

(51) International Patent Classification:
A61C 17/02 (2006.01)(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2014/050966(22) International Filing Date:
13 August 2014 (13.08.2014)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

61/866,444	15 August 2013 (15.08.2013)	US
61/895,901	25 October 2013 (25.10.2013)	US
61/914,285	10 December 2013 (10.12.2013)	US

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92614 (US).(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, IR, 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, SA,
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:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DENTAL SYRINGE TIP DEVICES, SYSTEMS AND METHODS

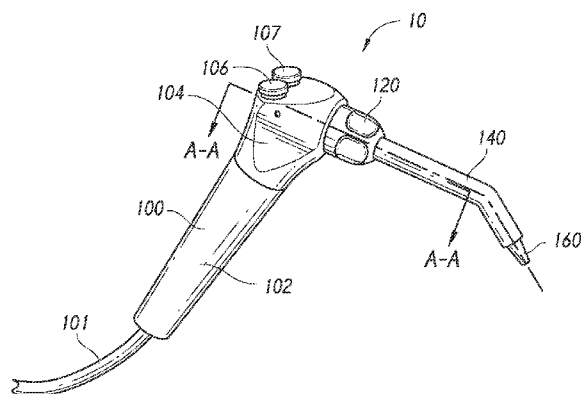


FIG. 1A

(57) Abstract: A dental syringe tip system for attachment to a dental syringe. The dental syringe tip system can include components such as an outer core, an inner core, and a carrier which can be combined in a multitude of combinations to achieve different fluid flow characteristics, such as discharge pressure and discharge pattern, through the dental syringe tip. The outer core and inner core can have passages designed to modify fluid flow characteristics. In addition, the outer core and inner core can have additional connectors for receiving fluids from sources other than a dental syringe. Some or all of the components can be separate to be assembled by a manufacturer or an end-user. Assembly of multiple components can be facilitated by retention features located on the components.



Published:

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

DENTAL SYRINGE TIP DEVICES, SYSTEMS AND METHODS

RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/914,285, filed December 10, 2013, U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/895,901, filed October 25, 2013, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/866,444, filed August 15, 2013, the entire contents of each of which is hereby expressly incorporated by reference and is to be considered a part of this specification.

BACKGROUND

Field

[0002] The present inventions relates to dental systems, methods and devices for dental syringes.

Description of the Related Art

[0003] The dental syringe is a multi-purpose dental apparatus which is often used by dentists, dental assistants, dental hygienists, and other such personnel for a wide-range of dental visits. The dental syringe often includes both a water port and a pressurized air port and can be used for providing irrigation to a target site, clearing or removing debris from a target site, drying a target site for bonding with another dental apparatus, and a variety of other uses. Generally, such dental syringes include a syringe tip which directs the flow of water and air from the dental syringe to the target site. Due to the proximity of the syringe tip with the target location, it is inevitable that at least some contaminants from the patient, such as bacteria, viruses, and bodily fluids, will contact and contaminate the syringe tip. Accordingly, there is a need to develop devices, systems, and methods which significantly reduce, or eliminate, such a risk of spreading these contaminants between patients while still being cost-effective for a dental practitioner. While disposable devices do exist, there is a need for further improvement of these disposable devices.

SUMMARY

[0004] One aspect of the dental systems, methods and devices described herein is the recognition of a need for customizable syringe tips. Dental syringes are often limited to a fixed level of fluid pressure such as a fixed water output pressure from the water port and fixed air pressure output from the pressurized air port. Accordingly, the discharge pattern and discharge pressure of air and water is generally fixed by the design of the dental syringe used. However, in many instances, it may be desirable to obtain a more optimal discharge pattern and discharge pressure based on the specific dental procedure being performed. Furthermore, it may be the case that during a dental procedure, a dental professional may prefer to use multiple discharge patterns and discharge pressures during the course of the procedure. As such, one feature of the dental systems, methods and devices described herein is the ability to customize the syringe tip for a variety of discharge pressures and/or patterns.

[0005] Another aspect of the dental systems, methods and devices described herein is the recognition of a need to reduce the likelihood of fluid leakage from one passage to a second passage. For example, some dental syringes and tips can leak water into the designated pressurized air port. This can result in some amount of water being ejected from the pressurized air port when the operator intended that only pressurized air be released. As should be apparent, this can pose potentially significant issues when leaked fluid is ejected from an improper port. As such, one feature of the dental systems, methods and devices described herein is a reduction, or potential elimination, of leakage from one fluid channel to another fluid channel.

[0006] In one arrangement, a syringe tip includes a first outer core having a proximal end and a distal end, the outer core having a first proximal aperture at the proximal end and a first distal aperture at the distal end, and a first passage connecting the first proximal aperture with the first distal aperture and defining a first interior surface, and a first inner core having an elongate member having a proximal end and a distal end, the first inner core having a first proximal aperture at the proximal end, a first distal aperture at the distal end, and a first passage connecting the first proximal aperture and the first distal aperture, wherein the first inner core is designed to be received and retained within the passage of the first outer core.

[0007] In some arrangements, the following features can be combined separately, or together with, the arrangement above. In some arrangements, the first proximal aperture of the first outer core and the first distal aperture of the first outer core can be unequal and the first passage of the first outer core can taper. In some arrangements, the first passage of the first outer core can include multiple tapering stages. In some arrangements, a second outer core can be included which has a proximal aperture, a distal aperture, and a passage. In some arrangements, the first outer core and the second outer core can have an interlock feature. In some arrangements, the first passage of the first outer core can separate into multiple passages. In some arrangements, the first outer core can have retention features. In some arrangements, the first inner core can have corresponding retention features. In some arrangements, the first inner core can extend into a full length of the first passage of the first outer core. In some arrangements, the first inner core can extend into a partial length of the first passage of the first outer core. In some arrangements, the syringe tip can have at least one bending feature. In some arrangements, the first outer core and/or the first inner core can have a connector in fluid communication with the passage of the first outer core and/or the first inner core. In some arrangements, a carrier can be included.

[0008] In some arrangements, a syringe tip includes a first outer core having an elongate member having proximal end and a distal end, the first outer core having a first proximal aperture at the proximal end, a first distal aperture at the distal end, and a first passage connecting the first proximal aperture with the first distal aperture and defining a first interior surface of the first outer core and a set of connectors at a proximal end of the elongate member, the protruding members designed to connect to ports of at least one of a dental syringe or an adaptor, wherein the diameter of the first proximal aperture is not equal to the diameter of the first distal aperture and wherein the passage tapers from the proximal aperture to the distal aperture.

[0009] In some arrangements, a syringe tip includes an outer core comprising an elongate member having a proximal end and a distal end, the first outer core having a proximal aperture at the proximal end, a distal aperture at the distal end, and a passage connecting the proximal aperture with the distal aperture and defining an interior surface of the outer core and a carrier assembly including a carrier and an inner core, the inner core

coupled with the carrier, the carrier assembly configured to be inserted into the passage of the outer core.

[0010] In some arrangements, a method for preparing a syringe tip can include the steps of providing a first outer core having at least one passage, at least one inner core configured to be received with the at least one passage, and at least one carrier configured to couple with at least one inner core and inserting the inner core and carrier into the at least one passage of the first outer core.

[0011] Further features and advantages of the present inventions will become apparent from the detailed description of preferred embodiments which follows, when considered together with the attached drawings and claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0012] The foregoing and other features of the present disclosure will become more fully apparent from the following description and appended claims, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings. Understanding that these drawings depict only several embodiments in accordance with the disclosure and are not to be considered limiting of its scope, the disclosure will be described with additional specificity and detail through the use of the accompanying drawings.

[0013] Figure 1A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a dental syringe system having a dental syringe, an adaptor, a syringe tip, and a tip modification.

[0014] Figure 1B is a cutaway view of the dental syringe system of FIG. 1A along A-A.

[0015] Figure 2A is a perspective view an embodiment of an angled syringe tip having an outer core with a rounded rectangular cross-section and two connectors located at a proximal end.

[0016] Figure 2B is a front view of the angled syringe tip of Figure 2A.

[0017] Figure 2C is a cross-sectional view of the angled syringe tip of Figure 2A.

[0018] Figure 3A is a perspective view an embodiment of an angled syringe tip having an outer core with a partially rounded rectangular cross-section, two connectors located at a proximal end, and an offset feature.

[0019] Figure 3B is a front view of the angled syringe tip of Figure 3A.

[0020] Figure 3C is a cross-sectional view of the angled syringe tip of Figure 3A.

[0021] Figure 4A is a side view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having a straight design.

[0022] Figure 4B is a side view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having a single bend design, the bend having an acute angle.

[0023] Figure 4C is a side view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having a single bend design, the bend having a right angle.

[0024] Figure 4D is a side view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having a double bend design, the bends having acute angles.

[0025] Figure 4E is a side view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having a triple bend design, the bends having acute angles.

[0026] Figure 4F is a side view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having a triple bend design, the bends being in different directions along parallel axes.

[0027] Figure 4G is a side view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having a triple bend design, the bends being in different directions along non-parallel axes.

[0028] Figure 5 is an exploded view of a syringe tip system having two outer cores, two inner cores, and a carrier.

[0029] Figure 6A is a front cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a circular cross section and circular opening.

[0030] Figure 6B is a front cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a square cross section and multi-pointed opening.

[0031] Figure 6C is a front cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a pentagonal cross section and circular opening.

[0032] Figure 6D is a front cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a hexagonal cross section and circular opening.

[0033] Figure 6E is a front cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a circular cross section and cross-shaped opening.

[0034] Figure 6F is a front cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a pentagonal cross section and triangular opening.

[0035] Figure 7A is a front cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with an oval cross section and two circular openings.

[0036] Figure 7B is a front cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a rectangular cross section and two circular openings.

[0037] Figure 7C is a front cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a rounded rectangular cross section and two circular openings.

[0038] Figure 7D is a front cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with an “8-shaped” cross section and two circular openings.

[0039] Figure 8A is a side, cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two equal diameter, no-taper passages.

[0040] Figure 8B is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two unequal diameter, no-taper passages.

[0041] Figure 9A is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two narrowing taper passages.

[0042] Figure 9B is a side cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two narrowing taper passages.

[0043] Figure 9C is a side cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two narrowing taper passages having different degrees of taper.

[0044] Figure 10A is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two expanding taper passages.

[0045] Figure 10B is a side cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two expanding taper passages.

[0046] Figure 10C is a side cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two expanding taper passages having different degrees of taper.

[0047] Figure 11A is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a no-taper passage and a narrowing taper passage.

[0048] Figure 11B is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a no-taper passage and an expanding taper passage.

[0049] Figure 12A is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two-staged tapering, the first stage having a no-taper passage and the second stage having a narrowing taper passage.

[0050] Figure 12B is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with three-staged tapering, the first stage having a no-taper passage, the second stage having a narrowing taper passage, and the third stage having a no-taper passage.

[0051] Figure 13A is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two-staged tapering, the first stage having a no-taper passage and the second stage having an expanding taper passage.

[0052] Figure 13B is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with three-staged tapering, the first stage having a no-taper passage, the second stage having an expanding taper passage, and the third stage having a no-taper passage.

[0053] Figure 14A is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a passage which splits into multiple sub-passages.

[0054] Figure 14B is a front cross-sectional view of the embodiment of Figure 14A.

[0055] Figure 14C is a front cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with four top openings and a single bottom opening.

[0056] Figure 14D is front cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with four top openings and two bottom openings.

[0057] Figures 15A–J are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two no-taper passages and threaded retention features located at various positions of the passages.

[0058] Figures 16A–F are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two narrowing taper passages and threaded retention features located at various positions of one or both of the passages.

[0059] Figures 17A–D are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two expanding taper passages and threaded retention features located at various positions of one or both of the passages.

[0060] Figures 18A–J are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two no-taper passages and clip mechanism retention features located at various positions of one or both of the passages.

[0061] Figures 19A–F are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two narrowing taper passages and clip mechanism retention features located at various positions of one or both of the passages.

[0062] Figures 20A–D are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two expanding taper passages and clip mechanism retention features located at various positions of one or both of the passages.

[0063] Figures 21A–B are side cross-sectional view of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two no-taper passages and injectable threading retention feature located on one or both of the passages.

[0064] Figures 22A–D are side cross-sectional view of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two narrowing taper passages and injectable threading retention feature located on one or both of the passages.

[0065] Figures 23A–B are side cross-sectional view of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two expanding taper passages and injectable threading retention feature located on one or both of the passages.

[0066] Figure 24A is side cross-sectional view of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two no-taper passages, an injectable threading retention feature, and a threaded retention feature.

[0067] Figure 24B is side cross-sectional view of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two no-taper passages, an injectable threading retention feature, and a clip mechanism retention feature.

[0068] Figure 25A is a side view of an embodiment of a port connector having a threaded outer surface.

[0069] Figure 25B is a side view of an embodiment of a port connector having a threaded outer surface and beveled connecting edge.

[0070] Figure 25C is a side view of an embodiment of a port connector having a beveled connecting edge.

[0071] Figure 25D is a side view of an embodiment of a port connector having a beveled leading edge and clip mechanism retention feature in the form of a ramp.

[0072] Figure 25E is a side view of an embodiment of a port connector having a beveled leading edge and a clip mechanism retention feature in the form of a slot.

[0073] Figure 25F is a side view of an embodiment of a port connector having a beveled leading edge and multiple protruding retention features.

[0074] Figure 26A is a side view of an embodiment of a tapered port connector.

[0075] Figure 26B is a side view of an embodiment of a tapered port connector having a clip mechanism retention feature in the form of a ramp.

[0076] Figure 26C is a side view of an embodiment of a tapered port connector having a clip mechanism retention feature in the form of a slot.

[0077] Figures 27A–H are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two no-taper passages, one or both of the passages having connectors located at various positions.

[0078] Figures 28A–J are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two no-taper passages, one or both of the passages having connectors and threaded retention features located at various positions.

[0079] Figures 29A–J are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two no-taper passages, one or both of the passages having connectors and clip mechanism retention features located at various positions.

[0080] Figures 30A–I are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two narrowing taper passages, one or both of the passages having connectors located at various positions.

[0081] Figures 31A–C are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two expanding taper passages, one or both of the passages having connectors located at various positions.

[0082] Figures 32A–H are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two narrowing taper passages, one or both of the passages having connectors and threaded retention features located at various positions.

[0083] Figures 33A–H are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two narrowing taper passages, one or both of the passages having connectors and clip mechanism retention features located at various positions.

[0084] Figure 34A is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two passages and a connector located on a lateral side of the outer core.

[0085] Figure 34B is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two passages and a connector angled towards the proximal end.

[0086] Figure 34C is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two passages and a connector angled towards the distal end.

[0087] Figure 35A is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a passage and a partial passage at a connector.

[0088] Figure 35B is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a passage and two partial passages at two connectors.

[0089] Figure 36A is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two passages and a connector.

[0090] Figure 36B is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two passages and two connectors.

[0091] Figures 37A–B are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two narrowing taper passages and two connectors.

[0092] Figures 38A–B are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having an outer core with two passages, connectors, and retention features.

[0093] Figure 39A is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having two outer cores each with a single passage and a dovetail interlock mechanism.

[0094] Figure 39B is a sectional view of the embodiment of the syringe tip of FIG. 39A along line B-B.

[0095] Figure 40A is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having two outer cores each with a single passage and a dowel-fit interlock mechanism.

[0096] Figure 40B is a sectional view of the embodiment of the syringe tip of FIG. 40A along line C-C.

[0097] Figures 41A–B are side cross-sectional views of embodiments of a syringe tip having two outer cores each with a single, narrowing taper passage and a dovetail interlock mechanism.

[0098] Figure 42 is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having two outer cores each with a single, expanding taper passage and a dovetail interlock mechanism.

[0099] Figure 43 is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a no-taper passage and an outer core with a narrowing taper passage, each with a dovetail interlock mechanism.

[0100] Figure 44 is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a narrowing taper passage and an outer core with an expanding taper passage, each with a dovetail interlock mechanism.

[0101] Figure 45 is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with two no-taper passages and an outer core with an expanding taper passage, each with a dovetail interlock mechanism.

[0102] Figure 46 is a side cross-sectional view of a no-taper inner core having constant wall thickness.

[0103] Figures 47A-B are side cross-sectional views of a no-taper inner core having variable wall thickness.

[0104] Figure 48 is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a narrowing taper inner core having constant wall thickness.

[0105] Figure 49 is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a narrowing taper inner core having variable wall thickness.

[0106] Figure 50A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a full length, no-taper inner core.

[0107] Figure 50B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 50A within an outer core having two no-taper passages.

[0108] Figure 51A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a partial length, no-taper inner core.

[0109] Figure 51B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 51A within an outer core having two no-taper passages.

[0110] Figure 52A is a perspective view of another embodiment of a partial length, no-taper inner core.

[0111] Figure 52B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 52A within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages.

[0112] Figure 53A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a full length, narrowing taper inner core.

[0113] Figure 53B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 53A within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages.

[0114] Figure 53C is a perspective view of another embodiment of a full length narrowing taper inner core.

[0115] Figure 53D is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 53C within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages.

[0116] Figure 54A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a partial length, narrowing taper inner core.

[0117] Figure 54B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 54A within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages.

[0118] Figure 54C is a perspective view of another embodiment of a partial length, narrowing taper inner core.

[0119] Figure 54D is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 54C within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages.

[0120] Figure 55A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a full length, no-taper inner core having a threaded retention feature.

[0121] Figure 55B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 55A within an outer core having two no-taper passages and threaded retention features.

[0122] Figure 56A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a partial length, no-taper inner core having a threaded retention feature.

[0123] Figure 56B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 56A within an outer core having two no-taper passages and threaded retention features.

[0124] Figure 57A is a perspective view of another embodiment of a partial length, no-taper inner core having a threaded retention feature.

[0125] Figure 57B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 57A within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages and threaded retention features.

[0126] Figure 58A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a full length, no-taper inner core having multiple threaded retention features.

[0127] Figure 58B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 58A within an outer core having two no-taper passages and multiple threaded retention features.

[0128] Figure 59A is a perspective view of an embodiment of an extended length, no-taper inner core having multiple threaded retention features.

[0129] Figure 59B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 59A within an outer core having two no-taper passages and multiple threaded retention features.

[0130] Figure 60A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a full length, narrowing taper inner core having a threaded retention feature.

[0131] Figure 60B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 60A within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages and threaded retention features.

[0132] Figure 60C is a perspective view of another embodiment of a full length, narrowing taper inner core having a threaded retention feature.

[0133] Figure 60D is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 60C within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages and threaded retention features.

[0134] Figure 61A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a partial length, narrowing taper inner core having a threaded retention feature.

[0135] Figure 61B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 61A within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages and threaded retention features.

[0136] Figure 61C is a perspective view of another embodiment of a partial length narrowing taper inner core having a threaded retention feature.

[0137] Figure 61D is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 61C within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages and threaded retention features.

[0138] Figure 62A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a full length, no-taper inner core having a clip mechanism retention feature.

[0139] Figure 62B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 62A within an outer core having two no-taper passages and clip mechanism retention features.

[0140] Figure 63A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a partial length, no-taper inner core having a clip mechanism retention feature.

[0141] Figure 63B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 63A within an outer core having two no-taper passages and clip mechanism retention features.

[0142] Figure 64A is a perspective view of another embodiment of a partial length, no-taper inner core having a clip mechanism retention feature.

[0143] Figure 64B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 64A within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages and clip mechanism retention features.

[0144] Figure 65A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a full length, no-taper inner core having multiple clip mechanism retention features.

[0145] Figure 65B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 65A within an outer core having two no-taper passages and multiple clip mechanism retention features.

[0146] Figure 66A is a perspective view of an embodiment of an extended length, no-taper inner core having multiple clip mechanism retention features.

[0147] Figure 66B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 66A within an outer core having two no-taper passages and multiple clip mechanism retention features.

[0148] Figure 67A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a full length, narrowing taper inner core having a clip mechanism retention feature.

[0149] Figure 67B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 67A within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages and clip mechanism retention features.

[0150] Figure 67C is a perspective view of another embodiment of a full length, narrowing taper inner core having a clip mechanism retention feature.

[0151] Figure 67D is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 67C within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages and clip mechanism retention features.

[0152] Figure 68A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a partial length, narrowing taper inner core having a clip mechanism retention feature.

[0153] Figure 68B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 68A within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages and clip mechanism retention features.

[0154] Figure 68C is a perspective view of another embodiment of a partial length narrowing taper inner core having a clip mechanism retention feature.

[0155] Figure 68D is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the inner core of Fig. 68C within an outer core having two narrowing taper passages and clip mechanism retention features.

[0156] Figure 69A is an embodiment of an inner core having a clip mechanism retention feature in the form of an annular protrusion.

[0157] Figure 69B is an embodiment of an inner core having a clip mechanism retention feature in the form of a ramp.

[0158] Figure 70A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a carrier having two holders.

[0159] Figure 70B is a side cross-sectional view of the carrier of Fig. 70A.

[0160] Figure 71A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a carrier having two holders with one holder having a threaded retention feature.

[0161] Figure 71B is a side cross-sectional view of the carrier of Fig. 71A.

[0162] Figure 71C is a perspective view of an embodiment of a carrier having two holders with both holders having threaded retention features.

[0163] Figure 71D is a side cross-sectional view of the carrier of Fig. 71C.

[0164] Figure 72A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a carrier having two holders with one holder having a clip mechanism retention feature.

[0165] Figure 72B is a side cross-sectional view of the carrier of Fig. 72A.

[0166] Figure 72C is a perspective view of an embodiment of a carrier having two holders with both holders having clip mechanism retention features.

[0167] Figure 72D is a side cross-sectional view of the carrier of Fig. 72C.

[0168] Figure 73A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a carrier having two holders and a clip mechanism.

[0169] Figure 73B is a side cross-sectional view of the carrier of Fig. 73A.

[0170] Figure 74A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a carrier having two holders and a clip mechanism with one holder having a threaded retention feature.

[0171] Figure 74B is a side cross-sectional view of the carrier of Fig. 74A.

[0172] Figure 74C is a perspective view of an embodiment of a carrier having two holders and a clip mechanism with both holders having threaded retention features.

[0173] Figure 74D is a side cross-sectional view of the carrier of Fig. 74C.

[0174] Figure 75A is a perspective view of an embodiment of a carrier having two holders and a clip mechanism with one holder having a clip mechanism retention feature.

[0175] Figure 75B is a side cross-sectional view of the carrier of Fig. 75A.

[0176] Figure 75C is a perspective view of an embodiment of a carrier having two holders and a clip mechanism with both holders having clip mechanism retention features.

[0177] Figure 75D is a side cross-sectional view of the carrier of Fig. 90C.

[0178] Figure 76 is a perspective view of an embodiment of a carrier having two partial length inner cores and a clip mechanism.

[0179] Figure 77A is a side view of an embodiment of a two-piece carrier in an attached configuration.

[0180] Figure 77B is a side view of an embodiment of a two-piece carrier in a detached configuration.

[0181] Figure 78A is a side, partial cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a carrier having an integral, full length, no-taper inner core with a holder having a threaded retention feature.

[0182] Figure 78B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the carrier of Fig. 93A having a full length inner core attached.

[0183] Figure 78C is a side, partial cross-sectional view of the carrier of Fig. 93A having a partial length inner core attached.

[0184] Figure 79 is a side, partial cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a carrier having an integral, full length, narrowing taper inner core with a second full length, narrowing taper inner core attached.

[0185] Figure 80 is a side, partial cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a carrier having an integral, partial length inner core with a second partial length inner core attached.

[0186] Figure 81 is a side, partial cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a carrier having an integral, full length inner core with a holder having a clip mechanism retention feature.

[0187] Figure 82 is a side, partial cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a carrier having an integral, full length inner core and an integral, partial length inner core.

[0188] Figure 83 is a side, partial cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core with no-taper passages, full length, no-taper inner cores, and a carrier.

[0189] Figure 84A is a side, partial cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core with narrowing taper passages, full length, narrowing taper inner cores, and a carrier.

[0190] Figure 84B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core with narrowing taper passages, full length, narrowing taper inner cores, and a carrier.

[0191] Figure 85 is a side, partial cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core with no-taper passages, full length, no-taper inner cores with threaded retention features, and a carrier with threaded retention features.

[0192] Figure 86A is a side, partial cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core with narrowing taper passages, full length, narrowing taper inner cores with threaded retention features, and a carrier with threaded retention features.

[0193] Figure 86B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core with narrowing taper passages, full length,

narrowing taper inner cores with threaded retention features, and a carrier with threaded retention features.

[0194] Figure 87 is a side, partial cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core with no-taper passages and threaded retention features, full length, no-taper inner cores with threaded retention features, and a carrier with threaded retention features.

[0195] Figure 88A is a side, partial cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core with narrowing taper passages and threaded retention features, full length, narrowing taper inner cores with threaded retention features, and a carrier with threaded retention features.

[0196] Figure 88B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core with narrowing taper passages with threaded retention features, full length, narrowing taper inner cores with threaded retention features, and a carrier with threaded retention features.

[0197] Figure 89A is a side, partial cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core with no-taper passages with threaded retention features, full length inner cores with threaded retention features, and a carrier with threaded retention features.

[0198] Figure 89B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core with no-taper passages with threaded retention features, full length inner cores with threaded retention features, and a carrier with threaded retention features.

[0199] Figure 90 is a side, partial cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core with no-taper passages and threaded retention features, partial length, no-taper inner cores with threaded retention features, and a carrier.

[0200] Figure 91A is a side, partial cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core with narrowing taper passages and threaded retention features, partial length, narrowing taper inner cores with threaded retention features, and a carrier.

[0201] Figure 91B is a side, partial cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core with narrowing taper passages, partial length, narrowing taper inner cores, and a carrier.

[0202] Figure 92A is a side, partial cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip system having an outer core, and a full length inner core and partial length inner core integrated in a carrier.

[0203] Figure 92B is a cross-sectional view of the syringe tip system of Fig. 92A.

[0204] Figure 93 is a side, partial cross-sectional view of a syringe tip system having an outer core, a full length inner core with clip mechanism retention features, and a partial length inner core integrated in a carrier.

[0205] Figure 94 is a side view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having a hinged retention feature.

[0206] Figure 95 is a sectional view of the embodiment of the syringe tip of FIG. 94 along line D-D in a first configuration.

[0207] Figure 96 is a sectional view of the embodiment of the syringe tip of FIG. 94 along line D-D in a second configuration.

[0208] Figure 97 is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a ribbed retention feature along an outer surface.

[0209] Figure 98A is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a finned retention feature along an outer surface.

[0210] Figure 98B is a front view of the proximal end of the syringe tip of FIG. 98A.

[0211] Figure 99A is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a finned retention feature along an inner surface.

[0212] Figure 99B is a front view of the proximal end of the syringe tip of FIG. 99A.

[0213] Figure 100 is a side cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having an outer core with a harpoon retention feature along an outer surface.

[0214] Figure 101A is a side view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having a separate retention feature in a disconnected configuration.

[0215] Figure 101B is a side view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having a separate retention feature in a connected configuration.

[0216] Figure 102A is a top view of an embodiment of an outer core having transverse interlock features.

[0217] Figure 102B is a side view of the outer core of FIG. 102A with an embodiment of an outer core having corresponding interlock features.

[0218] Figure 103 is a front view of an embodiment of an outer core having multiple interlock features.

[0219] Figure 104 is a side, cross-sectional view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having outer cores which include interlock features with passages.

[0220] Figure 105 is a side view of an embodiment of a syringe tip having outer cores with a helical shape.

[0221] Figure 106 is a side view of an embodiment of an outer core having a coating applied to a portion of the outer core.

[0222] Figure 107A is a side view of an embodiment of an inner core having channels along an outer surface.

[0223] Figure 107B is a front view of the inner core of FIG. 107A inserted into an embodiment of an outer core.

[0224] Figure 108 is a side view of an embodiment of an inner core having two channels which merge into a single channel.

[0225] Figure 109 is a side view of an embodiment of an outer core having multiple sub-components.

[0226] Figure 110 is a side, cross-sectional view of an embodiment of an outer core having a sealing device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0227] As will be described, the present application relates to a syringe tip devices and system and methods for producing and using such a syringe tip device and system. It should be appreciated that while the figures and description herein often refers to syringe tips, which can be used on a dental syringe, in modified embodiments the syringe tips

can be applied to other types of fluid flow devices in which a syringe tip can be used to direct the fluid flow from the fluid flow device. It should be appreciated that, for purposes of this disclosure, “fluid” includes gases, liquids, and solids capable of being transported via gas or liquid transport, such as solid powders and the like. For example, the term “fluid” can include abrasives, adhesives and other types of bonding chemicals, sealants, therapeutic agents such as anesthetics, medicines and antibiotics, CaOH pastes or powders, prophylactic paste, whitening gels, mouthwash, periodontal rinse solutions, and any other gas, liquid, solid or combination thereof.

Dental Syringe System

[0228] Figures 1A and 1B illustrate a general dental syringe system **10** which can include a dental syringe **100**, a syringe tip adaptor **120**, a syringe tip **140**, and a tip modifier **160**. The dental syringe **100** can be a handheld device which includes a conduit **101** for connecting the dental syringe **100** to a console (not shown) or other source of one or more fluids, such as air, water, or any other fluid, to the dental syringe **100**. The dental syringe can also include a handpiece **102**, a head unit **104**, and buttons **106** and **107** designed to operate valves (not shown) within the dental syringe **100** to control the flow of fluids through a first passage **108** and a second passage **109**.

