



- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
A61B 17/3207 (2006.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/IL2013/050508
- (22) **International Filing Date:**
13 June 2013 (13.06.2013)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**
61/659,603 14 June 2012 (14.06.2012) US
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- (81) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

- (84) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report (Rule 48.2(g))

(54) **Title:** A MEDICAL DEVICE, ASSEMBLY AND METHOD FOR CREATING A CHANNEL IN SOFT TISSUE

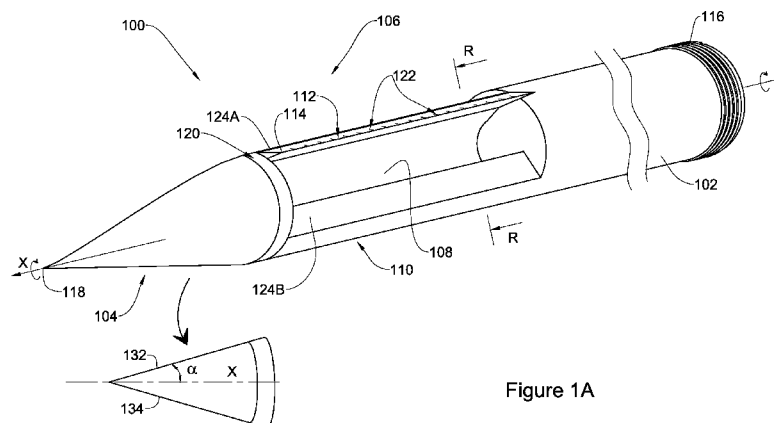


Figure 1A

(57) **Abstract:** The present disclosure provides a device, an assembly comprising the device and a method making use of same, the device comprising an elongated member extending between a first end and a second end, and a segment proximal to the second end extending along a longitudinal axis X, said segment comprises at least one depression axially extending along at least a portion of said segment and an external surface having a circumference C; and one or more blades with a cutting edge peripheral to C and the one or more blades extending along at least part of said segment; the first end comprising an engagement element for engagement with a grip unit comprising a rotor to cause rotation of said device about said axis upon actuation of the rotor and the second end comprising a tissue piercing tip. The device, assembly and method are useful in creating a channel in a biological soft tissue, such as a drainage channel in the sclero-corneal junction area of the eye. This may be useful in reducing intra-ocular pressure.

WO 2013/186779 A2

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**A MEDICAL DEVICE, ASSEMBLY AND METHOD FOR
CREATING A CHANNEL IN SOFT TISSUE**

5 **FIELD**

The present disclosure relates to the field of medical devices.

BACKGROUND

In medicine, a need frequently arises to cut and remove small volumes of tissue from the body as a treatment or for diagnosis purposes. This may be essential for
10 example during acquiring tissue for a biopsy, removing calcification from inner walls of obstructed blood vessels or creating paths for drainage of excessive liquids such as in Glaucoma condition.

Tools are available for cutting soft as well as hard tissues in the body. One example is presented in **US Patent No. 6,361,504** which provides a hollow tubular
15 shaped biopsy needle having a hollow elliptical cross section shaped lumen therethrough, and the method for fabricating the needle and the apparatus for operating the needle.

In addition, **US Patent No. 7,344,546** describes a device for intraluminal removal of tissue from inside blood vessels using an advanceable and rotatable cutter
20 assembly designed for differential cutting. One embodiment of the cutter assembly includes a cutter with blades that are designed and arranged to form an acute blade angle of attack with the matter-to-be-removed. The cutter assembly is axially advanceable by translating the drive shaft and rotatable by rotating the drive shaft. The occlusive material is scraped by the cutter assembly and may be aspirated to remove the
25 material from the body cavity. The cutter assembly may provide aspiration ports positioned between facing surfaces of the blades.

Further, **US Patent No. 4,887,613** discloses a cutter that penetrates at its forward end into, and excises, obstructive tissue in a lumen in a living being by providing two spaced external segments of a conical generally hollow portion with cutting surfaces at

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their edges. The cutter may have a forward portion of restricted dimensions to facilitate the penetration of the cutter into the obstructive tissue. A progressively expanding portion such as a truncated cone extends rearwardly from the portion of restricted dimensions. In this way, the cutter expands the area of excision of the obstructive tissue from the lumen wall at progressive positions rearwardly from the forward end. The
5 obstructive tissue in the lumen at the progressively expanding positions may be excised at the positions of penetration of the obstructive tissue by rotating the cutter manually or by a motor. The cutter may also have a hollow portion of substantially constant dimensions, such as a hollow cylinder, at the laterally expanded end.

10 **GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT DISCLOSURE**

The present disclosure provides, in accordance with a first of its aspects a device comprising an elongated member extending between a first end and a second end, and a segment proximal to the second end extending along a longitudinal axis X, said segment comprises at least one depression axially extending along at least a portion of said
15 segment and an external surface having a circumference C; and one or more blades with a cutting edge peripheral to C and the one or more blades extending along at least part of said segment; the first end comprising an engagement element for engagement with a grip unit comprising a rotor to cause rotation of said device about said axis upon actuation of the rotor and the second end comprising a tissue piercing tip.

20 The present disclosure also provides a device comprising an elongated member extending between a first end and a second end and comprising a segment proximal to the second end extending along a longitudinal axis X, said segment comprises roughened external surface protruding outwardly from a circumference C; the first end comprising an engagement element for engagement with a grip unit comprising a rotor
25 to cause rotation of said device about said axis upon actuation of the rotor, and the second end comprising a tissue piercing tip.

In accordance with a second aspect, the present disclosure provides a medical assembly comprising a grip unit comprising a shank with a rotating end and having mounted on the rotating end a device as defined herein; and

30 a rotor operable to rotate said device around said axis X.

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Yet, the present disclosure provides in accordance with a third aspect, a method for creating a channel in a biological soft tissue , the method comprises providing a medical assembly comprising

- 5 - a grip unit and a device mounted thereon, the device being as disclosed herein;
- piercing the biological tissue with the tissue piercing tip of the device and sliding the device into the soft tissue to a desired depth within the soft tissue;
- actuating said medical assembly while the device is embedded in the soft tissue to allow at least one full rotation about said axis X, during said
10 rotation soft tissue is scrapped around the external surface of said segment; and upon termination of rotations, removing the device from the soft tissue, leaving a channel within said tissue.

The device, assembly and method disclosed herein are particularly suitable for creating a channel in the sclero-corneal junction of a subject's eye. In some
15 embodiments, this may be used for reducing intraocular pressure. Thus, the present disclosure also provides a method for reducing intraocular pressure, the method comprises creating a drainage channel in the sclero-corneal junction area of the eye and communicating the anterior chamber of the eye with the interface between the sclera and the conjunctiva, the drainage channel having a diameter of no more than 200µm, as
20 determined after pulling the device out and allowing the sclera tissue to recoil.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

In order to understand the disclosure and to see how it may be carried out in practice, embodiments will now be described, by way of non-limiting example only, with reference to the accompanying figures, in which:

25 **Figures 1A and 1B** are an isometric view and a transverse cross sectional view of a device according to a non-limiting embodiment of the present disclosure;

Figures 2A and 2B are an isometric view and a transverse cross-sectional view of a device in accordance with another embodiment of the present disclosure;

Figures 3A -3C are isometric views of a second end with a piercing tip
30 according to alternative, non-limiting, embodiments of the present disclosure;

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Figure 4 is a schematic illustration of a depression in a device, with a plurality of partitions dividing the depression into compartments; according to some embodiments of the present disclosure

Figures 5A-5B are isometric views of devices in accordance with two
5 alternative embodiments of the present disclosure;

Figures 6A-6D are illustrations of devices according to some more
embodiments of the present disclosure with Figure 6A and 6B providing isometric
views and Figure 6C providing a cross sectional view of a device in accordance with
one embodiment, and Figure 6D providing an isometric view of a device in accordance
10 with another embodiment; **Figure 7** is a schematic illustration of a device according to
an embodiment of the present disclosure and being engaged with a rotor to be used for
cutting soft tissue;

Figures 8A-8B are schematic illustrations of a device embedded in the wall of
the eye, for use in creating a channel within the sclero-corneal junction area of the eye
15 in accordance with an embodiment disclosed herein, with Figure 8B representing a
magnified portion of Figure 8A;

Figures 9A-9D are images of steps of manufacturing a device in accordance
with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

Figure 10 illustrates stages of assembling components of a device in accordance
20 with a non limiting embodiment;

Figures 11A-11C are images of stage in the formation of a sclera corneal
channel using a device in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure;

Figure 12 is an image including cross sectional cuts of a sclero corneal channel
performed in accordance with an embodiment of the present disclosure.

Figure 13A-13B are images of channels formed with a piercing tool without
25 blades (Figure 13A) or with a device according to the present disclosure (Figure 13B);

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

The present disclosure is directed to a device configured and operable to cut and
remove soft tissue in a well-defined manner including, but not limited to, the shape and
30 volume of the excised tissue, in relatively short duration, with minimum invasion and
consequently minimum discomfort to the treated subject.

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In accordance with a broadest aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a device comprising an elongated member extending between a first end and a second end, and a segment proximal to the second end extending along a longitudinal axis X, said segment comprises at least one depression axially extending along at least a portion
5 of said segment and an external surface having a circumference C; and one or more blades with a cutting edge peripheral to C and the one or more blades extending along at least part of said segment; the first end comprising an engagement element for engagement with a grip unit comprising a rotor to cause rotation of said device about
10 said axis X upon actuation of the rotor and the second end comprising a tissue piercing tip. In this connection, reference is made to **Figures 1A** and **1B** providing an illustration of a device **100** in accordance with one non-limiting embodiment of the present disclosure.

Specifically, **Figure 1A**, discloses a device **100** comprising an elongated member extending between a first end **102** and a second end **104** constituting a tissue
15 piercing tip, and a segment **106** extending from the second end **104** along a longitudinal axis X to the first end **102**. The segment **106** comprises at least one depression **108** defined between two essentially parallel rims **124A** and **124B** and axially extends along at least a portion of the segment **106**, and an external surface **110** having a circumference C as is also illustrated in **Figure 1B**. In this specific embodiment of
20 **Figure 1A**, the second end **104** is sealed and the segment **106** includes a single depression **108** which extends from the sealed end **104** along the entire length of segment **106**.

Further as illustrated in the embodiment of **Figure 1A**, device **100** comprises a single blade **112** extending along segment **106** with a cutting edge **114** peripheral to C.
25 As may be appreciated by a person versed in the art, similar to the illustration provided in **Figure 1A**, the device may include more than one blade (e.g. plurality of blades). The two or more blades may be positioned in various forms. For instance, a series of discrete blades may be lined coaxially with axis X on one of rims **124A** or **124B** of depression **108**. In some other embodiments, the more than one blade may be distributed either in a
30 pattern or essentially randomly over external surface **110**, each blade being constructed with a respective depression configured to collect tissue scraped from the surrounding upon rotation of the device. In some embodiments the plurality of blades and

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depressions may be constructed similar to grating slots in a kitchen grater (not illustrated).

While blade **112** is illustrated in **Figure 1A** as a straight blade (i.e. cutting edge **114** having zero curvature), in some embodiments, the at least one blade **112** has a curved cutting edge (not shown). This can be useful in creating various shapes of void or channel in the area of the tissue being excised, as further discussed below.

The first end **102** of device **100** typically includes an engagement element **116**, in this particular embodiment illustrated as an internal (male) thread to be paired with a fitting external (female) thread of a grip unit (not shown) comprising a rotor to cause rotation of the device about the axis **X** upon actuation of the rotor. The engagement element may be in the form of thread, screwing, interlock, shank or any other suitable mechanism for connecting to parts of a device.

Second end **104** which is illustrated in this particular embodiment of **Figure 1A** is beveled, with a tissue piercing tip **118** being collinear with the axis **X**. When spotted from the side, the second end is beveled with a tip angle α being the angle between the axis **X** and each of the second end's beveled sides **132** and **134**. The magnitude of the angle α may vary towards making the piercing of the tissue as comfortable as possible to the treated being. In some embodiments, beveled end is designed to have a tip angle of between 5° and 15° . The exact degree is a function of the length of the second end **104** along axis **X** and the dimensions circumference **C** of the device **100**.

In some embodiments (not illustrated in this figure) the second end may be conical with the tissue piercing tip being collinear with axis **X** such that the cone point angle is between 10° and 30° .

The segment **106** is preferably sealed at the junction with second end **104**. Thus, even if second end **104** has a tubular lumen (not shown), e.g. as in a medical needle, there would be no fluid communication between such lumen and depression **108**. At times, segment **106** and second end **104** are gaped by a reinforcement gap section (a type of a collar) such as gap section **120** that is preferably sealed, i.e. devoid of any depression. In some embodiments, and typically depending on the particular application of the device, the gap section **120** has a length (along longitudinal axis **X**), defined between the interfaces with the second end **104** and with the segment **106** of between

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200-2500 μ m. This particular embodiment may be suitable for creating a channel in the wall of the eye, e.g. in the sclera and sclero-corenal junction, as further discussed below.

Further, device **100** may comprise scale markers **122** extending along at least a portion of the device. For example, along a portion from second end **104**, (e.g. starting from piercing tip **118**) or along a portion comprising second end **104** and at least a portion of segment **106**. The scale markers **122** are typically used for identifying distances along longitudinal axis X. For example, scale markers **122** may be used to define depth of penetration of the device **100** into a soft tissue or, in other words, distance from second piercing tip **104**. In some embodiments, the scale markers are distributed along the external surface **110**.

External surface **110** has a circumference C with an essentially uniform circular cross-sectional shape being transverse to longitudinal axis X. As such, external surface **110** traces external contours of a cylinder.

