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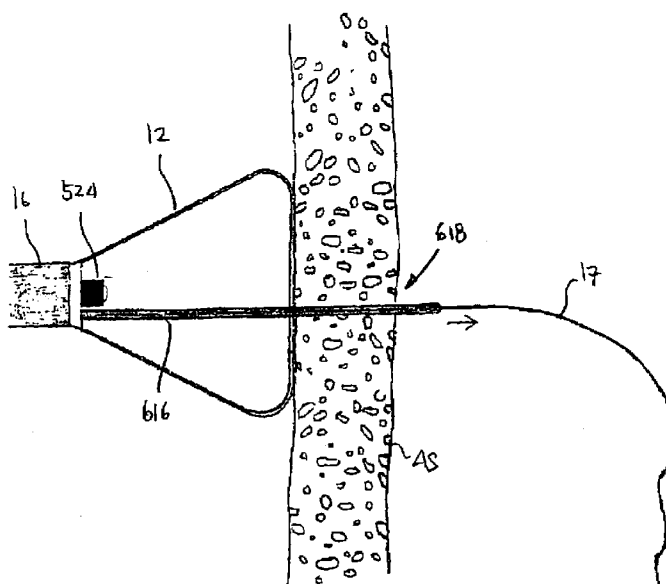
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(54) Title: VISUALIZATION APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR TRANSSEPTAL ACCESS



(57) Abstract: Visualization apparatus and methods for transseptal access are described herein where intravascular access across a septal wall is facilitated via devices which provide for direct visual viewing of tissue area. Such a system may include a deployment catheter and an attached imaging hood deployable into an expanded configuration. In use, the imaging hood is placed against or adjacent to the tissue to be imaged in a body lumen that is normally filled with an opaque bodily fluid such as blood. A translucent or transparent fluid can be pumped into the imaging hood until the fluid displaces any blood leaving a clear region of tissue to be imaged via an imaging element in the deployment catheter. Any number of therapeutic tools or a guidewire can be passed through the catheter and into the imaging hood for crossing the septal wall and passing the guidewire or instruments therethrough.

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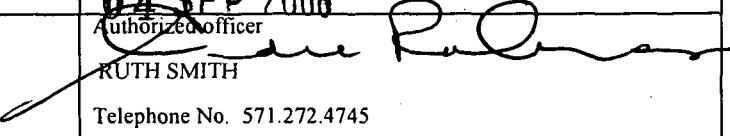
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT				
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X	US 20050228452 A1 (MOURLAS et al) 13 Oct 2005 (13.10.05) paragraphs 49-51, 55, 69	1-88		
☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.				
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