[0229] In some embodiments, the dental syringe **100** shown in Figures 1A and 1B, which has two buttons **106** and **107** capable of operating two separate valves, can control the flow of two fluids such as air and water. As is the case with many commercial embodiments of dental syringes, dental syringe **100** can control the flow of both air along a first passage **108** and water along a second passage **109**. As should be apparent, the dental syringe **100** can be used to control the flow of other types of fluids and/or fluids having different operating parameters (e.g., high pressure air and low pressure air, high pressure water and lower pressure water, etc.). Furthermore, the dental syringe **100** can be designed with greater or fewer passages, valves, and/or buttons, to control the flow of one or more fluids through the device. Additionally, the dental syringe **100** can be designed to provide other operations in addition to controlling the flow of fluids through the device. For example, in some embodiments, additional features such as illumination devices can be

incorporated into or made part of the dental syringe device to facilitate use of the device during a dental procedure.

[0230] With continued reference to Figures 1A and 1B, the syringe tip adaptor 120 can be designed to connect the syringe tip 140 to the dental syringe 100. In some embodiments, the syringe tip adaptor 120 can include a coupling member 122 designed to couple the dental syringe 100 and the syringe tip 140. As such, coupling member can have one or more passages designed to provide fluid communication between one or more passages of the dental syringe 100 and the syringe tip 140. For example, as shown the illustrated embodiment, the coupling member 122 can have a first passage 124 and a second passage 125 designed to provide fluid communication between the first passage 108 and second passage 109 of the dental syringe 100 and the first passage 146 and second passage 147 of the syringe tip 140. The syringe tip adaptor 120 can also include a collet member 126 and chuck member 128 designed to provide additional stability for a syringe tip 140 attached to the coupling member. The collet member 126 and chuck member 128 can be designed such that, when the chuck member 128 is tightened, the collet member 126 can impart a force upon the syringe tip 140 thereby reducing the likelihood that the syringe tip 140 will rotate and/or translate when attached to the coupling member 122. In some embodiments, the coupling member can include other mechanisms for attaching the syringe tip 140 to the dental syringe 100 such as a twist-lock mechanism (e.g., a bayonet mount), a push-pull mechanism, a snap fit and other types of coupling mechanisms.

[0231] While the illustrated embodiment shows a coupling member 122 having two passages 124 and 125 designed to provide fluid communication between passages 108 and 109 of the dental syringe 100 and passages 146 and 147 of the syringe tip 140, it should be apparent that the coupling member 122, like the dental syringe 100 and syringe tip 140, can have fewer or greater numbers of passages. Additionally, the coupling member 122 can have fewer or greater passages than either of the dental syringe 100 or the syringe tip 140. This can provide the ability for the coupling member 120 to convert a dental syringe designed for a first amount of fluids (e.g., air and water) to be used with a syringe tip designed for a second amount of fluids (e.g., only water). Multiple types of syringe tip adaptors 120 can be designed to be operable with a single design of syringe tip 140. This can

advantageously allow the same syringe tip 140 to be compatible with a wide range of dental syringes 100. Conversely, multiple types of syringe tip adaptors 120 can be designed to be operable with a single design of dental syringe 100 which can advantageously allow use of multiple types of syringe tips 140 with a single dental syringe 100.

[0232] With continued reference to Figures 1A and 1B, the syringe tip 140 can be a generally elongate member 142 which can have a first connector 144 in fluid communication with a first passage 146 and second port connector 145 in fluid communication with a second passage 147. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the connectors 144, 145 can be designed to attach to corresponding ports located on the syringe tip adaptor 120, such as the coupling member 122, the dental syringe 100, or any other attachment member. As such, the syringe tip 140 can be designed to permit the flow of fluid from the dental syringe 100 to a target location. The syringe tip 140 can be designed to be received into the mouth of a patient during a dental procedure.

[0233] In some embodiments, the connectors 144, 145 can be integrally formed on a proximal end of the syringe tip 140. In some embodiments, the connectors 144, 145 can be attached to the elongate member 142 after the elongate member 142 is manufactured. In some embodiment embodiments, the connectors 144, 145 can be designed to attach directly to the dental syringe 100 or via other attachment mechanisms known in the dental syringe art. Furthermore, as will be discussed in greater detail below, the syringe tip 140 can include multiple features designed to enhance the capabilities of the dental syringe 100.

[0234] In some embodiments, the syringe tip 140 can be designed to alter the discharge pressure of fluids from the dental syringe 100. For example, the syringe tip 140 can be designed to decrease or increase fluid pressure ejected from the distal end of the syringe tip 140. In some embodiments, this alteration of fluid pressure can be accomplished by altering the shape of the passages such as passages 146, 147. In some embodiments, the passages can decrease in overall cross-sectional area to create an increase in fluid pressure as it flows through the syringe tip 140. Conversely, the passages can increase in overall cross-sectional area to create a decrease in fluid pressure as it flows through the syringe tip 140.

[0235] In some embodiments, the syringe tip 140 can be designed to alter the discharge pattern (i.e., spray pattern) of fluid from the dental syringe 100. For example, the

syringe tip **140** can be designed to convert a single passage from the dental syringe **100** into a multiple passages. In some embodiments, the syringe tip **140** can be designed such that a fluid, such as water, is discharged from multiple openings such that, rather than having a single stream of water, a multiple stream pattern is formed. Conversely, the syringe tip **140** can be designed to convert multiple passages from the dental syringe **100** into a single passage to combine fluids from different passages of the dental syringe **100**.

[0236] In some embodiments, the syringe tip **140** can be designed to provide connectors at positions other than the ends of the syringe tip **140**. For example, in some embodiments, connectors, such as connectors **144**, **145**, can be provided at other locations along the syringe tip **140**. These connectors can be connected to existing passages, such as passages **146**, **147**, or can be connected to additional passages. These connectors can advantageously allow additional fluids, beyond those provided by the dental syringe **100**, to be used together with the syringe tip **140**. This can advantageously allow a dental practitioner to incorporate less commonly used fluids with the syringe tip **140**. In some embodiments, the connectors can be used to connect the syringe tip **140** to other devices such as filters or storage devices for substrates.

[0237] With continued reference to Figure 1A, the tip modifier **160** can be designed to further modify the discharge pressures and/or discharge patterns of the fluid ejected from the dental syringe system **10**. For example, in some embodiments, the tip modifier **160** can be used to further increase or further decrease the fluid pressure. In some embodiments, the tip modifier **160** can combine multiple passages of the syringe tip **140** into a single output port. This combination of two or more fluid streams can result in an increased fluid pressure. Furthermore, it can result in a beneficial combination of two or more fluids such as air and water to provide an aerated water fluid flow. As will be discussed in further detail below, in some embodiments, the syringe tip **140** can have multiple features, such as retention features, for connecting one or more tip modifiers **160** to the syringe tip **140**.

Syringe Tip General Construction

[0238] With reference to Figures 2A–2C, an embodiment of a syringe tip **200** is shown having an elongate member **202** with a first angled portion **204** at a location between the proximal and distal ends. In the illustrated embodiment, the elongate member **202** has a rectangular cross-sectional area having rounded corner edges as shown most clearly in Fig. 2B. The syringe tip **200** can include two connectors **206**, **207** located at a proximal end of the elongate member **202**. These connectors **206**, **207** can be designed to attach to ports of a dental syringe, adaptor, or similar device as described above with reference to Figs. 1A and 1B. The syringe tip **202** can include a first passage **208** and a second passage **209** each having a corresponding proximal aperture or opening **210**, **211** and corresponding distal aperture or opening **212**, **213**. In some embodiments, fluid can enter the syringe tip **200** through a proximal aperture, such as proximal apertures **210**, **211**, flow through the passages **208**, **209**, and exit from the distal apertures **212**, **213**. In some embodiments, the syringe tip **200** can have fewer or greater numbers of proximal and distal apertures. Furthermore, as will be discussed in further detail below, the number of proximal and distal apertures for the syringe tip **200** can be different. For example, a syringe tip can have two proximal apertures and three or more distal apertures. This can be a result of, for example, the use of sub-passages.

[0239] As more clearly shown in Fig. 2C, each passage **208**, **209** can have a narrowing taper from the proximal end of the passage **208**, **209** to the distal end of the passage **208**, **209**. That is, the proximal ends of the passages, in this case the proximal apertures **210**, **211**, can have cross-sectional areas which are greater than the cross-sectional areas of the distal apertures **212**, **213**. As the passages **208**, **209** transition from the proximal end to the distal end, the passage can taper from this larger, entry area to the smaller, exit area. For example, as shown here, the diameter of the proximal aperture can be greater than the diameter of the distal aperture. Furthermore, as illustrated in Fig. 2C, the degree of taper between the passages **208**, **209** can differ. For example, in the illustrated embodiment, the passage **208** tapers to a lesser degree than the passage **209** such that the distal aperture **212** has a larger cross-sectional area, in this case a larger diameter, than the distal aperture **213**. This can advantageously provide different flow characteristics between the first, top passage **208** and the second, bottom passage **209** which can be particularly beneficially in situations where different types of fluids flow through different passages.

[0240] With reference to Figures 3A–3C, another embodiment of a syringe tip 300 is shown which is similar in design to the syringe tip 300. The syringe tip 300 can have an elongate member 302 with a first angled portion 304 at a location between the proximal and distal ends. In the illustrated embodiment, the elongate member 302 has a partially rounded rectangular cross-sectional area as shown most clearly in Fig. 3B. The syringe tip 300 can additionally include two connectors 306, 307 located at a proximal end of the elongate member 302 with an offset feature 305 located at a connecting end of the syringe tip 300 proximate the port connectors 306, 307. The offset feature 305 can extend at least some distance from the connecting end towards the distal end of the syringe tip 300. The offset feature 305 can be designed to facilitate attachment of the syringe tip 300 to a dental syringe 100, adaptor 120, or similar mechanism. For example, the dental syringe 100, adaptor 120, or similar mechanism can have a corresponding aperture with a similar offset feature thereby allowing the syringe to be connected in the proper fashion. This can reduce the likelihood of improper installation which could lead to reduced performance of the syringe tip 300 or damage to components of the dental syringe system 10 such as the dental syringe 100. The syringe tip 302 can include a first passage 308 and a second passage 309 each having a corresponding proximal aperture or opening 310, 311 and corresponding distal aperture or opening 312, 313. As more clearly shown in Fig. 3C, each passage 308, 309 can have a narrowing taper from the proximal end of the passage 308, 309 to the distal end of the passage 308, 309.

[0241] As shown above, the dental syringe tips can incorporate a bend to facilitate access to a target location. As shown in Figures 4A–4E, syringe tips, such as syringe tips 400A–E, can incorporate no such bending features or can incorporate multiple bending features. Such bending features can provide advantages when using a dental syringe 100 as such bending features can facilitate the provision of fluids to certain target locations. This is particularly important in dental procedures as reaching certain target locations within a patient's mouth can often present difficulties, particularly teeth around the rear of the mouth such as molars and surrounding tissue, if the syringe tip is not bent.

[0242] In some embodiments, the syringe tip can have no bending features. For example, as shown in Fig. 4A, the syringe tip 400A can have no bends such that the syringe

tip **400A** is straight. In some embodiments, the syringe tip can have a single bending feature. For example, as shown in Fig. 4B, the syringe tip **400B** can have a single bending feature **402B** having an acute angle **404B** of approximately 30 degrees. As a second example, as shown in Fig. 4C, the syringe tip **400C** can have a single bending feature **402C** having a right, or 90 degree, angle **404C**. In some embodiments, the syringe tip can have two or more bending features. As shown in Fig. 4D, the syringe tip **400D** can have a first bending feature **402D** with a first angle **404D** and a second bending feature **406D** with a second angle **408D**. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, both angles **404D** and **408D** can be acute angles although other angles, such as right angles and obtuse angles, can also be used. In some embodiments, the syringe tip can have more than two bends. As shown in Fig. 4E, the syringe tip **400E** can have a first bending feature **402E** with a first angle **404E**, a second bending feature **406E** with a second angle, and a third bending feature **410E** with a third angle **412E**. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, all three angles **404E**, **408E**, and **412E** can be acute angles although other angles, such as right angles and obtuse angles, can also be used.

[0243] As should be apparent, the bending feature can have angles different than those shown in Figs. 4B–4E. In some embodiments, the bending features, such as bending features **402B**, **402C**, **402D**, **406D**, **402E**, **406E**, and **410E**, can have angles between the range of approximately 0 degrees to approximately 175 degrees, between the range of approximately 0 degrees to approximately 135 degrees, and between the range of approximately 0 degrees to approximately 90 degrees, 15 degrees, 30 degrees, 45 degrees, 60 degrees, 90 degrees, and all other angles between those ranges. Furthermore, although the bending features shown in the illustrated embodiments are directed in the same direction along the same axis, it should be appreciated that the bending features can be bends about any axis and in any direction. For purposes of clarity, this can mean, for example, that the syringe tip, such as syringe tip **400E** as shown in Fig. 4F, can have a counter-clockwise bending feature **402E** followed by clockwise bending feature **404E** or that the syringe tip, such as syringe tip **400G** as shown in Fig. 4G, can have a bending feature **402G** about a first axis and a bending feature **404G** about a second axis not parallel to the first axis.

Syringe Tip Components

[0244] In some embodiments, the syringe tip can be manufactured from multiple components. Figure 5 illustrates various components that can be incorporated to form a syringe tip. As illustrated in Fig. 5, the syringe tip **500** can have an elongate body which includes a first outer core **510**, a second outer core **520**, a first inner core **530**, second inner core **540**, and a carrier **550**. The outer cores **510**, **520** and inner cores **530**, **540** can have passages **512**, **522**, **532**, **542** respectively which can permit fluid communication between the proximal apertures or openings **514**, **524**, **534**, **544** and distal apertures or openings **516**, **526**, **536**, **546** of the cores **510**, **520**, **530**, **540**. In some embodiments, the inner cores **530**, **540** can be inserted into passages **512**, **522** of the outer cores **510**, **520**. As will be discussed in greater detail below, the proximal ends of the inner cores **530**, **540** can protrude proximally from the proximal ends of the outer cores **510**, **520** such that the proximal ends of the inner cores **510**, **520** can function as connectors. In some embodiments, one or both of the inner cores **530**, **540** are inserted into passages **512**, **522** such that the proximal ends of the inner cores do not protrude proximally from the proximal ends of the outer cores **510**, **520**. In some embodiments, the carrier **550** can be used to connect the multiple components together and reduce the likelihood that the components will disconnect during use. For example, inner cores **530**, **540** can be inserted into holders **552**, **554** of the carrier **550**.

[0245] As will be discussed in greater detail below, these components can be combined to form a syringe tip having desired characteristics for a particular dental procedure. In some embodiments, only certain of these components can be used with other components being omitted. In some embodiments, certain of these components can be integrally formed. Furthermore, any and all of these components can be bent as discussed above with respect to Figs. 4A–4E.

[0246] This modular design can advantageously allow for interchanging of multiple components to obtain a number of different configurations and can be used, for example, to obtain a number of different discharge patterns and/or discharge pressures. As will be made apparent based on the discussion below regarding the multiplicity of features which can be incorporated into each of these components, the use of multiple components can provide a dental practitioner or other user of the device a high degree of customizability. For example, a dental practitioner can purchase multiple components having different sets of

features and, after determining the desired flow characteristics for a procedure, can combine the components in a particular way to obtain a syringe tip having such desired flow characteristics. Furthermore, in some circumstances, this customization can be performed by the manufacturer who can manufacture a select variety of components and with this select variety of components produce a wide-range of syringe tips for dental practitioners. This can advantageously reduce the tooling required to produce a wide range of syringe tips.

Outer Core

[0247] The outer core can form an outer portion of the syringe tip. In some embodiments, the outer core can include some or all of the following features. As described above with respect to the system **500** above, the outer core can have one or more passages through which fluid from a dental syringe **100** can pass. In some designs, and as illustrated above with respect to Fig. 5, the outer core can have a single passage. In other designs, the outer core can have a two or more passages to permit fluid communication with two or more passages, lumens, or channels of a dental syringe **100**. Although many of the figures below show an outer core having one or two passages, it should be understood that these figures are solely for illustrative purposes and should not be construed as being the sole or “preferred” embodiment of an outer core. Rather, it should be understood that the features described below can be applied to any outer core having any number of passages.

Cross-Sectional Shape

[0248] Figures 6A–6F and 7A–7D illustrates various cross-sectional shapes of the outer core. In some embodiments, the cross-sectional shape can be designed to reduce the likelihood of tip rotation after being connected to a dental syringe **100**. Figures 6A–6F illustrate embodiments of an outer core having a single passage. As shown in Figure 6A, the outer core **600A** can have a body **602A** with a circular cross-section and a circular passage **604A**. In some embodiments, the cross-section of the outer core can have non-circular cross-sectional shapes such as ovals (not shown), squares (**602B**, Fig. 6B), pentagons (**602C**, Fig. 6C), hexagons (**602D**, Fig. 6D), and any other shape. Furthermore, in some embodiments,

the passage can have a non-circular passage, proximal aperture, or distal aperture, such as passage **604B** which has a star-shape, passage **604E** which has a cross-shape, and passage **604F** which has a triangular shape. Non-circular passages and apertures can be used to alter the discharge pattern and/or discharge pressure as it exits from the syringe tip. Furthermore, as described in further detail below, a fluid can be directed into multiple passages or sub-passages and can be discharged from multiple apertures on the syringe tip. The multiple passages or sub-passages can have the same or different cross-sectional shapes.

[0249] Figures 7A–7D illustrates embodiments of an outer core having two passages. As shown in Fig. 7A, the outer core **700A** can have a body **702A** with an oval cross-section and two circular passages **704A**, **705A**. In some embodiments, the cross-section of the outer core can have non-circular cross-sectional shapes such as rectangles (**702B**, Fig. 7B), rounded rectangles (**702C**, Fig. 7C), and an “8” shape (**702D**, Fig. 7D), and any other shape. Furthermore, in some embodiments, the passages may have non-circular passages, proximal apertures, or distal apertures similar to the non-circular passages **604B**, **604E**, **604F** of Figs. 6B, 6E, 6F respectively. The cross-sectional shape and size need not be constant throughout the length of the outer core. In some embodiments, the cross-sectional shape and size of the outer core can vary along its length. For example, the passage can have a circular or rounded rectangular cross-sectional shape which tapers, either in a narrowing or expanding manner, from a proximal end to a distal end.

Tapering

[0250] In some embodiments, the passages of the outer cores can take on different shapes. Figures 8A–B, 9A–9C, 10A–C, 11A–B illustrate embodiments of outer cores having two passages allowing fluid communication between corresponding proximal and distal apertures. As will be made apparent with respect to the discussion below, the passages can have no taper, have a narrowing taper, have an expanding taper, or a combination of the above.

[0251] As shown in Fig. 8A, the outer core **800A** can have two passages **802A**, **804A** having corresponding proximal apertures or openings **806A**, **808A** and distal apertures or openings **810A**, **812A**. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the passages **802A**, **804A**

of outer core **800A** can have cross-sectional areas which remain constant from the proximal apertures **806A**, **808A** to the distal apertures **810A**, **812A** and therefore do not taper. As shown in Fig. 8A, the passages **802A**, **804A** can have equivalent diameters. In other embodiments, such as outer core **800B** shown in Fig. 8B, the passages **802B**, **804B** can have unequal diameters. For example, passage **802B** can have a greater diameter than passage **804B**.

[0252] Such “no-taper” passage designs can be implemented, for example, when an entry aperture or opening and an exit aperture or opening of a passage have equivalent cross-sectional areas (or diameters in the case of circular apertures). Notwithstanding any pressure and/or velocity losses that can occur as fluid flows through the passage, no-taper passages can advantageously maintain a fluid discharge pressure and/or velocity approximately equal to the fluid pressure and/or velocity discharged from the dental syringe.

[0253] As shown in Fig. 9A, the outer core **900A** can have two passages **902A**, **904A** having corresponding proximal apertures or openings **906A**, **908A** and distal apertures or openings **910A**, **912A**. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the passages **902A**, **904A** of outer core **900A** can have cross-sectional areas which decrease from the proximal apertures **906A**, **908A** to the distal apertures **910A**, **912A**. Each passage **902A**, **904A** can have a diameter which decreases from the proximal end to the distal end. In some embodiments, the passages **902A**, **904A** can have equivalent degrees of narrowing taper throughout its length as shown in the Fig. 9A. As shown in Fig. 9B, in some embodiments, outer core **900B** can have two passages **902B**, **904B** having a greater degree of taper than the taper of passages **902A**, **904A**. In some embodiments, such as outer core **900C** shown in Fig. 9C, outer core **900C** can have a first passage **902C** with a lesser degree of taper compared to a second passage **904C**.

[0254] Such “narrowing taper” passage designs can be implemented, for example, when an exit aperture or opening of a passage has a smaller cross-sectional area than an entry aperture or opening of a passage (or diameters in the case of circular apertures). Notwithstanding any pressure and/or velocity losses that can occur as fluid flows through the passage, the narrowing taper design can advantageously increase the pressure and/or velocity of fluids discharged from the syringe tip. Other configurations are also possible with greater or lesser degrees of taper. The greater the degree of taper, the greater the potential increase

in pressure and/or velocity. Additionally, in some embodiments, the cross-sectional area of a proximal and/or distal aperture of a first passage may not be equivalent to the cross-sectional areas of the proximal and/or distal apertures of a second passage similar to that shown in outer core **800B** of Fig. 8B.

[0255] As shown in Fig. 10A, outer core **1000A** can have two passages **1002A**, **1004A** having corresponding proximal apertures or openings **1006A**, **1008A** and distal apertures or openings **1010A**, **1012A**. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the passages **1002A**, **1004A** of outer core **1000A** can have cross-sectional areas which increase from the proximal apertures **1006A**, **1008A** to the distal apertures **1010A**, **1012A**. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, each passage **1002A**, **1004A** can have a diameter which increases from the proximal end to the distal end. These passages **1002A**, **1004A** can have equivalent degrees of taper throughout its length as shown in the Fig. 10A. As shown in Fig. 10B, the outer core **1000B** can have two passages **1002B**, **1004B** having a greater degree of taper than those of passages **1002A**, **1004A**. In other embodiments, such as outer core **1000C** shown in Fig. 10C, outer core **1000C** can have a first passage **1002C** with a lesser degree of taper compared to a second passage **1004C**.

[0256] Such an “expanding taper” passage design can be implemented, for example, when an exit aperture or opening of a passage has a larger cross-sectional area than an exit aperture or opening of a passage (or diameters in the case of circular apertures). Barring pressure and/or velocity losses that can occur as fluid flows through the passage, the expanding taper design can advantageously decrease the pressure and/or velocity of fluids discharged from the syringe tip. Other configurations are also possible with greater or lesser degrees of taper. The greater the degree of taper, the greater the potential decrease in pressure and/or velocity. Additionally, in some embodiments, the cross-sectional area of proximal and/or distal apertures of a first passage may not be equivalent to the cross-sectional areas of the proximal and/or distal apertures of a second passage similar to that shown in outer core **800B** of Fig. 8B.

[0257] The no-taper, narrowing taper, and expanding taper designs can be combined as part of a single outer core. As shown in Fig. 11A, the outer core **1100A** can have both a no-taper passage **1102A** and a narrowing taper passage **1104A**. As shown in Fig. 11B, the outer core **1100B** can have both a no-taper passage **1102B** and an expanding taper

passage **1104B**. In some embodiments, the outer core can have both a narrowing taper passage and an expanding taper passage (not shown). In embodiments having more than two passages, any combination of the above taper designs and shapes can be incorporated into a single outer core.

[0258] In some embodiments, the passage can have “staged” tapering design. Figures 12A, 12B, 13A and 13B illustrate embodiments of outer cores having passages with different cross-sectional shapes and areas along different portions or “stages” of the passage. As shown in Fig. 12A, the outer core **1200A** can have a passage **1202A** having a proximal aperture or opening **1204A** and a distal aperture or opening **1206A**. During a first stage or portion **1208A** of the passage **1202A**, the passage can have a no-taper design. During a second stage or portion **1210A** of the passage **1202A**, the passage can have a narrowing taper design. Greater or fewer stages can be used depending on the design requirements. For example, as shown in Fig. 12B, the outer core **1200B** can have a passage **1202B** having a proximal aperture or opening **1204B** and a distal aperture or opening **1206B**. During a first stage **1208B** of the passage **1202B**, the passage can have a no-taper design. During a second stage **1210B** of the passage **1202B**, the passage can have a narrowing taper design. During a third stage **1212B** of the passage **1202B**, the passage can have a no-taper design. The outer cores **1300A** and **1300B** of Figs. 13A and 13B are similar to the outer cores **1200A** and **1200B** of Figs. 12A and 12B with expanding taper stages **1302A**, **1304B** and no-taper stages **1304A**, **1302B**, **1306B**. In other embodiments, narrowing taper stages can be used with expanding taper stages in any combination. Furthermore, any stage can be a no-taper, narrowing taper, or expanding taper design.

[0259] It should be noted that in the illustrated embodiments, the overall shape of the outer surface of the outer core remains the same with the wall thickness, the distance between the outer surface of the outer core to the surface of the passage, changing to modify the taper or shape of the passages. This can advantageously simplify the manufacturing process. In other embodiments, the outer core can have an outer surface which changes with the shape of the passages. For example, in some embodiments, the outer core can have a constant wall thickness such that, for narrowing taper passages, the outer surface of the outer core correspondingly has a narrowing taper shape or for expanding taper passages, the outer surface of the outer core can correspondingly have an expanding taper shape. Such a design

can be advantageous in that it can reduce material usage. Furthermore, although the illustrations show linear tapers (i.e., tapers which increase at a constant rate), the outer cores can have non-linear tapers.

Sub-Passages

[0260] In some embodiments, the outer core can have passages which subsequently split into multiple sub-passages. Figures 14A, 14B, 14C and 14D illustrate embodiments of outer cores having passages which split into multiple sub-passages. As shown in Fig. 14A, the outer core **1400A** can have two passages **1402A**, **1404A** with passage **1402A** splitting into two sub-passages **1406A**, **1408A** at a location between the proximal end and distal end of the outer core **1400A**. As shown in Fig. 14B, the outer core **1400A** can have two distal apertures or openings **1410A**, **1412A** in fluid communication with the first passage **1402A** via sub passages **1406A**, **1408A** and a single distal aperture or opening **1414A** in fluid communication with the second passage **1404A**. In some embodiments, the passages can split into more than two sub-passages. For example, as shown in Fig. 14C, the outer core **1400C** can have a four apertures, **1402C**, **1404C**, **1406C**, **1408C** in fluid communication with a single passage such as **1402A** via four sub-passages. In some embodiments, both passages, such as passages **1402A**, **1404Ab**, can split into multiple passages. For example, as shown in Fig. 14D, the outer core **1400D** can have four apertures **1402D**, **1404D**, **1406D**, **1408D** in fluid communication with a first passage such as passage **1402A** and two apertures **1410D**, **1412D** in fluid communication with a second passage such as passage **1404A**.

[0261] The bottom grouping of apertures need not be restricted to a bottom passage and the top grouping of apertures need not be restricted to a top passage. In some embodiments, the bottom passage can have some or all apertures located in the top grouping of apertures and the top passage can have some or all apertures located in the bottom grouping of apertures. Furthermore, the feature of passages splitting into multiple sub-passages can be applied to outer cores having any number of passages and, as will be discussed below, passages of inner cores.

Retention Features

[0262] In some embodiments, the outer core can have retention features designed to positively engage with corresponding retention features located on other components such as inner cores, tip modifiers, adaptors, additional fluid conduits, storage devices and any other attachable component. Moreover, as will be discussed in greater detail below, such retention features can be used to connect outer core sub-components together.

[0263] As will be discussed in further detail below, retention features can include threading, clip mechanisms and other snap-lock type mechanisms, ribs, “harpoons” or angled ridges, pinned closures, bayonet mounts and other types of twist locking mechanisms, fins, dimples, magnets, hook-and-loop fasteners such as Velcro, one-way ratchet mechanisms such as zip-ties, adhesives such as a peel-and-stick adhesive, and other retention features known in the syringe tip art, or a combination of the above. In some embodiments, the retention feature can include movable components such as hinges with snap or pin closures as shown in Figures 94, 95, and 96, sliding sheaths, and similar retention features with movable components. In some embodiments, the outer core can be connected to other attachable components via mechanisms such as friction fits, press fits, and/or interference fits. In some embodiments, the retention features can include a combination of the above-mentioned features.

[0264] Furthermore, as will be discussed in further detail below, retention features can be placed at various locations of the outer cores such as a distal portion, a proximal portion, and any other location. Such retention features can also be placed along different surfaces such as the interior or inner surfaces and/or the exterior or outer surfaces.

[0265] As shown in Figures 15A–J, the outer cores **1500A–1500J** can have one or more threaded retention features at one or more locations on the interior or inner surfaces of the no-taper passages of outer cores **1500A–1500J**. As shown in Fig. 15A, the outer core **1500A** can have two no-taper passages **1502A**, **1504A** with passage **1504A** having a threaded retention feature **1506A** located proximate or near the proximal end of the passage **1504A**. As shown in Fig. 15B, the outer core **1500A** can have two no-taper passages **1502B**, **1504B** with both passages **1502B**, **1504B** having threaded retention features **1506A**, **1508B** located proximate or near the proximal ends of the passages **1502B**, **1504B**. In some

embodiments, the threaded retention features **1502C**, **1502D**, **1504D**, **1502E**, **1502F**, **1504F** can be located at a position between the proximal and distal ends of one or more no-taper passages (Figs. 15C and 15D) or at a position proximate or near the distal ends of one or more no-taper passages (Figs. 15E and 15F). In some embodiments, as illustrated in Figs. 15G–J, the outer cores **1500G**, **1500H**, **1500I**, **1500J** can have two or more threaded retention features **1502G**, **1504G**, **1502H**, **1504H**, **1506H**, **1508H**, **1502I**, **1504I**, **1506I**, **1502J**, **1504J**, **1506J** along the same passage or different passages. As should be apparent, the retention features as herein discussed can be located at any position within the passage. For example, the threaded retention features can be located at a position seven-eighths the length of the passage from the proximal end, three-quarters the length of the passage from the proximal end, two-thirds the length of the passage from the proximal end, one-half the length of the passage from the proximal end, three-eighths the length of the passage from the proximal end, one-third the length of the passage from the proximal end, one-fourth the length of the passage from the proximal end, one-eighth the length of the passage from the proximal end, any length between these, or any other length.

