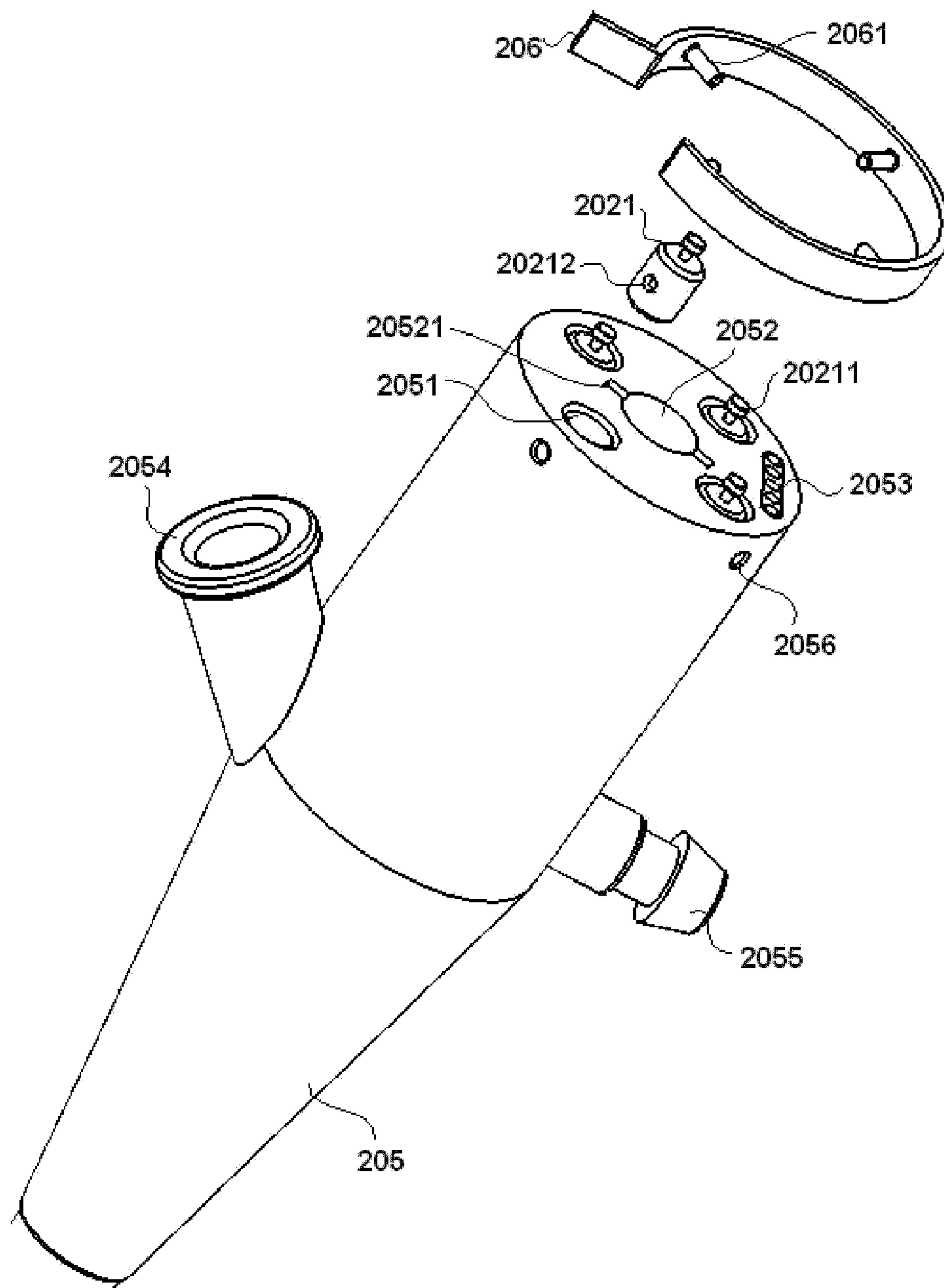


FIG. 3

