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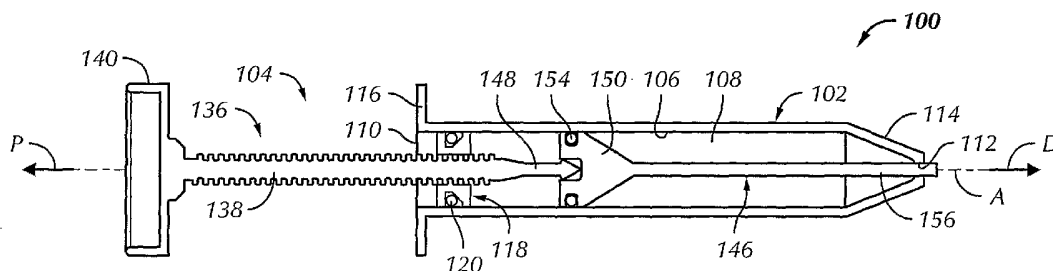
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(54) Title: MULTI-ACTION DEVICE FOR INSERTING AN INTRAOCULAR LENS INTO AN EYE



(57) Abstract: A device for inserting an intraocular lens (IOL) into an eye includes a tubular body member with an inner surface and a plunger with a gripping device that is receivable within the body member. The gripping device includes a locking member and is configured such that when urged longitudinally in a distal direction, the gripping device is movable in the distal direction within the body member. However, when urged longitudinally in a proximal direction, the gripping device is prevented from moving in the proximal direction by the locking member engaging with the inner surface of the body member. As such, inadvertent movement of the plunger in the proximal direction caused by pulling back on the plunger is substantially prevented. If proximal movement of the plunger is desired, then the plunger may include a handle that is operatively coupled to the gripping device such that rotation of the handle causes the handle to move longitudinally in the body member. Accordingly, the plunger may be advanced or moved distally by longitudinally pushing the handle and/or by rotating the handle.

MULTI-ACTION DEVICE FOR INSERTING AN INTRAOCULAR LENS INTO AN EYE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to apparatus and methodology for inserting an intraocular lens (IOL) into an eye.

[0002] The human eye is susceptible to numerous disorders and diseases, a number of which attack the crystalline lens. For example, cataracts mar vision through cloudy or opaque discoloration of the lens of the eye. Cataracts often result in partial or complete blindness. A damaged crystalline lens can be removed and replaced with an intraocular lens, or IOL.

[0003] An IOL is implanted in the eye, e.g., as a replacement for the natural crystalline lens after cataract surgery or to alter the optical properties (i.e., provide vision correction) of an eye in which the natural lens remains. IOLs often include a disk-like optic that is optically clear. Many IOLs also include at least one flexible fixation member or haptic which extends radially outward from the optic and becomes affixed in the eye to secure the lens in position. Implantation of IOLs into the eye involves making an incision in the eye. To reduce trauma and to speed healing, it is advantageous to minimize the size of the incision.

[0004] The optics may be constructed of rigid biocompatible materials such as polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA) or deformable materials such as silicone polymeric materials, acrylic polymeric materials, hydrogel polymeric materials, and the like. Deformable materials allow the IOL to be rolled or folded for insertion through a small incision into the eye. A substantial number of instruments have been proposed to aid in inserting such a foldable lens in the eye.

[0005] The two primary IOL materials are silicone and acrylic. Silicone IOLs are more pliable and can be folded into smaller tubes without unduly stressing the insertion cartridge, or requiring excessive push force which can violently expel the IOL from the cartridge. Acrylic lenses are indicated for some patients and are inserted in much the same way as silicone IOLs, although using larger bore cartridges to mitigate the problems caused by the lower flexibility of the acrylic. Because the cartridge bore is larger, the incision is also necessarily larger.

[0006] In view of the foregoing, there is a continued need in the art for beneficial advancements in IOL insertion apparatus and methodology.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] According to one aspect of the invention, a device for inserting an intraocular lens (IOL) into an eye includes a tubular body member with an inner surface and a plunger with a gripping device that is preferably annular in form and is receivable within the body member. The gripping device includes a locking member and is configured such that when urged longitudinally in a distal direction, the gripping device is movable in the distal direction within the body member. However, when urged longitudinally in a proximal direction, the gripping device is prevented from moving in the proximal direction by the locking member engaging with the inner surface of the body member.

[0008] One of the advantages of the device is that inadvertent movement of the plunger in the proximal direction caused by pulling back on the plunger, movement that may be unwanted during a surgical procedure, is substantially prevented. If proximal movement of the plunger is desired, then according to another aspect of the invention, the plunger may include a handle that is operatively coupled to the gripping device such rotation of the handle causes the handle to move longitudinally in the body member. Accordingly, the plunger may be advanced or moved distally by longitudinally pushing the handle and/or by rotating the handle, while the plunger may be moved proximally only by rotating the handle.

[0009] Another one of the advantages is that the locking member may be configured as a seal member, such as an O ring or another element that is capable of forming a sealing between two components. More specifically, when the gripping device is moving in the distal direction, the locking member forms a seal between the gripping device and the inner surface of the body member. The seal also enhances smooth distal movement of the gripping device.

