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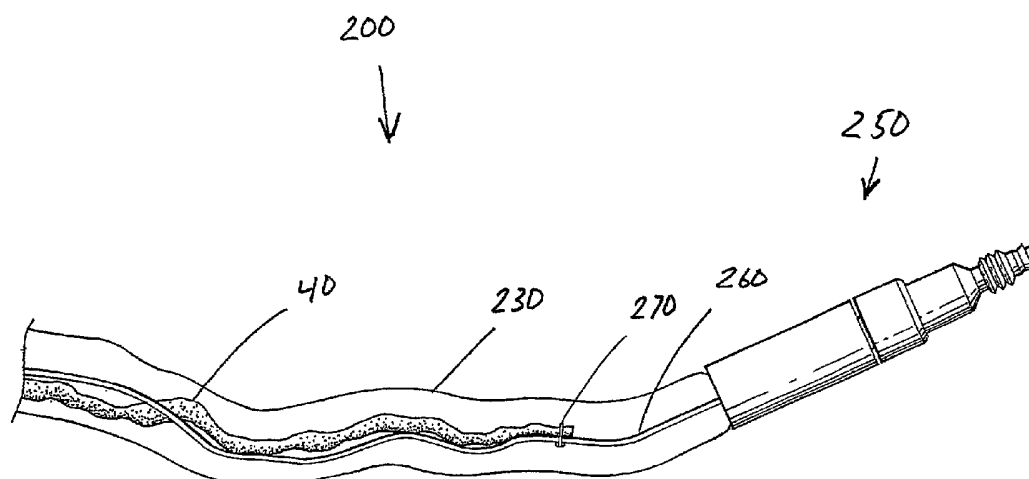
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(54) Title: TUNNELING DEVICE FOR USE WITH A GRAFT



(57) Abstract: A tunneling device (200) is provided for implanting a natural tissue vascular graft (40) in a body. The tunneling device (200) may include a flexible sheath (230) to assist in locating the vascular graft (40) in the body. According to one example, a connector (250) having a longitudinal coupler, such as a surgical tie (270), may be used to locate the natural tissue graft (40) within the sheath (230). The natural graft (40) can be secured to the surgical tie (270) when the sheath (230) is retracted. Before tunneling, the sheath (230) can be extended to cover the natural tissue graft (40) to protect the natural tissue graft (40) from damage and aid in locating the natural tissue graft (40) in the body. When the natural tissue graft (40) is positioned as desired in the body, the sheath (230) is removed.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61F 2/06

US CL : 623/1.11

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 623/1.11

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4,574,806 A (McCarthy) 11 March 1986 (11.03.1986), See the entire document.	1-39
A	US 6,565,594 B1 (Herweck et al) 20 May 2003 (20.05.2003), See the entire document.	1-39

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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