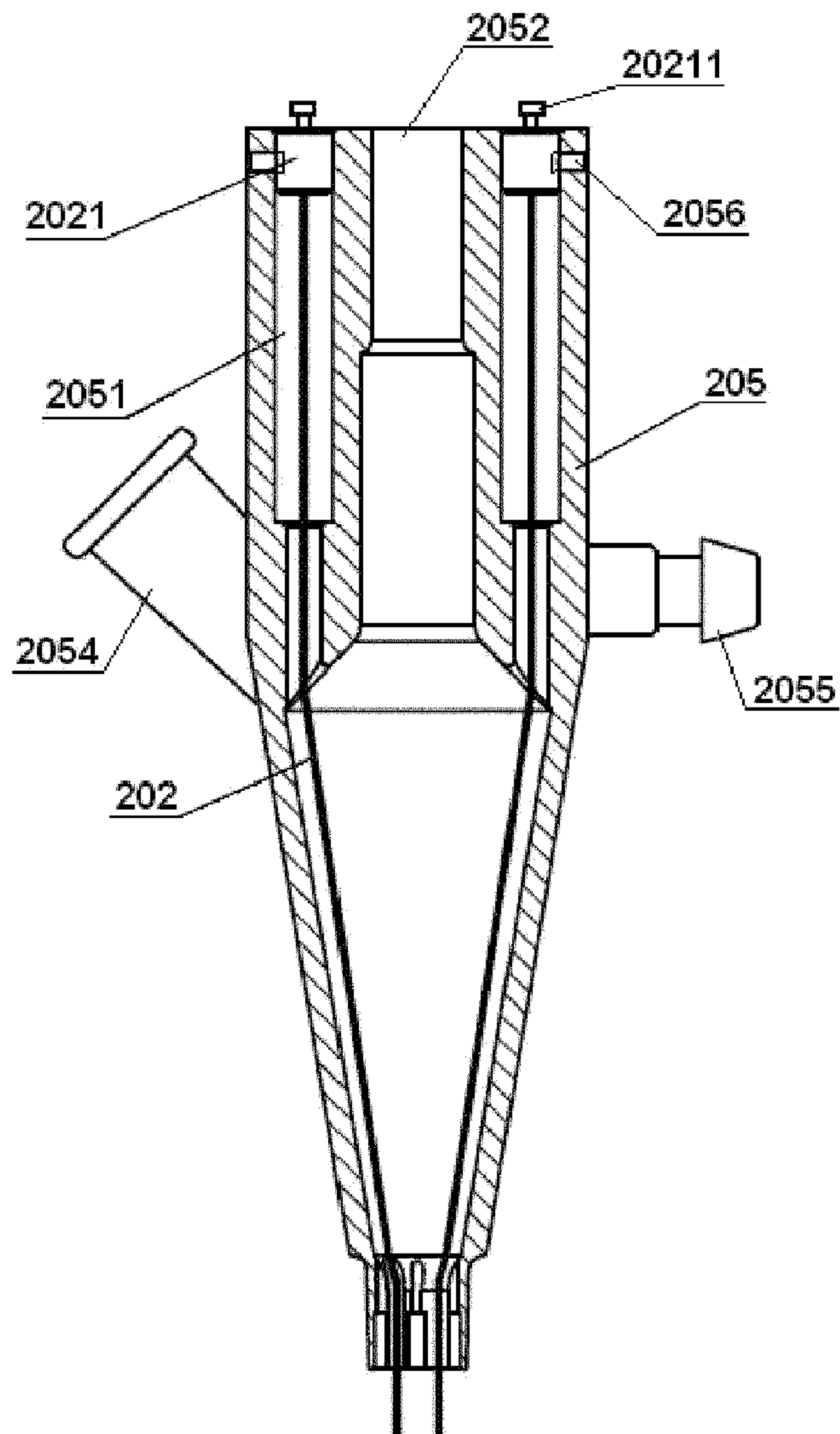


FIG. 4