[0010] According to another aspect of the invention, the gripping device may include a collar with a circumferential seat for receiving the locking member. The seat may include a proximally disposed channel and a distally disposed wedge such that when the collar is urged distally, the locking member is received in the channel, thereby allow distal movement, and when the collar is urged proximally, the locking member is urged between the wedge and the inner surface of the body member, thereby impeding or preventing proximal movement. In these embodiments, the locking member may be, for example, an O ring, a slit O ring, a set of spherical or elongated balls, or a plurality of substantially cylindrical sections. In certain embodiments, the locking member may additionally act as a seal. In yet other embodiments,

the locking member may include a plurality of pliable baffles that allow the gripping device to move distally but that impede proximal movement of the gripping device.

[0011] Other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from a consideration of the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a device for inserting an intraocular lens (IOL) into an eye according to a number of embodiments;

[0013] FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional view of the device with a plunger in an initial position in a body member;

[0014] FIG. 3 is a view similar to FIG. 2 with the plunger moving in a distal direction;

[0015] FIG. 4 is a view similar to FIG. 3 with the plunger being urged in a proximal direction;

[0016] FIG. 5 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken at circle 5 of FIG. 3;

[0017] FIG. 6 is a view similar to FIG. 5 taken at circle 6 of FIG. 4;

[0018] FIG. 7 is a view similar to FIG. 2 with the plunger moving longitudinally due to rotation;

[0019] FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of a body member according to a number of embodiments;

[0020] FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view of a collar according to a number of embodiments;

[0021] FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view of a device for inserting an IOL into an eye according to some of the embodiments;

[0022] FIG. 11 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken at line 11 of FIG. 10;

[0023] FIG. 12 is a cross-sectional view of a gripping device according to a number of embodiments; and

[0024] FIG. 13 illustrates the device being used in a surgical procedure of an eye.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0025] Referring to FIG. 1, a device **100** for inserting an intraocular lens (IOL) into an eye includes a body member **102**. In a number of embodiments, the device **100** may be described as also including a plunger **104**. Depending upon a particular embodiment, the device **100** may be configured so that the plunger **104** is slidable in the body member **102** in only one direction, namely, a distal direction, but not in the opposite proximal direction. Additionally or alternatively, the device may be configured so that the plunger **104** is moveable in the distal direction through rotation. This rotation may be in conjunction with or separate from the sliding motion of the plunger **104**.

[0026] Describing a number of embodiments in more detail such as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the body member **102** may be substantially tubular with an inner surface **106** defining an inner through chamber **108**. The body member **102** may also be described as having a proximal entry **110** and a distal port **112**, with a longitudinal axis A and a distal direction D and a proximal direction P. In some of the embodiments, the body member **102** may include a distal portion **114** that is generally frustum shaped and an annular flange **116** disposed at or near the proximal opening **110**.

[0027] In certain embodiments, the device **100** may further comprise a cartridge (not shown) for holding an intraocular lens. In such embodiments, the cartridge is preferably attached in the vicinity of the distal portion **114** of the device **100**, in which case the distal portion **114** may have a configuration other than the generally frustum shape shown in FIG. 1. In certain embodiments, the cartridge may be preloaded with the intraocular lens and/or pre-mounted onto the device **100** prior to shipment to a practitioner or other user.

[0028] With continued reference to FIGS. 1 and 2, the plunger **104** may be configured according to a number of embodiments. For example, in some of the embodiments the plunger **104** may include a directionally biasing or gripping device **118** with a locking member **120**. In many embodiments, the locking member **120** may be disposed circumferentially about the gripping device **118**. The gripping device **118** is receivable within the body member **102** as particularly shown in FIG. 2.

[0029] For the purposes of this description, the gripping device **118** may include any element or structure that provides a support or a purchase for another device or element. In addition, the gripping device may also include any device that is applied mechanically to

move something or to prevent something from slipping, or that is utilized to obtain a mechanical advantage. According to principles of the invention, the gripping device **118** need not be a stationary or immobile device but rather is moveable or positionable as desired within the body member **102**.

[0030] More specifically, according to some of the embodiments, the gripping device **118** is configured so that when urged longitudinally in a first direction, e.g., the distal direction D as shown by arrow F_D illustrated in FIG. 3, the gripping device **118** is movable in the first direction within the body member **102**, as illustrated by arrow D. The gripping device **118** is further configured so that when urged longitudinally in a second direction that is opposite to the first direction, e.g., the proximal direction P as shown by arrow F_P in FIG. 4, the gripping device **118** is impeded or substantially prevented from moving in the second direction by the locking member **120** engaging with the inner surface **106** of the body member **102**, which is described in more detail below. Accordingly, the locking member **120** may be described as a unidirectional locking member which is capable of moving in a single longitudinal direction within the body member **102**.

[0031] According to a number of embodiments, the gripping device **118** may be configured so that when urged in the distal direction D, the locking member **120** slidably engages with the inner surface **106** of the body member **102**. In this regard, the locking member **120** may be configured as a seal member, for example, such as an O ring, either a smooth or continuous O ring or as a ribbed O ring. Accordingly, the sliding engagement between the locking member **120** and the inner surface **106** may also be a sealing engagement as indicated by S in FIG. 5. In these types of embodiments, the inner surface **106** of the body member **102** may be substantially smooth to enhance the sliding engagement of the gripping device **118** and the inner surface **106**. The sealing engagement between the gripping or locking member **120** and the inner surface of the body member enhances or ensures smooth, steady, and consistent distal movement of the gripping device **118**.

