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(71) Applicant: THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY [US/US]; 200 Administration Building, 190 North Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210 (US).

(72) Inventors: WARD, Kevin, R.; 223 E. Oakland Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201 (US). BROWN, Charles, G.; 1782 Wyandotte Road, Columbus, OH 43212 (US). DZWONCZYK, Roger, G.; 283 East Longview Avenue, Columbus, OH 43202 (US).

(74) Agent: CARRIER, Robert, J.; Price, Heneveld, Cooper, DeWitt & Litton, 695 Kenmoor Southeast, P.O. Box 2567, Grand Rapids, MI 49501 (US).

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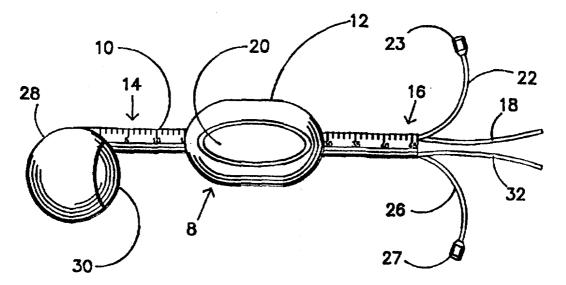
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(57) Abstract

An apparatus for aiding in the treatment of cardiac arrest patients which includes a flexible tube (10) having an elongated bladder (12) attached between its opposite ends and a stomach bladder (28) attached to its distal end. Each bladder has a conductive portion (20, 30) which serves as an electrode. The esophageal bladder serves as a platform by hardening the esophagus behind the heart. The heart is then compressed between the sternum and the hardened esophageal bladder, thus enhancing artificial circulation. A defibrillation countershock is administered through the low impedance pathway between the stomach and esopageal electrodes in order to defibrillate the heart.

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