[0266] As shown in Figures 16A–F, the outer cores **1600A**–**1600F** can have one or more threaded retention features at one or more locations on the interior surfaces of the narrowing taper passages of the outer cores **1600A**–**1600F**. As shown in Fig. 16A, the outer core **1600A** can have two narrowing taper passages **1602A**, **1604A** with passage **1604A** having a threaded retention feature **1606A** located proximate or near the proximal end of the passage **1604A**. As shown in Fig. 16B, the outer core **1600A** can have two narrowing taper passages **1602B**, **1604B** with both passages **1602B**, **1604B** having threaded retention features **1606A**, **1608B** located proximate or near the proximal ends of the passages **1602B**, **1604B**. In some embodiments, the threaded retention features **1602C**, **1602D**, **1604D** can be located at a position between the proximal and distal ends of one or more no-taper passages (Figs. 16C and 16D) or at a position proximate the distal ends of one or more no-taper passages (not shown). In some embodiments, as illustrated in Figs. 16E and 16F, the outer cores **1600E**, **1600F** can have two or more threaded retention features, **1602E**, **1604E**, **1602F**, **1604F**, **1606F**, **1608F** along the same passage. As should be apparent and as discussed above in connection with Figures 15A–J, the retention features as herein discussed can be located at any position within the narrowing taper passages.

[0267] As shown in Figures 17A–D, the outer cores **1700A–1700D** can have one or more threaded retention features at one or more locations on the interior surfaces of the expanding taper passages of the outer cores **1700A–1700D**. As shown in Fig. 17A, the outer core **1700A** can have two expanding taper passages **1702A**, **1704A** with passage **1704A** having a threaded retention feature **1706A** located proximate or near the proximal end of the passage **1704A**. As shown in Fig. 17B, the outer core **1700A** can have two expanding taper passages **1702B**, **1704B** with both passages **1702B**, **1704B** having threaded retention features **1706A**, **1708B** located proximate or near the proximal ends of the passages **1702B**, **1704B**. In some embodiments, as illustrated in Figs. 16C and 16D, the outer cores **1700D**, **1700D** can have two or more threaded retention features, **1702C**, **1704C**, **1702D**, **1704D**, **1706D**, **1708D** along the same passage. As should be apparent and as discussed above in connection with Figures 15A–J, the retention features as herein discussed can be located at any position within the expanding taper passages.

[0268] While certain positions are illustrated in Figs. 15A–J, 16A–F, and 17A–D, it should be apparent that any number of retention features, such as threaded retention features, can be used for a single outer core and can be placed at any location along an inner surface of one or more no-taper, narrowing taper, and/or expanding taper passages. In some embodiments, the threaded retention feature, and any other retention feature herein discussed, can be located at a position seven-eighths the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, three-fourths the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, two-thirds the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, one-half the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, three-eighths the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, one-third the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, one-fourth the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, one-eighth the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, any length between these, or any other length. Additionally, the threaded retention features, or any retention feature, can be located on exterior surfaces of the outer cores. Furthermore, the threaded retention features can be of any length. In some embodiments, the length can range from approximately 0.1cm to approximately 10cm, from approximately 0.5cm to approximately 5cm, from approximately 1 cm to approximately 2cm, or any other length. In

some embodiments, longer threaded retention features can be used to reduce the potential of accidental breakage or removal of an attached component.

[0269] As shown in Figures 18A–J, the outer cores **1800A–1800J** can have one or more clip mechanism retention features **1802A, 1802B, 1804B, 1802C, 1802D, 1804D, 1802E, 1802F, 1804F, 1802G, 1804G, 1802H, 1804H, 1806H, 1808H, 1802I, 1804I, 1806I, 1802J, 1804J, 1806J** at one or more locations on the interior or inner surfaces of the no-taper passages of outer cores **1800A–1800J**. As shown in Figures 19A–F, the outer cores **1900A–1900F** can have one or more clip mechanism retention features **1902A, 1902B, 1904B, 1902C, 1902D, 1904D, 1902E, 1902F, 1904F, 1906F, 1908F** at one or more locations on the interior or inner surfaces of the narrowing taper passages of the outer cores **1900A–1900F**. As shown in Figures 20A–D, the outer cores **2000A–2000D** can have one or more clip mechanism retention features **2002A, 2002B, 2004B, 2002C, 2004C, 2002D, 2004D, 2006D, 2008D** at one or more locations on the interior or inner surfaces of the expanding taper passages of the outer cores **2000A–2000D**. As illustrated in the above figures, the clip mechanism retention feature can be an annular slot designed to engage a corresponding clip mechanism retention feature of another component. This corresponding clip mechanism retention feature can be, for example, an annular protrusion, ramps, or similar features configured to engage an annular slot. Illustrations of such corresponding retention mechanisms will be discussed in connection with inner cores below. In some embodiments, the clip mechanism retention feature can be an annular protrusion, wings, ramps, or similar features designed to engage with an annular slot of another component. Furthermore, in some embodiments, the clip mechanism retention feature can utilize non-annular features such as triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons, any other polygon, and other types of shapes.

[0270] For purposes of brevity, it should be noted that Figs. 18A–J illustrate clip mechanism retention mechanisms **1802A, 1802B, 1804B, 1802C, 1802D, 1804D, 1802E, 1802F, 1804F, 1802G, 1804G, 1802H, 1804H, 1806H, 1808H, 1802I, 1804I, 1806I, 1802J, 1804J, 1806J** in locations similar to the locations of threaded retention mechanisms illustrated in Figs. 15A–J, that Figs. 19A–F illustrate clip mechanism retention mechanisms **1902A, 1902B, 1904B, 1902C, 1902D, 1904D, 1902E, 1902F, 1904F, 1906F, 1908F** in locations similar to the locations of threaded retention mechanisms illustrated in Figs. 16A–

F, and that Figs. 20A–D illustrate clip mechanism retention mechanisms **2002A**, **2002B**, **2004B**, **2002C**, **2004C**, **2002D**, **2004D**, **2006D**, **2008D** in locations similar to the locations of threaded retention mechanisms illustrated in Figs. 17A–D.

[0271] As with the discussion of the threaded retention mechanisms above, it should be apparent that any number of retention features, such as clip mechanism retention features, can be used for a single outer core and can be placed at any location along an inner surface of one or more no-taper, narrowing taper, and/or expanding taper passages. In some embodiments, the clip mechanism retention feature can be located at a position seven-eighths the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, three-fourths the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, two-thirds the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, one-half the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, three-eighths the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, one-third the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, one-fourth the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, one-eighth the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, any length between these, or any other length. Additionally, clip mechanism retention features can be located on exterior surfaces of the outer cores. For example, the outer core can have recesses located on an outer surface for receiving a wing or clip on a carrier (as will be discussed in greater detail in connection with Figures 73A–75D).

[0272] Furthermore, different types of retention features can be included within the same outer core and/or within the same passage of an outer core. For example, one passage can include a threaded retention feature and clip mechanism retention feature and a second passage can include a bayonet mount retention feature.

[0273] In some embodiments, the threading of the outer cores can have injectable threading design such as injectable threading **2102A**, **2102B**, **2104B**, **2202A**, **2202B**, **2204B**, **2202C**, **2202D**, **2204D**, **2302A**, **2302B**, **2304B**, **2402A**, **2402B** which can be used in connection with any of the tapering passages.

[0274] As shown in Figure 94–96, the outer core **9400** can have a hinged retention feature **9402** with a first portion **9404** and a second, attachment portion **9406**. The first portion **9404** can be attached to the attachment portion **9406** via a hinge such as the living hinge **9408** illustrated in Fig. 96. Other types of hinges, such pin hinges, can also be used. The first portion **9404** can have a closure feature **9410**, such as a pin, for attachment to

a corresponding receiving feature 9412 on the attachment portion 9406. The hinged retention feature 9402 can have an aperture 9414 which can be used to receive a portion of the component to be connected to outer core 9400. The aperture 9414 can be sized to be about equal to the size of the component to be connected to the outer core 9400 to provide a snug fit. In some embodiments, the aperture 9414 can be sized to be smaller than the component such that an interference fit is formed. In some embodiments, the inner surface of the hinged retention feature 9402 can include retention features as herein discussed such as threading, clips, adhesives and the like.

[0275] As shown in Figures 97-99B, the outer cores 9700-9900 can have one or more retention features at one or more locations on the exterior or outer surfaces of the outer cores 9700-9900. As shown in Fig. 97, the outer core 9700 can have a ribbed retention feature 9702 located proximate or near the proximal end 9704 of the outer core 9700. The ribbed retention feature 9702 can include a series of ridges and valleys circumscribing the outer core extending across part of or the entirety of the outer core 9700. In the illustrated embodiment, the ribbed retention feature 9702 partially extends from the proximal end of the outer core towards the distal end. As discussed above with respect to other retention features, the ribbed retention feature 9702 can be placed at any location along the length of the outer core 9700.

[0276] In some embodiments, the ribbed retention feature, and any other retention feature herein discussed, can be located at a position seven-eighths the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, three-fourths the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, two-thirds the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, one-half the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, three-eighths the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, one-third the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, one-fourth the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, one-eighth the length of the passage from the proximal end of the passage, any length between these, or any other length. Additionally, the ribbed retention features, or any retention feature, can be located on interior surfaces of the outer cores. Furthermore, the ribbed retention features can be of any length. In some embodiments, the length can range from approximately 0.1cm to approximately 10cm, from

approximately 0.5cm to approximately 5cm, from approximately 1 cm to approximately 2cm, or any other length.

[0277] As shown in Figs. 98A and 98B, the outer core **9800** can have a finned retention feature **9802** located proximate or near the proximal end **9804** of the outer core **9800**. The finned retention feature **9802** can include one or more fins or protrusions extending in a longitudinal direction across part of or the entirety of the outer core **9800**. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, four fins partially extend from the proximal end **9804** of the outer core towards the distal end. As discussed above with respect to other retention features, the finned retention feature **9802** can be placed at any location along the length of the outer core **9800**. Additionally, the finned retention feature **9902**, or any retention feature, can be located on interior surfaces of the outer core **9900** as shown in Figures 99A and 99B. Furthermore, the finned retention features can be of any length and can have different cross-sectional shapes such as dovetails and the like. The fins can also include other retention features, such as snap fittings. Furthermore, the fins can extend in a non-longitudinal direction.

[0278] As shown in Fig. 100, the outer core **10000** can have a harpoon retention feature **10002** located proximate or near the proximal end **10004** of the outer core **10000**. The harpoon retention feature **10002** can include one or more angled ridges **10006** extending across part of or the entirety of the outer core **10000**. The angled ridges **10006** can allow relatively unhindered movement of two components in one direction **10008** while hindering or impeding movement of the two components in a second direction **10010**. For example, these angled ridges **10006** can allow two components to be inserted together with relative ease but render it difficult to remove the two components. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the angled ridges partially extend from the proximal end **10004** of the outer core **10000** towards the distal end **10012**. As discussed above with respect to other retention features, the harpoon retention feature **10002** can be placed at any location along the length of the outer core **10000**. The harpoon retention feature, as with any retention feature as herein discussed, can be located on interior surfaces of the outer cores. Furthermore, the harpoon retention features can be of any length.

[0279] In some embodiments, the retention features can be included on the outer core after the outer core has been manufactured. This can allow for use of different retention

features with different outer cores. For example, as shown in Figures 101A–101B, the retention feature **10100** can be separate from the outer core **10102** of the dental syringe tip. In some embodiments, the retention feature **10100** can be attached to the outer core **10102** using any of the retention features and interlock features as herein described. For example, the retention feature **10100** can be screwed onto threading existing on the outer core **10102**, snapped into a snap fitting on the outer core **10102** or attached with adhesives or magnets. Furthermore, as shown in Fig. 101A–101B, in some embodiments, the retention feature **10100** can fit onto a recessed portion **10104** of the outer core **10102**. In some embodiments, the retention feature **10100** can be press fit onto the outer core **10102**.

[0280] It should be noted that although only exterior retention features are discussed as being attachable, interior retention features can also be separate from the outer core after the outer core has been manufactured. Accordingly, retention features along the interior surface can also be designed to be attached to the outer core using the same mechanisms as herein discussed. Of course, it should be noted that in some embodiments, the retention feature is integrated onto the component such that the retention feature is not separate from the component.

[0281] It should also be noted that these features can be applied to other components as herein discussed such as the inner core and carrier.

Connectors

[0282] In some embodiments, syringe tips can have connectors, with passages, located at various positions on the outer core. For example, as shown in Figs. 1A–3C, syringe tips can have connectors, such as connectors **144**, **145**, **206**, **207**, **306**, **307**, located on a proximal end of the syringe tip. As will be described in detail below, connectors can also be located on any other part of the syringe tip such as top, bottom, and lateral surfaces of the syringe tip. Connectors can also be located on a distal end of the syringe tip. Connectors can be designed to connect or operably couple the outer core, and the syringe tip generally, to other components. For example, connectors can be used to connect the syringe tip to an adaptor or a syringe device such that the syringe tip is in fluid communication with these devices. Connectors can be designed to connect to other storage or flow devices housing

fluids or substrates. Connection to such storage or flow devices can advantageously provide greater options for a dental practitioner who can potentially supplement the fluids from the dental syringe with less commonly used fluids or substrates used for the dental procedure. For example, such fluids can include anesthetics, disinfectants, abrasive materials, gels, whiteners, mouthwash, sealants, lidocaine, or any other fluid, substrate, or other material used by dental practitioners or described herein.

[0283] The shapes of the connectors can vary, for example, to ensure that the syringe tip is properly connected to the appropriate ports of a dental syringe. In some embodiments, the shape can be a circle, an oval, a square, a triangle, or any other geometric and non-geometric shape. The connectors can have retention features, such as those described herein, designed to engage corresponding retention features located on attachable components. Such retention features can be separate from or integrated onto the connector. Figures 25A–F and 26A–C illustrate various embodiments of connectors having varying shapes and retention features. As shown in Fig. 25A, in some embodiments, the connector **2500A** can have a threaded retention feature **2502A** extending partially from a connecting end **2504A** towards the opposite end. In some embodiments, the threaded retention feature **2502A** can extend entirely towards the opposite end. In some embodiments, and as shown in Fig. 25B, the connector **2500B** can have a threaded retention feature **2502B** extending from a beveled connecting edge **2504B** towards the opposite end. In some embodiments, such as shown in Fig. 25C, no retention features can be used on the connector. Other types of retention features such as clip mechanisms (ramps **2502D** and annular slots **2502E**), protrusions **2502F** for a bayonet mount, and any other retention mechanism can be used. Figs 26A–C illustrate embodiments of connectors **2600A–C** having a tapered shaped. As with the connectors **2500A–F** described above, connectors **2600A–C** can have various retention mechanisms, such as ramps **2602B** and annular slots **2602C**, located on its exterior surface. In some embodiments, retention features can be placed along an inner surface of the passages of connectors.

[0284] Figures 27A–H illustrate various placements of connectors on an outer core. As shown in Fig. 27A, in some embodiments, the outer core **2700A** can have two passages **2702A**, **2704A** and a connector **2706A** along a bottom surface **2708A** of the outer core **2700A**. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the connector **2706A** can be located

towards a distal end of the outer core **2700A**. The connector **2706A** can be in fluid communication with the passage **2704A**. This can advantageously allow fluids or other materials entering through connector **2706A** to mix with other fluids passing through passage **2704A**. As shown in Fig. 27B, in some embodiments, the outer core **2700B** can have two passages **2702B**, **2704B** and two connectors **2706B**, **2708B**. Connector **2706B** can be located along a top surface **2710B** of the outer core **2700B** and be in fluid communication with passage **2702B** and connector **2704B** can be located along a bottom surface **2712B** of the outer core **2700B**. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the connectors **2706B**, **2708B** can be located towards a distal end of the outer core **2700B**.

[0285] In some embodiments, such as those illustrated in Figs. 27C and 27D, connectors **2702C**, **2702D**, **2704D** can be located towards a proximal end of the outer cores **2700C**, **2700D**. Furthermore, in some embodiments, such as those illustrated in Figs. 27E and 27F, the outer cores **2700E**, **2700F** can have multiple connectors **2702E**, **2704E**, **2702F**, **2704F**, **2706F**, **2708F** located along the same passage. As should be made apparent by these figures, connectors can be located at any position along the length of the outer core. Furthermore, in embodiments having connectors in fluid communication with both passages, the connectors **2702G**, **2704G**, **2702H**, **2704H** need not be located near the same end as illustrated in Figs. 26G and 26H.

[0286] In some embodiments, connectors can be used with outer cores having retention features. For purposes of brevity, it should be noted that Figs. 28A–J illustrate embodiments of various connector configurations on an outer core having no-taper passages with threaded retention features, similar to the embodiments discussed in connection with Figs. 15A–J and that Figs. 29A–J illustrate embodiments of various connector configurations on an outer core having no-taper passages with clip mechanism retention features, similar to the embodiments discussed in connection with Figs. 18A–J.

[0287] Furthermore, in some embodiments, connectors can be used with outer cores having tapered passages, such as narrowing taper passages and expanding taper passages, with or without retention features. For purposes of brevity, it should be noted that Figs. 30A–I illustrate embodiments of various connector configurations for an outer core having narrowing taper passages, similar to the embodiments discussed in connection with Figs. 9A–C, and that Figs. 31A–C illustrate embodiments of various connector

configurations on an outer core having expanding taper passages, similar to the embodiments discussed in connection with Figs. 10A–10C. Additionally, Figs. 32A–H illustrate embodiments of various connector configurations on an outer core having narrowing taper passages with threaded retention features, similar to embodiments discussed in connection with Figs. 16A–F, and that Figs. 33A–H illustrate embodiments of various connector configurations for an outer core having narrowing taper passages with clip mechanism retention features, similar to embodiments discussed in connection with Figs. 19A–F. As should be made apparent by these multiple combinations of various features illustrated in these figures, any and all of the features herein can be combined.

[0288] Connectors need not be limited to placement on proximal ends, distal ends, top surfaces, or bottom surfaces of the outer core. In some embodiments, such as that illustrated in Figure 34A, the outer core 3400A can include a connector 3402A located along a lateral surface 3404A, that is, a surface between the top surface 3406A and bottom surface 3408A, of the outer core 3400A. Furthermore, the connector need not be attached at a right angle as shown in the previously described figures. For example, as shown in Figures 34B and 34C, in some embodiments the connector 3402B can be angled towards a proximal end 3404B while in some embodiments the connector 3402C can be angled away from a proximal end 3404C.

[0289] The degree of angling of the connector can be based upon flow requirements and other design considerations. For example, angling the connector towards a proximal end can reduce the likelihood that fluid flowing from a proximal end to a distal end of the outer core will divert into the connector's passage. Additionally, angling the connector towards a proximal end can reduce the likelihood that fluid entering into the passage from the connector will flow towards a proximal end. This can potentially reduce the amount of cross-contamination between two potentially different fluid flows. Conversely, angling the connector away from a proximal end can increase the likelihood that fluid flowing from a proximal end to a distal end of the outer core will divert into the connector's passage. Additionally, angling the connector away from a proximal end can increase the likelihood that fluid entering into the passage from the connector will flow towards a proximal end. This can be particularly advantageous in situations where it is desired that some amount of fluid flows from the proximal end into the connector or if significant mixing

of the potentially two fluid flows is desired. In some embodiments, the angling of the connector, as measured from the surface normal, can range between approximately 0 degrees to approximately 80 degrees in any direction, between approximately 20 degrees to approximately 60 degrees in any direction, and between approximately 30 degrees to approximately 45 degrees in any direction, any angle within these ranges, and any other angle.

[0290] In some embodiments, the outer core can include partial passages which do not run through the length of the outer core. These partial passages can be in fluid communication with a connector located at some position on the outer core. For example, as illustrated in Figure 35A, in some embodiments the outer core **3500A** can have a partial passage **3502A** in fluid communication with connector **3504A**. As illustrated in Figure 35B, in some embodiments the outer core **3500B** can have two partial passages **3502B**, **3504B** in fluid communication with connectors **3506B**, **3508B** respectively. This two partial passage design can be advantageous in designs where it is desired that fluid flowing from a proximal end to a distal end of the outer core is diverted outwards. For example, a filter can be connected to connectors **3506B**, **3508B**.

[0291] In some embodiments, as discussed above, the connector can be located on a proximal end as shown in Figs. 36A, 36B, 37A, 37B, 38A, and 38B with an outer core having various tapering configurations and retention features.

Connection of Outer Cores / Interlock Features

[0292] In some embodiments, the outer core can have interlock features so that multiple outer cores can be combined. The outer core can have one or more interlock features to allow the outer core to be connected to one or more outer cores. As illustrated in Figures 39A and 39B, the outer core **3900** can have an interlock feature **3902** along its bottom surface **3904** and outer core **3906** can have a corresponding interlock feature **3908** along its top surface **3910**. As shown more clearly in Fig. 39B, the interlock feature **3902** can have a female dovetail shape designed to interlock with a male dovetail shape of interlock feature **3908**. While the interlock feature **3902** extends longitudinally along the length of the outer core **3900**, in some embodiments, the interlock feature **3902** can extend in

other directions. For example, as shown in Figure 102, in some embodiments, the outer core **10200** can have an interlock feature **10202** which extends transversely (i.e., side-to-side) and the outer core **10204** can have corresponding interlock features **10206** such that the outer core **10200** can be connected by transversely sliding the outer core **10200** with another outer core having a corresponding connector. In some embodiments, the interlock features, such as interlock features **3902**, **3908**, **10202**, **10206**, can extend partially across surfaces of the outer core. In some embodiments, this can inhibit further translation of one outer surface with respect to the other.

[0293] In other embodiments, such as that illustrated in Figures 40A and 40B, the outer core **4000** can have an interlock feature **4002** with multiple recesses along its bottom surface **4004** and outer core **4006** can have a corresponding interlock feature **4008** with multiple protrusions along its top surface **4010**. These protrusions of interlock feature **4002** can be designed to fit within the recesses of interlock feature **4008** via, for example, a dowel-fit or press fit. Other types of interlock features can also be used. Furthermore, interlock features can be placed along other surfaces of the outer core such as lateral surfaces.

[0294] As illustrated in Figure 103, the outer core **10300** can have more than one interlock feature, such as interlock features **10302**, **10304**, **10306**, **10308**, to allow for connection in multiple orientations or connection to one or more outer cores. The multiple interlock features can be of the same type or can be of different types. As illustrated in Figure 103, multiple types of interlock features **10302**, **10304**, **10306**, **10308** such as a female dovetail **10302**, a snap fitting **10304**, a pin or dowel **10306** and a male dovetail **10308**, are included on a single outer core **10300**. This can be used to ensure that only certain combinations of outer cores are attached together.

[0295] In some embodiments, the interlock features can be designed to allow the components to be locked in place such that removal is difficult and/or can cause the components to no longer be connectable. For example, the interlock features can be designed to deform upon being connected for the first time or can have certain geometries which render removal difficult, such as a V-shape which locks or clips in upon attachment. In some embodiments, the interlock features herein described can be designed to allow the components to be easily disconnected and reconnected.

[0296] In some embodiments, magnets and/or hook-and-loop fasteners such as Velcro can be used to connect outer cores together. In some embodiments, no interlock features are present and the two or more outer cores can be attached via other attachment mechanisms such as adhesives, welding, or the like. For example, a peel-and-stick adhesive can be used as described above.

[0297] In some embodiments, outer cores having different tapering, such as no-taper, narrowing tapers, and expanding tapers, can be attached together such as illustrated with outer cores 4100A, 4102A, 4100B, 4102B, 4200, 4202, 4300, 4302, 4400, 4402 in Figures 41A–44. Furthermore, in some embodiments, outer cores having two or more passages can also have interlock features. For example, as shown in Figure 45, an outer core 4500 having two passages can have an interlock feature 4502 for attaching the outer core 4500 to a second outer core 4504 having an interlock feature 4506.

[0298] In some embodiments, such as is illustrated in Figure 104, a first outer core 10400 can have an interlock features 10402 having passages 10404 and a second outer core 10406 can have corresponding interlock features 10408 having apertures 10410. The passages 10404 and apertures 10410 can allow fluid communication between passages 10412, 10414 of the first and second outer cores 10400, 10406. In some embodiments, only certain portions of the interlock feature can have such passages.

[0299] In some embodiments, as shown in Figure 105, the outer core can be manufactured in a helical, serpentine, or similar shape. This can advantageously allow multiple outer cores and/or inner cores to be connected together. For example, as shown in Fig. 105, two helical outer cores 10500, 10502 can be combined into a double helix. As should be apparent, more than two outer cores and/or inner cores can be connected together in this way.

Coatings

[0300] In some embodiments, the outer core can also include coatings such as latex, silicon, wax, paraffin, carbon-coated spider silk, adhesives and other similar coatings which can enhance the retention and the seal between attached components. The coatings can have anti-microbial or hydrophobic properties. Furthermore, as will be discussed in

further detail below, such coatings can also provide an indication as to whether the outer core has been used before. Such coatings can be placed on part of the outer core, such as the coating **10600** placed on outer core **10602** as shown in Figure 106, or the entirety of the outer core. In some embodiments, such coatings can be placed on part of or the entirety of the retention feature, connectors, and/or interlock features. Such coatings can also be used on the inner cores and/or the carriers which will be discussed below in greater detail.

Inner Cores

[0301] The inner core can be designed to be placed within at least a portion of the outer core. As such, in some embodiments, the inner core can have a cross-sectional shape that matches that of the outer core. In some embodiments, the inner core can have a circular cross-sectional shape. In some embodiments, the inner core can have a non-circular cross-sectional shape, such as an oval, or similar shape, rectangle, square, pentagon, hexagon, or other polygonal shape. In some embodiments, the inner core can include some or all of the following features.

Wall Thickness & Passage Design

[0302] In some embodiments, the inner core can be designed to fit at least partially within a passage of the outer core. Accordingly, the inner core can have an elongate body correspondingly shaped to be received within a passage and a passage running therethrough similar to the passages described with respect to the outer cores above.

[0303] For example, as shown in Figure 46, in some embodiments an inner core **4600** can have an elongate body **4602** with a constant cross-sectional shape and diameter (i.e., a “no-taper” elongate body). In some embodiments, the no-taper elongate body of the inner core can be sized to be received within a no-taper passage of an outer core. In some embodiments, the inner core **4600** can have a constant wall thickness throughout its length such that the passage **4606** generally has a cross-sectional shape which follows that of the outer surface **4604**. In some embodiments, such as shown in Figures 47A and 48A, the inner cores **4700A**, **4700B** can have a variable wall thickness throughout its length such that the

passages **4706A**, **4706B** have cross-sectional shapes and tapers which can differ from the cross-sectional shapes and tapers of the elongate bodies **4702A**, **4702B** of the inner cores **4700A**, **4700B**. This can advantageously allow the inner core to be used to modify the discharge pattern and/or discharge pressure of the syringe tip.

[0304] As shown in Figure 48, in some embodiments, the inner core **4800** can have an elongate body **4802** with a decreasing cross-sectional shape and diameter from its proximal end **4806** to its distal end **4808** (i.e., a “narrowing taper” elongate body). In some embodiments, the narrowing taper elongate body of the inner core can be sized to be received within a narrowing taper passage of an outer core. In some embodiments, the narrowing taper inner core can have a constant wall thickness such that the passage **4810** generally has a cross-sectional shape which follows that of the outer surface **4804**. In some embodiments, such as shown in Figure 49, the inner core **4900** can have a variable wall thickness throughout its length. As such, the inner core **4900** can have a no-taper passage **4902** or a passage with a different taper. As should be apparent, an inner core can have an elongate body with an increasing cross-sectional shape and diameter from its proximal end to its distal end (i.e., an “expanding taper” elongate body). Additionally, in some embodiments, the tapering of the elongate body can be staged to be received within a staged passage such as those discussed in connection with Figs. 12A–B and 13A–B. Other cross-sectional shapes and sizes can also be used.

[0305] Furthermore, in some embodiments, similar to the outer cores, the inner cores can have passages with staged tapering as described with respect to Figs. 12A, 12B, 13A, and 13B. In some embodiments, similar to the outer cores, the inner cores can have passages which separate into multiple sub passages such as described with respect to Figs. 14A–D. In some embodiments, the inner core can have additional openings which can correspond to connectors described in connection with Figs. 25A–38B. In some embodiments, the inner core can have connectors similar to those on the outer core. In some embodiments, the inner core can be designed to block certain of the connectors to prevent flow into and out of certain of the connectors.

Channeled Passages

[0306] In some embodiments, the inner cores can have one or more grooves or channels located along the outer surface of the inner core. These grooves or channels can form a passage or passages when the inner core is placed into an outer core. This can advantageously facilitate the introduction of fluids into the syringe tip from locations other than the ends of the syringe tip. For example, these passages can be in fluid communication with connectors located on lateral surfaces of the outer core such as those described above.