An exemplary transverse cross section of segment **106** along line RR in **Figure 1A** is illustrated in **Figure 1B**. For simplicity, like reference numerals to those used in **Figure 1A**, are used in **Figure 1B** to identify components in **Figure 1B** having a similar function. For example, component **108** in **Figure 1B** is a depression having the same function as depression **108** in **Figure 1A**.

In **Figure 1B**, a cross section of segment **106** of device **100** is shown, comprising a circumference C having a circular external surface **110** with depression **108** extending between points P and Q; and a blade **112** extending from said external surface **110** with a cutting edge **114** peripheral to C and with a radial distance DS from circumference C. The external surface of segment **106** may be defined by a diameter Di along line **130**. In some embodiments, diameter Di has a nominal value of between 100 – 1,000 μ m, depending on the particular application of the device, e.g. at different parts or organs of the body and/or in different species. The device may also be defined by an internal diameter Dii of the depression. As appreciated, the dimensions of Dii will be dictated by the dimensions (diameter) of the channel to be created. Thus, for a channel having a diameter, for example, of 100 μ m, the device to be used is one having a diameter Dii of about 100 μ m.

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Similarly, depending on the design and application of the device, depression **108** may vary in its length **L** along longitudinal axis **X**. In some embodiments, **L** may be between 100 to 2,500 μ m, or even between 800-1,500 μ m.

As will be further detailed below, in operation, tissue that surrounds external
5 surface **110** of circumference **C** is cut by blade **112** upon rotation of the device around its axis **X**. Typically, a layer with a thickness equal or less than **DS** is cut and received in depression **108**. While in this particular embodiment, blade **112** is connected to the device via point **Q**, the blade may similarly be connected via point **P**. In some embodiments, distance **DS** is between about 2 to 100 μ m.

10 The dimensions of the depression and the number of rotations independently may define the volume of tissue to be received in the depression. The dimensions of the depression (its internal diameter **Dii**) may provide an upper limit to the amount of tissue to be received such that once the depression is full, no more tissue will be cut. In addition, the number of rotations dictates the number of thin tissue layers scraped off
15 the surrounding, when each rotation provides within the depression an additional volume of tissue.

An alternative embodiment is disclosed in **Figures 2A** and **2B**. For simplicity, like reference numerals to those used in Figures 1A-1B, shifted by 100 are used to identify components having a similar function in Figures 2A and 2B. For example,
20 component **202** in Figure 2A is a first end having the same function as first end 102 in Figure 1A.

Specifically, device **200** comprises an elongated member extending between a first end **202** constituting an engagement element, and a second end **204** constituting a tissue piercing tip, and a segment **206** extending from the second end **204** along a
25 longitudinal axis to the first end **202**. The segment **206** has an external surface **210** with a circumference **C** and comprises a depression **208** extending longitudinally and circumferentially along at least a portion of the segment **206**. At least part of segment **206** is coated with a plurality of blades **212**, which in the present illustration appear as a plurality of protrusions with cutting edges **214** peripheral to circumference **C** (like a ridge and a valley). In some embodiments, the plurality of protrusions is in the form of a
30 roughened surface functioning as a file-like surface and protruding outwardly from

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circumference C. In some embodiments, the roughened surface is provided by coating segment **206** with diamond dust (synthetic diamond cover of a cutting tool). The roughness of the surface may be defined as Ra, being an average height of the protrusions (similar to Ra used for defining a file tooth average height or "diamond dust" height).

When the device comprises a roughened surface it may be defined as one comprising an elongated member extending between a first end and a second end and comprising a segment proximal to the second end extending along a longitudinal axis X, said segment comprises roughened external surface protruding outwardly from circumference C; the first end comprising an engagement element for engagement with a grip unit comprising a rotor to cause rotation of said device about said axis upon actuation of the rotor and the second end comprising a tissue piercing tip. Characteristics of the various elements of this embodiment are as defined herein above and below with respect to devices in accordance with other embodiments of the present disclosure.

In operation, the device in accordance with the present disclosure is rotated and the plurality of protrusions scrap off tissue surrounding the coated segment in small pieces (i.e. debris). The rotation of device **200** may be terminated after a defined number of rotations, e.g. when the valleys between the protrusions are expected to be filled with tissue debris, and no more tissue can be scraped off which will result in the device rotating freely.

In some embodiments, the plurality of blades may not exceed circumference C. According to this embodiment, the device comprises an elongated member extending between a first end and a second end, and a segment proximal to the second end extending along a longitudinal axis X, said segment comprises at least one depression axially extending along at least a portion of said segment and an external surface having a circumference C; and one or more blades with a cutting edge *extending up to circumference C* and the one or more blades extending along at least part of said segment; the first end comprising an engagement element for engagement with a grip unit comprising a rotor to cause rotation of said device about said axis upon actuation of the rotor and the second end comprising a tissue piercing tip.

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In some other embodiments, the plurality of blades coat at least a portion of the elongated member extending between the device's first end and second end, preferably at the segment proximal to the second end, albeit without having a dedicated depression for carrying the blades. According to this embodiment, the device comprises an elongated member extending between a first end and a second end, and a segment proximal to the second end extending along a longitudinal axis X, said segment comprises an external surface and one or more blades with a cutting edge extending on external surface along at least part of said segment; the first end comprising an engagement element for engagement with a grip unit comprising a rotor to cause rotation of said device about said axis upon actuation of the rotor and the second end comprising a tissue piercing tip, the piercing tip having a triangular cross section.

The dimensions of a device in accordance with the present disclosure, such as device **100** or device **200** depend on its application. In some embodiments, a device in accordance with the present disclosure has an essentially circular cross section, the nominal diameter of the cross section of circumference **C** is 100-1,000 μm . When referring to blades resembling in their configuration a file (e.g. made of diamond dust), cutting edges **214** extend to a level of Ra being in average between about 2-100 μm .

Figure 2B illustrates the transverse cross section of the device **200** along the line W-W in **Figure 2A**. The dashed line represents the circumference **C** which is the circumference of the segment **206** outside depression **208**. Also shown are the blade edges **214** which extend peripherally and beyond the circumference **C**. It is noticed that in this particular embodiment, blades **212** may also be defined as having a base end **232** that does not necessarily merge with circumference **C** and may extend beyond **C**. Further notably, the dimensions of blades **212** and distances between blades **212**, are not necessarily identical and may vary in shape and size and space there in between, depending, inter alia, on manufacturing process of the material constituting the blades.

Second end **104** in **Figure 1A** or **204** in **Figure 2A** is configured to assist in directing the device disclosed herein into a target soft tissue, and to easily pierce and penetrate into the soft tissue. As such, other configurations for the second end are applicable as illustrated in **Figures 3A - 3C**. For simplicity, reference numerals similar to those used in Figure 1, shifted by 200, are used to identify components having a

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similar function in **Figures 3A-3C**. For example, element **304** in **Figures 3A-3C** is a second end having the same function as second end **104** in **Figure 1**.

In **Figure 3A** a portion of device **300** is illustrated showing elongated body **306** with a second end **304** in the form of the prevalent piercing tip **318** of a medical needle comprising a lumen **340** sealed at gap section **320**. Also illustrated in device **300** is a blade **312** extending peripherally from circumference **310** and a depression **308**. When using a needle like tip which has a lumen, sealing may be an integral part of the elongated body, or be created by welding a barrier from the same or different material forming the elongated body, or sealing may be provided using conventional and biocompatible/curing materials, such as, but not only, one or more epoxy resins. At times and in accordance with this embodiment, the entire device is constructed on the basis of a medical needle, with a depression formed by creating a dedicated longitudinal slot along the needle to form the desired depression(s) with the one or more blades being connected at the edge (rim) of the slot.. Details about manufacturing processes follow below.

In **Figure 3B** a portion of device **300** is illustrated with an elongated body **306** having a circular cross section as in **Figure 3A**, with a second end **304** in the form of a right cone with the piercing tip **318** and gap section **320**. Also illustrated in device **300** is a blade **312** extending outwardly from circumference **C** and a depression **308**.

In **Figure 3C**, a portion of device **300** is illustrated with an elongated body **306** having a circular cross section as in **Figures 3A** and **3B**, a piercing tip **318** and a gap section **320**. The second end **304** has an equilateral triangle cross sectional shape along line A-A that extends from piercing tip **318** to transition section **344** that converges with gap section **320**, the latter having a circular cross section. At times, the shape of second end **304** according to this embodiment is referred to as the “Mercedes” shaped end, with an angle of 120° between the three faces of the triangle. Also illustrated in device **300** is a blade **312** extending outwardly from circumference **C** and a depression **308**.

Different shapes of a second end for a device in accordance with the present disclosure have been taken into consideration, along with the needed force for easier and less painful penetration into soft tissue such as the sclera in the eye. As described herein below, the force applied was compared to the force needed when a regular gauge

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25 hypodermal needle with an outer diameter of 0.5 mm was used. Three different tip types were investigated, a conical tip as in **Figure 3B**, a triangular cross sectional tip (Mercedes-like) and a rectangular cross sectional (4 phases) tip (not illustrated), when all having a 5° - 15° head tip angle α . The experiment results showed that the force applied with the Mercedes-like shape gave the best results for the purpose of cutting and penetrating soft tissue such as the sclera.

As appreciated, bearing in mind that the second end is configured to ease penetration of the device into soft tissue and the fact that not only one kind of soft tissue exists, many other designs for the second end may be equally applicable. Thus, the present disclosure should not be limited by the individually exemplified embodiments for said second end.

Referring to **Figure 4** there is illustrated a portion of a device's segment **406** with three spaced-apart partition walls **442** dividing depression **408** into, respectively, four compartments **444**. It is to be understood that while three partition walls are illustrated, the depression may similarly consist of only one, or two or even more than three partition walls. Partition walls **442** are typically, albeit not exclusively, included in order to form barriers that prevents the flow of fluid through depression **408** from one side to another side of the device. For example, if the device is used to cut sclera tissue of the eye, partition walls **442** prevent fluid from flowing from the internal chamber of the eye towards outside of the eye.

It is to be appreciated that while the partition walls are illustrated in this embodiment as full partitioning walls, i.e. extending along the entire inner perimeter of the depression, the walls may also extend, like a pillar, from only part of the inner surface (to provide partial partitioning with compartments only partially separated one from the neighboring compartment). This construction may allow, during operation, for matter collected in the depression to cross from one compartment to another during operation.

In **Figures 5A-5B** additional possible alternative features for a device according to the present disclosure are provided. It is to be appreciated that the additional features in **Figures 5A-5B** need not to be used together and each feature should be considered as a separate possible feature that may be added to the elements of the device hitherto

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described. Similar to preceding Figures 2 to 4, reference numerals similar to those used in Figure 1 or 2, shifted by 400 or 300, respectively, are used to identify components having a similar function in **Figures 5A–5B**. For example, element **512** in **Figure 5A** is a blade having the same function as blade **112** in Figure 1.

5 Specifically, **Figure 5A** illustrates, isometrically, a portion of device **500A** with a blade **512** extending outwardly from circumference **C** and a depression **508**, all being similarly shown in Figures 1 to 4. However, **Figure 5A** also illustrates an elongated hump-like protrusion, referred to as ridge **546** positioned over at least part of external surface **510** of segment **506**, and typically, in parallel albeit on opposite side of
10 depression **508**. In operation, ridge **546** may assist in stretching tissue surrounding the external surface thereby ensuring that tissue is in contact with cutting edge and a layer thereof is cut during rotation (under stretch). The dimensions of ridge **546** are important factors for determining the level of stretching exerted on the tissue. In general, the greater the ridge's apex "**H**" is distanced from the contour of the external surface, the
15 greater is the tissue stretching. A balance needs to be maintained in order to, on the one hand, increase contact between the tissue and the blade, e.g. by such stretching means, and on the other hand, minimize any inconvenience or pain that may be caused to the treated subject or even affect performance of the device during operation. According to some embodiments, the dimensions of ridge **546** are defined by an apex having a height
20 "**H**" as shown in **Figure 5A**, and being perpendicular to the external surface of the segment, where H is no more than 10%-50% of the dimension of diameter **Di**.

Further illustrated in **Figure 5A**, depression **508** also comprises a barrier **550**, in this embodiment, illustrated as an inner wall extending inwardly along the depression. The barrier **550** may be one continuous wall (as illustrated) or a series of individual
25 walls. The barrier **550** may assist in controlling the amount/volume of matter (e.g. tissue) collected in the depression. In other words, the barrier acts as a compartment or depression size reducer. In some embodiments, the barrier is fixedly attached to the depression, and in some other embodiments, it is removably placed within depression **508**, e.g. by dedicated gripping seat (not illustrated).

30 The shape of barrier **550** may be simply rectangular or any other suitable shape. While rotating the device, tissue will gradually enter depression **508** until it reaches

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barrier **550**, preventing from additional tissue to enter into the depression, probably by that terminating the cutting process by the blade **512**. Without being bound by theory, it is assumed that once the depression is filled with the desired volume of tissue, blade **512** trims off the tissue layer from the surroundings.

5 In order to control the depth of insertion of the device into tissue, the device may include a blocking member, or stopper **552** circumferencing external surface **510** at or proximal to first end **502**, preferably, where there is no depression. The blocking member **552** is typically used to prevent penetration of the device beyond a desired depth within the treated tissue. To this end, and in accordance with some embodiments,
10 blocking member **552** is fixed in place proximal to said first end. However, in accordance with some other embodiments, blocking member may be configured such to slideably be displaced along the elongated member **506**, e.g. to be lined with a partition wall. The blocking member **552** may also assist in supporting orientation and promote stabilization of the device once being penetrated into the tissue.