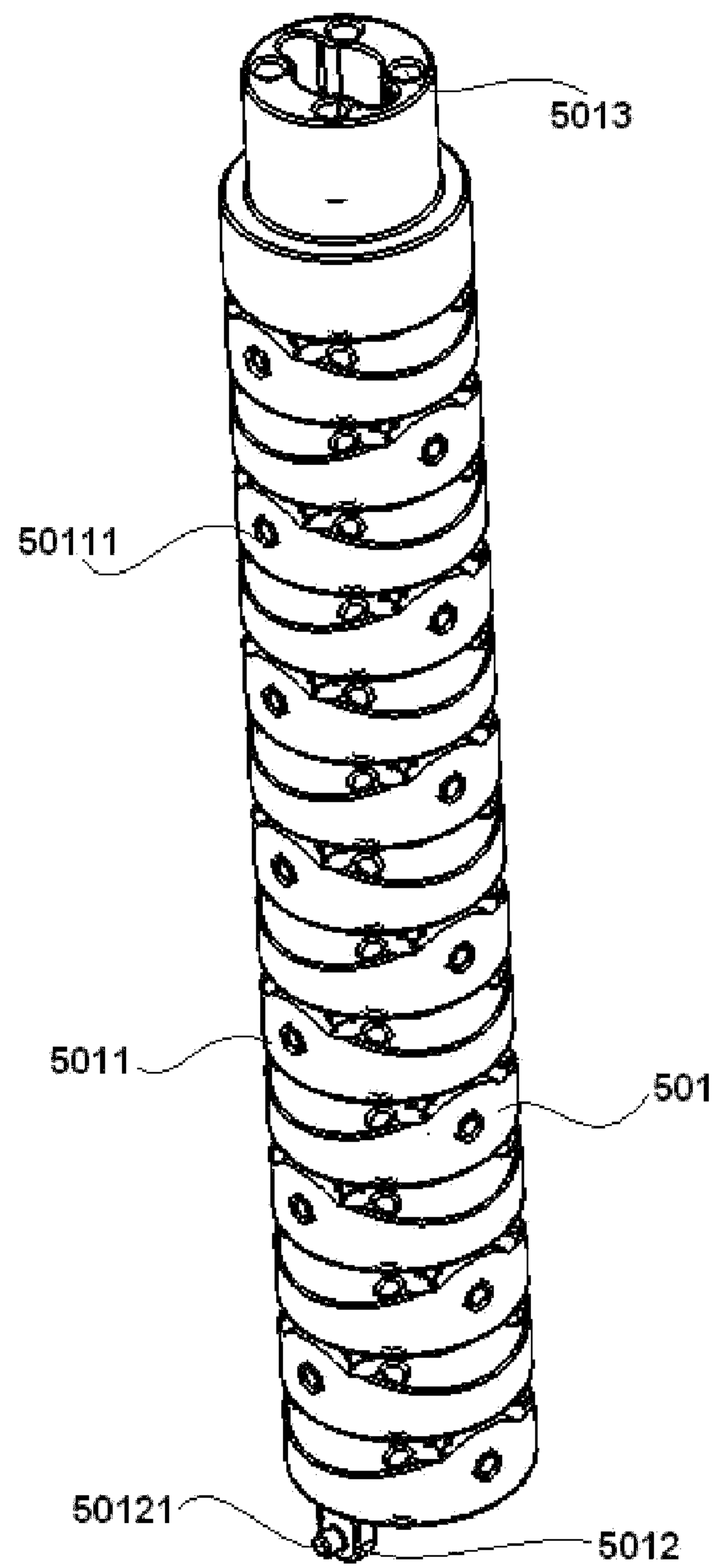


FIG. 5