[0032] Accordingly, the gripping device **118** is configured to move longitudinally within the body member. Depending upon the particular embodiment, the gripping device **118** may be configured so that the locking member **120** slidably moves within the body member, wherein such sliding movement may be a translation (i.e., movement without substantial rotation) or may also entail rotation as well. Alternatively, the gripping device **118** may be configured so that the locking member **120** slidably engages the inner surface **106** of the body

member **120**, wherein such slidable engagement includes contact between the locking member **120** and the body member **102**. Still alternatively, the gripping device **118** may be configured so that the locking member **120** sealingly engages the inner surface **106** of the body member **102**, wherein such sealing engagement includes a seal between the locking member **120** and the inner surface **106**.

[0033] As also shown in FIG. 5, in some of the embodiments, the gripping device **118** may include a collar **122** with a circumferential seat **124** for receiving the locking member **120**. The seat **124** may include a proximally disposed channel **126** and a distally disposed wedge **128**. The channel **126** may be defined as having a proximal wall **130**. Accordingly, when the collar **122** is urged distally as indicated by arrow F_D in FIG. 5, the locking member **120** is received in the channel **126**, abutting the proximal wall **130**. And when the collar **122** is urged proximally as indicated by arrow F_P in FIG. 6, the locking member **120** is urged between the wedge **128** and the inner surface **106** of the body member **102**, thereby impeding or substantially preventing proximal movement of the collar **122** and, therefore, the gripping device **118**.

[0034] As particularly shown in FIGS. 5 and 6, the wedge **128** of the seat **124** may be described as an incline surface **132** that may be either straight or arcuate, and the is preferably angles outwardly toward the inner surface **106** and distally toward the distal portion **114** of the body member **102**. Accordingly, when the collar **122** is urged distally, the locking member **120** is received in the channel **126** as shown in FIG. 5, and when the collar **122** is urged proximally, the locking member **120** is wedged between the inclined surface **132** and the inner surface **106** of the body member **102** as shown in FIG. 6.

[0035] Depending upon the particular embodiment and selected parameters of the individual elements, the seat **124** and the locking member **120** may be configured so that when the locking member **120** is wedged between the inclined surface **132** and the inner surface **106** of the body member **102**, proximal movement of the collar **122** is substantially prevented. For example, in a number of embodiments, the locking member **120** may be or may include an O ring **134** as shown in FIG. 1. The O ring **134** may be made from an elastic or resilient material that is compressible under force as shown in FIG. 6. Alternatively, the locking member **120** may be, for example, a slit O ring, a set of spherical or elongated balls,

or a plurality of substantially cylindrical sections. In certain embodiments, the locking member 120 additionally acts as a seal.

[0036] Depending upon, for example, the coefficient of friction between the O ring 134 and the inner surface 106, the collar 122 may be substantially immovable in the proximal direction, even under force from a high level of human effort. In other embodiments, the level of force required to move the collar in the proximal direction may essentially destroy the gripping device 118, rendering the device 100 unusable. For example, the force required may crack elements or disconnect the plunger 104. Alternatively, the O ring 134 may have different dimensions to cause the gripping device 118 to tilt under the proximal face, causing the gripping device 118 to become lodged further in the body member 102.

[0037] In many embodiments, the plunger 104 may also include a handle 136 with an elongated stem 138 and a knob 140, with the stem 138 being operatively coupled to the gripping device 118. For example, as illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3, the stem 138 is operatively coupled to the gripping device 118 such that when the handle 136 is urged longitudinally in the distal direction D, the handle 136 and the gripping device 118 move longitudinally in the distal direction D. In other embodiments, the stem 138 may be operatively coupled to the gripping device 118 such that the handle 136 is rotatable with respect to the gripping device 118.

[0038] With the gripping device 118 being impeded from moving proximally, the stem 138 may be operatively coupled to the gripping device 118 such that when rotated in a first direction about the longitudinal axis A, as indicated by arrow R in FIG. 7, the handle 136 moves longitudinally in the distal direction D with respect to the gripping device 118. In addition, the stem 138 may be operatively coupled to the gripping device 118 such that when rotated in a second direction about the longitudinal axis A as indicated by arrow -R in FIG. 7, the handle 136 moves longitudinally in the proximal direction P with respect to the gripping device 118.

[0039] In rotational embodiments, the collar 122 of the gripping device 118 may include a threaded through hole 142 as shown in FIGS. 1 and 5, and the stem 138 of the handle 136 may include threading 144 disposed along a substantial extent thereof for engaging with the through hole 142. Accordingly, rather than longitudinally urging the handle 136 distally

through the body member 102, the handle 136 may be rotated by manipulating the knob 140 to cause the handle 136 to move longitudinally through the body member 102.

[0040] In this regard, the plunger 104 may also include an inserter 146 operatively coupled to a distal end 148 of the stem 138 of the handle 136. The inserter 146 may include a base 150 with a circumferential seat 152 for receiving a seal member 154 such as an O ring. In many of the embodiments, the insert 146 and the seal member 154 may be configured to slidably engage the inner surface 106 of the body member 102 as shown in FIGS. 2, 3, 4, and 7. In addition, the inserter 146 may include an elongated distal probe 156 that is slidably receivable through the distal port 112 of the body member 102 as also shown in these same figures.

[0041] In a number of embodiments, the device 100 may include structure that prevents the gripping device 118 from rotating with respect to the body member 102. For example, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9, one or more longitudinal channels 148 may be formed in the inner surface 106 of the body member 102, and complementary bosses 150 (see also FIG. 1) may be disposed on the collar 122 for slidingly engaging with the channels 148. Accordingly, the channels 148 and the bosses 158 prevent any rotation of the collar 122 that may be caused by a rotation of the handle 136.