15 The blocking member **552** may have different shapes and configurations. In the illustrated embodiment, the blocking member is in the form of a gradual increase in the diameter of the elongated body (resembling a belt overlaying circumference C), at the junction between the segment **506** and the first end **502**. The blocking member prevents the device from entering the tissue beyond the blocking member **552** location.
20 Alternatively, the blocking member **552** may be created by firmly fitting a flexible band over the elongated body at the desired location in the first end. The blocking member **552** illustrated in **Figure 5A** may be made from the same material of the elongated body, e.g. stainless steel or ceramic material (Tungsten Carbide), or from any other suitable material. At times, the blocking member **552** has dimensions that prevent the
25 elongated body from further penetrating one tissue, but does not prevent penetration to another tissue. As will be further discussed below, when creating a channel in the eye, a blocking member may be such to allow penetration through the conjunctiva of the eye, but prevent excess penetration of the elongated body via the sclera.

30 In **Figure 5B**, a device **500B**, similar to device **200** is shown, albeit with a barrier in the form of a protective shaft **560**, having, in this embodiment, a hollow

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cylindrical shape. Device **500B** is entered from its first end **502** through the lumen of protective shaft **560**.

When in operation, namely, the elongated member extending between a first end **502** and a second end **504** constituting a tissue piercing tip, and a segment **506** extending from the second end **504** is rotating, protective shaft **560** is static, and by this it protects the surrounding tissues from being damaged during the rotation of the elongated member. This is useful, for example, in operating on the eye, so as to protect the conjunctiva that surrounds the sclera. In one embodiment, the protective shaft may be fixedly attached / interlocked to a grip unit, to which the device is also attached by engagement element **516**, by its back side **562**. It is to be noted that protective shaft **560** may also function to block the device from being excessively entered into the soft tissue in a manner similar to blocking member **552** in **Figure 5A**. Protective shaft **560** may also be configured to be slidably positioned at a certain position relative to the piercing tip, so that it defines the length of the functionally cutting segment of the device, and by this allowing to adjust the device to the relevant tissue meant to be cut. Notably, while **Figure 500B** illustrates a device similar to device **200** in **Figure 2A**, a protecting element of this type may similarly be used with a device including an elongated blade, such as that illustrated in **Figure 1A**.

Figures 6A-6D are illustrations of devices according to some embodiments of the present disclosure with **Figure 6A- 6C** providing views of a device in accordance with one embodiment, and **Figure 6D** providing an isometric view of a device in accordance with another embodiment.

Reference is now made to **Figures 6A-6C**, showing a device **600** in accordance with another embodiment of the present disclosure. For simplicity, like reference numerals to those used in **Figure 1**, shifted by 500 are used to identify components having a similar function. For example, component **604** in **Figure 6** is a first end having the same function as first end **104** in **Figure 1**.

Specifically, in **Figures 6A-6B**, a segment of device **600** is shown including a second end **604** having a triangular cross section (Mercedes shape). Along segment **606** there are two blades **612A** and **612B** having edges **614A** and **614B** respectively. Also, the device comprises two partition walls **642A** and **642B** that embrace segment **606** (like belts) and function as barriers for fluid movement from second end **604** towards

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the first end (not shown). In this non-limiting example, three compartments, **644A**, **644B** and **644C** are formed between partition walls **642A** and **642B**. The three compartments define depressions and during rotation, tissue that is cut by blade(s) may be stored in these compartments. The depressions may be defined by their volumes, or
5 their internal diameter, which may be dictated by the dimensions (diameter) of the channel to be created inside the tissue.

The elongated part of device **600** includes the cutting segment which extends from the second end **604** and is connected to an elongated rod **654** having generally a smooth and circular surface, the elongated rod extends the length of the device so that to
10 enable mounting it on a grip rotating unit from the first end (not shown) of the device. The elongated rod is usually a cylinder being full or hollow. Being configured as full the rod can withstand more stresses and torque. In case it is full, the rod **654** will have, as shown in Figure 6A, a dedicated inlet **656** to enable connecting it to the cutting segment of the device. As shown in Figure 6B, device **600** may be inserted from its
15 first end into a protective shaft **660** having the same functions as described with regards to protective shaft **560** in Figure 5B. Like blocking member **552**, the protective shaft **660** may function as a stopper that prevents device **600** from excessive penetration into soft tissue. For example, when using the device inside the eye to create a channel in the sclera, it is important that the device does not penetrate to an extent that causes damage
20 to the inside of the eye. Protective shaft **660** can be positioned at a preferable distance from the second end revealing the desired length of the cutting part extending along segment **606**.

It should be noted that while this example includes only two cutting blades along segment **606**, it is equally possible that segment **606** comprises a plurality of blades
25 forming a fan-like cross sectional shape.

A cross section along line L-L in segment **606** is illustrated in **Figure 6C**. Segment **606** has a circular external surface **610** with a circumference **C**. Line H-H defines two sides (halves) of device **600**, where each side includes two parts, parts **630A** and **632A** defining a first side and parts **630B** and **632B** defining a second side.
30 Parts **632A** and **632B** are fixedly attached (e.g. welded, glued, anchored) to the elements holding the blades, at **K** and **M**, as shown. External surface of segment **606** may be

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defined by a diameter **DiB**. In some embodiments, diameter **DiB** has a nominal value of between 100 – 1,000 μm , depending on the particular application of the device, e.g. at different parts or organs of the body and/or in different species.

In **Figure 6D**, an isometric view of device **600'** according to another
5 embodiment of the present disclosure is shown. The device **600'** has a second end **604** with a triangular cross section (Mercedes shape). While the Mercedes shape in the second end is a preferred embodiment, it should be understood, that the second end may have any of the configurations illustrated above in relation to Figures 3A-3C, or any other configuration suitable for piercing soft tissue. The device **600'** also has an
10 elongated rod **654** having the same functions as detailed above with regards to device **600**. The segment **606** (which includes the cutting part responsible for cutting and collecting the cut tissue) may be integrally formed with the elongated rod **654** or attached thereto at N.

As further shown in the figure, segment **606** (including the cutting part) has
15 several spiral depressions **608** found between several spiral blades with cutting edges **614** extending along the longitudinal axis of the segment **606**. During the rotation of device **600'**, the cutting edges cut the surrounding tissue which is then received in the depressions between the cutting edges.

Optionally, device **600'** may include one or more partition walls along each
20 spiral depression **608**. In the example of **Figure 6D**, two partition walls **642'A** and **642'B** are shown along one of the depressions. These partition walls are intended to function, at least, as fluid barriers (similar to two partition walls **642A** and **642B** in Figures 6A and 6B), for preventing the flow of fluid through depression **608** from one side to another side of the device **600'**. In particular, this may be useful when using
25 device **600'** for creating a channel in the eye wall, in order to prevent the fluid inside the internal chamber from escaping the eye through the depressions in the device.

The devices subject of the present disclosure, including those illustrated in Figures 1 to 6, are preferably disposable. This makes working with these devices more convenient and sterile, not requiring service prior to usages.

30 Reference is now made to **Figure 7** illustrating the device when connected to a rotor to form an assembly in accordance with the present disclosure. Again, for

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simplicity, same reference numbers, shifted by **600** or **500** are used to describe similar elements shown in Figure 1 or Figure 2 respectively. Specifically, the assembly **760** comprises a device **700** engaged within a grip unit **762** comprising a shank **764** to enable holding the device **700**. The shank **764** is connected to the device via a rotatable engagement part **716** the rotation of which being operated by a rotor **766** within the grip unit **762**. Rotor **766** may be operated by a motor or manually (e.g. using a spring). The operation of the rotor may be controlled by a control unit, in this embodiment control unit **768**, for defining and selecting various parameters relevant to the effective actuation of the rotatable part **716**, and effective operation of the assembly. The control unit may form part of the grip unit **762** or may be a remote part thereof, connected to the grip unit with a wire or wirelessly. Some of these parameters include, without being limited thereto, On/Off switching of the rotor, speed of rotation, number of rotations, and control over reciprocal movement of the device. The control unit **768** may comprise a control panel **770** including a user interface for selecting the desired parameters.

According to some embodiments, the grip unit **762** may be powered and actuated electrically. In other embodiments the force of rotation may be mechanic, such as using a spring that causes torque and results in rotation of the rotatable part **716**.

Yet, at times, to actuate the rotor **766** and hence the rotation of the device, medical assembly **760** may also comprise a pedal **772** connected through a wire **774** or wirelessly to the rotor or to the control unit **768**, such that upon pressing pedal **772** the device is actuated and rotated according to the parameters that were chosen through control unit **768**.

In operation, the device is used to excise soft tissue, typically, biological soft tissue (i.e. biological tissue, other than bone which is considered hard tissue). Removal of soft tissue may be for example, for biopsy, but also for creating voids or channels within the tissue.

In one aspect, the device is operable to provide a method for excising soft tissue from a living body, the method comprising:

- (i) providing a medical assembly comprising a grip unit operably connected to a device disclosed herein;

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(ii) piercing biological soft tissue at a location where tissue removal is desired, with a piercing end of the device, and sliding the device into the soft tissue to a desired depth within the soft tissue;

5 (iii) actuating rotation of the device while being embedded in the soft tissue to allow at least one full rotation of the device about its longitudinal axis, during said rotation soft tissue is cut around an external surface of the device and is received in at least one depression of the device;

10 (iv) upon termination of rotation, removing the device from the soft tissue, leaving a channel within the tissue, the dimensions of the channel being dependent on the amount of tissue removed.

The extent of sliding, or in other words, the depth of insertion of the device into the soft tissue may be controlled or monitored using the scale markers and/or the positioning of the blocking member and/or the position of the protective shaft.

15 During rotation, if a device with elongated blades, such as the device of Figure 1, is used, a circular layer or slice of tissue around the external surface of the segment is cut. Alternatively, if using a device with a cutting produced by the roughness of the surface, e.g. using diamond dust, such as device 200 illustrated in Figure 2, tissue is removed in the form of debris scraped from the live tissue.

20 As may be appreciated, due to rotation of the device about an axis, after withdrawal of the device from the body, an essentially symmetrical tubular channel is formed within the body, the diameter of the channel being approximately $2 \cdot DS$ in the case of a device **100** illustrated in Figure 1. If more than one rotation is performed, additional layer of thickness **DS** or less is cut and removed to eventually form a channel proportional to the number of rotations, and being equal or less than $2n \cdot DS$ (n being an integer representing the number of rotations about axis X). If a device such as device 25 200 in Figure 2 is used, the diameter of the final channel depends on the number of rotations and at maximum it may reach $2 \cdot Ra$, assuming that all the valleys will be filled with tissue debris. At any rate, in the context of the present disclosure, when referring to the diameter of the channel created it is to be understood as referring to the diameter 30 after recoiling of the tissue in the channel.

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In some preferred embodiments, the device and assembly are used to reduce intraocular pressure, by forming a thin draining channel along the sclera and/or cornea tissue.

5 The intraocular pressure (IOP), is the leading cause of glaucoma, the latter relating to a group of eye disorders that may cause damage to the optic nerve which may result in the development of blind spots in the visual field and even irreversible blindness, in case the whole optic nerve is destroyed. Thus, in order to prevent development of glaucoma or glaucoma progression, there is a need in the art to develop means for reducing intraocular pressure.

10 Referring now to **Figure 8A** and **8B**, there is illustrated a portion of a cross section of an eye **880** of a human being (**Figure 8B** being a magnified portion of the eye of **Figure 8A**). Under normal conditions, aqueous humour flows continuously in and out of the anterior chamber **882** maintains the IOP and nourishes the nearby tissues. The fluid leaves the anterior chamber **882**, through a meshwork **884**, at an open angle where
15 the cornea **886** and iris **888** meet.

Excessive IOP is caused by decreased drainage of the fluid from the anterior chamber of the eye and current treatments include medicinal drugs, laser treatment (trabeculoplasty), or surgery (trabeculectomy or drainage implant).

For the purpose of reducing intraocular pressure, there is thus provided a method
20 comprising creating a channel (drainage channel) in the wall of the eye at or close to the junction between the sclera and cornea (herein the "*sclero-corneal junction*"). It should be noted that the channel may be created totally within the sclera or partially within the sclera and cornea. The channel typically extends from the anterior chamber of the eye to the interface between the sclera and the conjunctiva. The drainage channel after recoil
25 of the tissue has an internal diameter of no more than 200µm, preferably between 20µm and 200µm, or between 100µm -200µm.

In this context, the device **800** according to the present disclosure is used to form a drainage channel of controllable size for release of fluid accumulated in the anterior chamber **882** and thereby reducing the IOP. It has been found by the inventors that a
30 diameter of a channel greater than about 200µm after tissue recoil, e.g. 1,000µm, would

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cause collapse of the eye (probably due to excessive leakage of the fluids from the anterior chamber of the eye).

The conjunctiva **890** is lifted from the sclera **892** by a physician, or any other skilled person in the art, using for example a surgical forceps. Then, the conjunctiva **890** is pierced with the piercing second end **804** of the device after which the device is gently forwarded into the sclera tissue **892** which is then pierced by the piercing second end **804** in the limbal area, again close to where cornea **886** and sclera **892** meet. The lifting of the conjunctiva ensures that the eventual piercing hole in the conjunctiva and in the sclera do not coincide, thereby ensuring that no post treatment leakage of aqueous humour would occur. The device **800** is pushed forwards towards and through the sclera **892** in a direction almost parallel to iris **888**, forming a small angle with the cornea's outer surface.

The scale marks on the device's surface, the blocking member and/or the protective shaft (not illustrated in Figure 8) assist in ensuring that the device is inserted only up to the desired depth thereby minimizing any potential damage to the internal portion of the eye. At times, the device **800** can be viewed through the transparent cornea, which may also assist in preventing unintentional excessive insertion of the device into the eye. To this end, scale marks may be present on the second end and on the gap section of the device such that once they are viewed via the transparent cornea, the physician will know to stop pushing the device further into the eye. Moreover, a blocking member **852** of the device assists in controlling the distance that the device **800** can penetrate the eye. The blocking member **852** can also be configured like protective shaft **660** described in **Figure 6B**. In operation, device **800** is inserted until the sclera surrounds the cutting portion of the device (segment **806** with the at least one elongated blade or the file-like rough surface configuration or any other configuration in the context of the present disclosure).