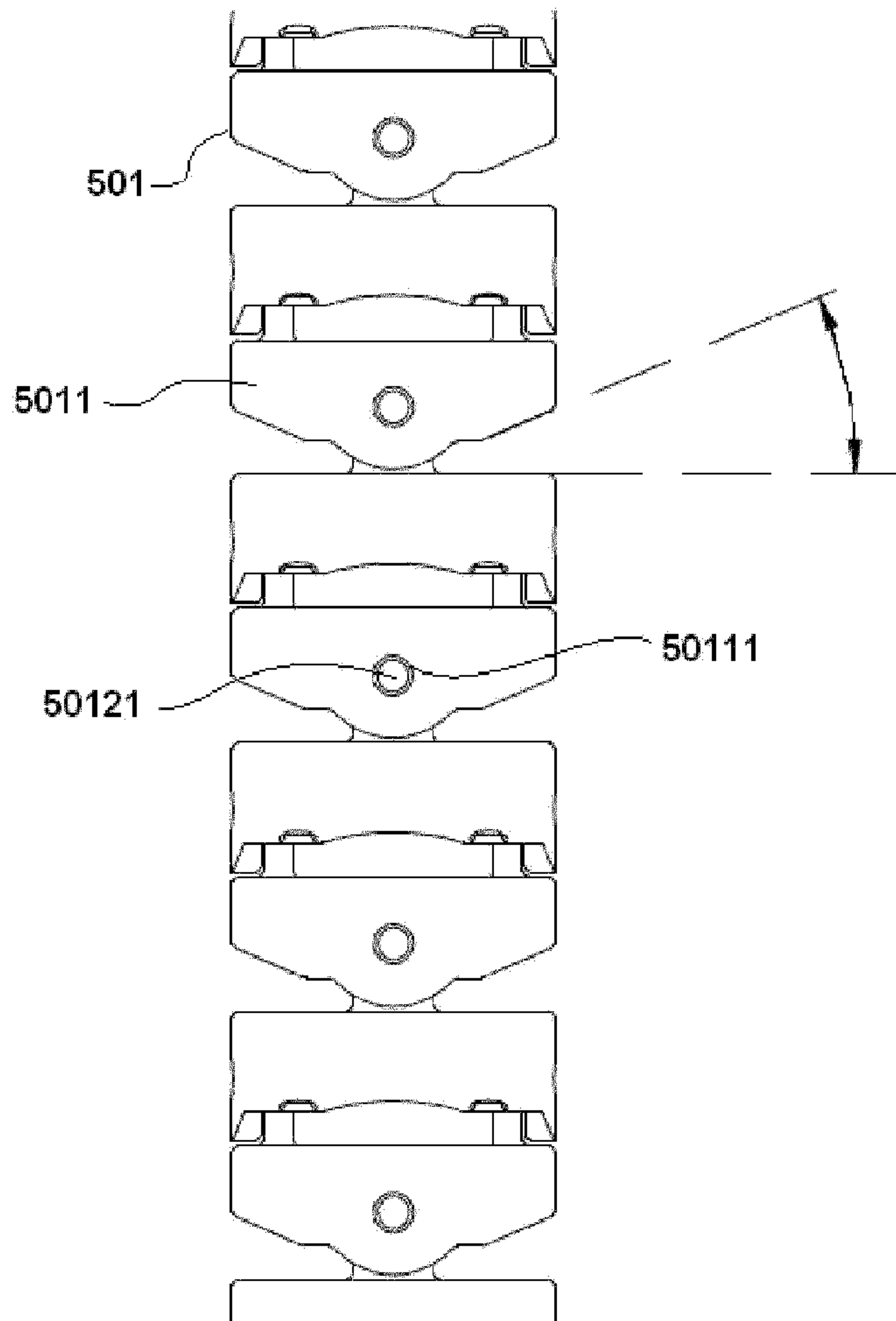


FIG. 6

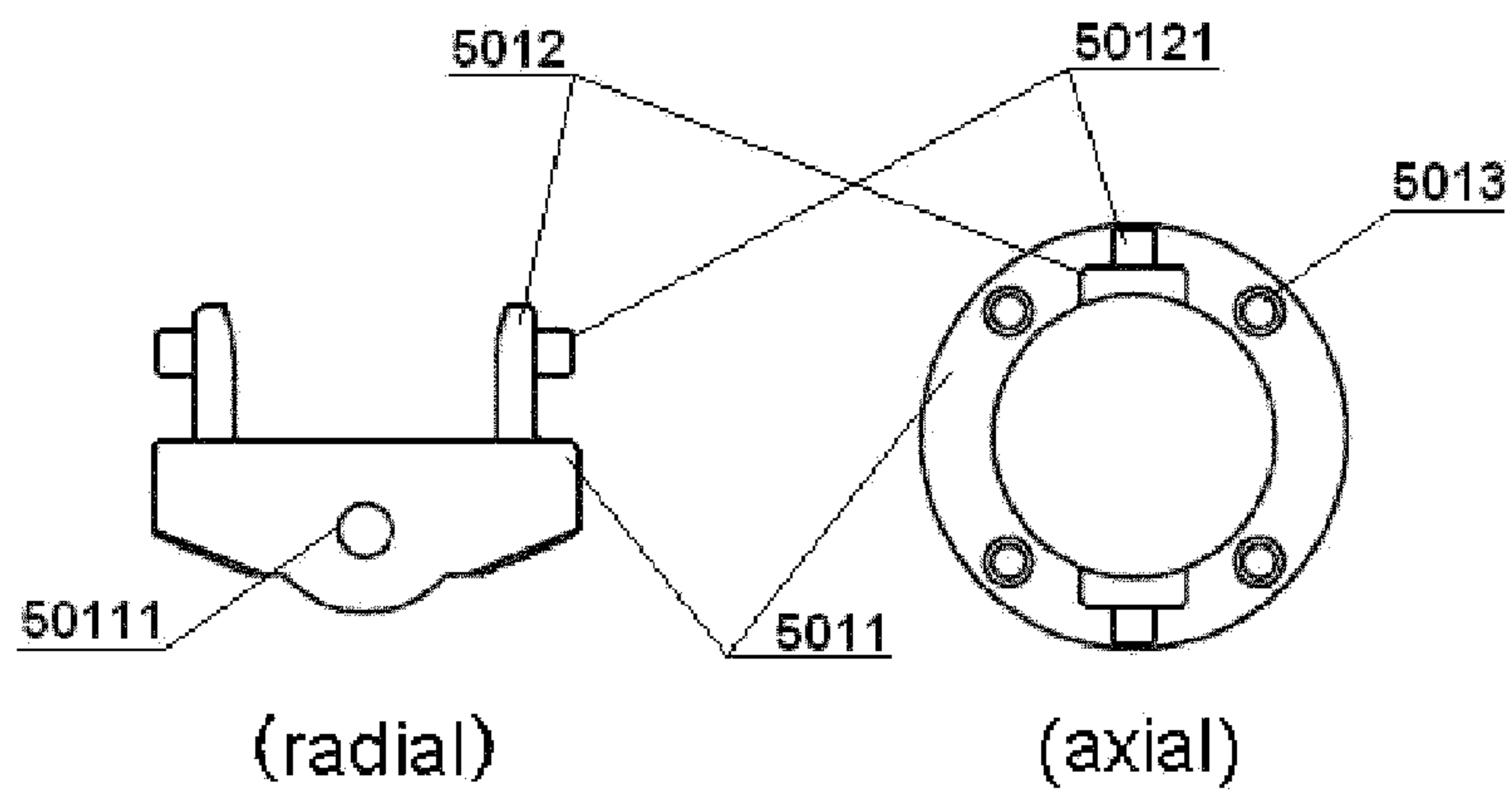