[0042] To enhance the sliding engagement of the gripping device 118 in the body member 102, an outer diameter D_O of the collar 122 may be substantially equal to an inner diameter D_I of the through channel 108 of the body member 102. Accordingly, as shown in, e.g., FIG. 5, the collar 122 slidingly contacts the inner surface 106 of the body member 102.

[0043] Other embodiments of the gripping device 118 are illustrated in FIGS. 10, 11, and 12 in which locking member 120 includes a plurality of circumferential baffles 152. The baffles 152 are configured to slidingly engage the inner surface 106 of the body member 102 when the gripping device 118 is urged distally and to grippingly engage the inner surface 106 of the body member 102 when the gripping device 118 is urged proximally.

[0044] As shown in FIG. 12, the baffles 152 may have an outer diameter D_O that is greater than the inner diameter D_I of the through channel 108 of the body member 102 (see FIG. 8). Accordingly, when inserted through the proximal opening 110 into the through channel 108, the baffles 152 bend and angle proximally as shown in FIGS. 10 and 11. The baffles 152 are, accordingly, biased against the inner surface 106 of the body member 102 to

form a slidable locking device therewith when the gripping device **118** moves in the distal direction. Alternatively, the baffles may be fabricated to be pre-bent to accentuate distal movement more. In certain embodiments, the inner surface **106** may be textured or otherwise formed to enhance gripping action.

[0045] In use, as shown in FIG. **13**, an IOL may be inserted into an eye **154** with the device **100** by urging the plunger **104** longitudinally and/or rotating the plunger **104** to cause the distal probe **146** to move distally out of the body member **102**. The probe **146** may then be positioned in the eye **154** according to known procedures. The plunger **104** may continue to be actuated and/or manipulated as described above. In certain embodiments, the device **100** may further comprise a cartridge (not shown) that contains an intraocular lens. The cartridge may be either preloaded with the intraocular lens prior to shipment or the intraocular lens may be loaded by a practitioner or their assistant during a surgical procedure. The cartridge is preferably disposed around the distal portion **114**.

[0046] Those skilled in the art will understand that the preceding exemplary embodiments of the present invention provide the foundation for numerous alternatives and modifications thereto. For example, although the drawings illustrate circular embodiments of, e.g., the body member **102** and gripping device **118**, other non-circular or non-annular embodiments of the device **100** may be utilized. These and other modifications are also within the scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the present invention is not limited to that precisely as shown and described above but by the scope of the appended claims.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A device for inserting an intraocular lens (IOL) into an eye, the device comprising:
a body member with an inner surface; and
a gripping device receivable within the body member and including a locking member, the gripping device being configured such that:

when urged longitudinally in a first direction, the gripping device is movable in the first direction within the body member;

when urged longitudinally in a second direction that is opposite to the first direction, the gripping device is substantially prevented from moving in the second direction by the locking member engaging with the inner surface of the body member.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein when the gripping device is urged in the first direction, the locking member slidably moves within the inner surface of the body member.

3. The device of claim 1 wherein when the gripping device is urged in the first direction, locking member slidably engages the inner surface of the body member.

4. The device of claim 1 wherein when the gripping device is urged in the first direction, the locking member sealingly engages the inner surface of the body member.

5. The device of claim 4 wherein the inner surface of the body member is substantially smooth.

6. The device of claim 1 wherein the gripping device includes a collar with a circumferential seat for receiving the locking member and wherein the first direction is a distal direction and the second direction is a proximal direction.

7. The device of claim 6 wherein the seat includes a proximally disposed channel and a distally disposed wedge such that:

when the collar is urged distally, the locking member is received in the channel; and

when the collar is urged proximally, the locking member is urged between the wedge and the inner surface of the body member.

8. The device of claim 7 wherein the seat and the locking member are configured such that when the locking member is urged between the wedge and the inner surface of the body member, proximal movement of the collar is substantially prevented.

9. The device of claim 6 wherein the seat includes a proximally disposed channel and an incline surface that angles outwardly and distally such that:

when the collar is urged distally, the locking member is received in the channel; and

when the collar is urged proximally, the locking member is wedged between the inclined surface and the inner surface of the body member.

10. The device of claim 9 wherein the seat and the locking member are configured such that when the locking member is wedged between the inclined surface and the inner surface of the body member, proximal movement of the collar is substantially prevented.

11. The device of claim 9 wherein the locking member includes an O ring.

12. The device of claim 1 further comprising a handle operatively coupled to the gripping device.

13. The device of claim 12 wherein the handle is operatively coupled to the gripping device such that when the handle is urged longitudinally in the first direction, the gripping device moves in the first direction.

14. The device of claim 12 wherein the handle is operatively coupled to the gripping device such that the handle is rotatable with respect to the gripping device.

15. The device of claim 14 wherein the handle is operatively coupled to the gripping device such that when rotated, the handle moves longitudinally with respect to the gripping device.

16. The device of claim 15 wherein the handle is operatively coupled to the gripping device such that when urged longitudinally in the first direction, the handle and the gripping device move longitudinally in the first direction.

17. The device of claim 14 wherein the gripping device includes a threaded through hole and the handle includes threading for engaging with the through hole.

18. The device of claim 12 further comprising an inserter operatively coupled to a distal end of the handle.

19. The device of claim 18 wherein the inserter includes a base with a circumferential seat and a locking member received in the seat for slidably engaging the inner surface of the body member.