When a channel is to be created in the eye of a human subject, the length of second end would be in the range of 200µm to 4,000µm and the length along axis X including the second end and the gap section would be in the range of 2,000µm to 5,000µm. The length of the cutting portion would be between 2,000 µm and 3,000µm.

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Further, when a channel is to be created in the eye, it is preferable that the gap section is sealed. This would assist in minimizing undesired leakage of fluid from the anterior chamber of the eye during the initial piercing of the tissue. Once the cutting segment is situated properly inside the eye wall, i.e. inside the sclera or the sclero-
5 corneal junction, the grip unit **862** is actuated via the control unit (not shown) causing the device to rotate around its longitudinal axis **X**, at a speed and for a number of rotations that are a priori selected by the physician operating the device, e.g. via its control unit (It should be clarified that the grip unit **862** as shown is not in scale with the eye portion in the Figure, and its only purpose is to illustrate its possible position
10 relative to the eye). As already was explained, the number of rotations dictates the diameter of the channel formed within the eye wall (the eye wall comprising sclera tissue, cornea tissue or both), in the case that device 800 is similar to device 100 the diameter being proportional to **DS**, which is the distance between the blade's cutting edge and the external contour of circumference **C**, and if the device 800 is configured
15 like device 200, the diameter of the channel is related to **Ra** explained above. Once the desired amount of tissue is collected in the device **800**, or the desired amount of rotations are performed, rotation is terminated, and the device is gently pulled out of the eye, carrying within it an amount of scrapped sclera/cornea tissue, leaving within the eye wall a channel with a desired diameter. This channel provides a drainage path for
20 aqueous humour from the anterior chamber to the space between the sclera and the conjunctiva thereby reduce IOP.

Initially, a bleb will form under the conjunctiva **890** by the fluid which exits through the channel. It is good to notice that the fluid will not leave the eye through the conjunctiva **890**, as the slit in it is far from where the bleb is formed (immediately above
25 the channel). In this way, the drainage is controlled and the extra fluid is carried away via the blood vessels of the eye.

According to some embodiments, the area in the vicinity of the formed channel is treated with a suitable anti-scarring agent, such as mitomycin-C (available commercially, e.g. as *Mitosol*, Mobius Therapeutics), to minimize any scar development
30 which may clog the open channel. The area may be defined as the space between the conjunctiva and the sclera, at the eye quadrant where the channel is formed.

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It will be appreciated by persons of ordinary skill in the art that the exact locations where the conjunctiva and the sclero-corneal junction area are pierced are not restricted to what has been described, and every case should be considered individually.

The device, medical assembly and method disclosed herein are not limited to
5 human treatment. In fact, the device may be equally designed (particularly in terms of dimensions) to be suitable for treatment of other living beings, such as dogs, horses, cats. The main difference would be in the dimensions of the device. The differences in the devices, depending on the treated species, may reside in the dimensions of the devices' segment, length of the first and second ends, the circumference **C** and diameter
10 **Di** of the device, the dimension/volume of the depression and the value of the effective cutting thickness **DS**.

The device may be manufactured according to procedures known to those skilled in the art. For Example, and without being limited thereto, the second end (the piercing end) may be created by techniques typically used for manufacturing needles or
15 by electrochemical sharpening. For the depression, one may use a commercially available cannula (hollow tube), e.g. of a needle, or using techniques such as electrical discharge machine (EDM). The blade may be formed as an integral part of the elongated member, or may be welded to the member, using for example, spot-laser welding. Similarly, the barriers within the depression or outside external surface
20 (Figure 6A) may be welded or integrally formed with the device. The material from which a device may be made can be stainless steel or ceramic material (Tungsten Carbide).

Referring to **Figures 9A-9D** there are provided four exemplary devices. Figures 9A and 9B provide images of device manufactured in accordance with principles of the
25 present disclosure, i.e. after diamond electro plating to obtain a diamond dust cutting surface, the two devices being different in the roughness of the surface created by the diamond dust coating. Figure 9C illustrates a device with only a Mercedes-like second end and no cutting blades, while Figure 9D exemplifies a device where the second end has a conical shape and while with a dedicated depression, the device is without blades.

Figure 10 provide stages of assembling components of a device in accordance
30 with the present disclosure and rotating mechanism. For simplicity, like reference

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numerals to those used in Figures 6A-6B, shifted by 400 are used to identify components having a similar function in Figure 10. For example, component 660 in Figure 6A is a protective shaft having the same function protective shaft 1060 in Figure 10.

5 Specifically shown in **Figure 10** is a device **1000** having a first end **1002** containing an engagement element **1016** which in this case has an interlock engagement mechanism, and a grip unit **1062** that includes a rotating mechanism to cause rotation of the device **1000** around its longitudinal axis. Also shown in **Figure 10** is a protective shaft **1060**. Protective shaft aids also in stopping the device from penetrating the eye
10 beyond the safe level. Initially, as illustrated in stage [I], device **1000**, protective shaft **1060** and grip unit **1062** are separated. In stage [II] device **1000** is interlocked with the grip unit 1062, via inlet **1080**, while protective shaft **1060** is still separated from the assembly. Then, protective shaft **1060** is sled over the device and firmly attached to the grip unit holding the protective shaft **1060** in static state, such that when the device is
15 rotated no movement of the protective shaft occurs. Stage [III] shows the three components together in a state ready for activation. A zoom-in of the device **1000** with the protective shaft **1060** is further shown, including its second end **1004** which includes a Mercedes-like piercing tip, a gap section **1020**, a cutting segment **1006** including a plurality of blades, i.e. in the file-like model (e.g. from diamond dust).

20 **NON-LIMITING EXAMPLES:**

Evaluation of a device as shown in Figure 10

A device as shown in **Figure 11A** was used to create a drainage channel in an eye of a pig cadaver at sclera-corneal junction using a file-type device as shown in the figure. The file was achieved using diamond plating. Further, the device had a
25 Mercedes-like piercing tip.

Swine eyes were supplied by the official authority. The conjunctiva tissue was removed by a surgeon in order to allow easy approach to the sclera-corneal junction.

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After the conjunctiva tissue removal, the device was inserted into the eye's wall. During rotation (according to a predefined RPM and duration) there was an interaction between the device and the sclera tissue and a thin layer of the sclera was removed.

At the end of the procedure, the device was withdrawn from the eye and a drainage channel from the Anterior chamber to the outside the eye was created. Following this, the drainage liquids would accumulate under the conjunctiva tissue, creating a bleb and then getting absorbed into the veins of the eye.

Figures 11B and **11C** show the piercing of the eye and the creation of a sclera-corneal channel by rotating the device shown in **Figure 11A**, being attached to a rotating machine at high RPM. **Figure 11B** was taken a moment before the piercing was performed, while **Figure 11C** was taken after the penetration and a moment before the rotation of the device. By using an Optical Coherence Tomography device the channel created within the sclera of the cadaver eye was imaged immediately after the experiment (before recoil effect of the live eye). This is shown in **Figure 12**. The average dimensions of a channel created using the device of **Figure 10**: 0.35mm in diameter and 2mm length. In **Figure 12**, there are shown different sections along the created channel.

In order to prove the effectiveness of the device of **Figure 10** a comparison experiment was conducted between the device of **Figure 10**, i.e. with the diamond plated cutting segment, vs. a device having the same piercing end but without the diamond dust plating layer. The results were also captured with an OCT and are shown in **Figure 13A-13B**. It is shown that rotating a device in accordance with the present disclosure (**Figure 13A**) effectively removed scleral tissue and resulted in an essentially circular contour of the created channel due to tissue removal. Whereas, **Figure 13B** shows that when using a device that does not have a diamond plating layer resulted in no tissue removal. As shown in **Figure 13B**, the cross section form is a triangle only, as a result of "Mercedes" tip penetration. Subsequent rotation of the simple round rod inside the tissue did not affect the cross section form which remained triangular. On the other side, in **Figure 13A**, despite the penetration with a "Mercedes" tip and an expected triangular form, the subsequent rotation have left a circular cross section form due to the interaction between the diamond and the sclera tissue.

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Assessment of the effectiveness of the method was carried out by comparing the total real tissue weight removed to the theoretical calculation based on the device dimensions. The removed tissue was scraped from the diamond plated surface, and assuming that the sclera tissue is composed of 70% water and 30% protein, a protein weight analysis was made, using suitable equipment and methods, giving the result that the removed tissue weight is about 48 ± 12 μgr . This was repeated 12 times, and the results are summarized in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Protein/Water content of removed tissue

Sample No.	Protein (μg)	Water (μg)	Total Weight (μg)
30-5	11.69	27.28	38.97
46-3	15.36	35.84	51.20
46-6	13.36	31.17	44.53
91-1	12.89	30.08	42.97
91-2	22.78	53.15	75.93
91-4	18.02	42.05	60.07
46-8	10.47	24.42	34.88
54-1	15.26	35.61	50.87
54-3	11.85	27.64	39.48
54-4	11.42	26.66	38.08
54-8	17.84	41.62	59.46
76-4	9.25	21.58	30.83
Average	14.18	33.09	47.27
STD	3.87	9.02	12.88

10 On the other, the theoretical calculation was made as follows:

The sclera tissue density was assumed to be 1 gr/ml, according to what is found in the literature.

Given:

D1 (max device diameter with diamonds) = $530\mu\text{m}$

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D2 (device diameter without active diamonds layer) = 500 μ m

L (Channel average length) = 2000 μ m

d (Channel diameter after expected recoil)= ?

A (Removed cross section area) = $\pi/4*(D1^2-D2^2)$ = 24268 μ m²

5 $A = \pi*d^2/4 \Rightarrow d \sim 160 \mu$ m

V (Volume)= L*A = 48,536,000 μ m³

W (Weight)= V*density = 48.5 μ gr.

As can be seen, the two results are very close which provides a good estimation of the method's efficacy.

10 The above embodiments, examples and description have of course been provided only for the purpose of illustration, and are not intended to limit the invention in any way. As will be appreciated by the skilled person, the invention can be carried out in a great variety of ways, employing more than one technique from those described above, all without exceeding the scope of the invention.

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CLAIMS:

1. A device comprising an elongated member extending between a first end and a second end, and a segment proximal to the second end extending along a longitudinal axis X, said segment comprises at least one depression axially extending along at least a portion of said segment and an external surface having a circumference C; and one or more blades with a cutting edge peripheral to C and the one or more blades extending along at least part of said segment; the first end comprising an engagement element for engagement with a grip unit comprising a rotor to cause rotation of said device about said axis upon actuation of the rotor and the second end comprising a tissue piercing tip.
2. The device of Claim 1, wherein said depression is sealed proximal to said second end.
3. The device of Claim 1, wherein said second end is beveled towards the tissue piercing tip, the tip being collinear with said axis X.
4. The device of Claim 3, wherein said second end has a polygonal cross section.
5. The device of Claim 3, wherein said second end has a shape of a right cone with its tip being collinear with axis X.
6. The device of Claim 3, wherein said second end has a equilateral triangular cross section.
7. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein said external surface traces external contours of a cylinder.
8. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 7, wherein said one or more blades comprise a cutting edge radially distanced from said circumference C by about 2-100 μm .
9. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein during rotation about said axis X, said one or more blades are configured to cut a layer of tissue around said external surface, said layer having a thickness equal or less than the distance of said cutting edge from said circumference C.
10. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 9, comprising a ridge along said external surface radially extending opposite to at least one blade.

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11. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 10, comprising a single blade and a single depression, both extending along at least part of said segment.
12. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 10, comprising more than one blade and respectively more than one depression, each depression juxtapose to a blade.
13. The device of Claim 11, comprising a ridge on the external surface and opposite to said blade.
14. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 13, wherein a depression comprises one or more partition walls dividing the depression into, respectively, two or more compartments.
15. The device of Claim 14, wherein said one or more partition walls provide full or partial separation between the respectively two or more compartments.
16. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 15, having a nominal diameter of between 100-1,000 μm .
17. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 16, wherein said depression has a length along said axis X of between 100-3,000 μm .
18. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 17, wherein said segment comprises a gap section juxtaposed to said second end and being devoid of a depression.
19. The device of Claim 18, wherein said gap section has a length defined between said second end and said depression of between 100-2500 μm .
20. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 19, wherein said piercing end has a tip angle of between 5° and 15° .
21. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 20, wherein during rotation, soft tissue is to be received in said at least one depression.
22. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 21, wherein said depression defines a volume of soft tissue to be received therein, or the volume of soft tissue to be received in said depression is dictated by number of rotations.
23. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 22, comprising spaced apart marks along said elongated body for identifying distances from said piercing end.

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24. The device of Claim 23, wherein said marks are positioned on the external surface.
25. The device of any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein said depression comprises an inner surface and at least one barrier extending inwardly from said inner surface.
26. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 25, wherein said blade has a straight cutting edge or a curved cutting edge.
27. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 26, comprising, proximal to said first end, a blocking member on said external surface for preventing excessive penetration of said device into soft tissue.
28. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 26, comprising a hollow shaft into which the device is inserted from its first end.
29. The device of any one of Claims 1 to 28, being disposable.
30. A device comprising an elongated member extending between a first end and a second end and comprising a segment proximal to the second end extending along a longitudinal axis X, said segment comprises roughened external surface protruding outwardly from circumference C; the first end comprising an engagement element for engagement with a grip unit comprising a rotor to cause rotation of said device about said axis upon actuation of the rotor and the second end comprising a tissue piercing tip.
31. A medical assembly comprising:
a grip unit comprising a shank with a rotating end and having mounted on the rotating end a device as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 30; and
a rotor operable to rotate said device around said axis X.
32. The medical assembly of Claim 31, operable to form a channel within a biological soft tissue, the channel having a volume that is equal or smaller than the volume of the depression in said device.
33. The medical assembly of Claim 31 or 32, wherein said grip unit comprises a control unit for controlling operation of the assembly.