FIG. 7

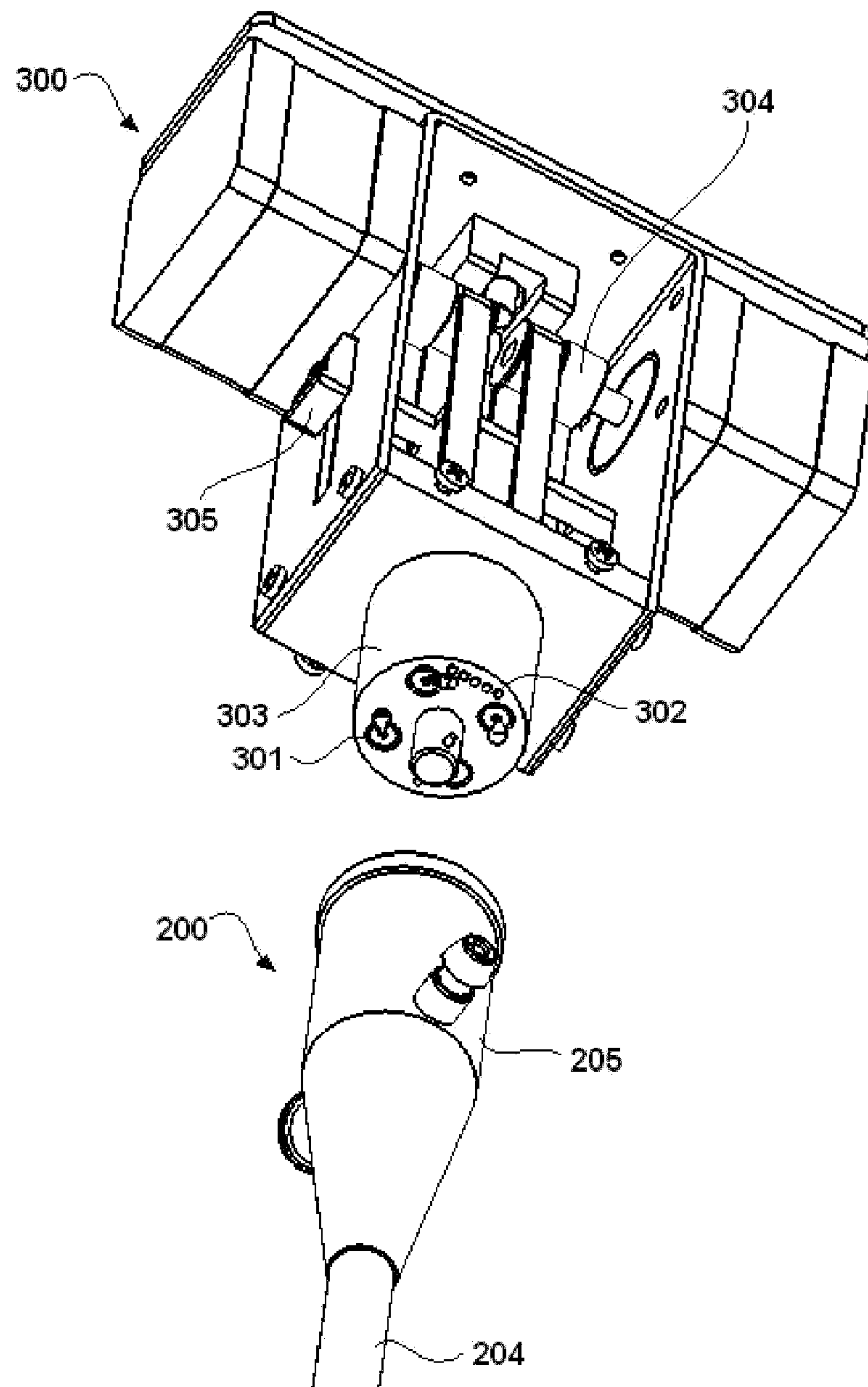