20. The device of claim 1 wherein the locking member includes a seal member.

21. The device of claim 1 wherein the locking member includes an O ring.

22. The device of claim 1 wherein the locking member includes a plurality of circumferential baffles that grippingly engage the inner surface of the body member when the gripping device is urged proximally.

23. The device of claim 22 wherein the baffles angle proximally when the gripping device is received in the body member.

24. The device of claim 22 wherein the body member has an inner diameter at the inner surface and each of the baffles has an outer diameter that is greater than the inner diameter of the body member.

25. A device for inserting an intraocular lens (IOL) into an eye, the device comprising:
a tubular body member having an inner surface and being defined by a longitudinal axis with a distal end and a proximal end;

a collar slidably receivable within the body member and having a circumferential seat with an inclined surface that is angled outwardly and distally;

an O ring receivable in the seat of the collar such that the O ring wedges between the inclined surface of the seat and the inner surface of the body member when the collar is urged proximally; and

an elongated handle operatively coupled to the collar.

26. The device of claim 25 further comprising an inserter operatively coupled to a distal end of the handle.

27. The device of claim 25 wherein the collar includes a threaded through hole and the handle includes a threaded stem for engaging with the through hole of the collar.

28. A method for inserting an intraocular lens (IOL) into an eye, the method comprising:

providing a device with a body member and a plunger that is slidably received in the body member such that the plunger is slidable in a distal direction and is impeded from sliding in a proximal direction; and

urging the plunger in the distal direction.

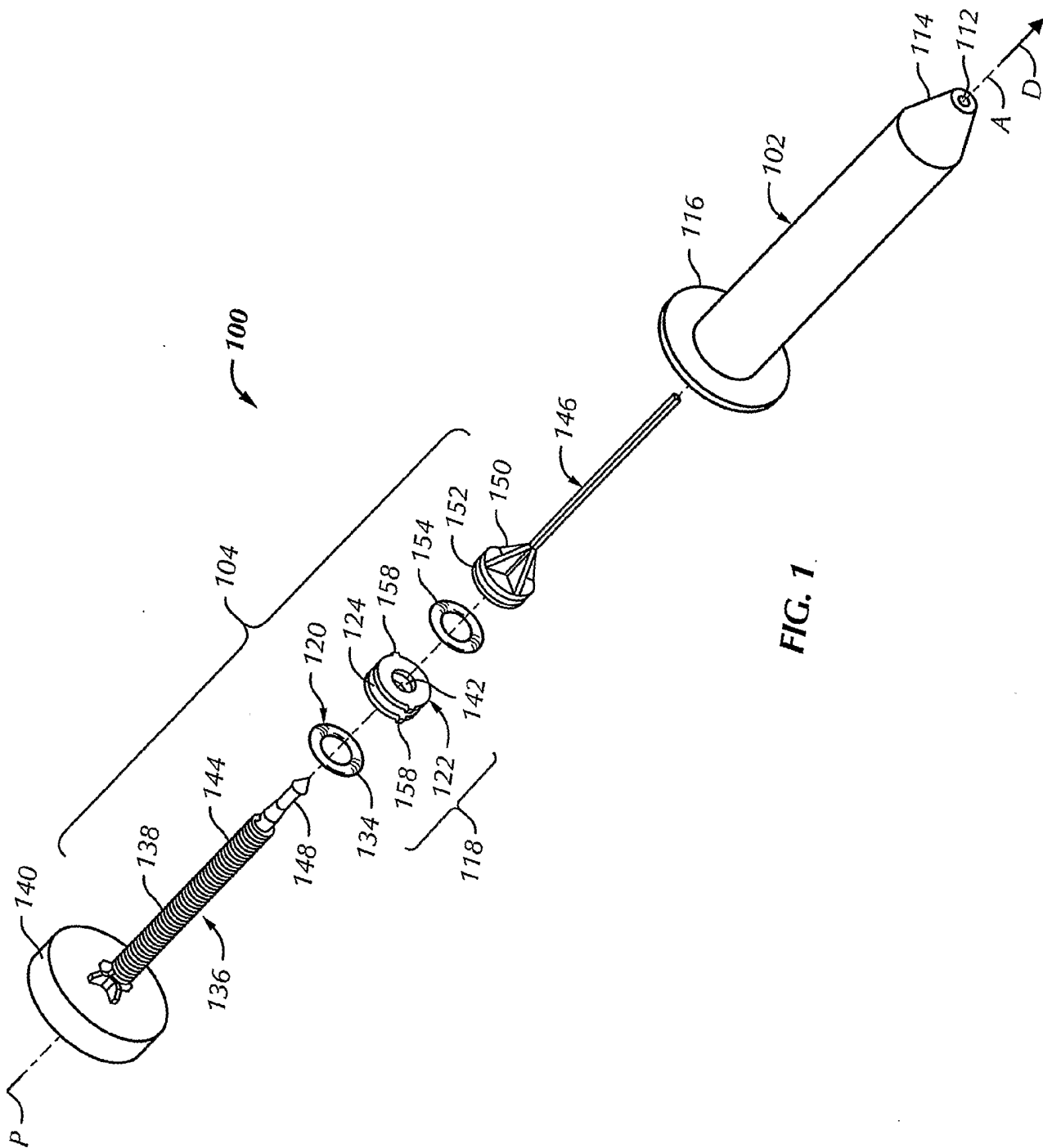
29. The method of claim 28 wherein the providing step further comprises providing the device with the body member and the plunger with a handle that is rotatable with respect to the body member such that when the handle is rotated, the plunger moves in at least the distal direction.