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- 34.** The medical assembly of Claim 33, wherein controlling operation of the assembly comprises selection of one or more parameter selected from the group consisting of speed of rotation, number of rotations, and reciprocal movement.
- 35.** The medical assembly of Claim 33 or 34, wherein said control unit comprises a user interface for allowing a user to select desired parameters of rotation.
- 36.** A method for creating a channel in a biological soft tissue comprising:
- a. providing a medical assembly comprising a grip unit and a device mounted thereon as claimed in any one of Claims 31 to 35;
 - b. piercing the biological tissue with the tissue piercing tip of the device and sliding the device into the soft tissue to a desired depth within the soft tissue;
 - c. actuating said medical assembly while the device is embedded in the soft tissue to allow at least one full rotation about said axis X, during said rotation soft tissue is scrapped around the external surface of said segment; and
 - d. upon termination of rotations, removing the device from the soft tissue, leaving a channel within said tissue.
- 37.** The method of Claim 36, wherein during rotation a circular slice of tissue around the external surface of said segment is cut.
- 38.** The method of Claim 36 or 37, wherein said device performs one or more full rotations about said axis, the number of full rotations dictating the diameter of the channel.
- 39.** The method of any one of Claim 36 to 38, wherein said device performs one or more rotations about said axis, until an indication is received that a required volume of tissue is received in the at least one depression.
- 40.** The method of any one of Claims 36 to 39, wherein said soft tissue comprises tissue from an eye wall comprising sclera tissue, cornea tissue or both.
- 41.** The method of Claim 40, comprising lifting the conjunctiva layer of the eye prior to piercing the sclera with the piercing end of the device.
- 42.** The method of Claim 40 or 41, for providing a sclero-corneal drainage channel.

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- 43.** The method of any one of Claims 39 to 42, for creating a sclero-corneal channel having a diameter of no more than 200 μ m after recoil of the tissue.
- 44.** The method of any one of Claims 39 to 43, for reducing intraocular pressure within the eye.
- 45.** The method of any one of Claims 39 to 44 comprising treating with an anti-scarring agent placed between the conjunctiva and sclera at the area where said channel is formed.
- 46.** The method of Claim 45, wherein said agent is mitomycin C.
- 47.** A method for reducing intraocular pressure, the method comprises creating a drainage channel in the sclero-corneal junction area of the eye and extending from the anterior chamber of the eye to the interface between the sclera and the conjunctiva, the drainage channel having a diameter of no more than 200 μ m after recoil of the tissue.
- 48.** A device for use in reducing intraocular pressure, the device comprising an elongated member extending between a first end and a second end and comprising a segment proximal to the second end extending along a longitudinal axis X, said segment comprises at least one depression axially extending along at least a portion of said segment and an external surface having a circumference C; and one or more blades with a cutting edge peripheral to C and the one or more blades extending along at least part of said segment; the first end comprising an engagement element for engagement with a grip unit comprising a rotor to cause rotation of said device about said axis upon actuation of the rotating unit and the second end comprising a tissue piercing tip.
- 49.** A device comprising an elongated member extending between a first end and a second end, and a segment proximal to the second end extending along a longitudinal axis X, said segment comprises at least one depression axially extending along at least a portion of said segment and an external surface having a circumference C; and one or more blades with a cutting edge extending up to circumference C and the one or more blades extending along at least part of said segment; the first end comprising an engagement element for engagement with a grip unit comprising a rotor to cause rotation of said device about said axis upon actuation of the rotor and the second end comprising a tissue piercing tip.

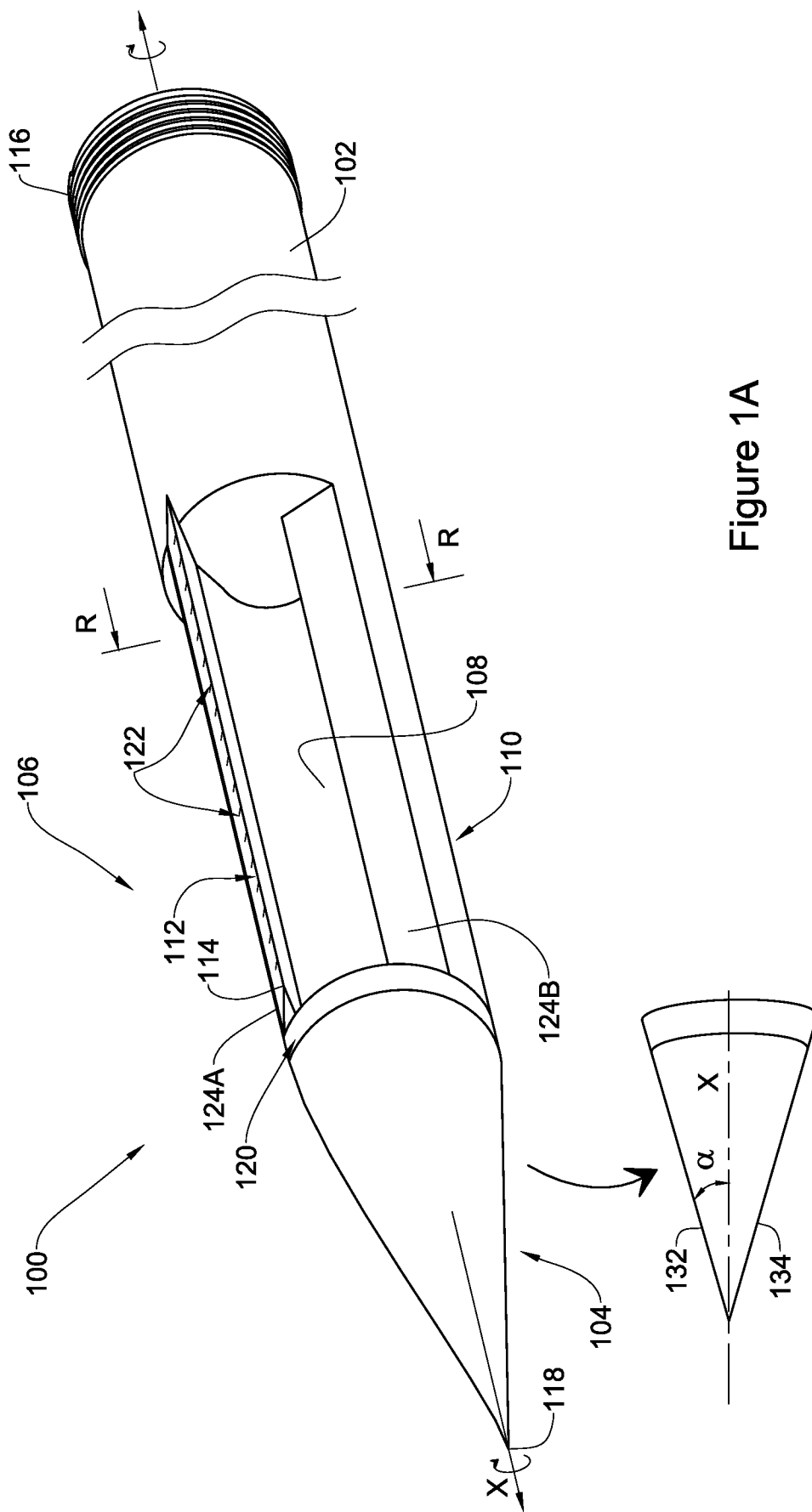


Figure 1A

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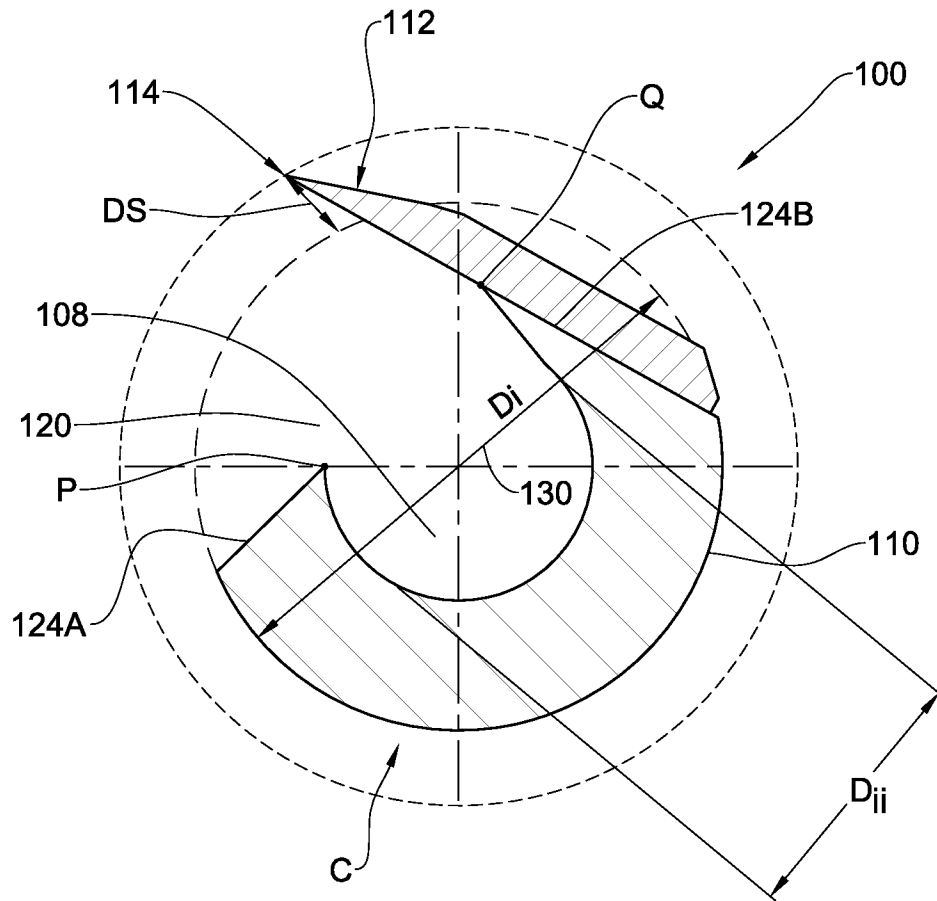