[0307] As illustrated in Figures 107A and 107B, the inner core **10700** can have a first channel **10702** formed on an outer surface **10704** of the inner core **10700**. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, the first channel **10702** can spiral around the outer surfaces. Other channel designs, such as longitudinally extending or straight channels, can also be used. The inner core **10700** can also have a passage **10706** extending through the inner core **10700**. When the inner core **10700** is inserted into the outer core **10708**, the outer surface **10704** of the inner core **10700** can be designed to sealingly contact the inner surface of the outer core **10708** such that fluid passages are defined by the channel **10702** and the inner surface of the outer core **10708**. Accordingly, the combination of the inner core **10700** with the outer core **10708** can advantageously result in a dental syringe tip with two fluid passages – one located through the center of the inner core **10700** and a second along the outer surface of the inner core **10700**. Fewer or greater numbers of fluid pathways can be created using this structure.

[0308] In some embodiments, similar to the sub-passages described above, the channels located on the outer surface can split into two or more sub-channels. Additionally, in some embodiments, two or more channels can combine to create a combined fluid flow. Furthermore, as illustrated in Figure 108, multiple channeled passages **10800**, **10802** can combine to form a single passage **10804**. This can advantageously permit combined fluid flows through a single channeled passage.

Retention Features

[0309] In some embodiments, the inner core can have an elongate body without any retention features. Such embodiments can be used, for example, with outer cores having no retention features. In these embodiments, the inner core can be retained within a passage

of the outer core, for example, via a frictional fit, adhesives, welding, or similar. Embodiments of such inner cores of varying lengths are illustrated in Figures 50A–54D.

[0310] As shown in Figs. 50A and 50B, the inner core **5000** can have a no-taper elongate body **5002** which can have beveled proximal and/or distal edges **5004**, **5006** designed to facilitate insertion into no-taper passages **5012A**, **5012B** of an outer core **5010**. As shown, the distal beveled edge **5002** can be placed flush with, or generally near, the distal end **5014** of the passages **5012A**, **5012B** of the outer core **5010** such that the inner core **5000** travels the full length of the passages **5012A**, **5012B**. Furthermore, a proximal portion **5008** of the inner core **5000** can project proximally from the proximal end **5016** of the passages **5012A**, **5012B**. This proximal portion **5008**, and any protruding portion of any of the inner cores described herein, can function similar to a connector and can have all of the features of the connector as described above with respect to Figs. 25A–F and 26A–C.

[0311] In some embodiments, as shown in Figs. 51A and 51B, 52A, and 42B, the inner cores **5100**, **5200** can be partial length such that it extends only partially into the passages of the outer cores **5110**, **5210**. In some embodiments, the inner core can be designed such that it is inserted into seventh-eighths the length of the passage, three-quarters the length of the passage, two-thirds the length of the passage, one-half the length of the passage, three-eighths the length of the passage, one-third the length of the passage, one-fourth the length of the passage, one-eighth the length of the passage, one sixteenth the length of the passage, or any other length of the passage. Partial length inner cores can be particularly advantageous in embodiments of the syringe tip in which the syringe tip is bent after assembly. Decreasing the length of the inner core can reduce the likelihood that the passage of the inner core can be pinched after the syringe tip is bent. Furthermore, in some embodiments, the inner core can be an extended length that is designed to protrude distal from the distal end of the outer core.

[0312] As shown in Figs. 53A and 53B, the inner core **5300** can have a narrowing taper elongate body **5302** which can have beveled proximal and/or distal edges **5304**, **5306** designed to facilitate insertion into no-taper passages **5312A**, **5312B** of an outer core **5310**. The inner core **5300** can be a full length inner core. As shown in Figs. 53C and 53D, the inner core **5300B** can have similar features to inner core **5300** but with an elongate body having a greater degree of taper. Furthermore as shown in Figs. 54A–D, in some

embodiments, the narrowing taper inner cores **5400**, **5400B** can be partial length and can have features similar to those no-taper elongate body, partial-length inner core embodiments described in connection with Figs. 51A-B and 52A-B.

[0313] In some embodiments, the inner core can have one or more retention features located at various positions. Such embodiments can be used, for example, with outer cores having corresponding retention features. For example, in some embodiments, the inner cores can have threaded retention features as shown in Figures 55A–61D.

[0314] As shown in Figs. 55A and 55B, the inner core **5500** can have a no-taper elongate body **5502** which can have beveled proximal and distal edges **5504**, **5506** designed to facilitate insertion into no-taper passages **5512A**, **5512B** of an outer core **5510**. As shown, the distal beveled edge **5502** can be placed flush with, or generally near, the distal end **5514** of the passages **5512A**, **5512B** of the outer core **5510** such that the inner core **5500** travels the full length of the passages **5512A**, **5512B**. Furthermore, a proximal portion **5508** of the inner core **5500** can project proximally from the proximal end **5516** of the passages **5512A**, **5512B**. This proximal portion **5508** can function similar to a connector and can have all of the features of the connector as described above with respect to Figs. 25A–F and 26A–C. The inner core can have a threaded retention feature **5509** located near the proximal portion **5508** configured to engage a corresponding threaded retention feature on the outer core **5510**. As shown in Figs. 56A–B and 57A–B, in some embodiments, partial length inner cores, **5600**, **5700** such as those described in connection with Figs. 51A–B and 52A–B, can have threaded retention features **5602**, **5702**. For purposes of brevity, it will simply be noted that the threaded, partial-length inner cores **5600**, **5700** can share features similar to those of partial-length inner cores **5100**, **5200**.

[0315] In some embodiments, the inner cores can have multiple retention features at various locations. As shown in Figs. 58A and 58B, the inner core **5800** which shares features similar to inner core **5500**, can have multiple threaded retention features **5802**, **5804** with one threaded retention feature **5802** located at a distal end and a threaded retention feature **5804** located near a proximal end. Multiple threaded designs can provide advantages such as and enhanced fit with reduced likelihood of disengagement of the inner core from the outer core.

[0316] In some embodiments, the distal end of an inner core can protrude distal from the distal end of the passage of the outer core in which the inner core is inserted. For example, as shown in Figs. 59A and 59B, the inner core **5900** can have a distal end **5902** which extends beyond the distal end **5912** of the outer core **5910**. In some embodiments, such as that shown in Fig. 59A, the inner core **5900** can have a threaded retention feature **5904** at the distal end **5902** and a threaded retention feature **5906** near a proximal end. Since the threaded retention feature **5904** extends beyond the outer core **5910**, the threaded retention feature **5904** can advantageously be used to securely attach other components, such as tip modifiers, to the inner core **5900**. As shown in Figs. 60A–D and 61A–D, in some embodiments, narrowing taper inner cores, **6000**, **6000B**, **6100**, **6100B**, such as those described in connection with Figs. 53A–D and 54A–D, can have threaded retention features **6002**, **6002B**, **6102**, **6102B**. For purposes of brevity, it should be noted that threaded, partial-length inner cores **6000**, **6000B**, **6100**, **6100B** can share features similar to those of partial-length inner cores **5300**, **5300B**, **5400**, **5400B**.

[0317] In some embodiments, the inner cores can have clip mechanism retention features as shown in Figures 62A–68D. For purposes of brevity, it will be noted that, in some embodiments, inner core **6200** can share features similar to those described with respect to inner cores **5000**, **5500**, inner core **6300** can share features similar to those described in connection with inner cores **5100**, **5600**, inner core **6400** can share features similar to those described w in connection with inner cores **5200**, **5700**, inner core **6500** can share features similar to those described in connection with inner cores **5800**, inner core **6600** can share features similar to those described in connection with inner cores **5900**, inner core **6700** can share features similar to those described in connection with inner cores **5300**, **6000**, inner core **6700B** can share features similar to those described in connection with inner cores **5300B**, **6000B**, inner core **6800** can share features similar to those described in connection with inner cores **5400**, **6100**, in some embodiments, inner core **6800B** can share features similar to those described in connection with inner cores **5400B**, **6100B**. As should be made apparent, clip mechanism retention features **6202**, **6302**, **6402**, **6502**, **6504**, **6602**, **6604**, **6606**, **6702**, **6702B**, **6802**, **6802B** can be used.

[0318] In some embodiments, the clip mechanism on the inner core can be an annular protrusion, such as retention mechanism **6902** on inner core **6900**. In some embodiments, the clip mechanism retention feature on the inner core can be a ramp **6902B** on inner core **6900B** which is beveled towards a distal end **6904B** of the inner core **6900B** to facilitate insertion into a passage of an outer core. In some embodiments, the clip mechanism retention mechanism **6902**, **6902B** can deform when first inserted into the passage and return to its original shape once received within the corresponding clip mechanism retention feature of the outer core.

[0319] As discussed above, in some embodiments, the inner core can include other types of retention features which correspond to those of the outer core as described above. For example, retention features such as snap-lock type mechanisms, ribs, “harpoons” or angled ridges, pinned closures, bayonet mounts and other types of twist locking mechanisms, fins, dimples, magnets, hook-and-loop fasteners such as Velcro, one way ratchet mechanisms such as zip-ties, adhesives such as a peel-and-stick adhesive, and other retention features known in the syringe tip art, or a combination of the above. In some embodiments, the retention feature can include movable components such as hinges with snap or pin closures, sliding sheath connectors, and similar retention features with movable components. In some embodiments, a combination of these features can be used.

Carriers

[0320] The carrier can serve as a connector which can provide additional stability for the outer core and/or inner cores. The carrier can be designed to retain any number of inner cores or other components prior to insertion into the outer core. It can be designed to attach to the outer cores to reduce the likelihood of separate outer cores detaching from either the inner cores or each other. Additionally, it can provide additional sealing capabilities.

Carrier Retention Features

[0321] In some embodiments, the carrier can include any number of holders designed to retain multiple inner cores. In some embodiments, such as that shown in Figures

70A and 70B, the carrier **7000** can have two holders **7002**, **7004** designed to receive two inner cores. In the illustrated embodiment, the carrier **7000** lacks retention features in the holders such that an inner core can be retained within the holder via, for example, a press fit, adhesives, welding, or the like. Of course, similar to the inner core and outer core, in some embodiments, the carrier can have holders with retention features configured to engage corresponding retention features located on inner cores or other attachable components. Such retention features can be any of those herein described with respect to the outer core and inner core. In some embodiments, this can include the use of hook-and-loop fasteners such as Velcro, magnets, and the like. In some embodiments, the carrier can have a hinged design similar to that described above with respect to Figs. 94–96. The entirety of the carrier can be of this hinged design.

[0322] For example, as shown in Figures 71A–D, in some embodiments, carriers **7100A**, **7100B** can have threaded retention features on an inner surface of the holders **7102A**, **7102B**, **7104B**. Other retention features can also be used. For example, as shown in Figures 72A–D, in some embodiments, carriers **7200A**, **7200B** can have clip mechanism retention features on an inner surface of the holders **7202A**, **7202B**, **7204B**. While only two retention mechanisms were discussed with respect to the carrier, it should be understood that any other types of retention features as described herein, such as bayonet mounts and the like, can be used. Furthermore, it should be understood that, the holders of the carriers need not have similar retention mechanisms or only have a single retention mechanism per holder. In some embodiments, the holders can have more than one retention mechanism and/or have dissimilar retention mechanisms.

[0323] In some embodiments, the carrier can include additional features designed to allow the carrier to be attached to the outer cores. For example, as shown in Figures 73A–75D, carriers **7300**, **7400A**, **7400B**, **7500A**, **7500B** which can have features similar to those described in connection with carriers **7000**, **7100A**, **7100B**, **7200A**, **7200B**, can include clips **7302**, **7302A**, **7302B**, **7302A**, **7302B** along a face of the carrier **7300**, **7400A**, **7400B**, **7500A**, **7500B**. In some embodiments, clips, such as clips **7302**, **7302A**, **7302B**, **7302A**, **7302B**, can be designed to attach corresponding recesses on an outer core.

Combined Carriers

[0324] As with all other components described herein, in certain embodiments, carriers can be integrally formed with other components, such as outer cores and inner cores, such that they form a monolithic unit. For example, in some embodiments, such as illustrated in Figure 76, a carrier **7600** can include inner cores **7602**, **7604** which can be of any type as described herein. In some embodiments, such as illustrated in Figures 77A and 77B, the carrier **7700** can be detached into a first unit **7702** and a second unit **7704**. The first unit **7702** can have a portion of the carrier **7700** and an inner core **7706** integrally formed thereon and the second unit **7704** can have a portion of the carrier **7700** and an inner core **7708** integrally formed thereon. In some embodiments, the first unit can include an interlock feature **7710**, such as the illustrated protrusions or dowels, and the second unit can include a corresponding interlock feature **7712**, such as the illustrated recesses, designed to allow the first unit **7702** and second unit **7704** to be connected. In other embodiments, the interlock features **7710**, **7712** can be dovetails or similar devices such as those described above in connection with outer cores. In other embodiments, no interlock feature is provided and the two units **7702**, **7704** can be combined via adhesives such as a peel-and-stick adhesive, welding, magnets, hook-and-loop fasteners such as Velcro, or similar. In some embodiments, the carriers can be connected using any other retention feature or interlock feature as herein described such as sliding sheaths, snap-fits, and the like. While the inner cores described herein are integrally formed on the carriers, it should be noted that the inner cores need not be integrally formed and can instead be separate pieces. Accordingly, in some embodiments, the carrier can be a multi-piece design, such as carrier **7700**, with one or more holders and no inner cores integrally formed thereon or can have a combination of holders and integrally formed inner cores.

[0325] For example, as shown in Figures 78A–80, in some embodiments, the carrier **7800** can have an inner core **7802** integrally formed thereon with a holder **7804** free to receive a separate inner core such as inner core **7806** or inner core **7808**. As shown in the illustrated embodiment, in some embodiments the holder **7804** can have a threaded retention feature or any other type of retention feature. As shown in Figures 79–80, the inner core shape can be any of those described herein, such as full-length narrowing taper inner core **7902** and partial-length narrowing taper inner core **8002**. Furthermore, as illustrated in

Figure 81, other types of retention features, such as clip mechanism retention feature **8102** can be used in open holders **8104** of such combined connector and inner cores. Moreover, as illustrated in Figure 82, the integrally formed inner cores **8202**, **8204** can be of different size and shape and can have passages **8206**, **8208** that is narrower about the carrier region.

[0326] As illustrated in Figures 83–93, the outer core, inner core, and carrier can be combined in multiple ways.

Multi-piece Components

[0327] In some embodiments, components of the syringe tip, such as the outer core, the inner core, and the carrier, can include multiple sub-components allowing certain portions to be interchangeable. For example, as illustrated in Figure 109, the outer core **10900** can have a first sub-component **10902** and a second sub-component **10904** forming a straight section **10905**, a third sub-component **10906** forming a first bend section **10908**, and a fourth sub-component **10910** forming a second bend section **10912**. The multiple sub-components **10902**, **10904**, **10906**, **10910** can be attached using any of the above-mentioned retention features, connectors, and interlock features. Moreover, the connection mechanism between different sub-components can differ. For example, some sub-components can be connected using a press-fit or clip retention mechanism and other sub-components can be connected using threading.

[0328] One advantage of using multiple sub-components is the ability to easily modify the shape of the component. For example, as illustrated in Fig. 109, the third sub-component **10906** can be rotated relative to the first, second and fourth sub-components **10902**, **10904**, **10910** and the fourth sub-component **10910** can be rotated relative to the first, second, and third sub-components **10902**, **10904**, **10906**. This can be achieved, for example, by using a connection mechanism such as the clip retention mechanism, press fit, or any other connection mechanism allowing for rotation of connected components in relation to each other. Accordingly, the bend sections **10908**, **10912** of the outer core **10900** can be adjusted to accommodate the needs of the end user without having to swap to a different outer core. This can be particularly advantageous since dental professionals often work on different areas of a patient's mouth within a short period of time. The enhanced adjustability

can be a significant advantage to enhance comfort for both the end user and the patient and reduce the amount of time taken for a procedure.

[0329] A second significant advantage of using multiple sub-components is the ability to easily manufacture and stock syringe tips and components having different performance characteristics. For example, as illustrated in Fig. 109, the syringe tip has a first sub-component **10902** and a second sub-component **10904** forming a straight section **10905** of the device. Removal of the first sub-component **10902** can, for example, result in an outer core with different performance characteristics such as a higher pressure. Accordingly, an end user need not stock two separate outer cores but rather can stock a single outer core and add or remove a sub-component if needed to alter the performance characteristics.

[0330] Additionally, as illustrated in Fig. 109, the syringe tip has a third sub-component **10906** and a fourth sub-component **10910** forming bend sections **10908**, **10912** of the outer core **10900**. An end user can add or remove sub-components to alter the number of bend sections for the outer core to suit the type of procedure being performed.

[0331] Furthermore, other types of sub-components can be used to alter other performance characteristics of the outer core such as those characteristics as herein discussed. For example, some sub-components can provide a narrowing or expanding taper passage. In some embodiments, some sub-components can be used to create sub-passages. In some embodiments, some sub-components can be used to provide different retention and/or interlock features. In some embodiments, some sub-components can provide additional connectors. Other types of performance characteristics can also be modified by use of such sub-components.

[0332] As should be apparent, such advantages also translate to the manufacturer and distributor who can increase production of sub-components which are in higher demand and decrease production of sub-components which are in lower demand. Additionally, this can facilitate manufacturing as shorter sub-components can be easier to manufacture within prescribed tolerances.

[0333] While sub-components have been described in detail with respect to outer cores, sub-components can also be used for inner cores and/or carriers. Furthermore, while sub-components were described as being part of a “straight” section or a “bend” section, sub-

components need not be limited to being either straight or bent. Rather, sub-components can also include one or more straight sections and one or more bend sections.

Sealing Devices

[0334] In some embodiments, sealing devices can be used on any component to enhance the seal and reduce the potential for leakage between connected components. In some embodiments, components of the syringe tip can include a groove along an end intended to be placed in connection with another component. This groove can be designed to receive an o-ring or similar sealing device, such as a caulking, to enhance the seal between two attached components. For example, as illustrated in Fig. 110 the outer core **11000** can have a groove **11002** located at a proximal end **11004** to receive a sealing device **11006** which can project beyond the outer core **11000**. By projecting beyond the outer core **11000**, the sealing device **11006** can be placed against the other component, such as the dental handpiece or adaptor, to form a seal between the outer core **11000** and the other component. This can significantly enhance the seal between the components and reduce the potential for leakage. This can thereby reduce the chance for cross-contamination of multiple fluid passages for example.

[0335] In some embodiments, the sealing device **11006**, such as an o-ring, can be retained in the groove **11002** via a friction fit. In some embodiments, the sealing device **11006** can be adhered to the component such as via use of an adhesive. In some embodiments, an adhesive or similar can be used to attach the o-ring or other sealing device, such as caulking, to the component without need for a groove. In some embodiments, the adhesive itself can serve as a sealing device. The sealing devices can be placed along any other portion of the outer core or any other component as herein described. For example, the sealing device can be used on the inner core and/or the carriers.

Construction

[0336] The multiple components of the syringe tip can be manufactured using multiple manufacturing techniques. For example, in some embodiments, some components,

such as the outer core, inner core, and carrier, can be manufactured using manufacturing techniques such as injection molding, extrusion or pultrusion, overmolding, machining, a combination of these techniques or similar manufacturing techniques. Due to the multiple unit construction, it is possible that certain components can be produced using one manufacturing technique and other components can be produced using a second manufacturing technique. For example, outer cores having no-taper passages and carriers may be cost-effectively manufactured using extrusion or pultrusion techniques whereas a more intricate design for an inner core can be manufactured using injection molding techniques where it may be more difficult to produce using extrusion or pultrusion techniques. This can effectively reduce the costs of manufacturing the devices. As should be apparent, all components can also be manufactured using the same manufacturing technique.

[0337] In some embodiments using a coating as described above, the coating can be applied by processes such as dipping, spraying, painting, or similar processes of applying a coating to a device. Accordingly, this step can be performed after a component has been manufactured using the techniques listed above. In some embodiments, this step can also be performed concurrently. For example, the coating and the component can be co-extruded.

[0338] The multiple components of the syringe tip can be manufactured from multiple materials. For example, in some embodiments, some components, such as the outer core, the inner core, and the carrier, can be manufactured from materials such as plastics, elastomers, metals, and the like.

[0339] In some embodiments, some components, such as the outer core, the inner core, and/or the carrier, can be manufactured from biodegradable materials which can facilitate disposal and reduce the impact to the environment. For example, the biodegradable materials used can be home compostable, industrial compostable, landfill degradable, and/or marine degradable. In some embodiments, the material can be semi-water soluble. The biodegradable materials can also be made of a renewable material. Examples of such biodegradable materials include biopolymers and/or biosresins manufactured from agricultural materials. These agricultural materials can be manufactured from waste agricultural materials to reduce the impact to the environment. Such biopolymers can be based on polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHA) and other linear polyesters. Other such biopolymers can be based on polylactic acids (PLA) and other thermoplastic aliphatic polyesters. In some

embodiments, the components can be manufactured partially from biodegradable materials or from a combination of different biodegradable materials. For example, some components, such as the outer core, inner core, and the carrier, can be manufactured from plastics such as polyvinyl chloride with biodegradable additives. In some embodiments, some components can be manufactured from plastics with additives that enhance the biodegradability of the plastic. In some embodiments, the outer core can be manufactured from plastics having greater rigidity than the other components. In some embodiments, the outer core can be manufactured from translucent materials which can advantageously allow a user of the device to view the flow of fluids through the device. Furthermore, in some embodiments, the outer core can be manufactured from phosphorescent materials which can advantageously allow the outer core to provide illumination when placed within a dark space (e.g., a patient's mouth).

[0340] In some embodiments, components of the device, such as the outer core, inner core, and/or the carrier, can be manufactured from materials having anti-microbial properties to reduce or inhibit the accumulation of bacteria, viruses, fungi, and/or parasites on the component. This can advantageously enhance the shelf-life of such components. As discussed above, the anti-microbial material can also be placed on the components via a coating.

[0341] In some embodiments, components of the device, such as the outer core, inner core, and/or the carrier, can be provided with a hydrophobic coating.

[0342] In some embodiments, the inner core can be manufactured from the same material as the outer core. In some embodiments, the inner core can be manufactured from materials different from those used for the outer core. For example, in some embodiments, the inner core can be manufactured from materials allowing for more significant deformation, such as soft plastics whereas the outer core can be manufactured from materials having greater rigidity. Use of a softer plastic for the inner core can advantageously provide a more significant sealing effect to reduce the likelihood of fluid leakage after combination of the outer core and inner core.

[0343] In some embodiments, the carrier can be manufactured from the same material as the outer core or inner core. In some embodiments, the carrier can be manufactured from materials different from those used for the outer core or inner core. For

example, in some embodiments, the carrier can be manufactured from materials providing greater sealing characteristics, such as rubbers. Use of rubber for the carrier can advantageously provide a seal which reduce the likelihood of fluid leakage after combination of the outer core, inner core, and carrier.

[0344] Furthermore, in some embodiments, other devices which can be used in conjunction or separately with the dental tip system described herein can be manufactured from one or more of the materials described above. For example, portions or the entirety of devices such as injectors, prophylaxis heads, prophylaxis cups, prophylaxis brushes, saliva injectors, low pressure and high pressure suction tools, dental bibs, trays, covers and dental cups, can be manufactured from biodegradable materials.

[0345] As described above in connection with Fig. 4, in some embodiments, the syringe tips can have one or more bending features. In some embodiments, the syringe tips can be manufactured with the bending features during the initial phase of manufacturing such as via injection molding. In some embodiments, the bending features can be added after the initial phase of manufacturing. For example, the syringe tip can be extruded or pultruded into a straight member and subsequently bent to have one or more bending features. The step of bending can include heating the syringe tip to increase the malleability of the syringe tip. In some embodiments, this step of bending can occur after one or more components of a syringe tip have been connected. In other embodiments, this step of bending can occur before any components are connected together.

[0346] As should be apparent from the disclosure, the multiplicity of components described herein can be combined either by the end-user or the manufacturer to prepare a complete syringe tip. Preparation of the syringe tip, depending on the types of components used, can include the followings steps.

[0347] As a first step, multiple outer cores can be attached together to form an outer core assembly. Attachment of the multiple outer cores can be accomplished using interlock features as described herein such as sliding connectors, snap fits, slots, and pins. In embodiments where the outer cores do not have interlock features, the multiple outer cores can be attached using other attachment techniques such as described above including adhesives, welding, magnets and hook-and-loop fasteners. As should be apparent, in embodiments where only a single outer core is used, this step can be omitted.

[0348] As a second step, multiple carrier units can be attached together to form a carrier unit. As should be apparent, in embodiments where a carrier is not used or where only a single carrier is used, this step can be omitted.

[0349] As a third step, one or more inner cores can be attached to one or more carriers to form a carrier assembly. Attachment of the one or more inner cores to the carrier can be accomplished using retention features as described herein such as sliding connectors, snap fits, slots, and pins. In some embodiments, attachment of the one or more inner cores can be accomplished using other attachment techniques such as described above including adhesives, welding, magnets and hook-and-loop fasteners. As should be apparent, in embodiments where the inner core is formed integrally with the carrier or where no carrier or inner core is used, this step can be omitted.

[0350] As a fourth step, the one or more inner cores can be inserted into and attached to the passages of the outer cores or outer core assembly. Attachment of the one or more inner cores can be accomplished using retention features as described herein such as sliding connectors, snap fits, slots, and pins. In some embodiments, attachment of the one or more inner cores can be accomplished using other attachment techniques such as described above including adhesives, welding, magnets and hook-and-loop fasteners. As should be apparent, in embodiments where no inner core is used, this step can be omitted.

Color Coding

[0351] In some embodiments, components of the syringe tip, such as the outer core, inner core, and/or carrier can be wholly or partially a particular color. In some embodiments, the color coding can be used to indicate whether the components of the syringe tip are in the proper orientation and alignment prior to the end user's assembling the components. For example, one end of the device can be provided with a first color and a second end of the device can be provided with a second color.

[0352] In some embodiments, the color coding can be used to refer to particular fluids or ports to which the particular component is to connect. For example, a first inner core can be colored blue for attachment to a water port and a second inner core can be colored green for attachment to an air port. These colors can be chosen to correspond to

international and/or national standards or conventions to facilitate the use of the components by any end user.

[0353] Colors can also be used to indicate to an end user the particular characteristics of the component. For example, a component which produces a high pressure fluid flow can be colored red whereas a component which produces a low pressure fluid flow can be colored blue. As should be apparent, colors can also be mixed and particular patterns can be produced on a component to provide more information regarding the properties of the component.

Tamper Resistance

[0354] In some embodiments, components of the syringe tip, such as the outer core, inner core, and/or carrier can include features which reduce the potential for tampering or reuse of components. This is particularly important for disposable components of the syringe tips. It is important that the end-user and patient know that they are using a new and sterile component. As mentioned above, one advantage of disposable components is the reduction of contaminants, such as bodily fluids, bacteria, and viruses, from one patient being spread to other patients. While conventional sterilization procedures can reduce harmful contaminants from spreading from one patient to the next, there still lies a risk that some contaminants remain even after sterilization. Complete disposal of certain disposable components, particularly those which are placed in close proximity with a patient, reduces this risk. Accordingly, certain features can be provided to inform the end user and patient that the device is new and sterile.

[0355] As discussed above, components of the syringe tip can have a coating placed over at least part of the component. This coating can be designed to indicate when components have been attached or removed. In some embodiments, the coating can deform or be displaced upon attachment to another component such that, when the component is removed, an end user or patient can easily visually detect the used status of the component.

[0356] In some embodiments, the retention features on the outer core and corresponding retention features on the inner core can deform upon first use. In some embodiments, the deformation can render removal of the attached components more difficult.

Furthermore, if removed, the retention features can be less effective upon reattachment of a component.

[0357] Additionally, as mentioned above, in some embodiments, a peel-and-stick adhesive can be used. As a reuse deterrent, the adhesive can be designed so that components are less effectively attached if the adhesive was previously used.

[0358] In some embodiments, components of the syringe tip can have additional portions which change in color upon exposure to certain chemicals. For example, the component can change from its original color to another color upon exposure to chemicals used for serialization such as alcohol, glutaraldehyde hydrogen peroxide and other sterilization products. This can deter attempts to sterilize and reuse the disposable component. In some embodiments, the component can have patterns or other types of indicators which emerge upon exposure to such chemicals such that an end user and patient can readily notice when a product is not new. In some embodiments, these indicators can emerge upon exposure to other fluids, such as saliva, or temperatures higher than temperatures the syringe tip would be exposed to during shipping, handling, and regular use.

Product Usage Monitoring

[0359] In some embodiments, the syringe tip can include a near-field communication (NFC) device. The NFC device can be used to communicate with a receiver such as a personal computer, a smartphone, or other electronic device capable of receiving a signal from an NFC device. The NFC device can be a passive device, such as a tag, sticker or similar, integrated into or placed on the component. Use of a passive device can advantageously reduce the complexity of the component and not require an active power source to be used. Rather, such passive devices can be “powered” by the receiver when the receiver is placed in proximity of the NFC device. In some embodiments, the NFC device can be an active device which uses an active power source.

[0360] In some embodiments, the receiver can, for example, transmit such information to the end-user to indicate current supply of components so that the end-user can determine whether it is appropriate to restock these components. This can beneficially reduce the likelihood that the end-user runs out of components prior to receiving a new

shipment. Furthermore, such a feature can provide real-time data to the end-user to indicate which components are used more frequently. This can advantageously allow the end-user to stock a greater number of certain components.