30. The method of claim 29 further comprising rotating the handle to cause the plunger to move in the distal direction.

31. The method of claim 29 wherein the providing step further comprises providing the device with the body member and the plunger with a handle that is rotatable with respect to the body member such that when the handle is rotated:

when the handle is rotated in a first direction, the plunger moves in the distal direction; and

when the handle is rotated in a second direction, the plunger moves in the proximal direction.



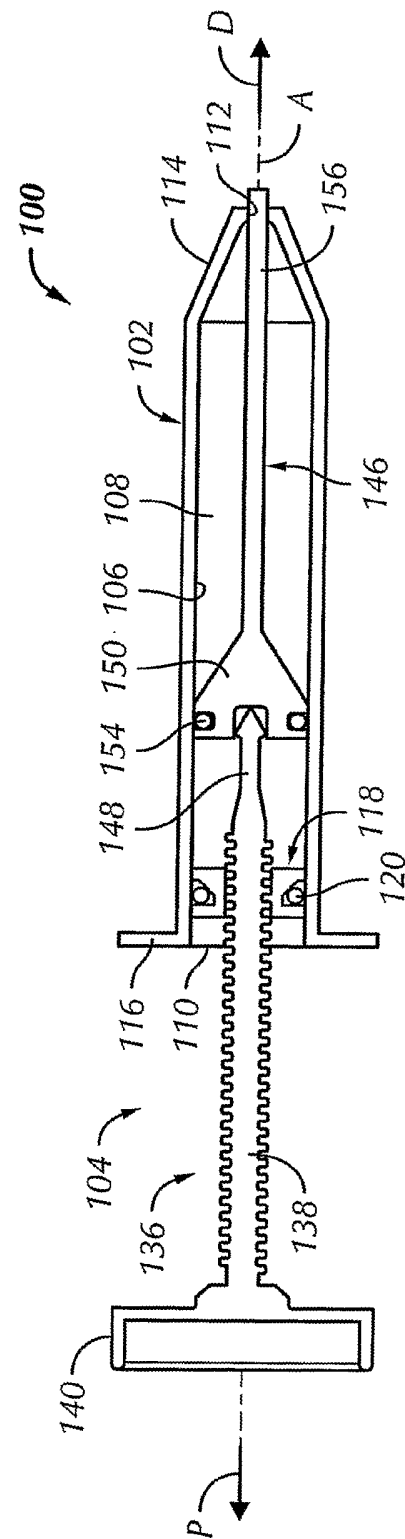


FIG. 2

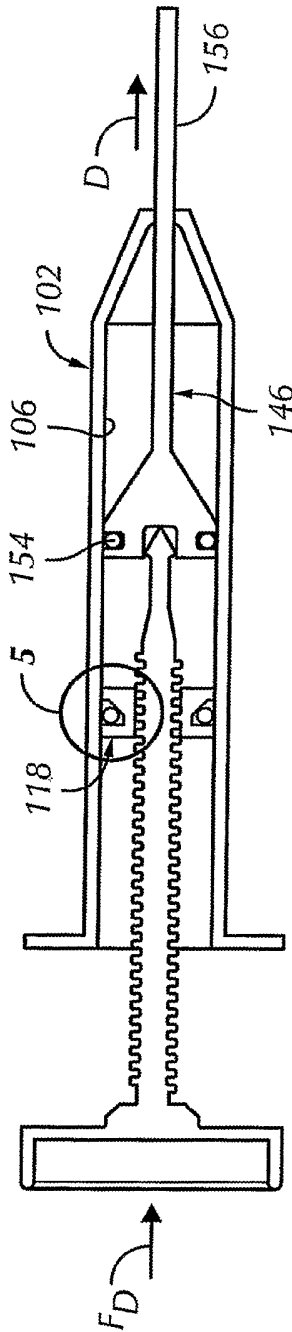


FIG. 3

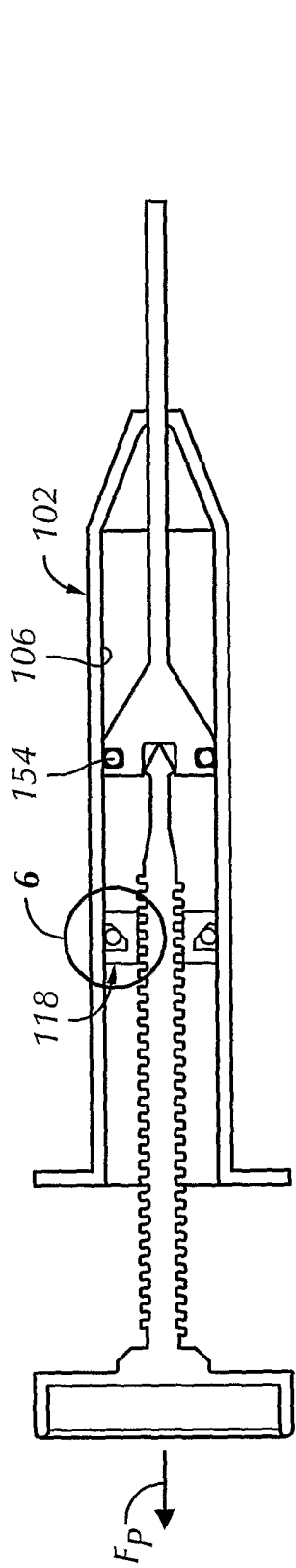


FIG. 4

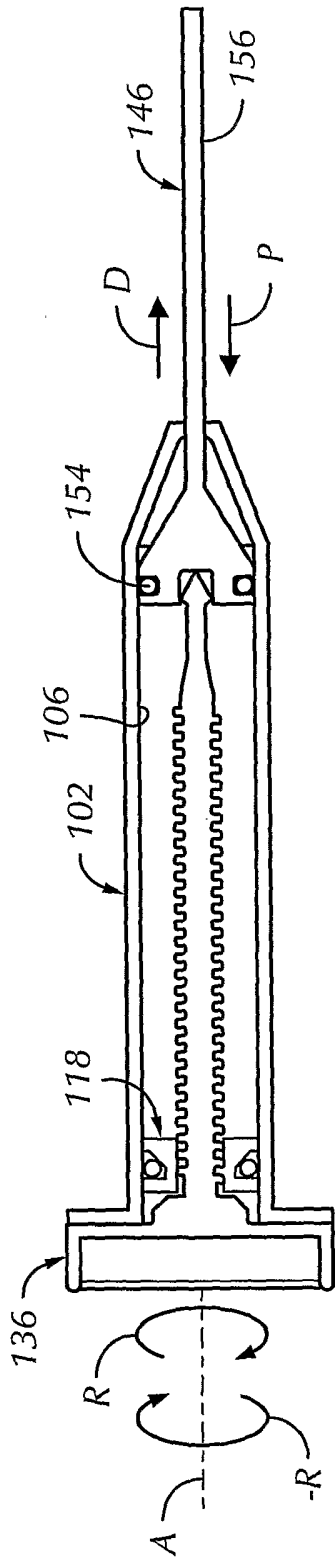


FIG. 7

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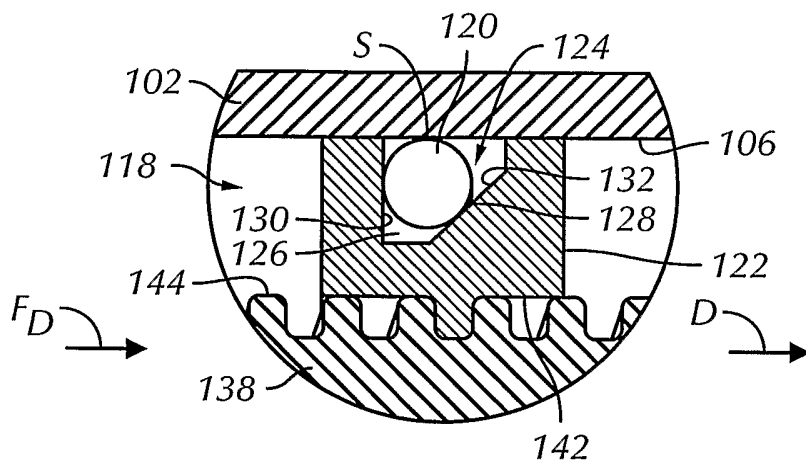