Figure 1B

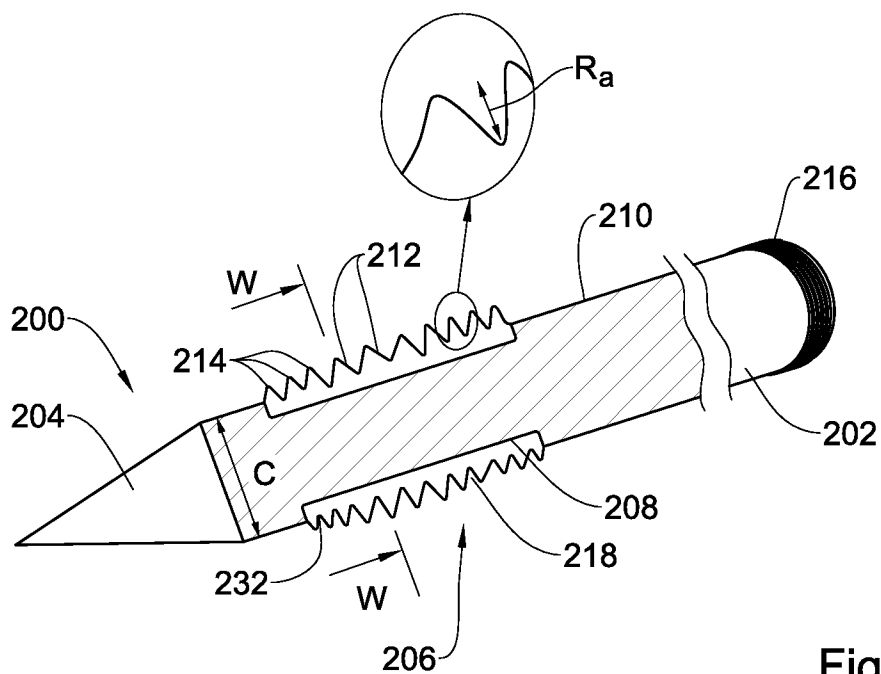


Figure 2A

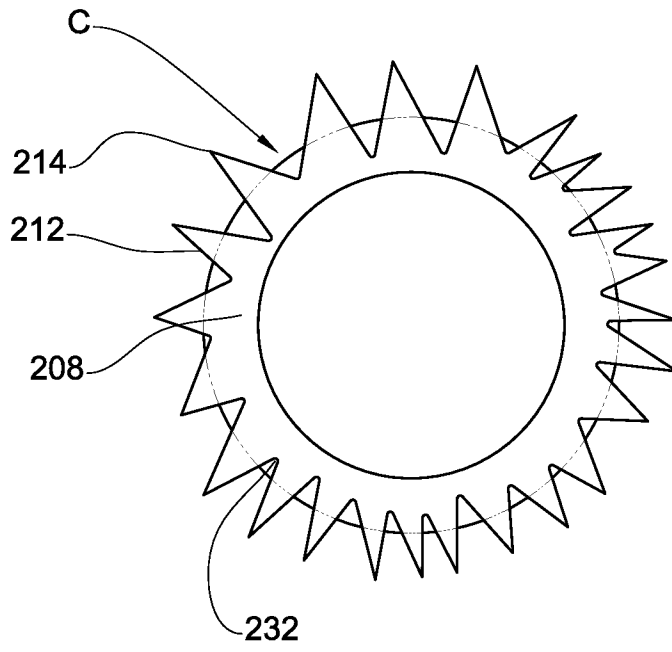


Figure 2B

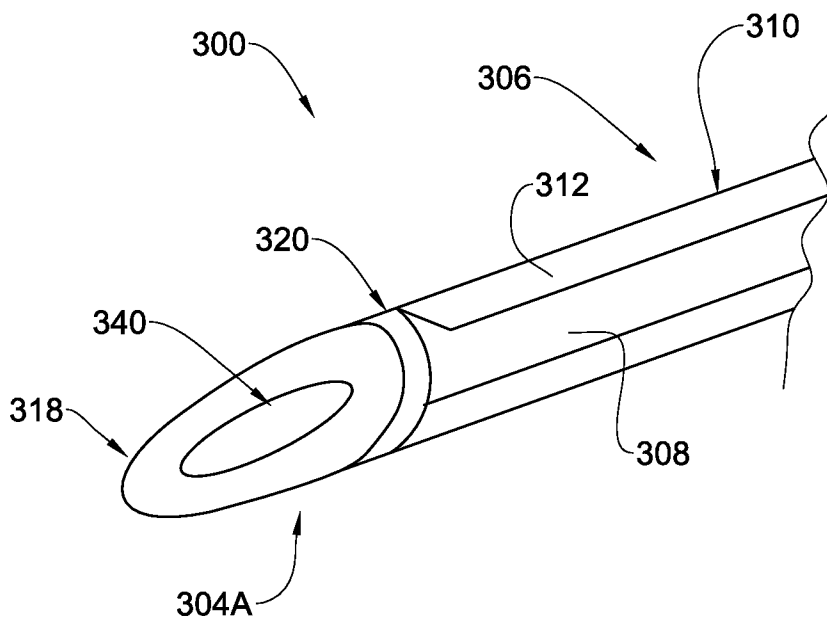


Figure 3A

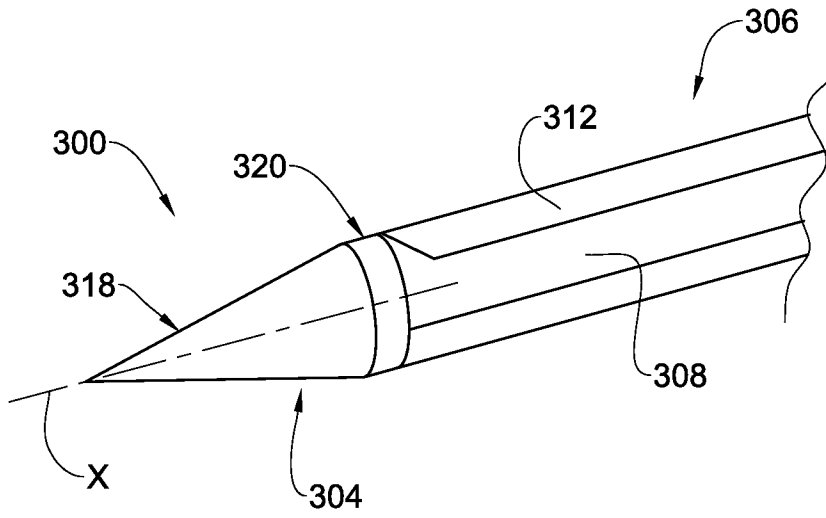


Figure 3B

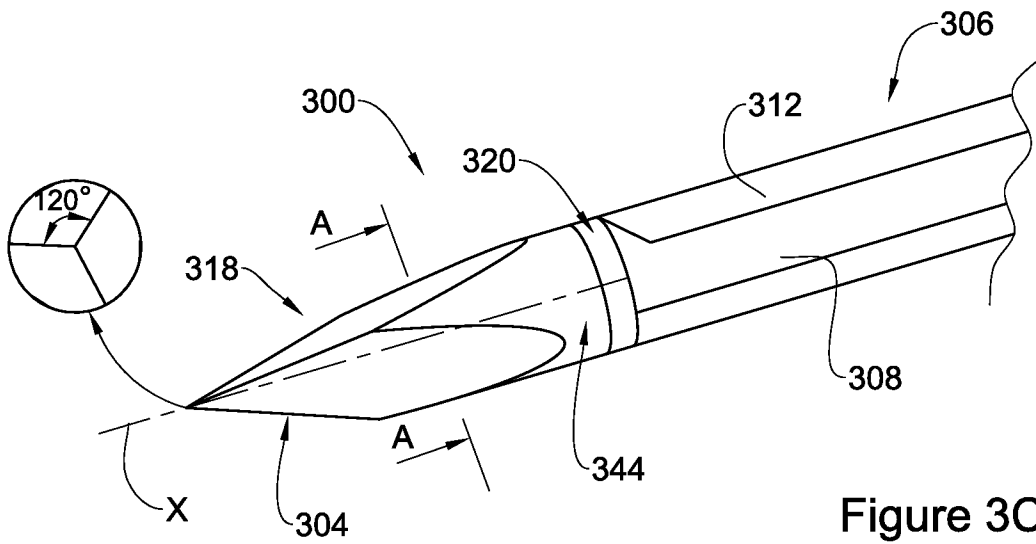


Figure 3C

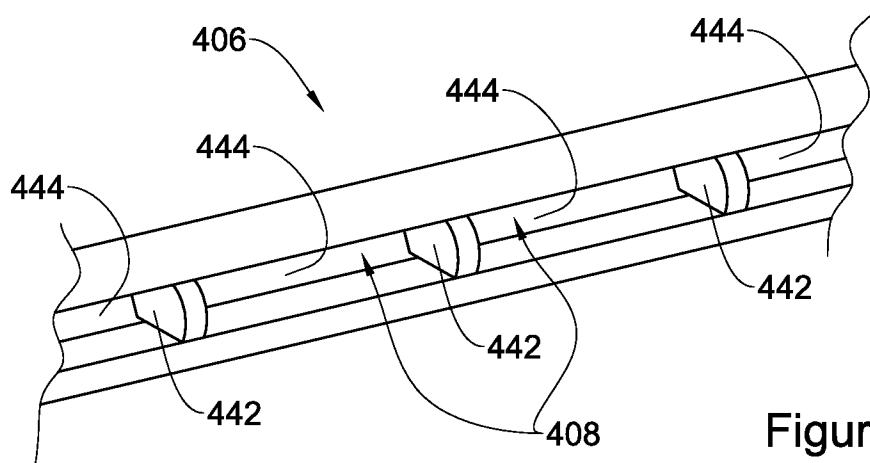


Figure 4

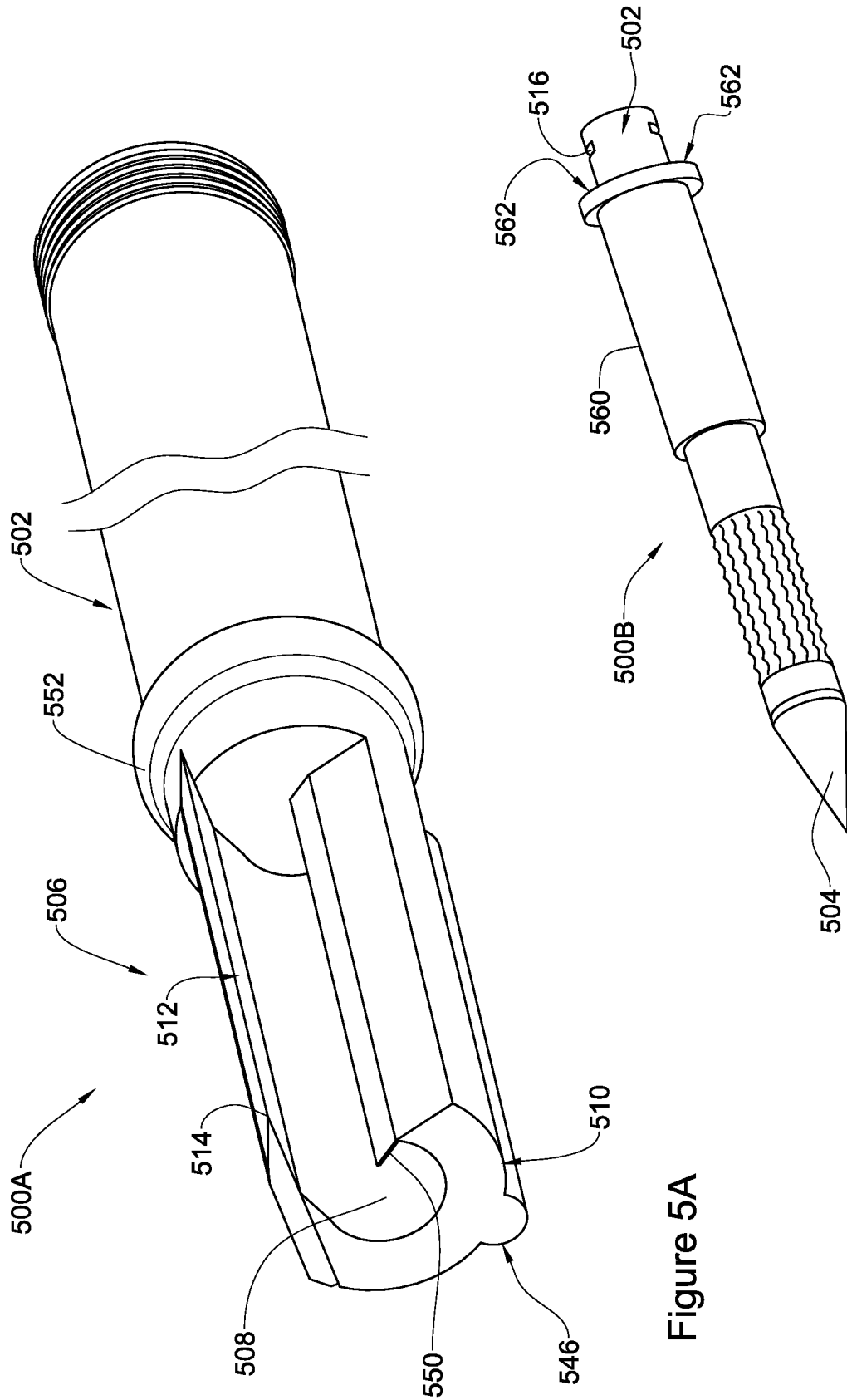


Figure 5A

Figure 5B

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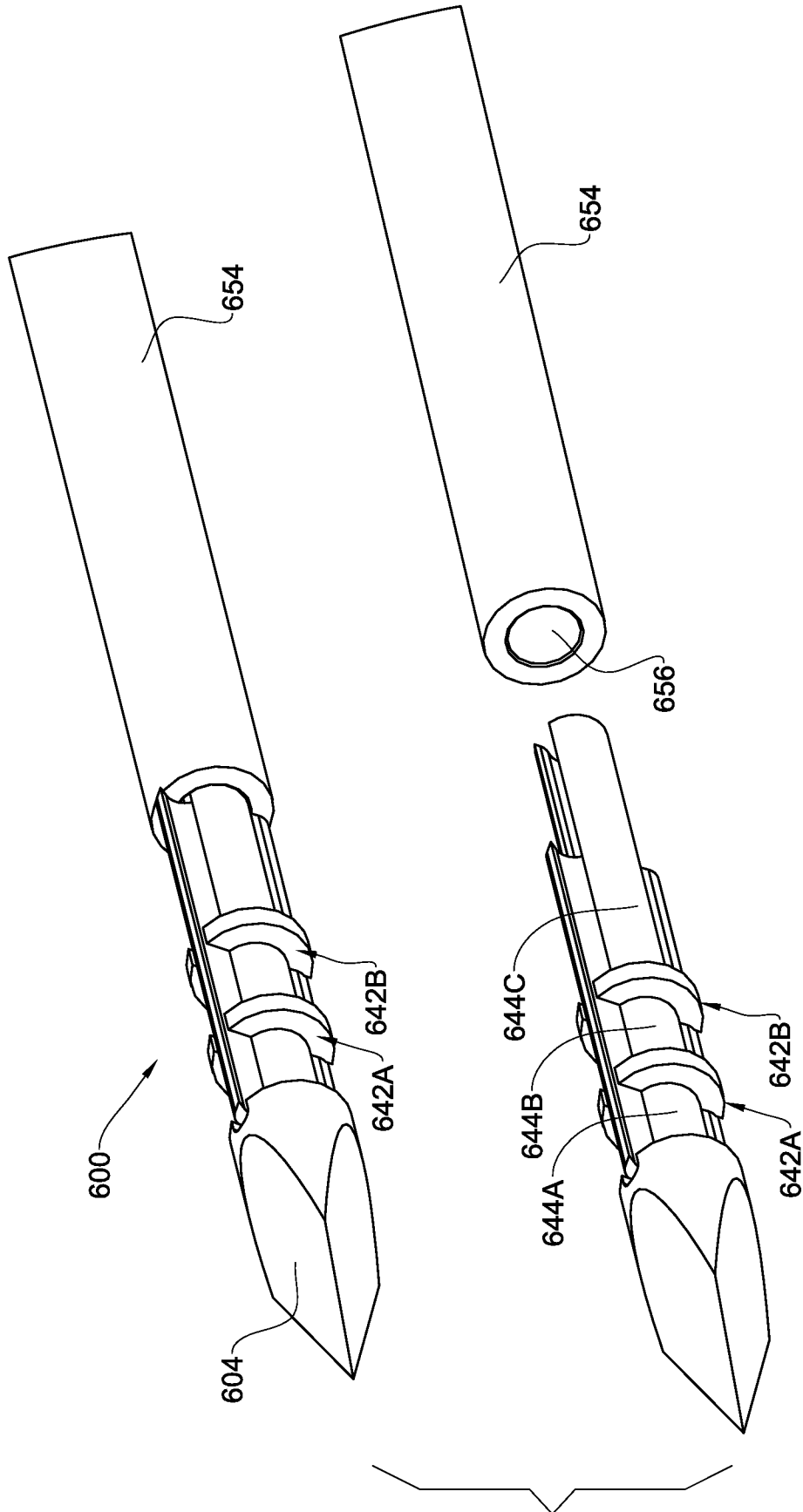