[0361] The receiver can also provide such information to manufacturers, distributors, and other parties. This can beneficially inform such parties of the current stock of products so that the party can send a reminder to the end-user to resupply their stock of certain components. This can also provide valuable information to manufacturers by providing the manufacturer with information regarding component usage. With such information, a manufacturer can modify its tooling to increase produce the more frequently used components and decrease production of less frequently used products. Furthermore, such information can also be used to track shipments and the location where a product is eventually used. This can beneficially provide distributors and other parties with enhanced knowledge for purposes of targeting specific markets.

[0362] In some embodiments, the storage unit in which the components are shipped can contain a receiver and transmit data regarding use of the components. In some embodiments, the component with the NFC device can communicate with devices on the end-user, such as a smartphone or other wireless device.

[0363] In some embodiments, the component can include other sensor devices, such as a fingerprint sensor. The fingerprint sensor can be used in conjunction with the NFC device to provide more accurate monitoring of component usages.

Light Transmission

[0364] In some embodiments, the syringe tip can be designed to direct light from a first location to one or more output locations. For example, the syringe tip can include a light transmitter designed to direct light from a proximal end to a distal end of the syringe tip to illuminate the target site within the mouth of a patient. Such transmission of light can occur even in syringe tips having multiple bends. In some embodiments, a material capable of transmitting light, such as an optical fiber, hydrogel, or any other type of material and structure capable of directing light, can be used. In some embodiments, the optical fiber can be manufactured from glass, plastic, or similar materials capable of transmitting light. In

some embodiments, the optical fiber can be integrated into the outer core and/or the inner core. In some embodiments, the optical fiber can be removable from the outer core and/or the inner core. For example, the optical fiber can be integrated into the inner core which is removable from the outer core. In some embodiments, the inner core itself can be the light transmitting device. In some embodiments, multiple optical fibers can be used. This can advantageously allow the direction of light to multiple output locations.

[0365] In some embodiments, a light source can be included in the syringe tip such that light can be provided regardless of the functionality of other devices, such as the dental syringe, used during the operation. In some embodiments, the syringe tip does not include a light source but rather redirects light from another device.

Scents

[0366] In some embodiments, components of the syringe tip can include scented materials. For example, the outer core can be manufactured from a scented plastic. In some embodiments, scents such as apple, basil, cinnamon, chamomile, coconut, geranium, juniper, lavender, mandarin, patchouli, rose, sandalwood, ylang ylang and other scents can be used. This can advantageously provide a therapeutic benefit to all dental patients as syringe tips are used in virtually all dental visits. Furthermore, the syringe tips are placed near a patient's nose such that the scent can easily be detected. The scent emitted from the tip can be used to relax the patient and can thereby reduce the likelihood of potential injuries caused by the patient due to stress or anxiety during a dental procedure.

[0367] Any of the steps described herein can be performed simultaneously or in an order different from the steps as ordered herein. Moreover, as should be apparent, the features and attributes of the specific embodiments disclosed herein may be combined in different ways to form additional embodiments, all of which fall within the scope of the present disclosure.

[0368] Conditional language used herein, such as, among others, "can," "could," "might," "may," "e.g.," and the like, unless specifically stated otherwise, or otherwise understood within the context as used, is generally intended to convey that certain embodiments include, while other embodiments do not include, certain features, elements

and/or states. Thus, such conditional language is not generally intended to imply that features, elements and/or states are in any way required for one or more embodiments or that one or more embodiments necessarily include logic for deciding, with or without author input or prompting, whether these features, elements and/or states are included or are to be performed in any particular embodiment.

[0369] It should be emphasized that many variations and modifications may be made to the herein-described embodiments, the elements of which are to be understood as being among other acceptable examples. All such modifications and variations are intended to be included herein within the scope of this disclosure and protected by the following claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A syringe tip for attachment to a dental syringe, the syringe tip comprising:
a first outer core comprising an elongate member having proximal end and a distal end, the outer core having a first proximal aperture at the proximal end, a first distal aperture at the distal end, and a first passage connecting the first proximal aperture with the first distal aperture and defining a first interior surface of the first outer core; and
a first inner core comprising an elongate member having a proximal end and a distal end, the first inner core having a first proximal aperture at the proximal end, a first distal aperture at the distal end, and a first passage connecting the first proximal aperture and the first distal aperture;
wherein the first inner core is configured to be received and retained within the passage of the first outer core.
2. The syringe tip of Claim 1, wherein the first proximal aperture of the first outer core has a first diameter and the first distal aperture of the first outer core has a second diameter not equal to the first diameter and wherein the first passage of the first outer core tapers from the first diameter to the second diameter.
3. The syringe tip of Claims 1 or 2, wherein the first passage of the first outer core comprises multiple tapering stages.
4. The syringe tip of Claims 2 or 3, wherein the first diameter is greater than the second diameter.
5. The syringe tip of Claims 2 or 3, wherein the second diameter is greater than the first diameter.
6. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-5, further comprising a second outer core, the second outer core comprising an elongate member having proximal end and a distal end, the outer core body having a first proximal aperture at the proximal end, a first distal aperture at the distal end, and a first passage connecting the first proximal aperture with the first distal aperture and defining a first interior surface of the second outer core.
7. The syringe tip of Claim 6, wherein the first and second outer cores further comprise an interlock feature.

8. The syringe tip of Claim 7, wherein the interlock feature comprises one or more channels.
9. The syringe tip of Claim 8, wherein the interlock feature comprises a dovetail design.
10. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 7-9, wherein the interlock feature comprises one or more dowels or pins.
11. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 7-10, wherein the interlock feature comprises one or more magnets.
12. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 7-11, wherein the interlock feature comprises a hook-and-loop fastener.
13. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 7-12, wherein the interlock feature comprises a one-way ratchet.
14. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 7-13, wherein the interlock feature comprises an adhesive.
15. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-14, wherein the first outer core further comprises a second proximal aperture at the proximal end, a second distal aperture at the distal end, and a second passage connecting the second proximal aperture with the second distal aperture and defining a second interior surface of the first outer core.
16. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-15, wherein the first passage of the first outer core separates into multiple sub-passages.
17. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-16, wherein the first outer core further comprises a retention feature proximate at least one of the proximal end and the distal end and the first inner core comprises a corresponding retention feature configured to engage with at least a part of the first outer core's retention feature.
18. The syringe tip of Claim 17, wherein the retention feature comprises threads along the interior surface of the first outer core.
19. The syringe tip of Claims 17 or 18, wherein the retention feature comprises a slot along the interior surface of the first outer core.
20. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 17-19, wherein the retention feature comprises a snap fitting.

21. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 17-20, wherein the retention feature comprises a pinned closure.

22. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 17-21, wherein the retention feature comprises a twist-lock mechanism.

23. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 17-22, wherein the retention feature comprises fins.

24. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 17-23, wherein the retention feature comprises dimples.

25. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 17-24, wherein the retention feature comprises magnets.

26. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 17-25, wherein the retention feature comprises hook-and-loop fasteners.

27. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 17-26, wherein the retention feature comprises adhesives.

28. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 17-27, wherein the retention feature comprises a hinge with at least one of a snap and a pin closure mechanism.

29. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 17-28, wherein the retention feature comprises a sliding sheath connector.

30. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 17-29, wherein the retention feature comprises a silicone coating.

31. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 17-30, wherein the retention feature comprises a wax coating.

32. The syringe tip according to any of Claim 17-31, wherein the retention feature comprises a paraffin coating.

33. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 17-32, wherein the retention feature comprises a latex coating.

34. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-33, wherein the first inner core extends into the full length of the first passage of the first outer core.

35. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-33, wherein the first inner core extends partially into the first passage of the first outer core.

36. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-35, wherein the syringe tip has at least one bending feature.

37. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-36, wherein at least one of the first outer core and the first inner core has a connector in fluid communication with the first passage of the at least one of the first outer core and the first inner core.

38. The syringe tip of Claim 37, wherein the connector is positioned at a location other than the proximal or distal ends of the at least one of the first outer core and the first inner core.

39. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-38, further comprising a carrier.

40. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-39, wherein the elongate member of the first outer core has a non-circular cross-sectional area.

41. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-40, wherein at least one of the first outer core and first inner core are provided with a color to indicate at least one of orientation and fluid compatibility.

42. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-41, wherein at least one of the first outer core and first inner core are provided with a coating of material on a proximal end so as to enhance the seal between the first outer core and first inner core and a component to be attached.

43. The syringe tip of Claim 42, wherein the coating consists of at least one of latex, silicone, wax and paraffin.

44. The syringe tip of Claims 42 or 43, wherein the coating consists of at least one of a carbon coated spider silk.

45. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-44, wherein the syringe tip further comprises a near-field communication device.

46. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-45, wherein the syringe tip further comprises a fingerprint sensor.

47. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-46, wherein at least one of the first outer core and the first inner core comprise an anti-microbial material.

48. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-47, wherein at least one of the first outer core and the first inner core comprises a light transmitter to direct light from a first location to a second location.

49. The syringe tip of Claim 48, wherein the second location is a distal end of the syringe tip.

50. The syringe tip of Claims 48 or 49, wherein the syringe tip further comprises a light source at the first location.

51. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 48-50, wherein the first inner core comprises a light transmitter, the first inner core comprising a plastic.

52. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-51, wherein the syringe tip further comprises a sealing device.

53. The syringe tip of Claim 52, wherein the sealing device comprises an o-ring.

54. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 1-53, wherein the syringe tip further comprises an adhesive with a cover, the cover being removable to expose the adhesive.

55. A syringe tip for attachment to a dental syringe, the syringe tip comprising:

a first outer core comprising an elongate member having a proximal end and a distal end, the first outer core having a first proximal aperture at the proximal end, a first distal aperture at the distal end, and a first passage connecting the first proximal aperture with the first distal aperture and defining a first interior surface of the first outer core; and

a set of connectors at a proximal end of the elongate member, the protruding members configured to connect to ports of at least one of a dental syringe or an adaptor;

wherein the first proximal aperture has a first diameter and the first distal aperture has a second diameter not equal to the first diameter;

wherein the passage tapers from the proximal aperture to the distal aperture.

56. The syringe tip of Claim 55, wherein the first passage of the outer core comprises multiple tapering stages.

57. The syringe tip of Claims 55 or 56, wherein the first diameter is greater than the second diameter.

58. The syringe tip of Claims 55 or 56, wherein the second diameter is greater than the first diameter

59. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 55-58, further comprising second proximal aperture at the proximal end, a second distal aperture at the distal end, and a second passage connecting the second proximal aperture with the second distal aperture and defining a second interior surface of the first outer core.

60. The syringe tip of Claim 59, wherein the second proximal aperture has a third diameter and the second distal aperture has a fourth diameter not equal to the third diameter.

61. The syringe tip of Claim 60, wherein the third diameter is not equal to the first diameter.

62. The syringe tip of Claims 60 or 61, wherein the second diameter is not equal to the fourth diameter.

63. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 55-62, further comprising an inner core, the inner core comprising an elongate body configured to be inserted within the first passage of the first outer core.

64. The syringe tip of Claim 63, wherein the inner core further comprises a first proximal aperture at the proximal end, a first distal aperture at the distal end, and a first passage connecting the first proximal aperture with the first distal aperture and defining a first interior surface of the first inner core.

65. The syringe tip of Claim 64, wherein the first proximal aperture of the first inner core has a diameter not equal to the diameter of the first distal aperture of the first inner core.

66. The syringe tip according to any of Claims 63-65, further comprising a carrier.

67. A syringe tip for attachment to a dental syringe, the syringe tip comprising:
an outer core comprising an elongate member having a proximal end and a distal end, the first outer core having a proximal aperture at the proximal end, a distal aperture at the distal end, and a passage connecting the proximal aperture with the distal aperture and defining an interior surface of the outer core; and

a carrier assembly comprising a carrier and an inner core, the inner core coupled with the carrier, the carrier assembly configured to be inserted into the passage of the outer core.

68. The syringe tip of Claim 67, wherein the inner core and the carrier are an integral unit.

69. The syringe tip of Claims 67 or 68, further comprising a second inner core.

70. The syringe tip of Claim 69, further comprising a second outer core.

71. A method for preparing a syringe tip for attachment to a dental syringe, the method comprising:

providing a first outer core having at least one passage, at least one inner core configured to be received with the at least one passage, and at least one carrier configured to couple with at least one inner core; and

inserting the inner core and carrier into the at least one passage of the first outer core.

72. The method of Claim 71, the method further comprising coupling the at least one inner core with the carrier.

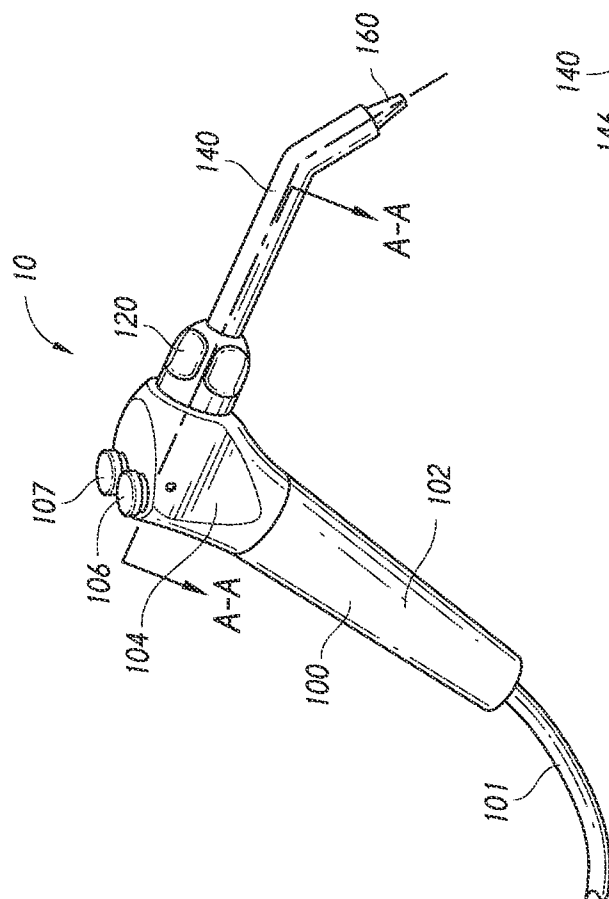


FIG. 1A

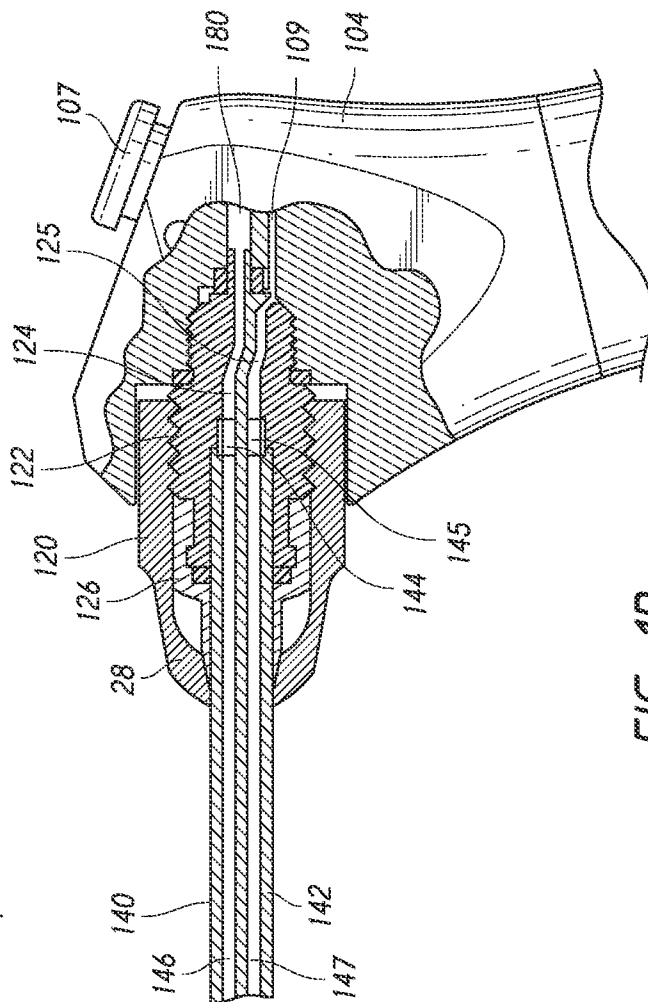
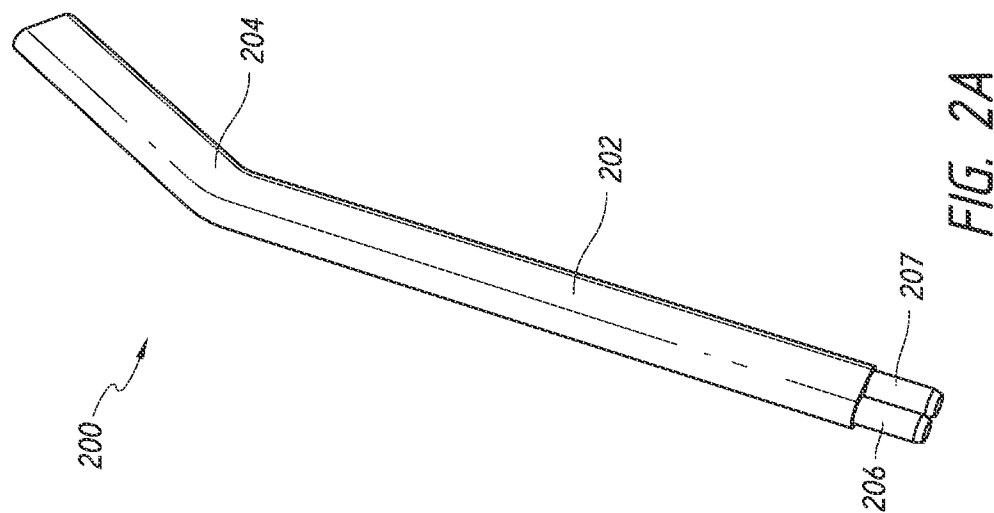
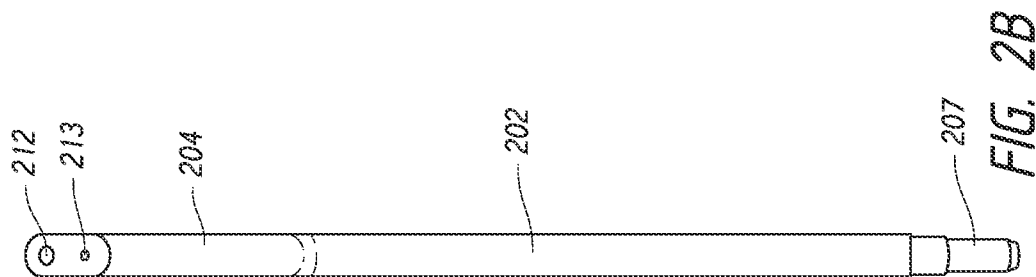
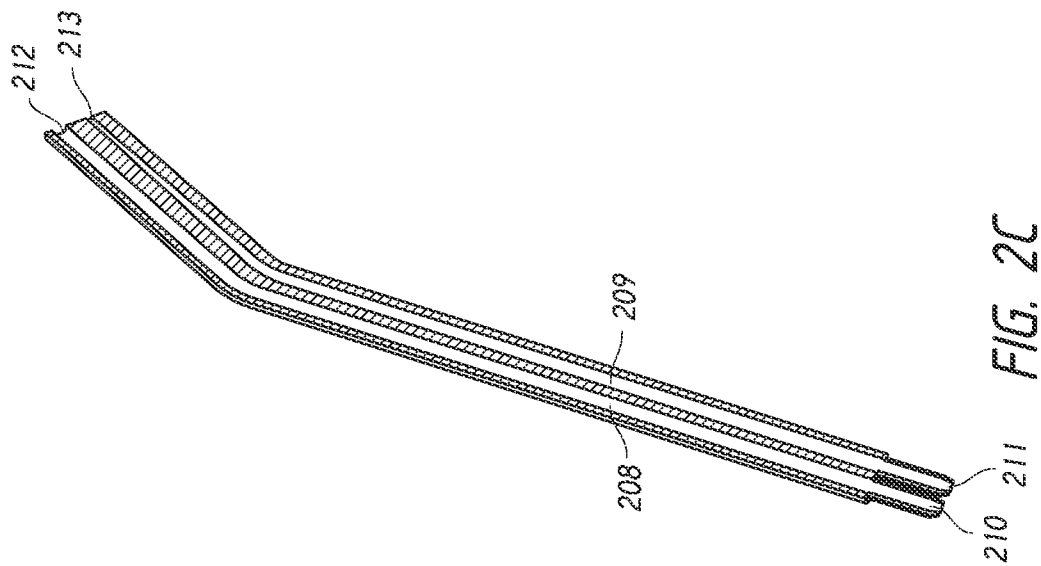
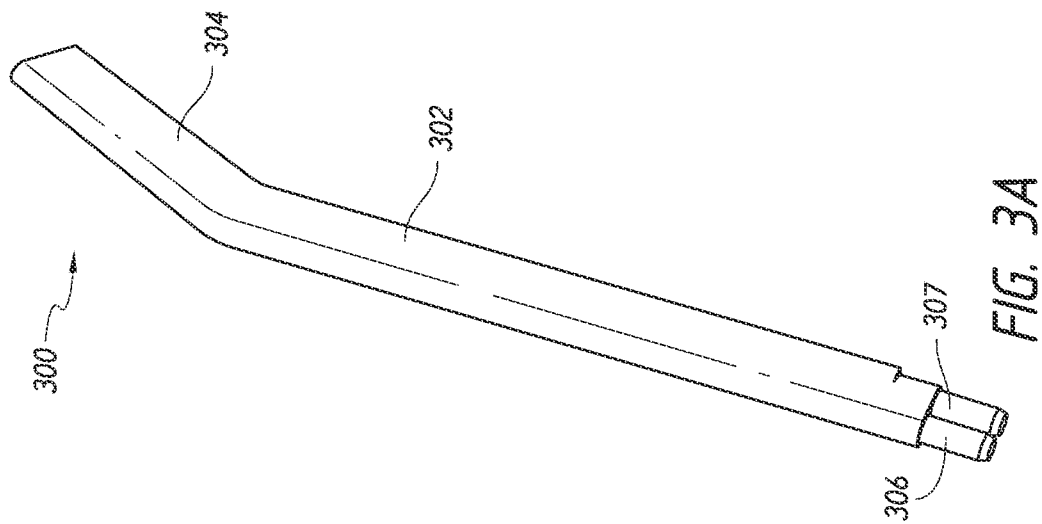
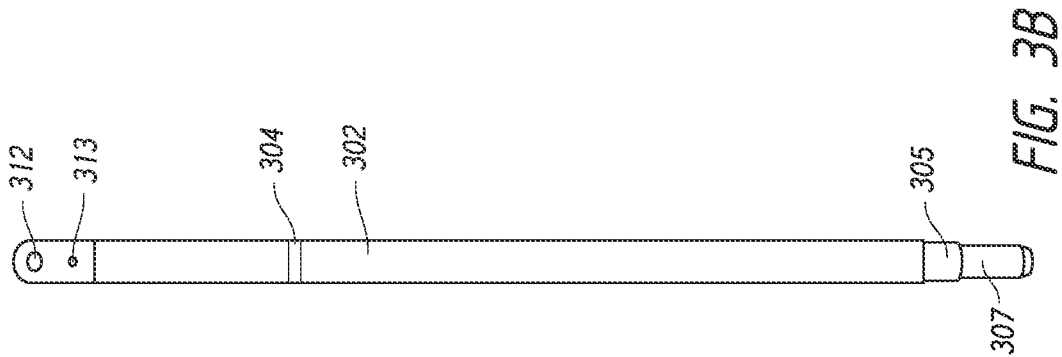
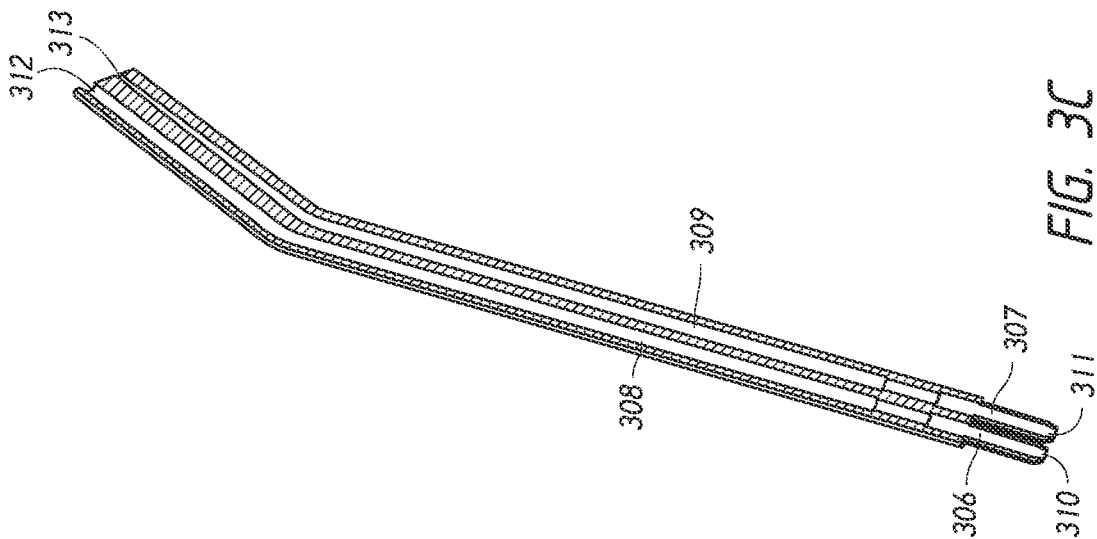
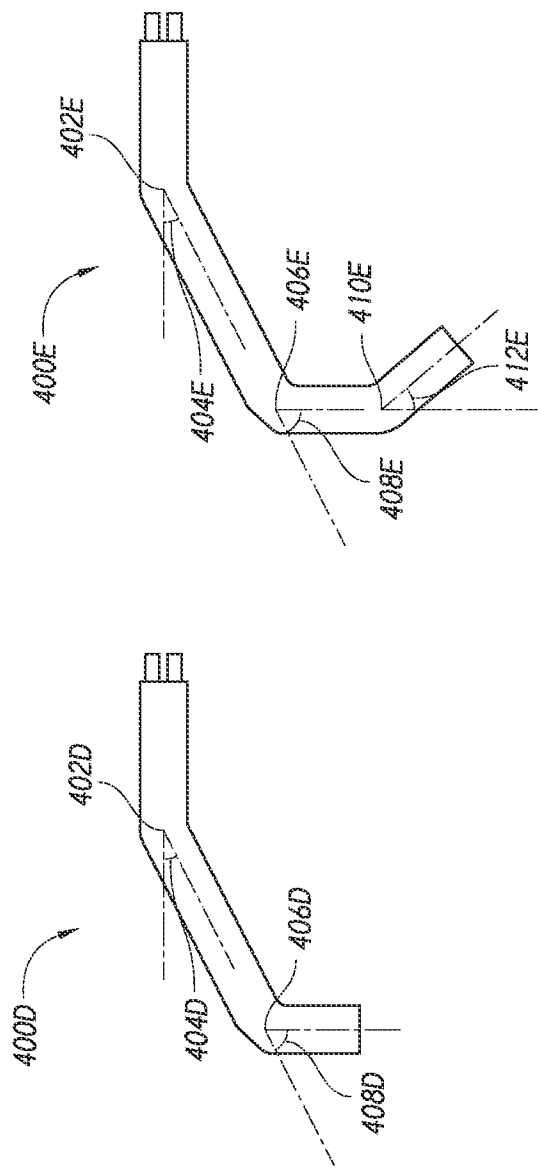
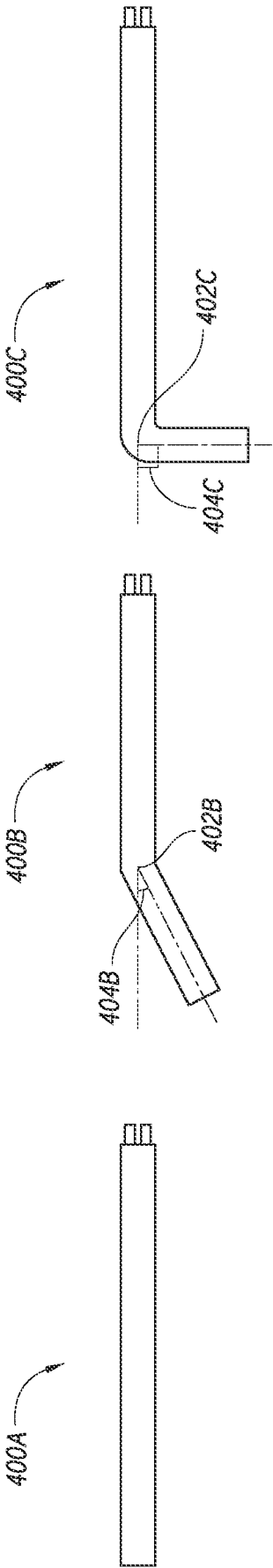