FIG. 5

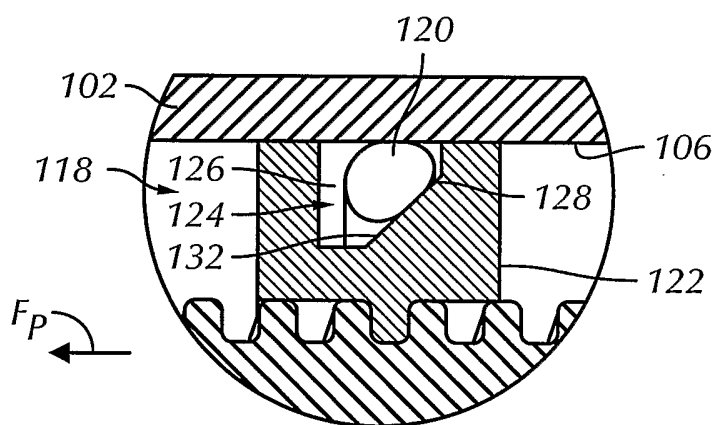


FIG. 6

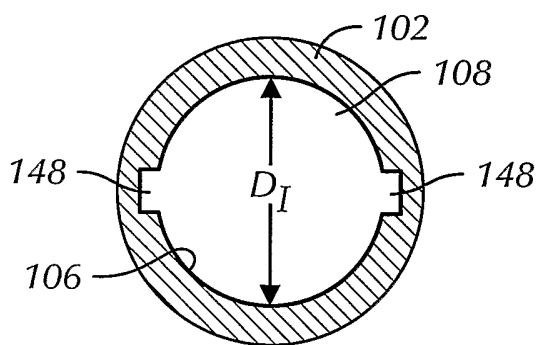


FIG. 8

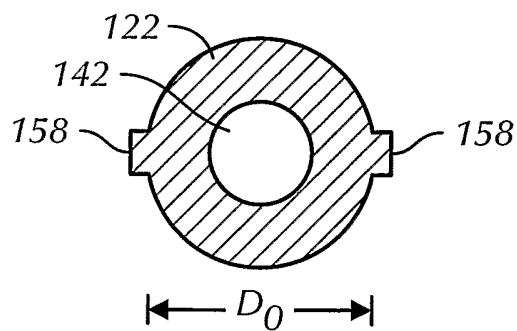


FIG. 9

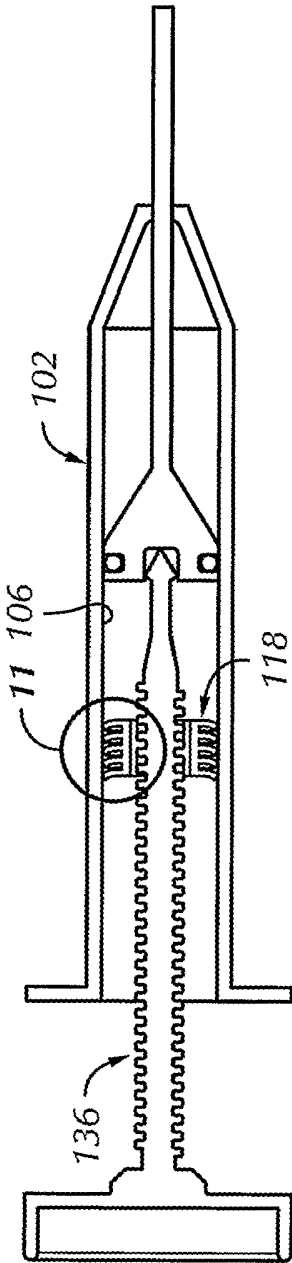


FIG. 10

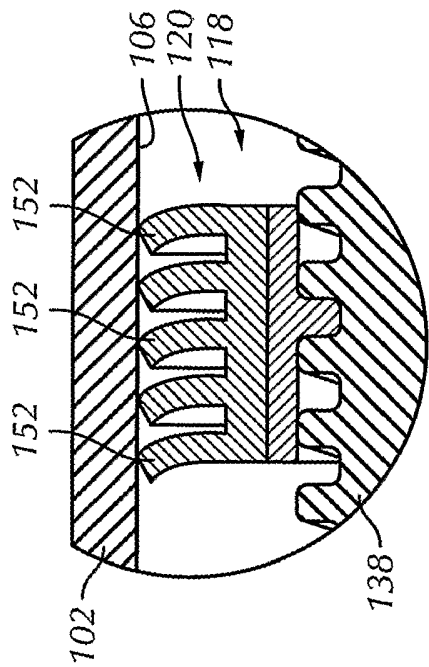


FIG. 11

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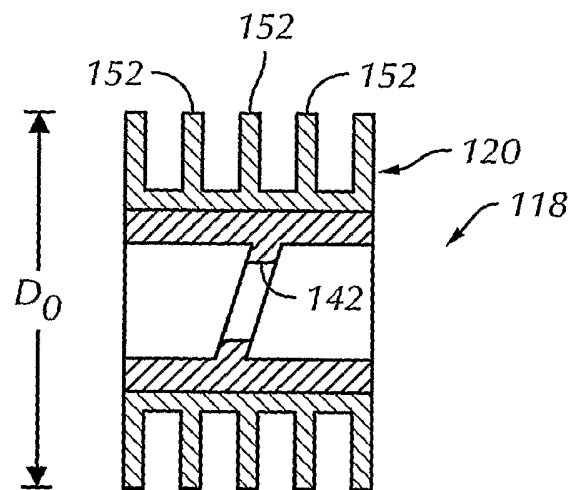


FIG. 12

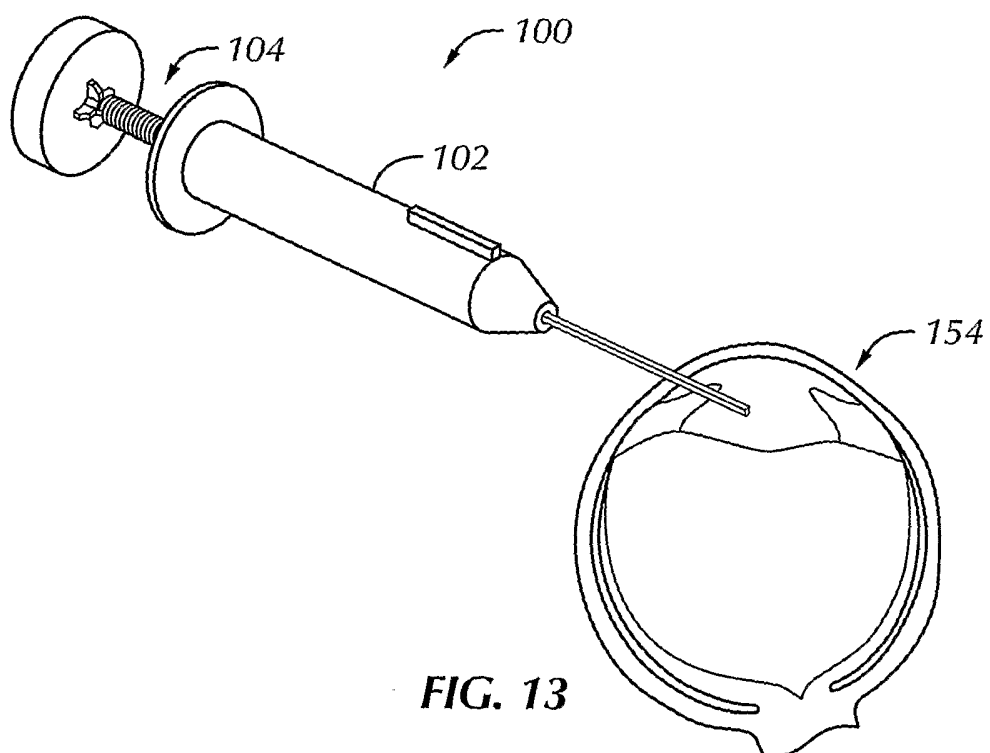


FIG. 13