FIG. 8

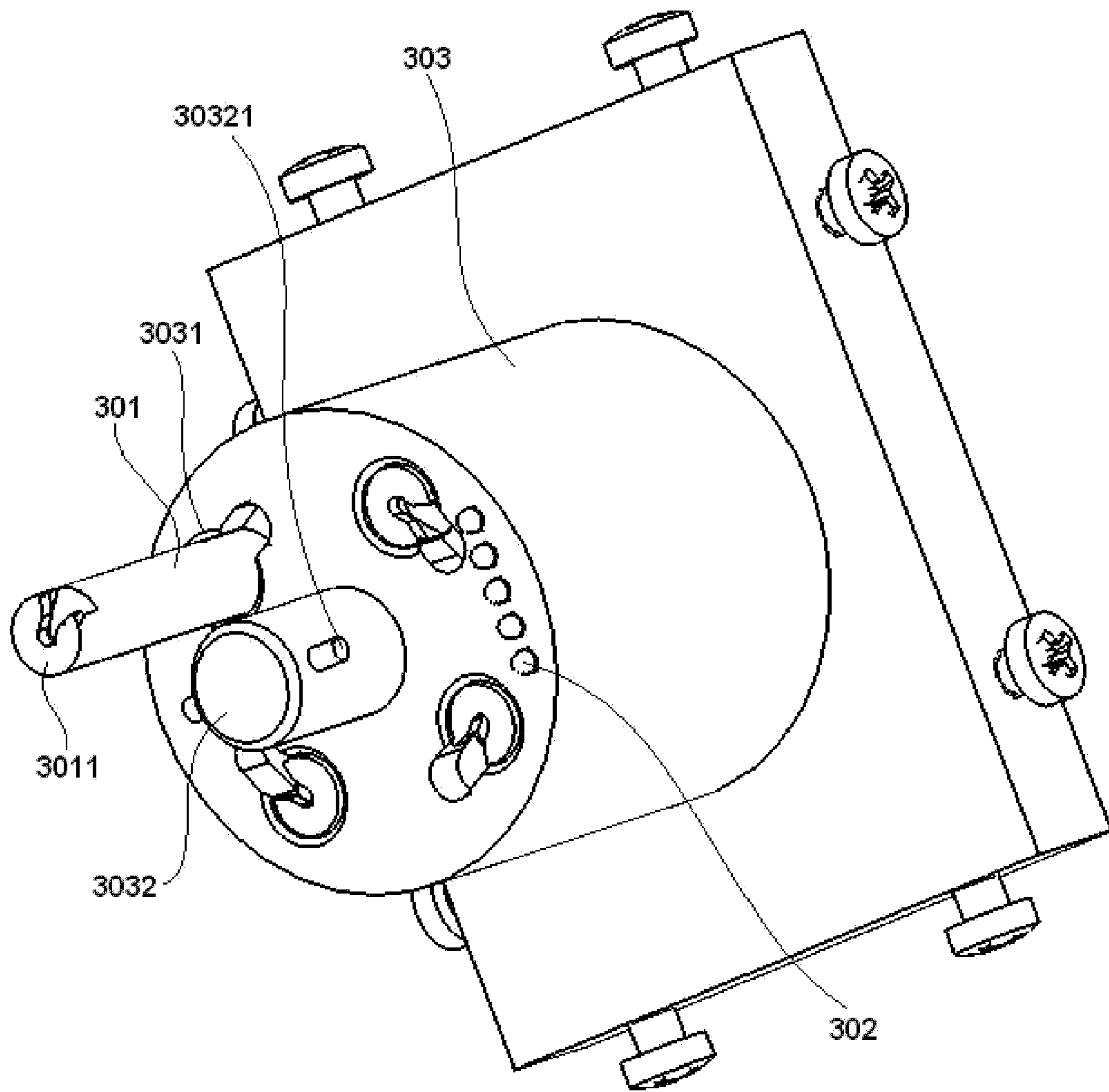