FIG. 1B







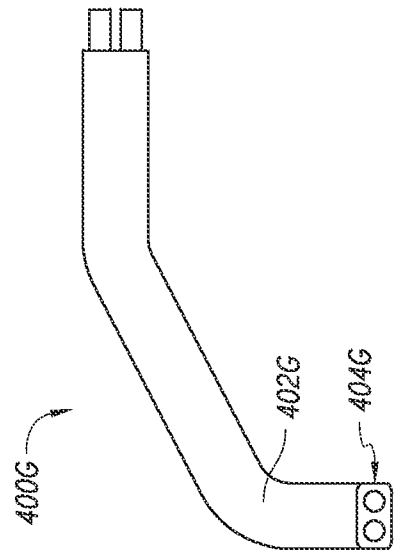


FIG. 4G

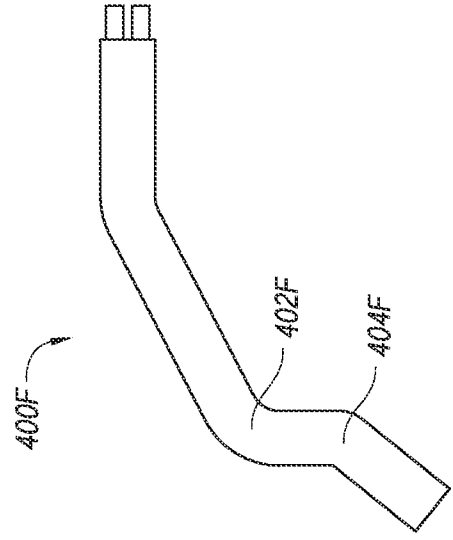


FIG. 4F

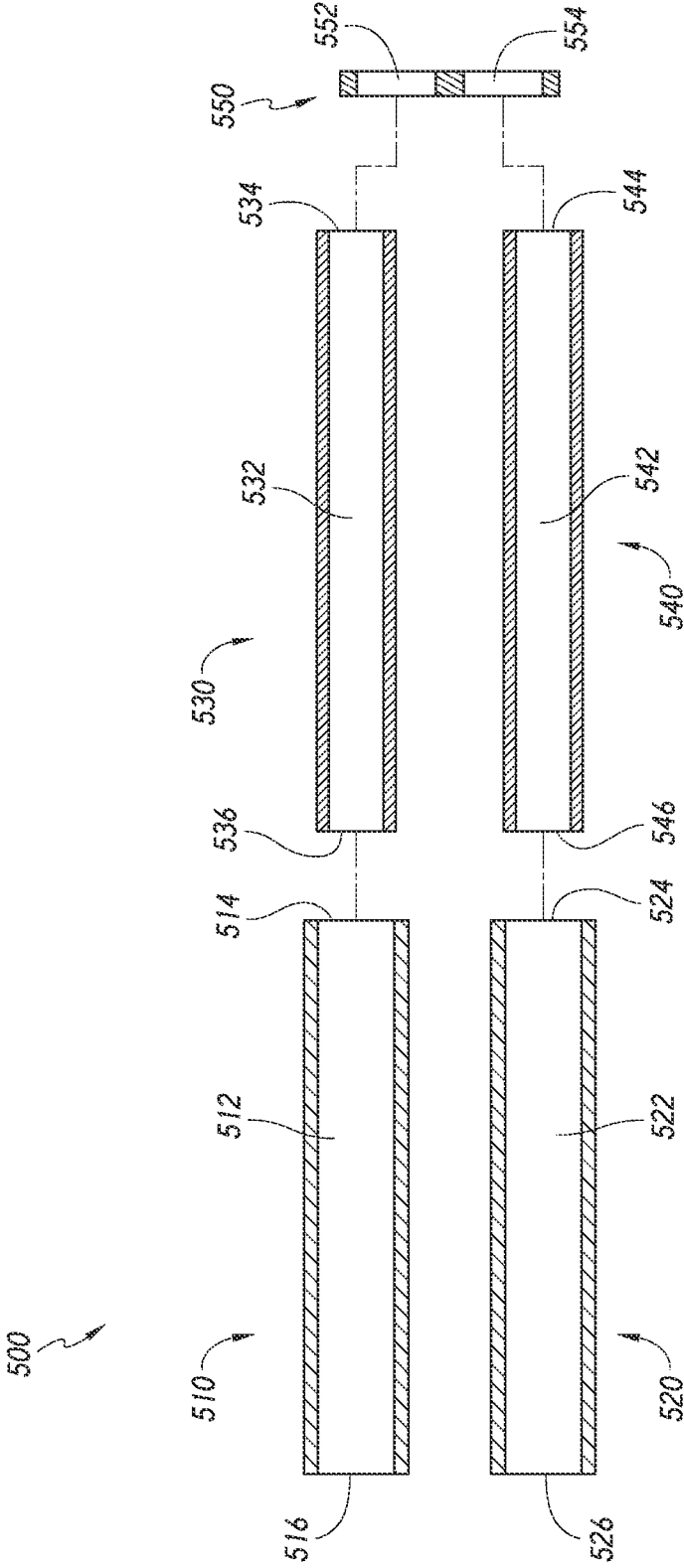


FIG. 5

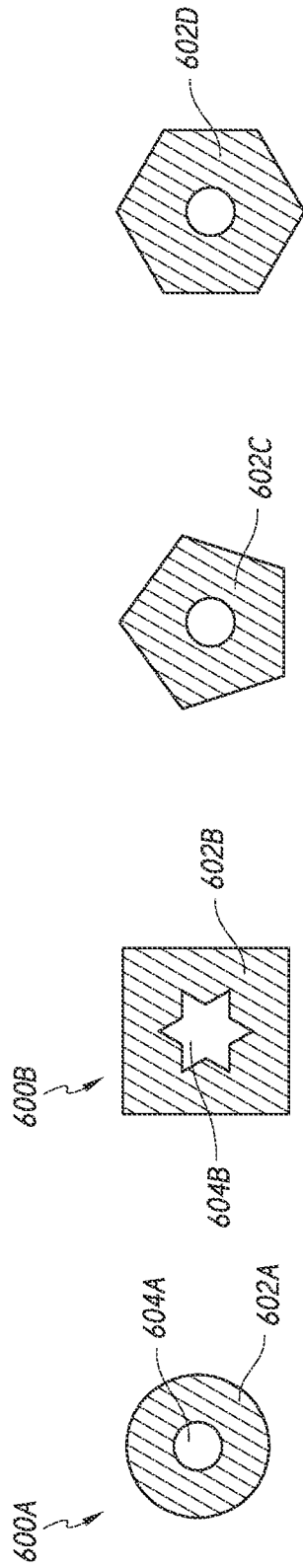


FIG. 6A

FIG. 6B

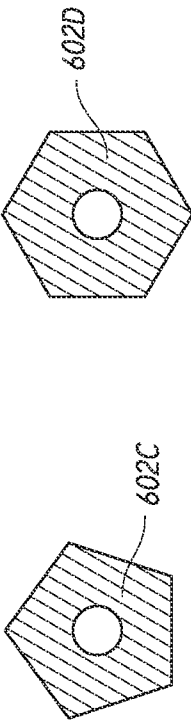


FIG. 6C

FIG. 6D

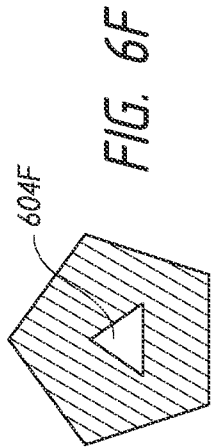


FIG. 6F

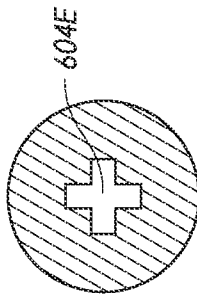


FIG. 6E

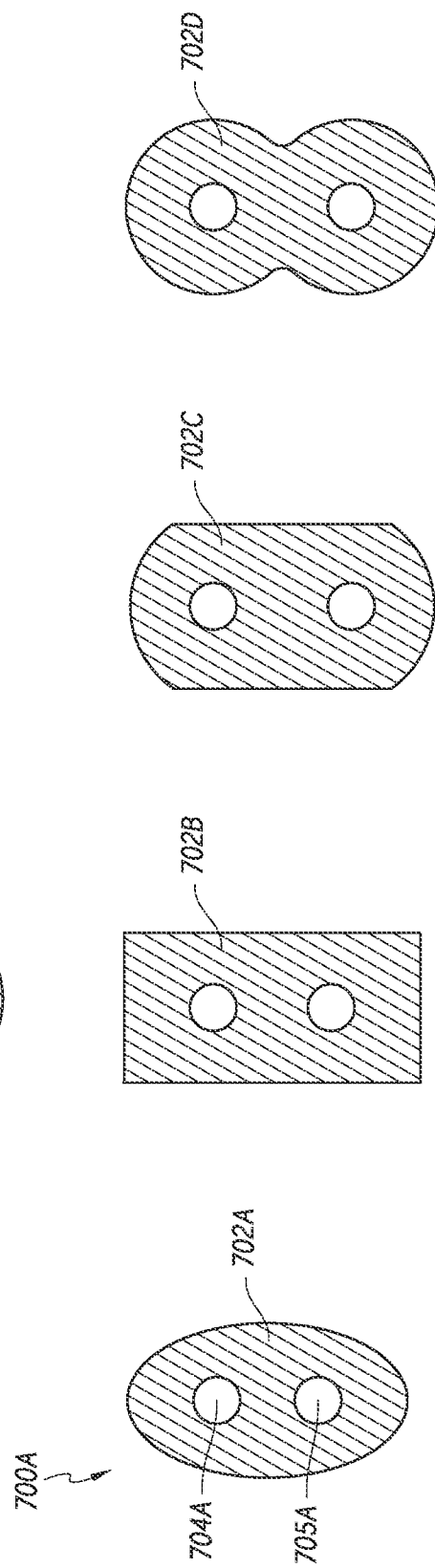


FIG. 7A

FIG. 7B

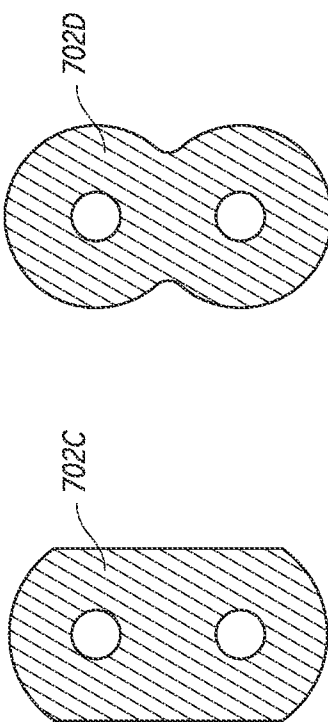
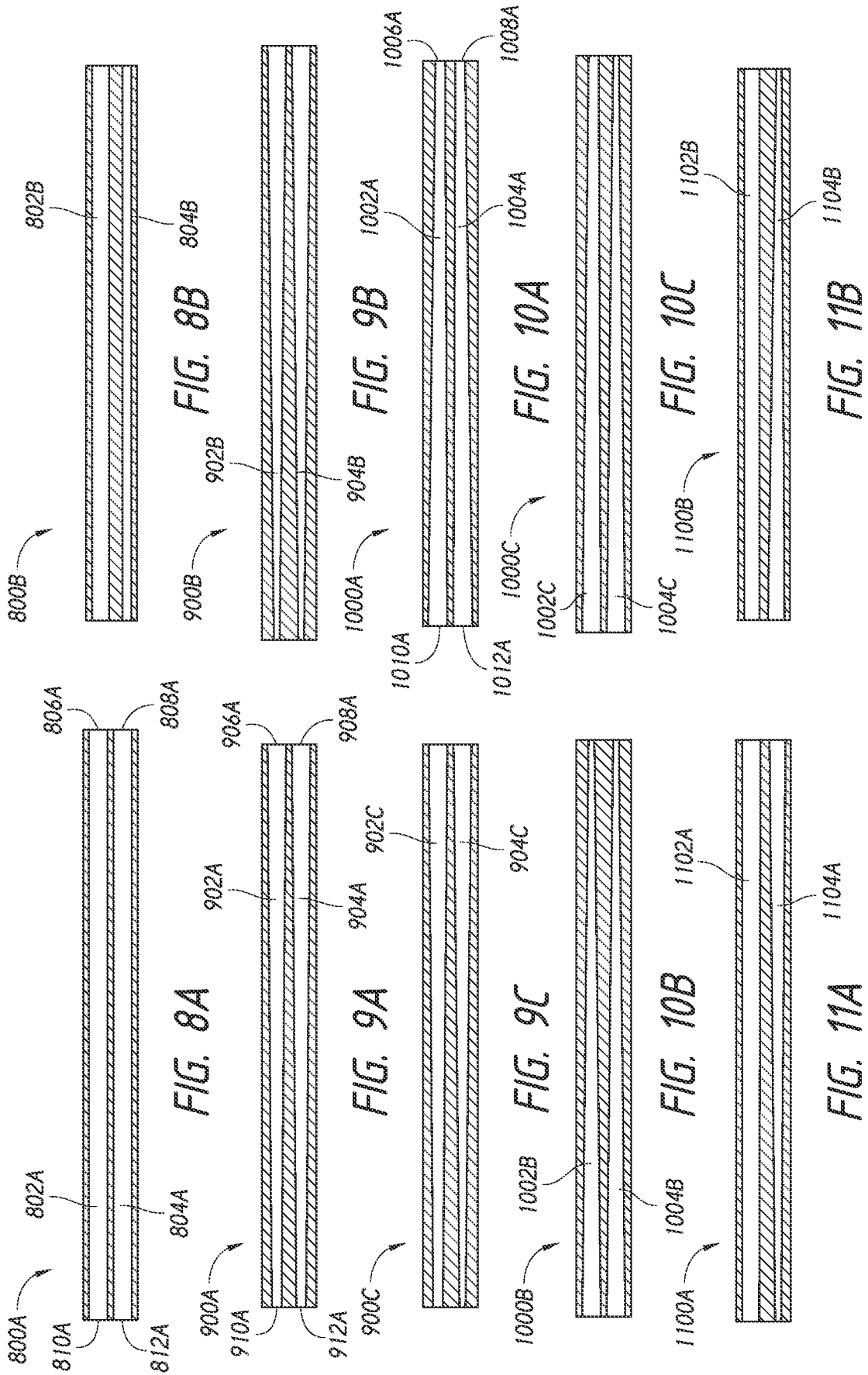
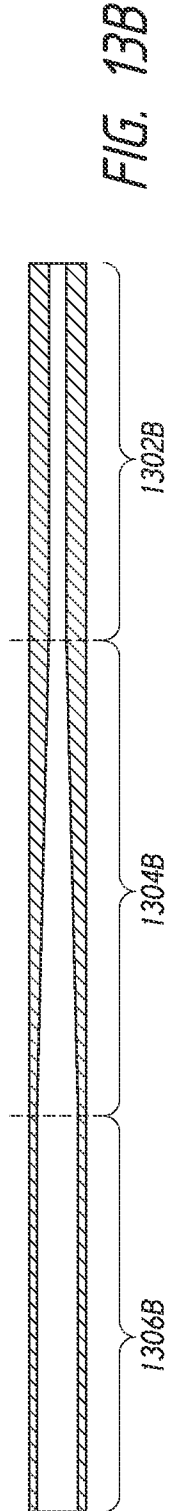
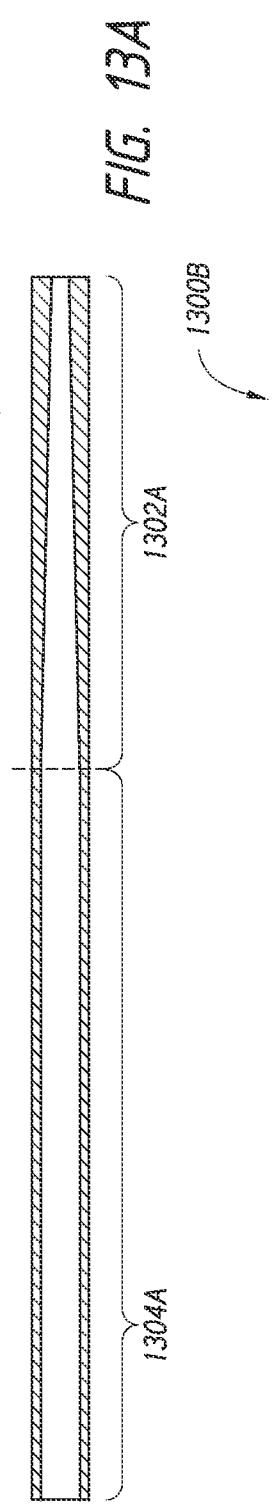
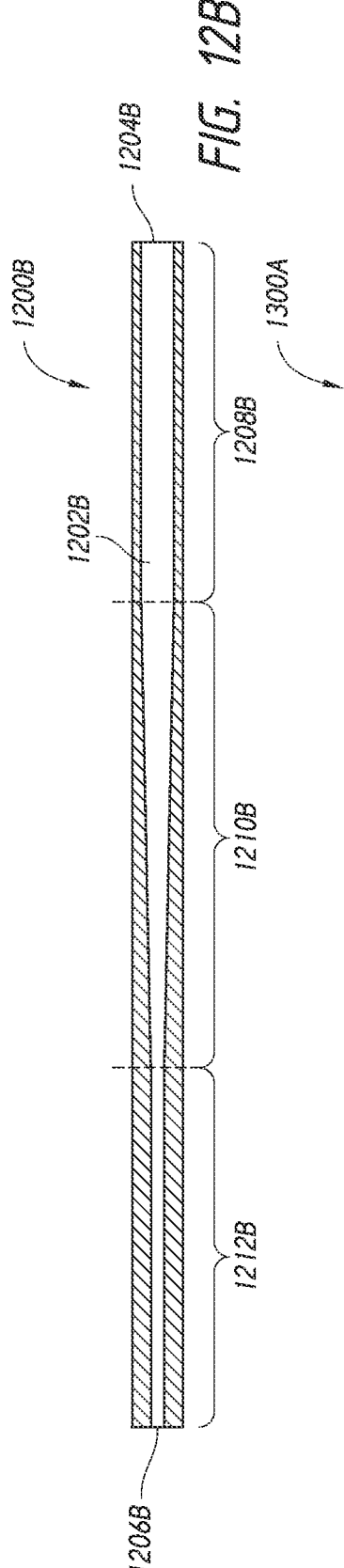
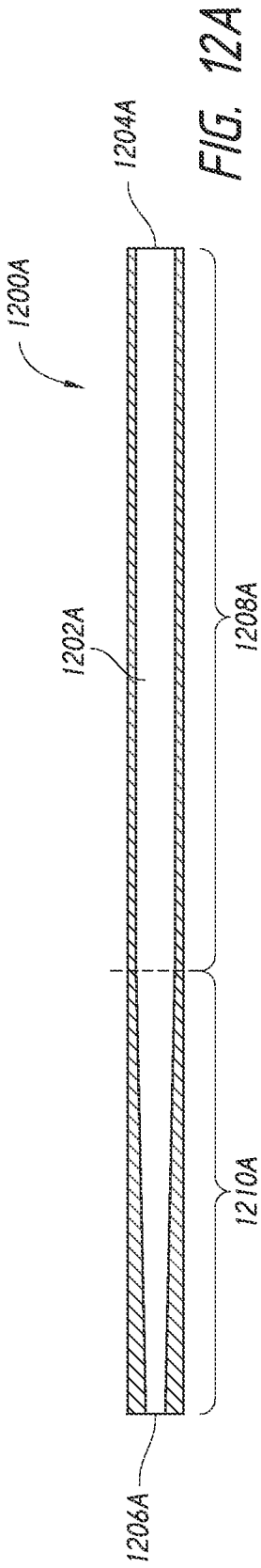
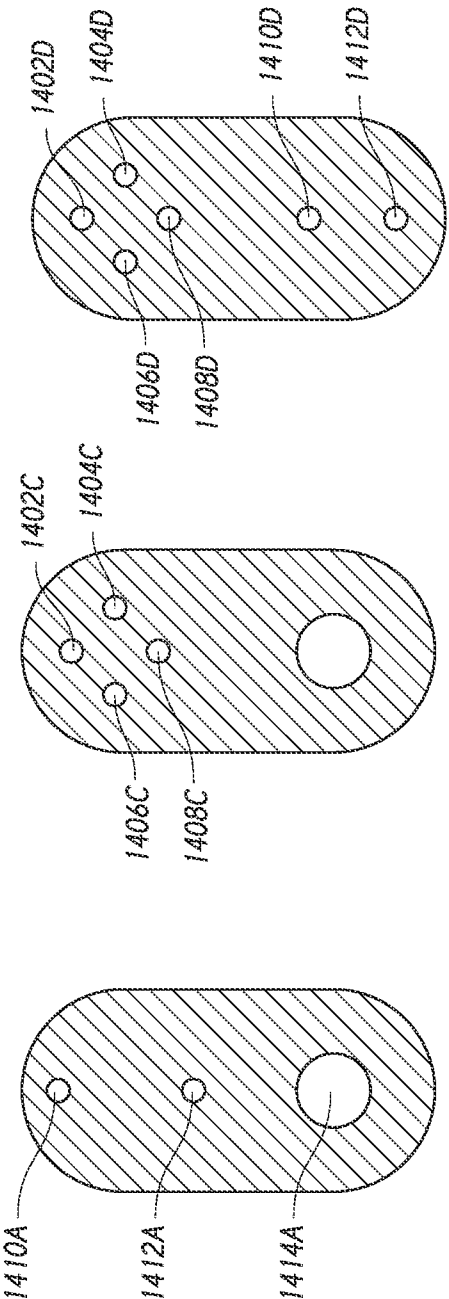
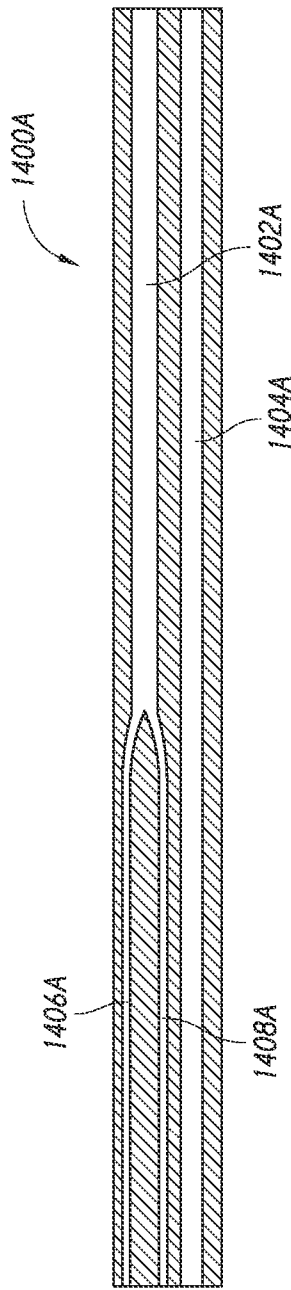