Figure 6A

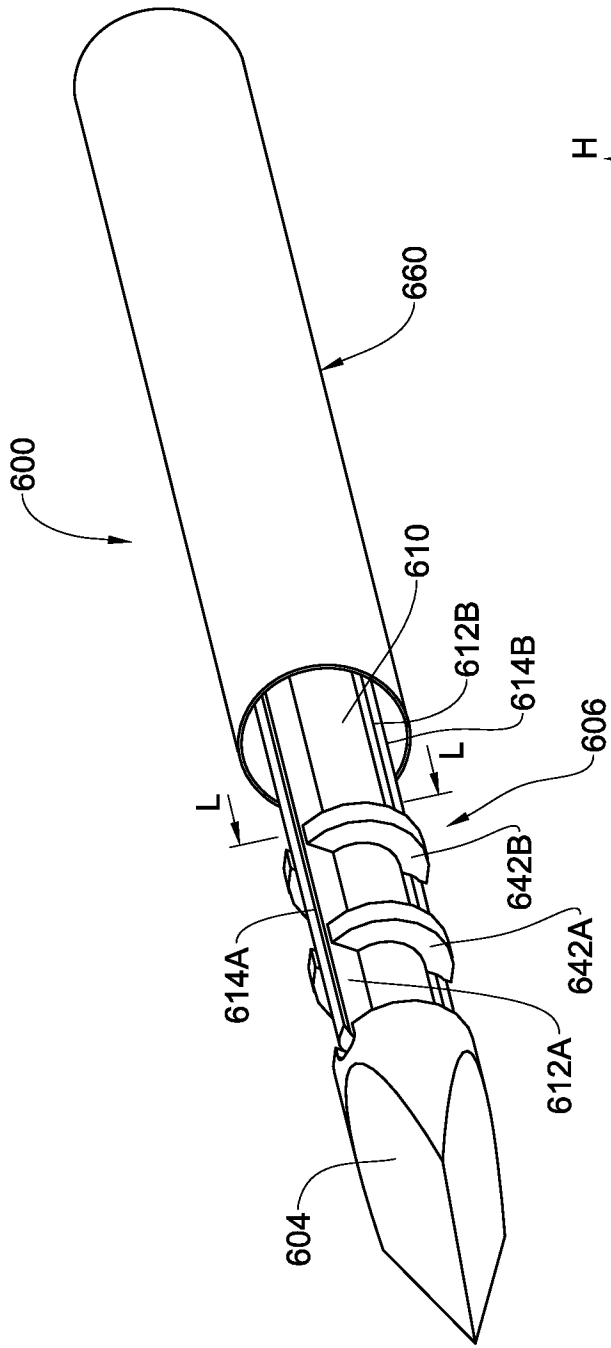


Figure 6B

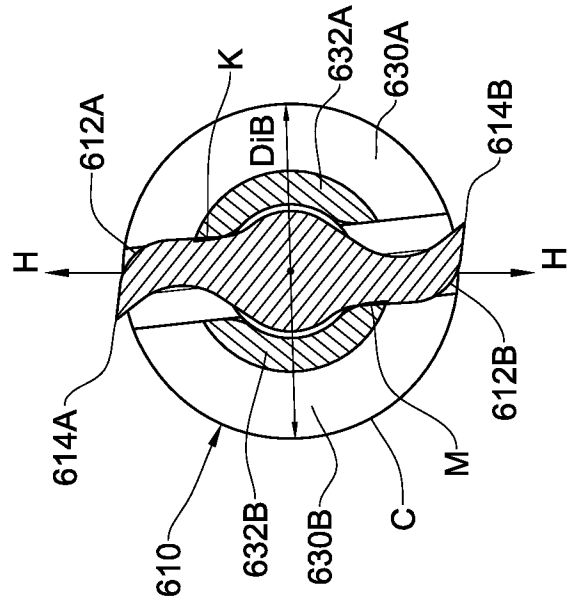


Figure 6C

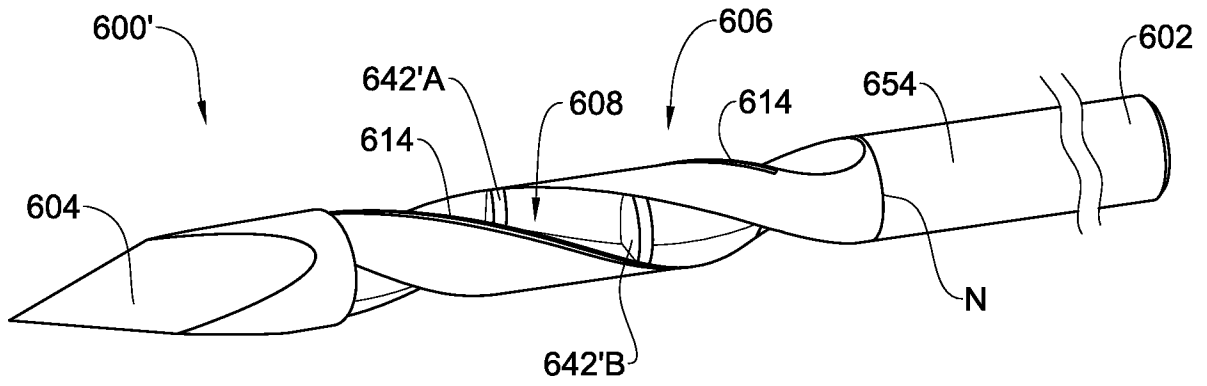


Figure 6D

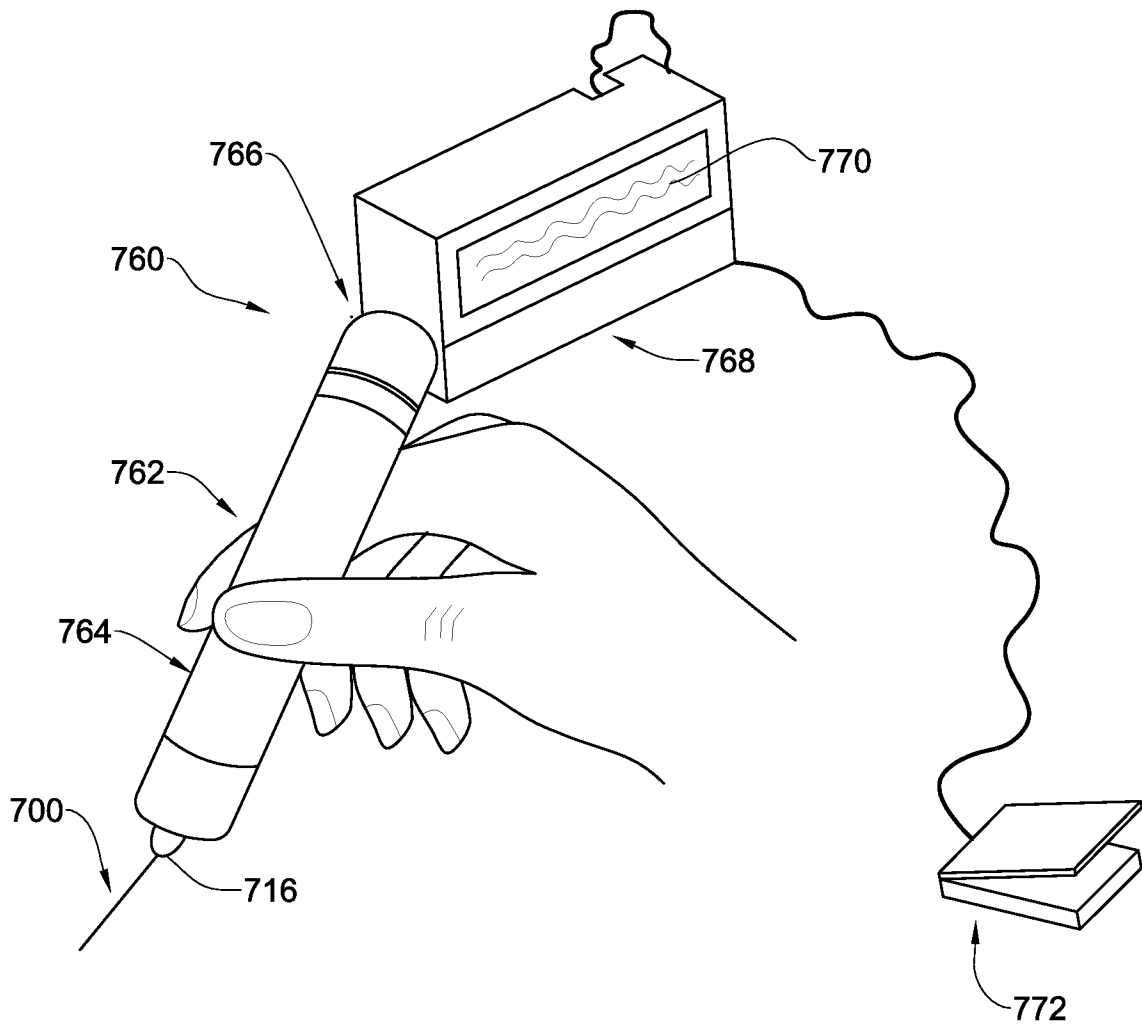


Figure 7

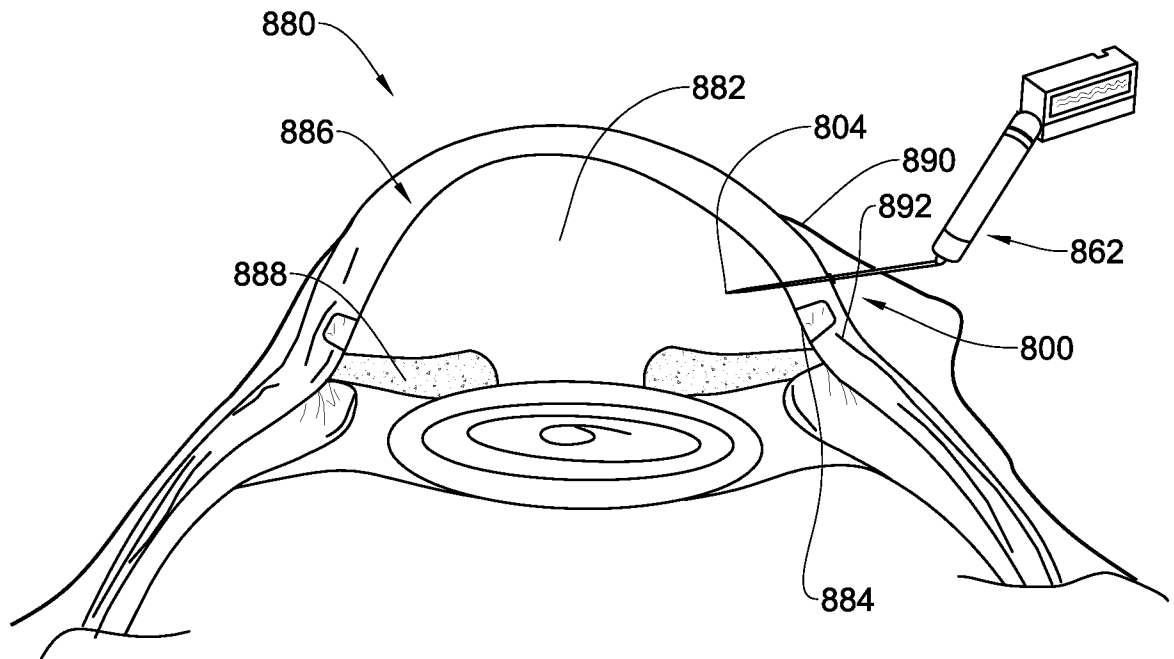


Figure 8A

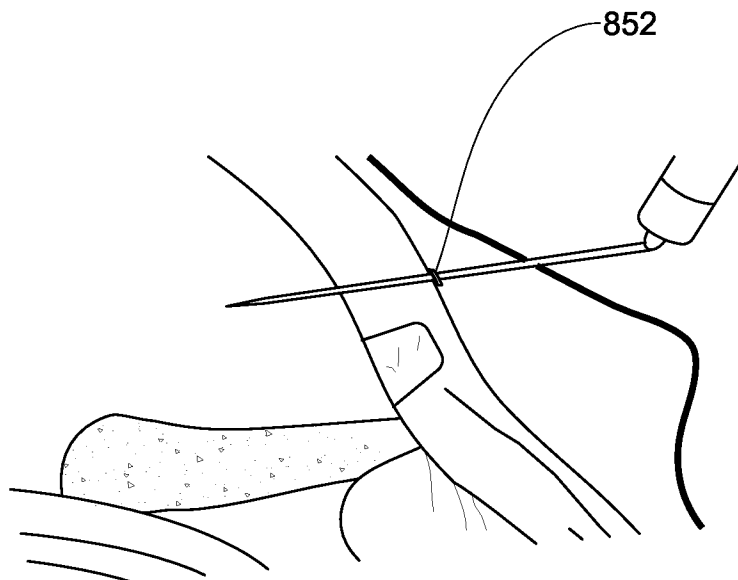


Figure 8B

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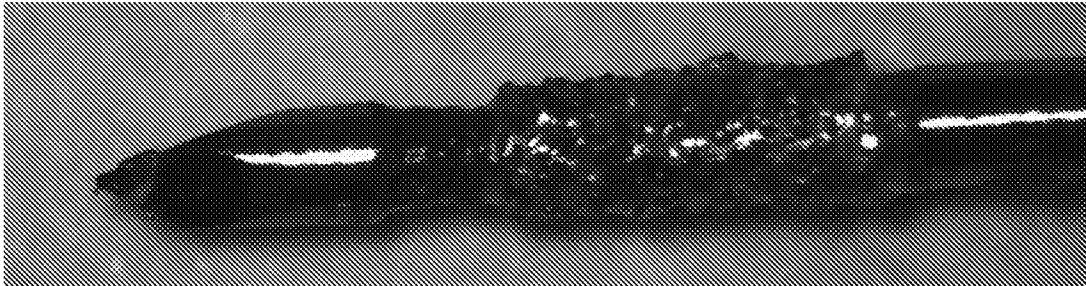