FIG. 9

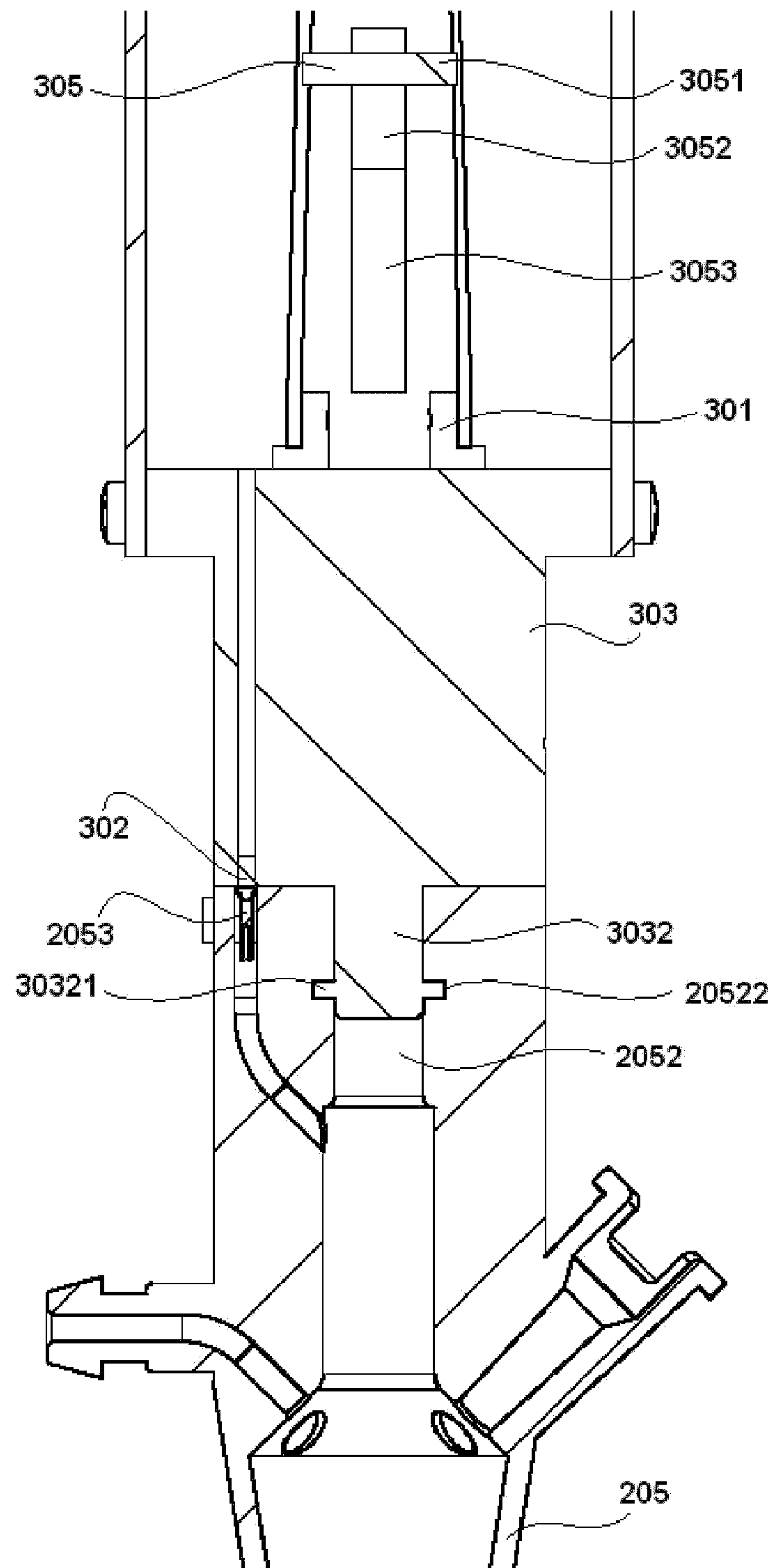