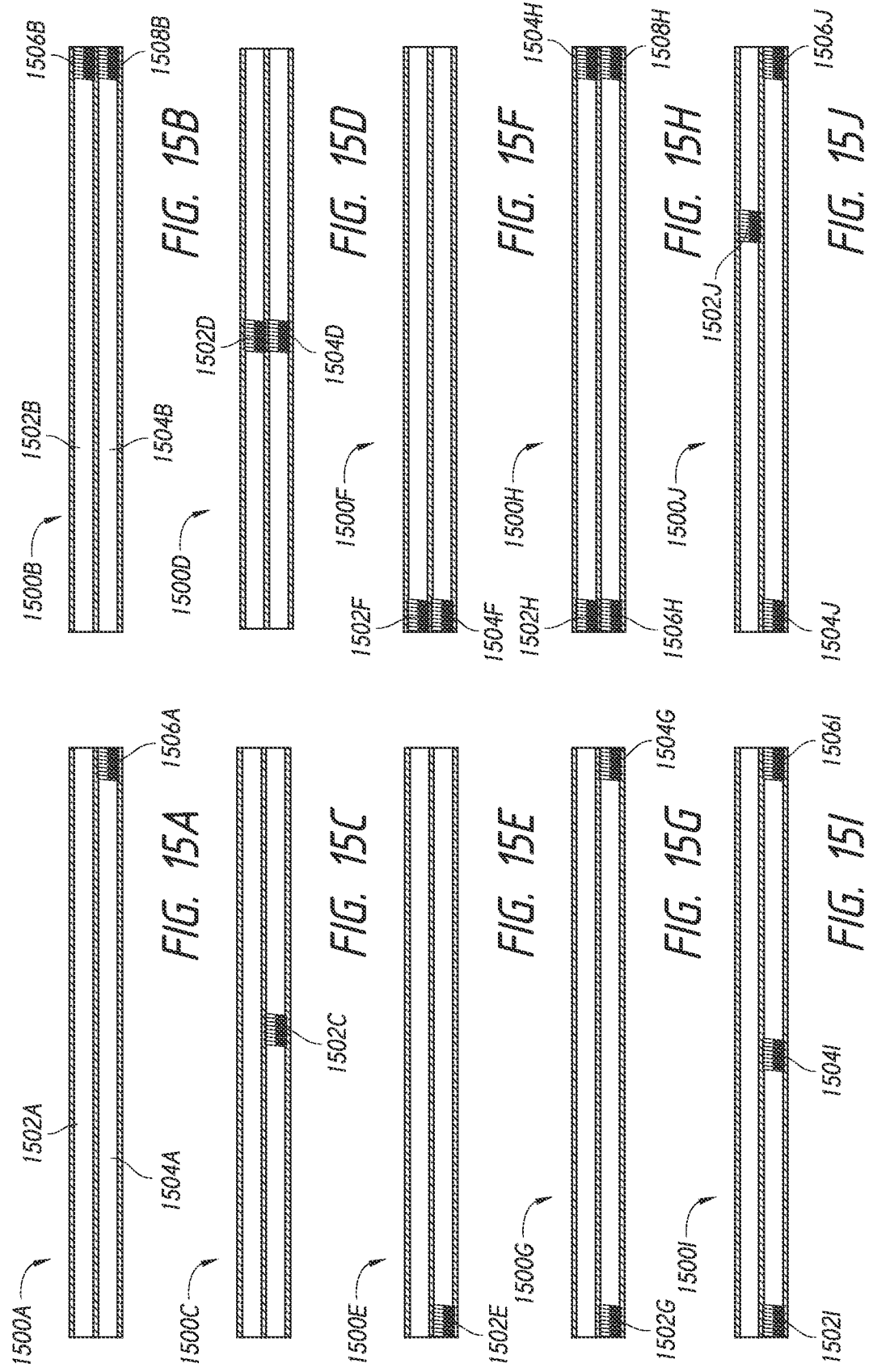
FIG. 7C

FIG. 7D

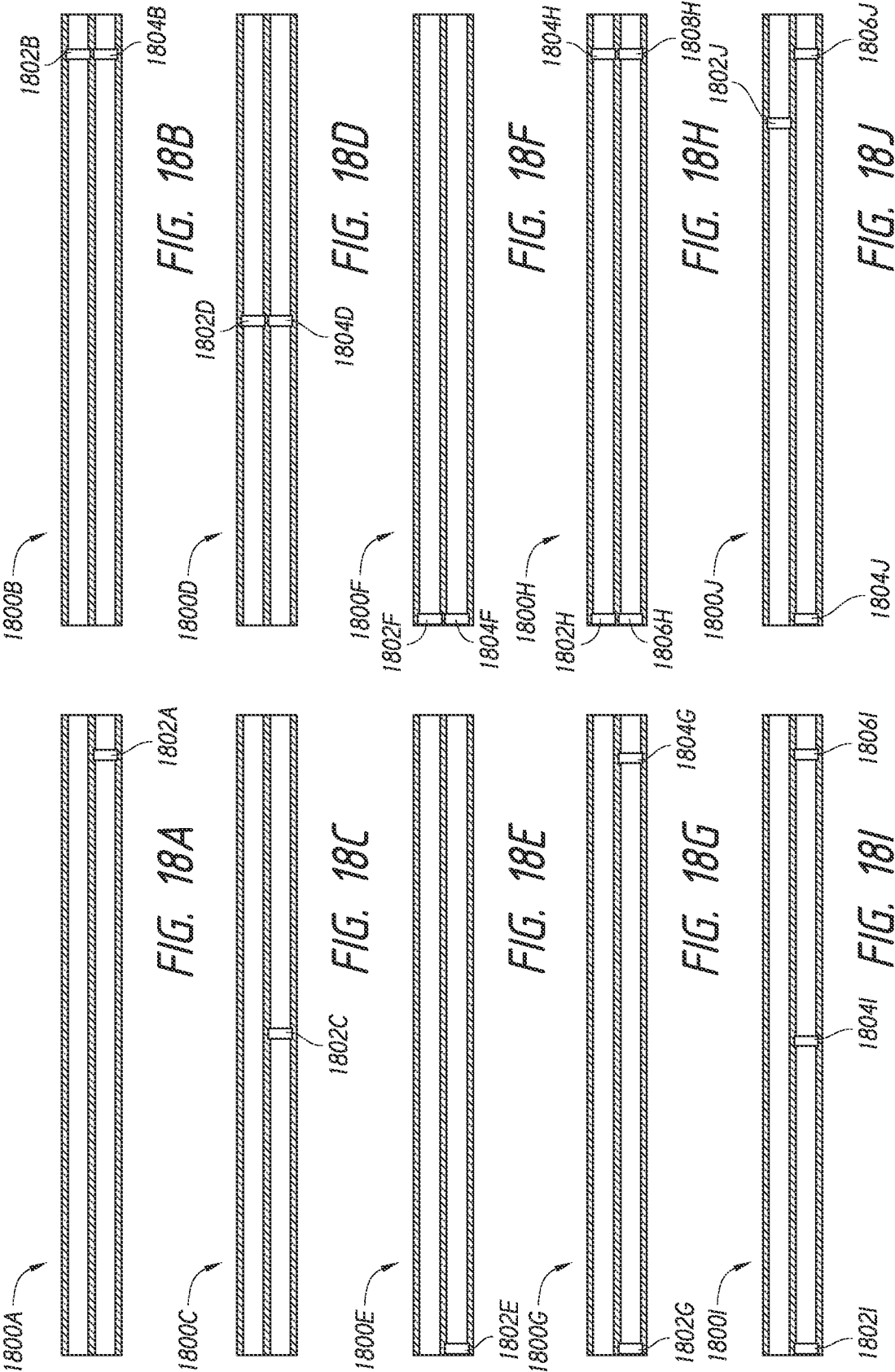


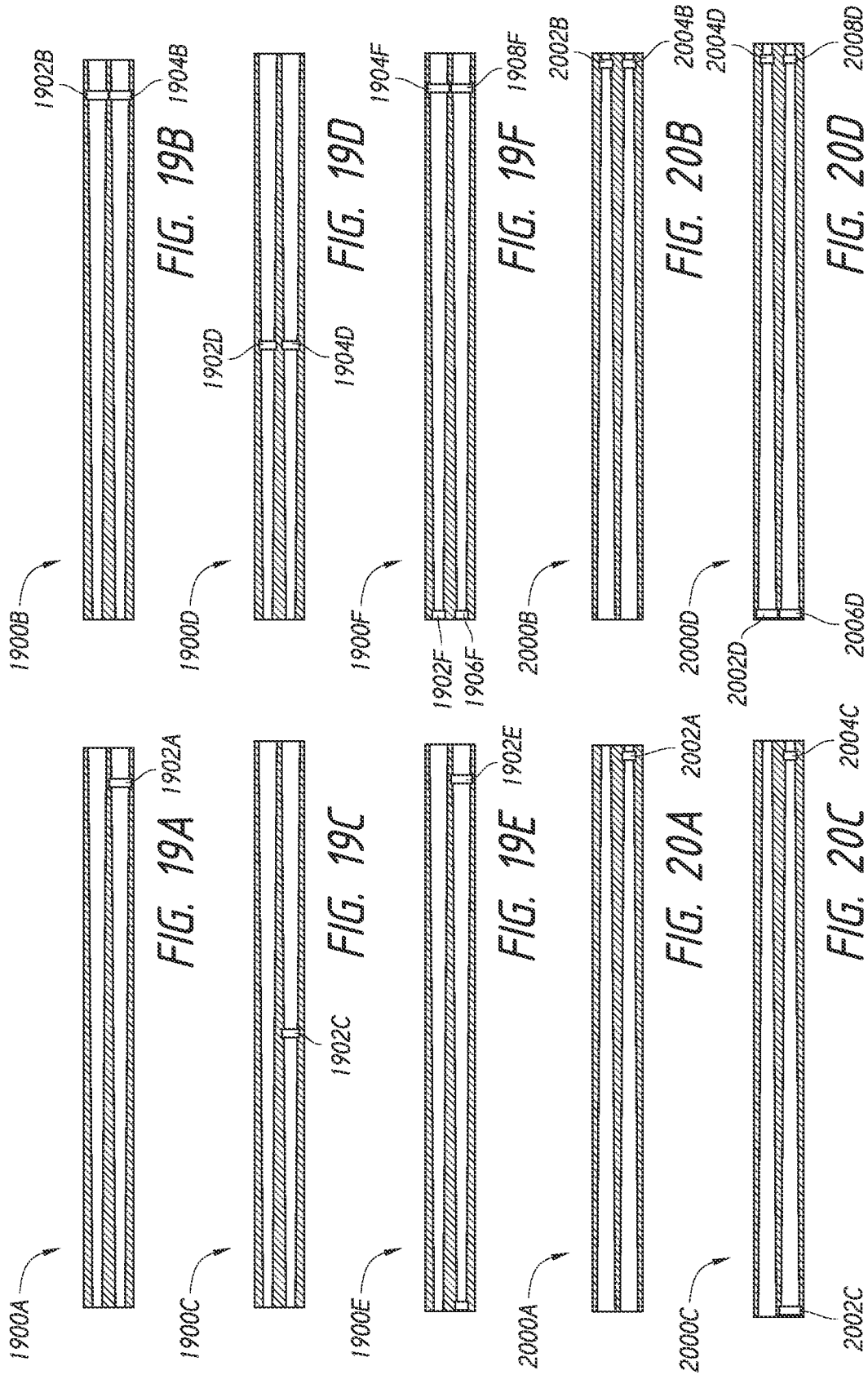


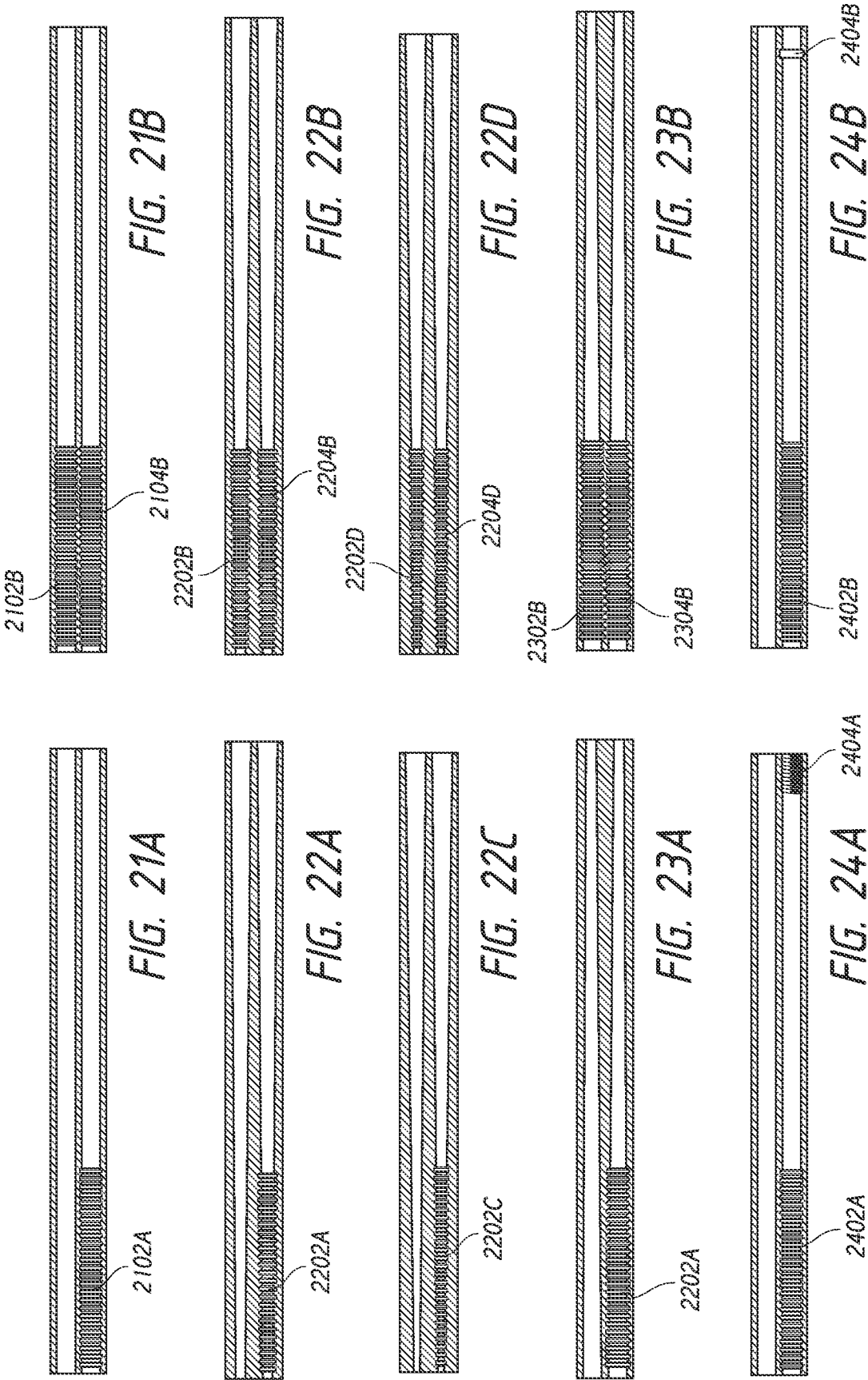


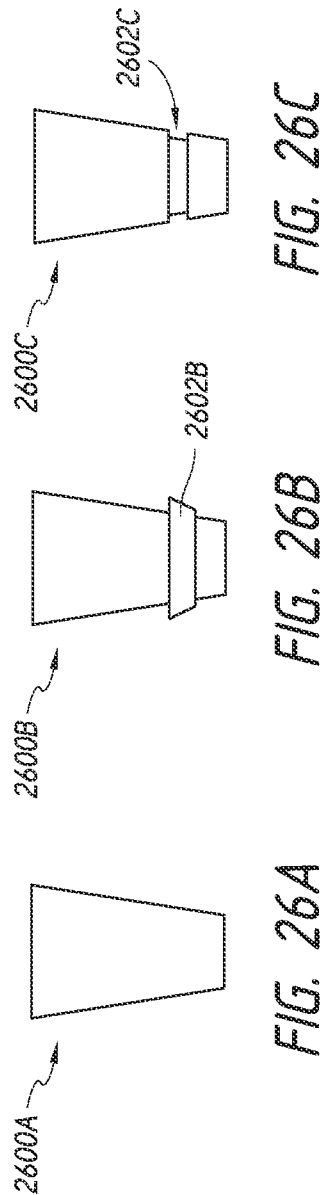
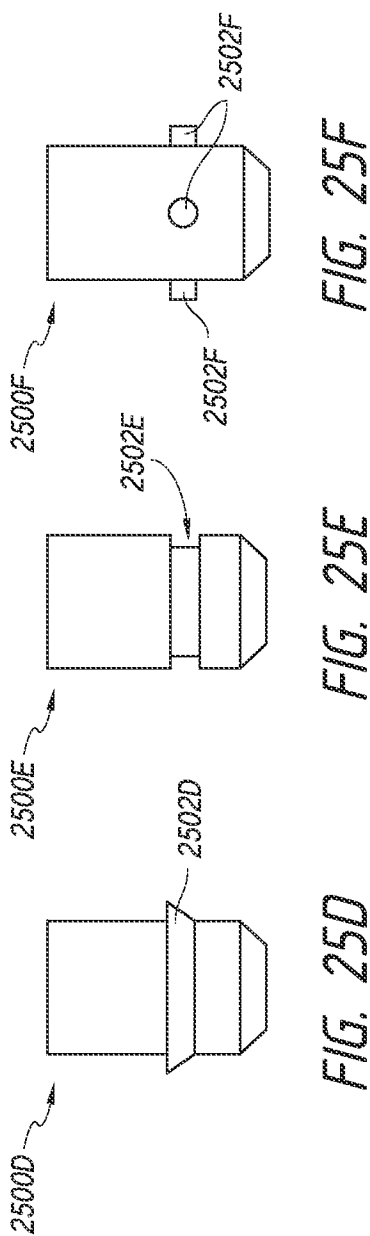
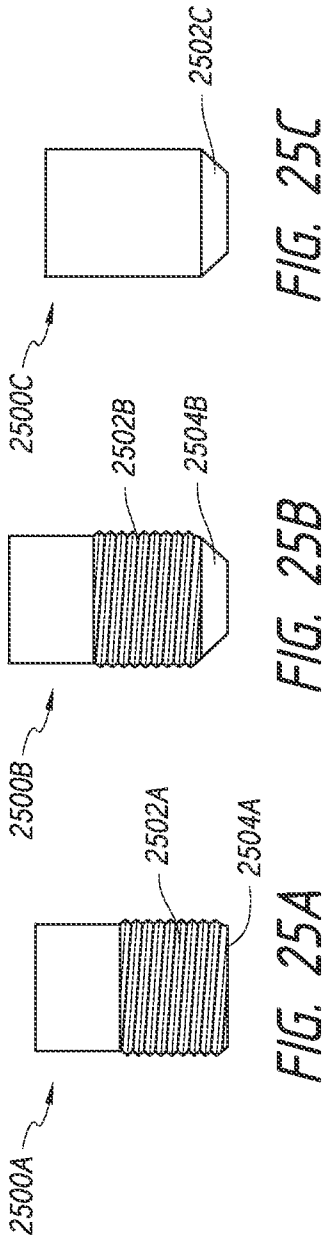


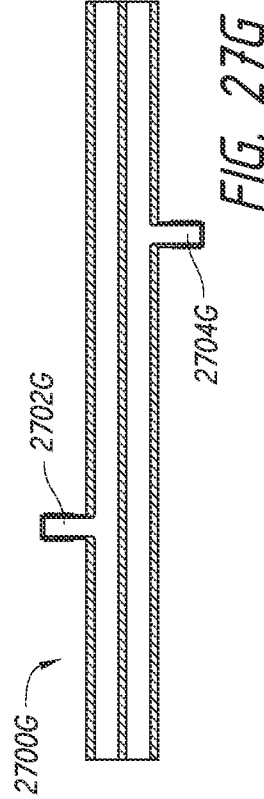
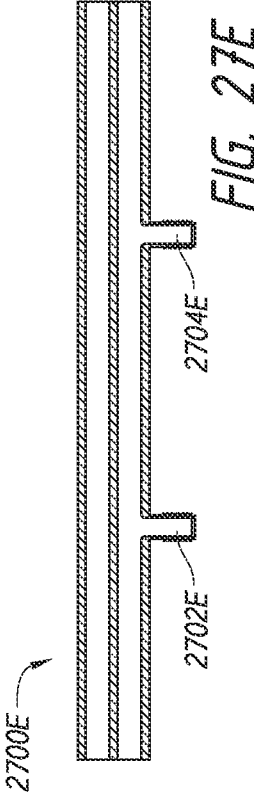
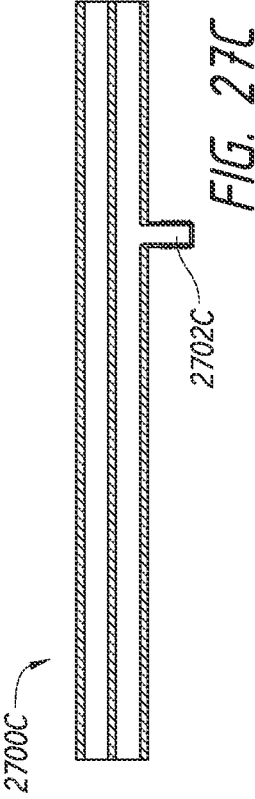
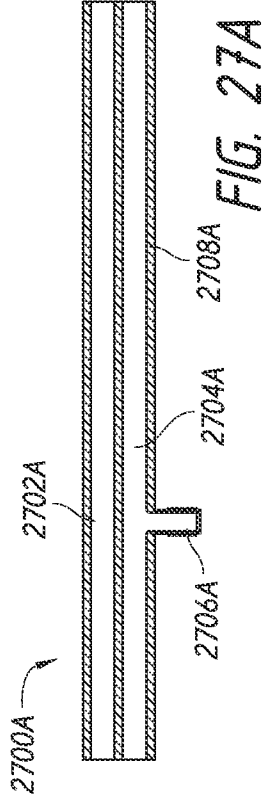
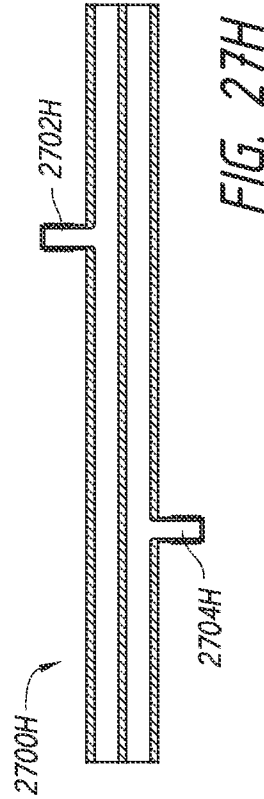
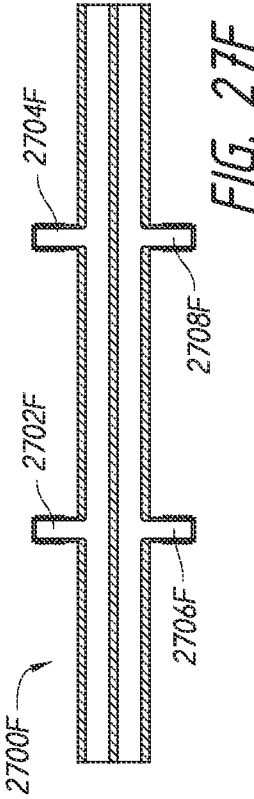
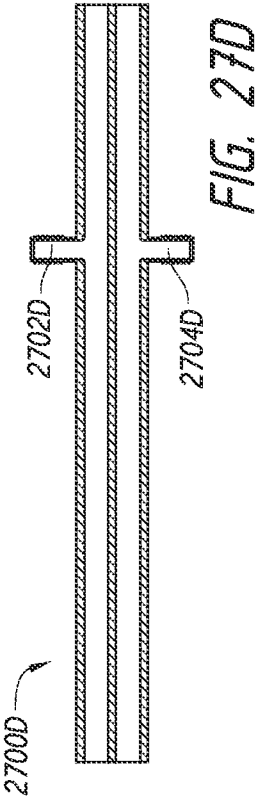
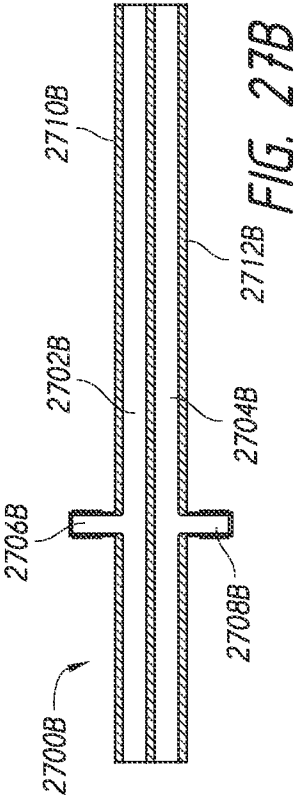














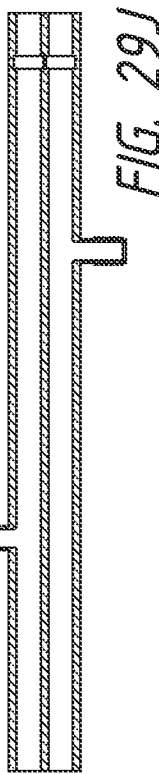
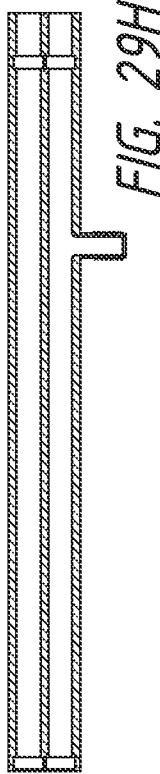
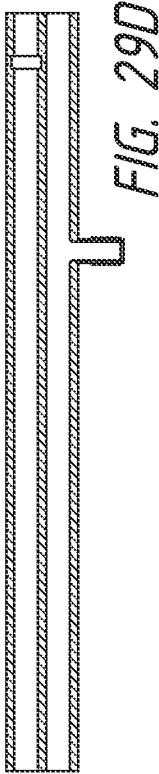
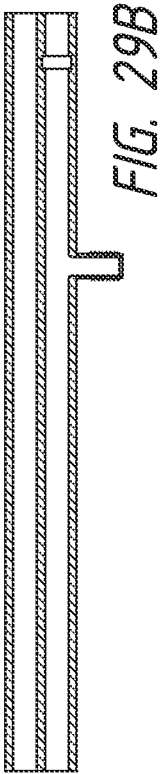
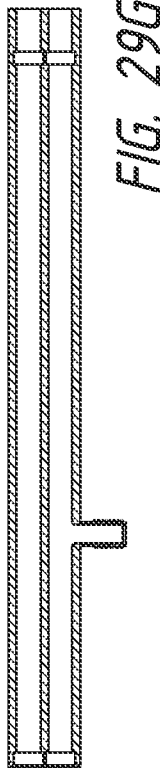
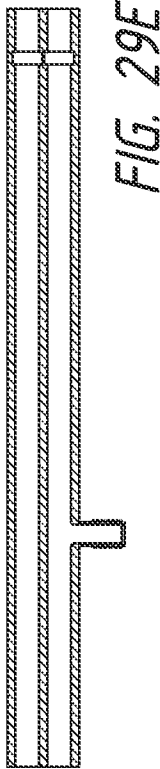
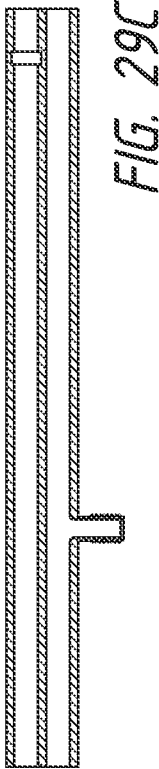
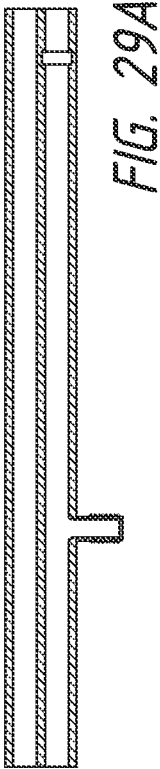