Fig. 9A

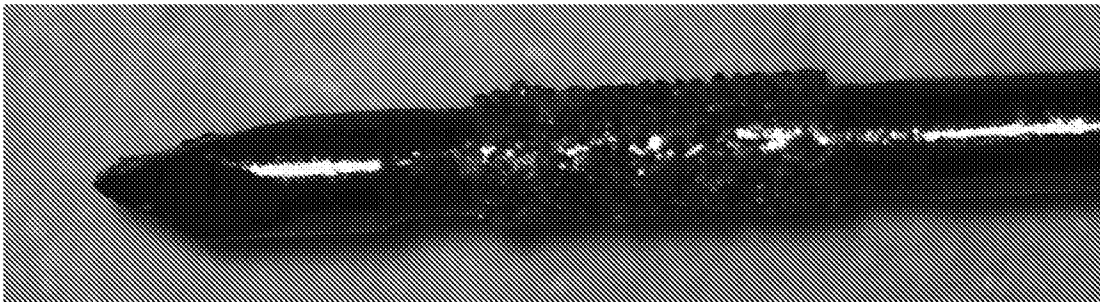


Fig. 9B

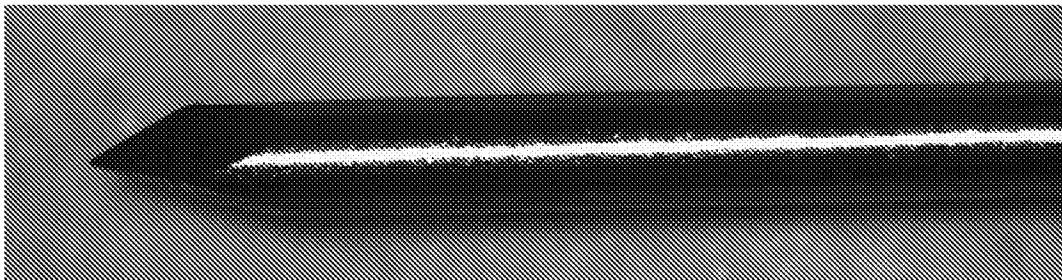


Fig. 9C

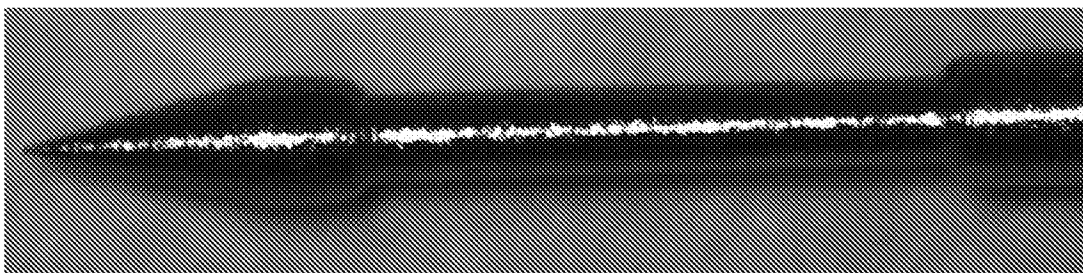


Fig. 9D

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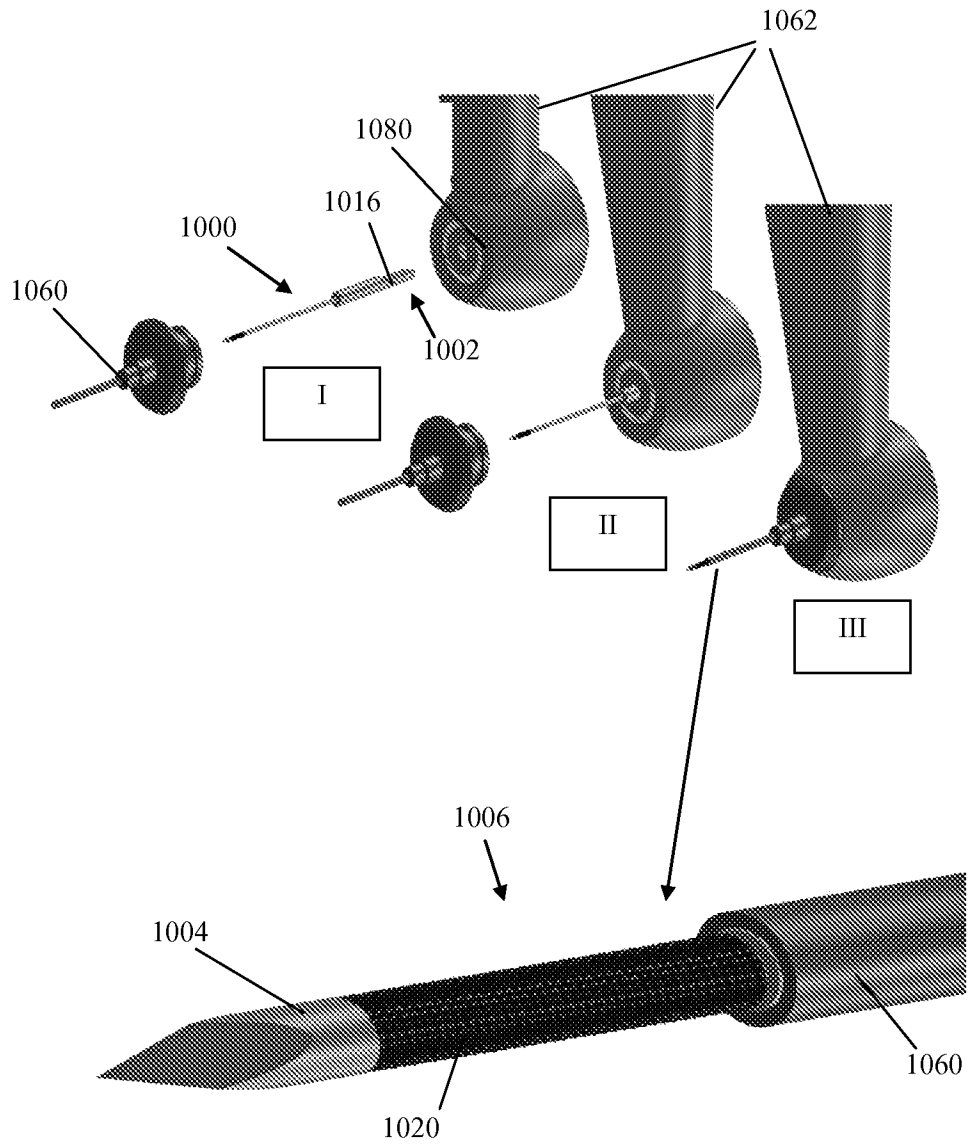


Figure 10

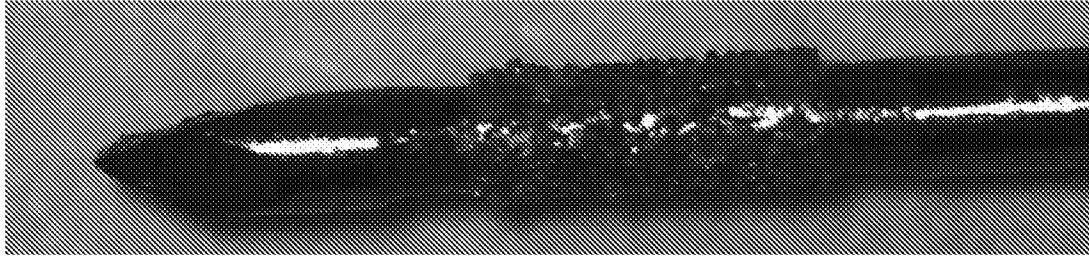


Fig. 11A

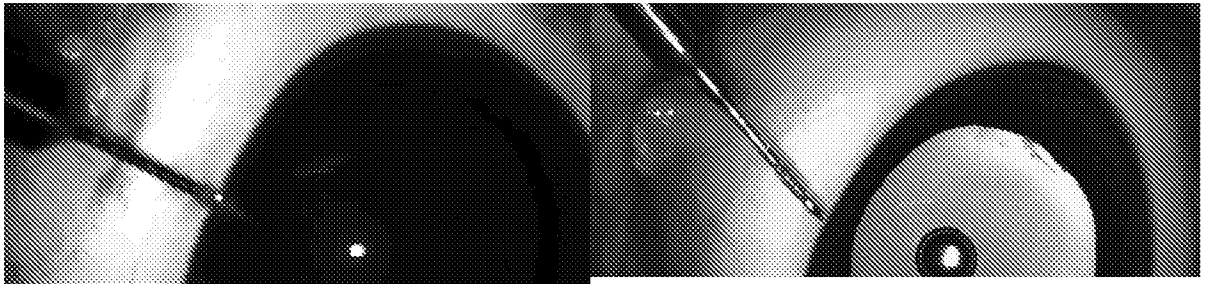


Fig. 11C

Fig. 11B

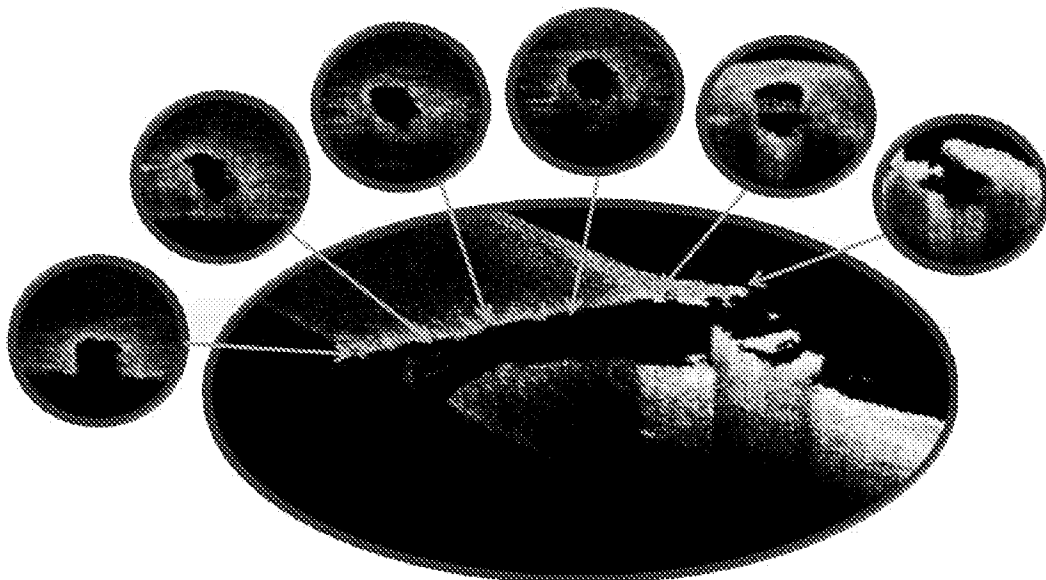


Fig. 12

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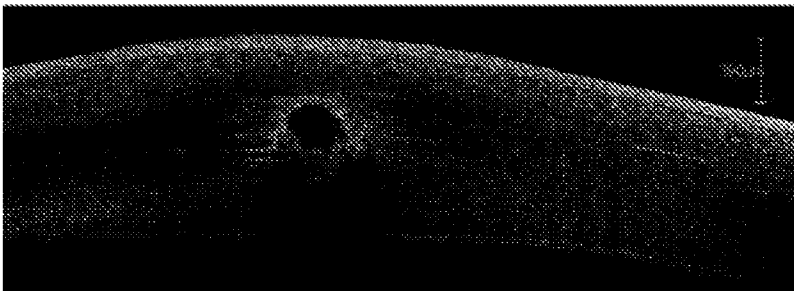
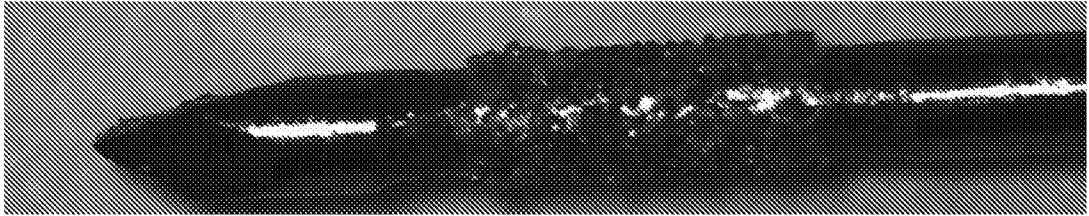


Fig. 13A

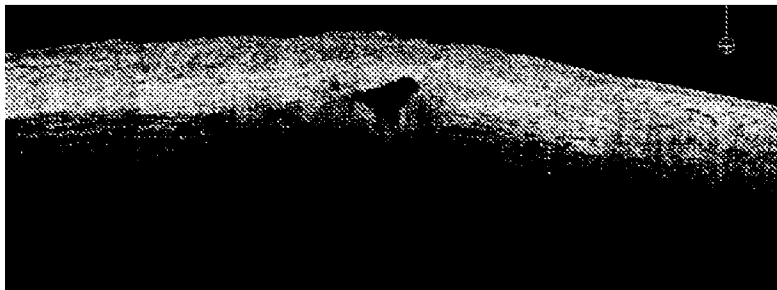
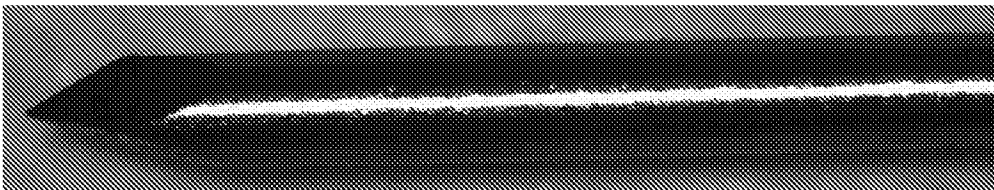


Fig. 13B