FIG. 10

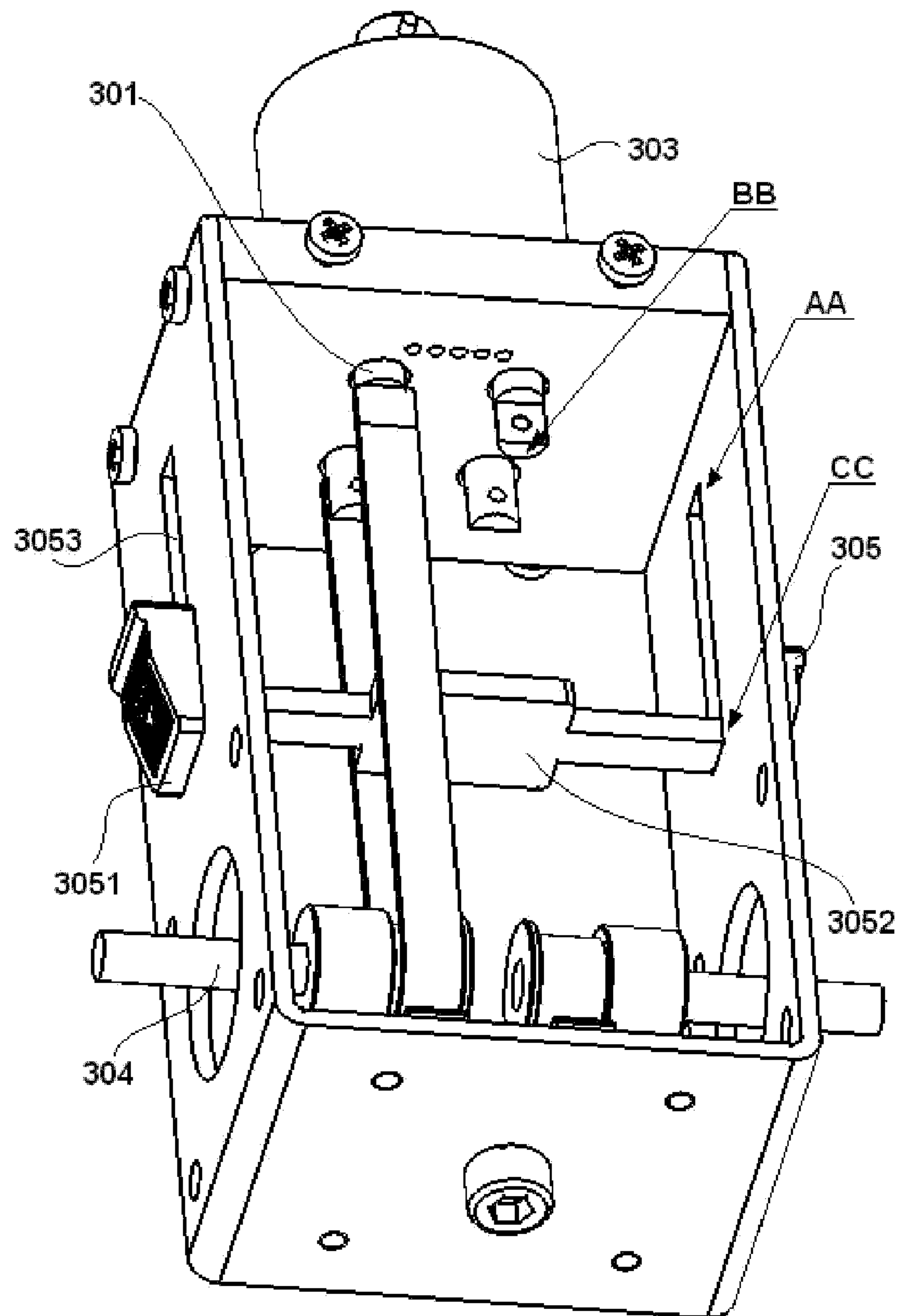


FIG. 11