FIG. 30A

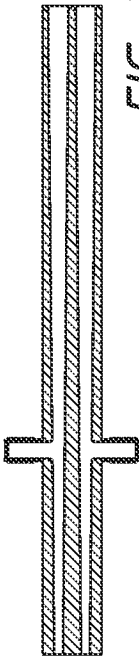


FIG. 30C



FIG. 30E



FIG. 30G

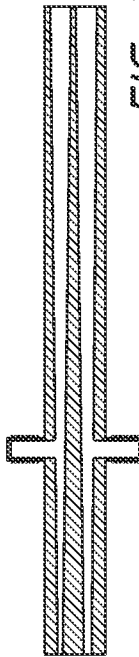


FIG. 30I



FIG. 31B



FIG. 30B

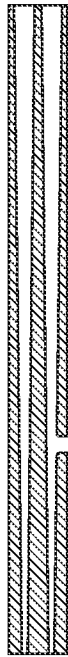


FIG. 30D

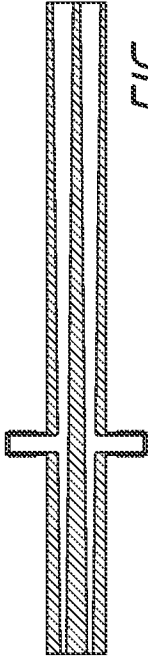


FIG. 30F

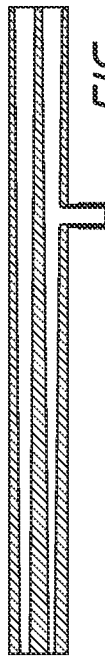


FIG. 30H



FIG. 31A

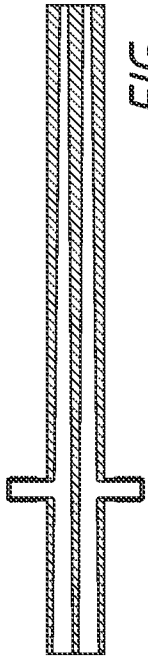


FIG. 31C

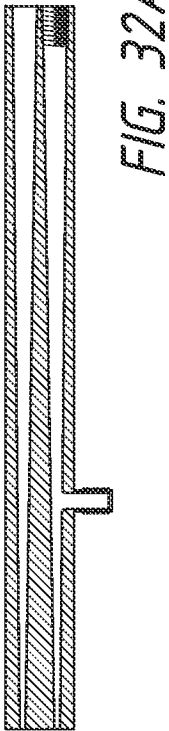


FIG. 32A



FIG. 32C

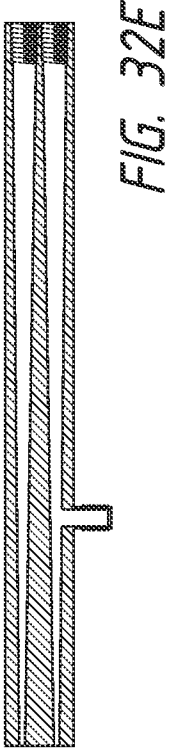


FIG. 32E

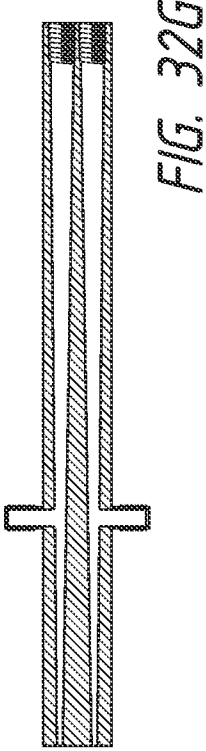


FIG. 32G

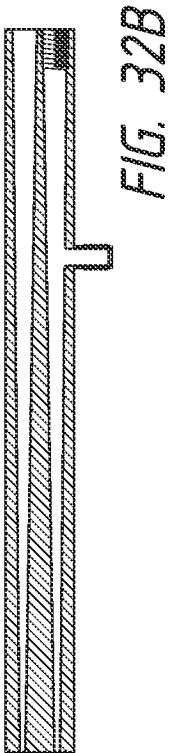


FIG. 32B



FIG. 32D

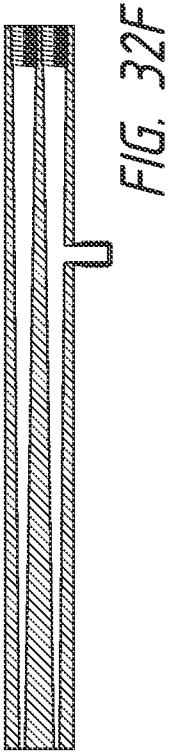


FIG. 32F

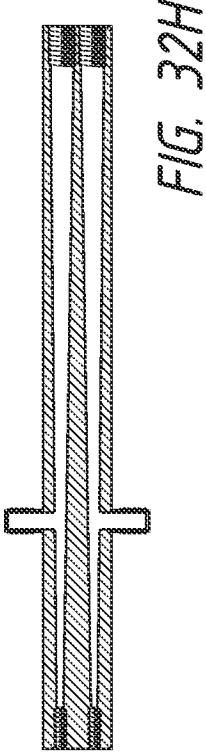
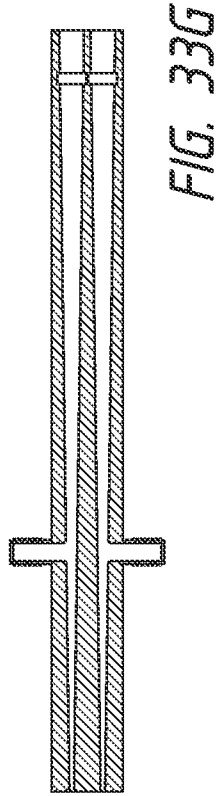
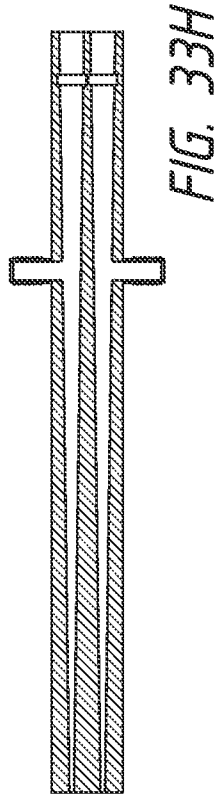
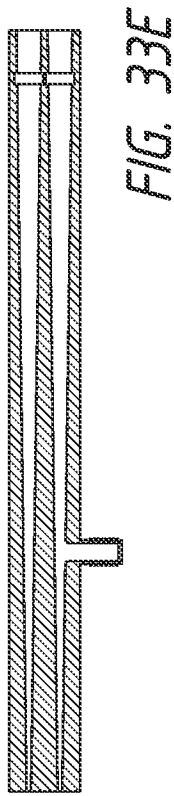
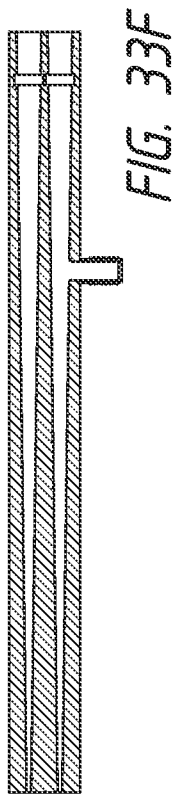
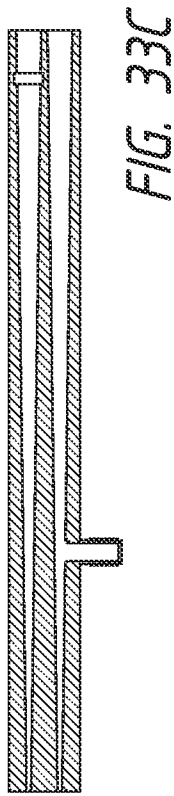
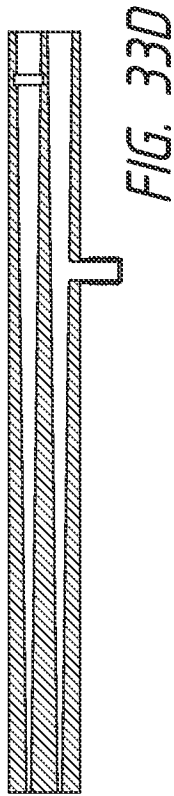
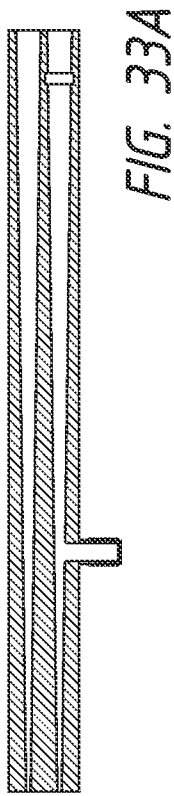
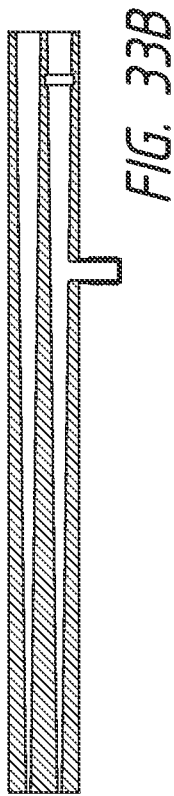
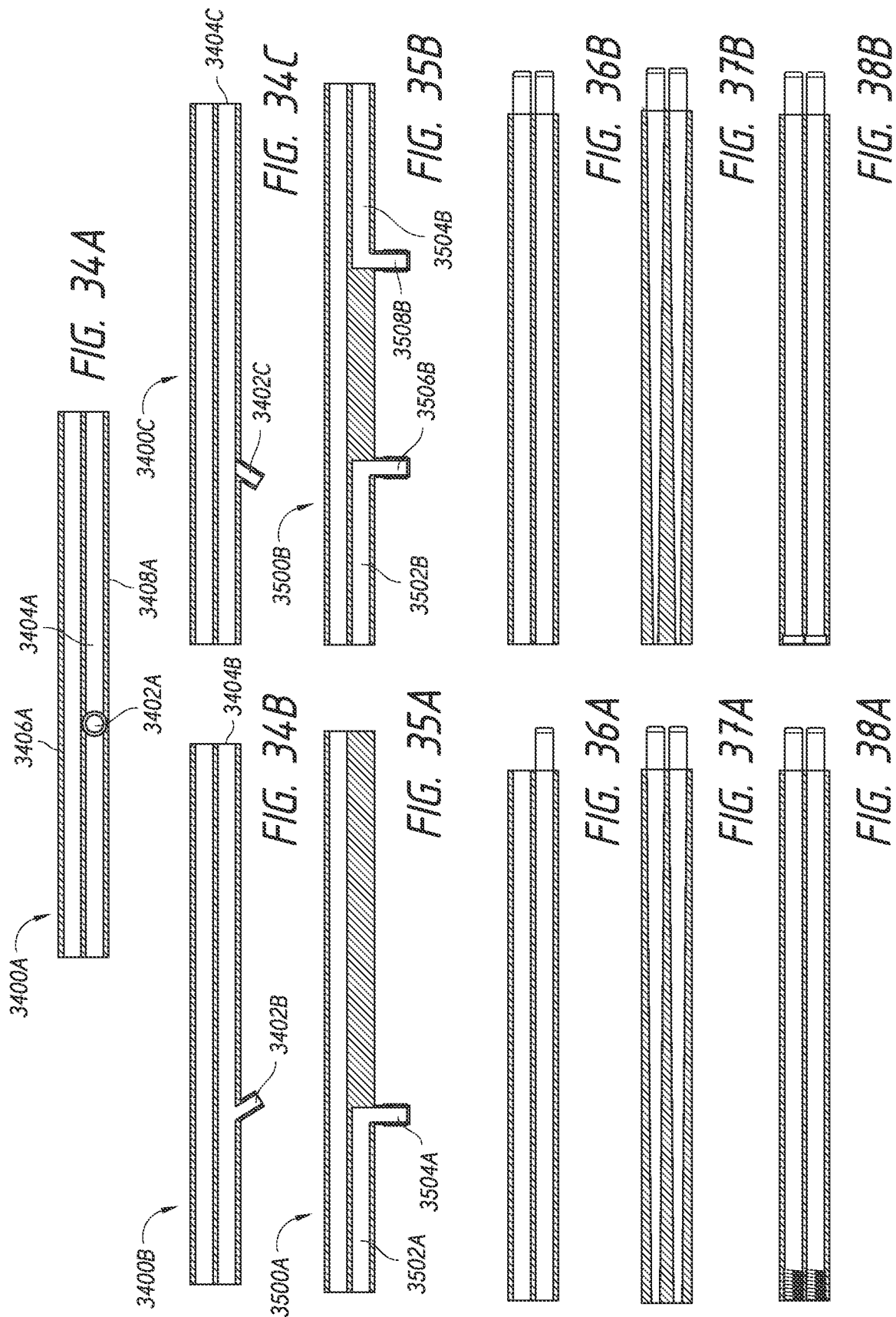
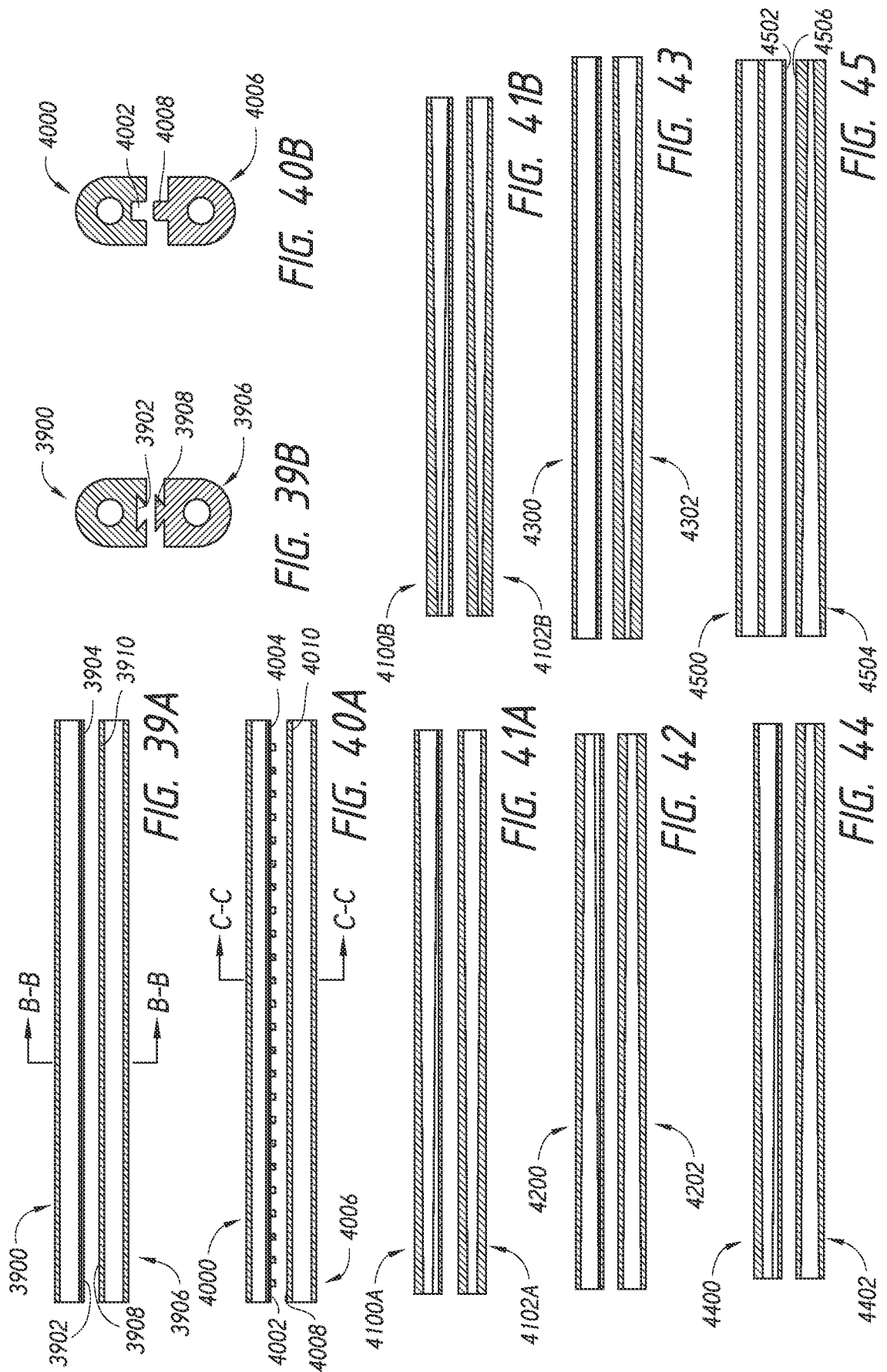
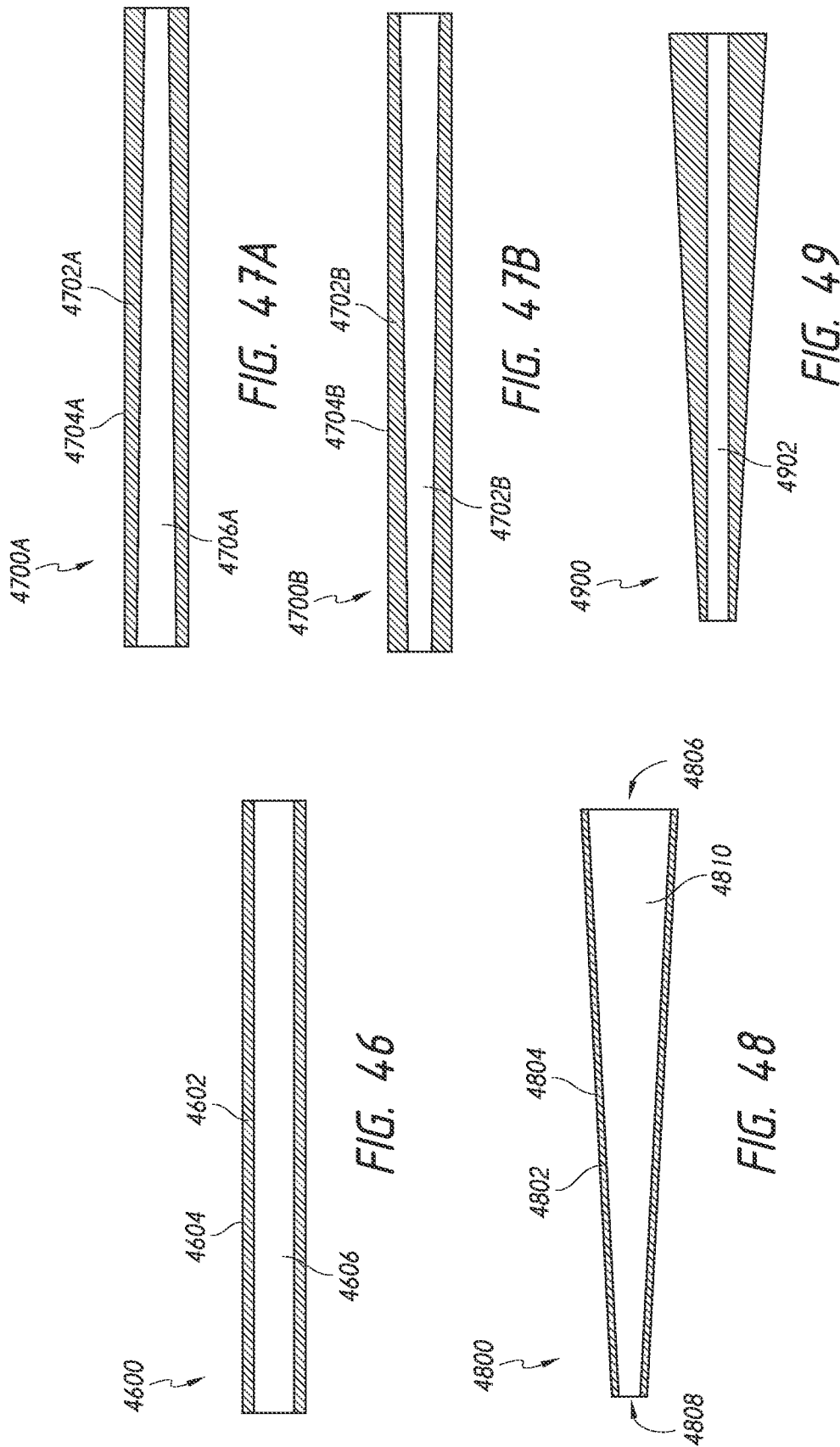


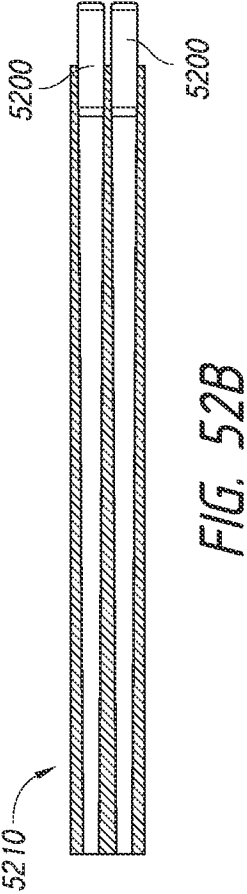
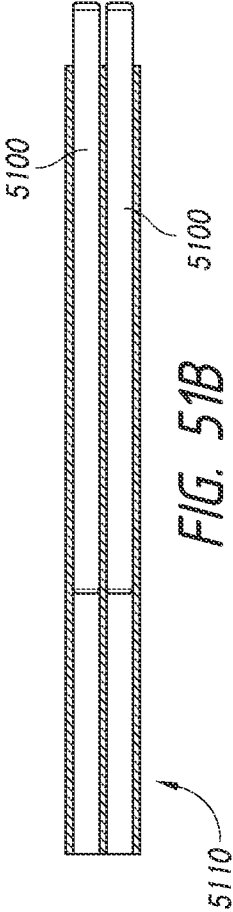
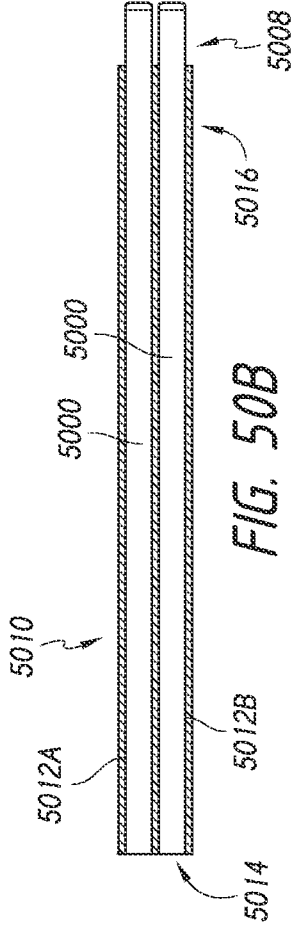
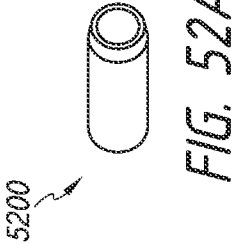
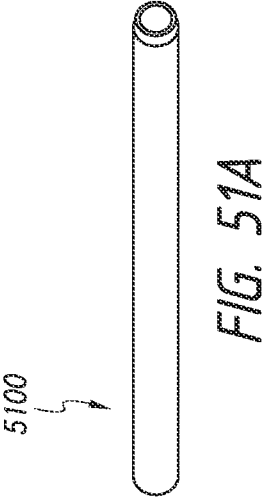
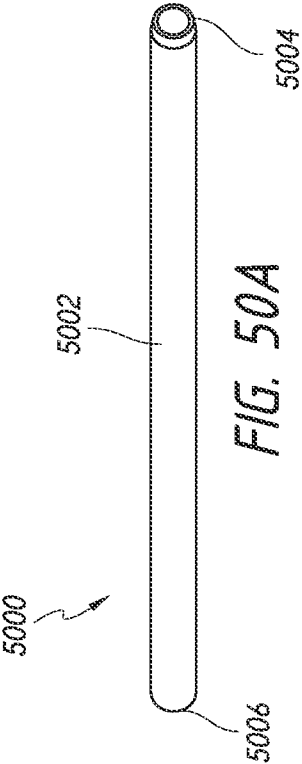
FIG. 32H











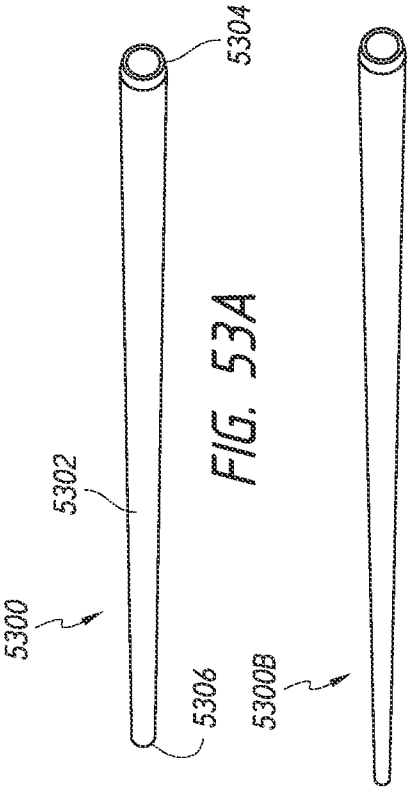


FIG. 53C



FIG. 54C

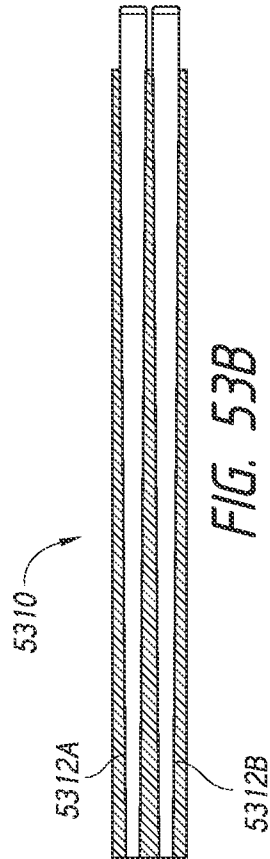


FIG. 53D

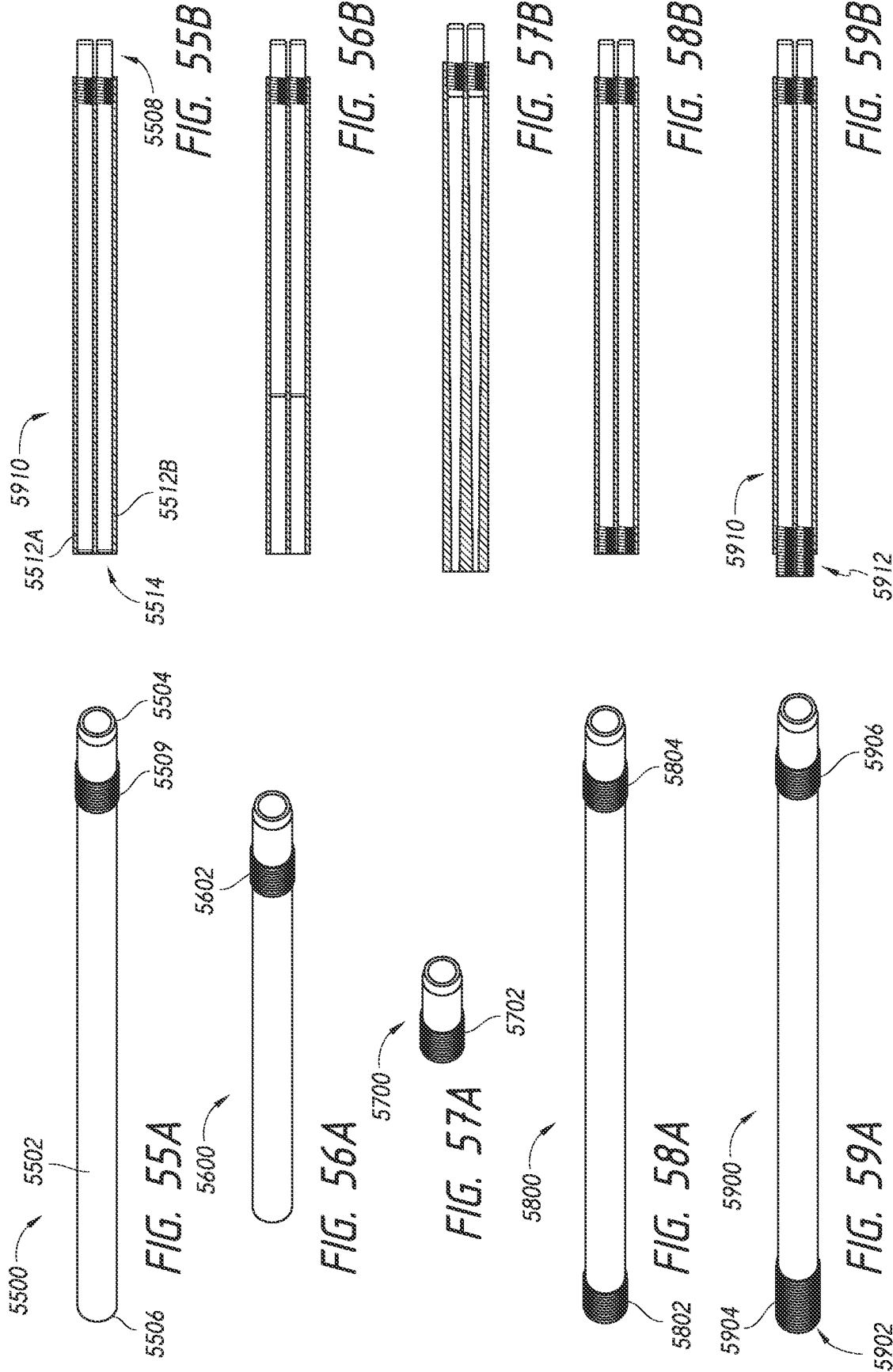


FIG. 54B



FIG. 54D





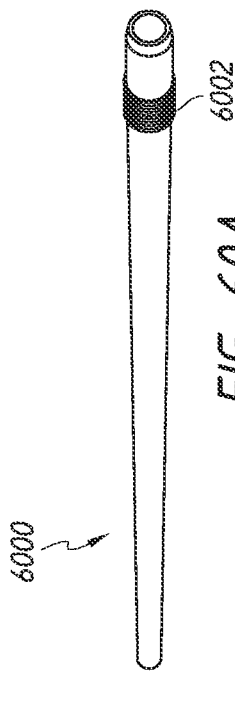


FIG. 60B

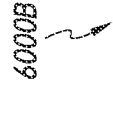


FIG. 60C

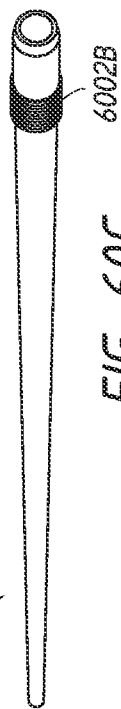


FIG. 60D



FIG. 61A

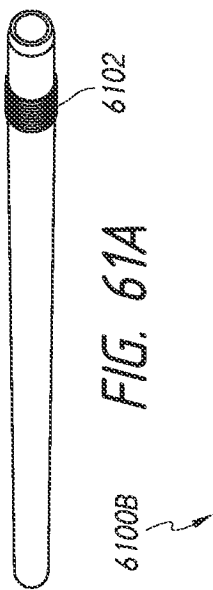


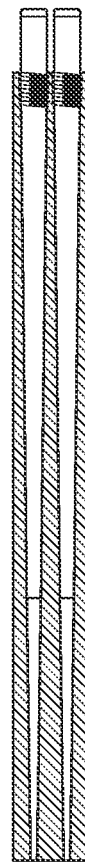
FIG. 61B

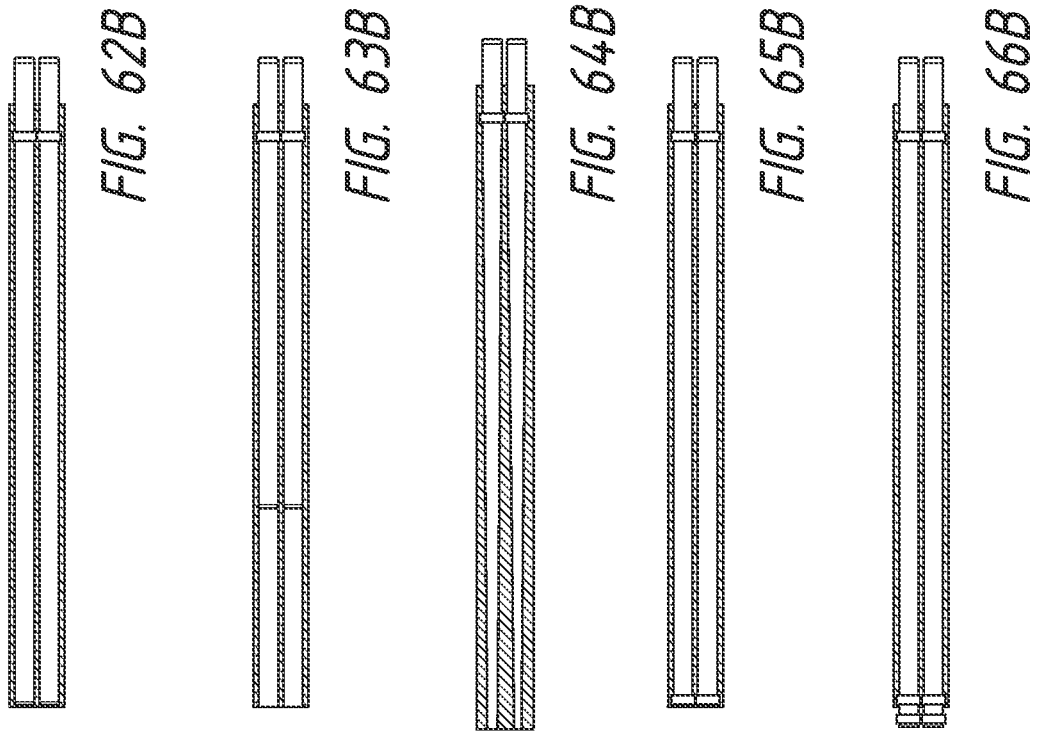
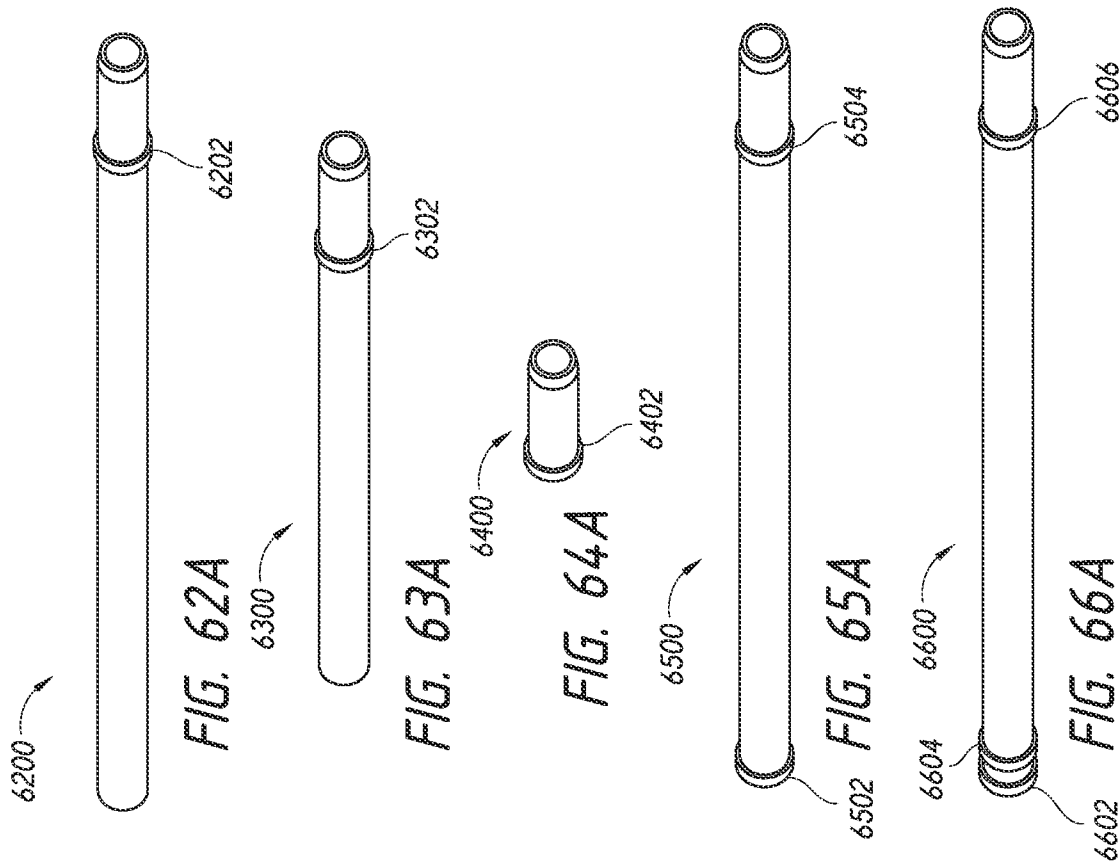


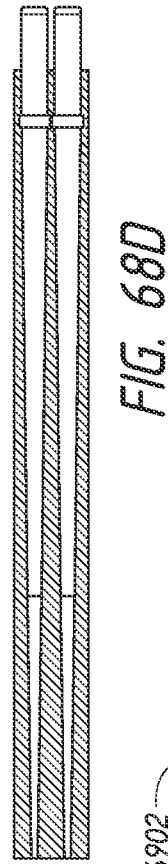
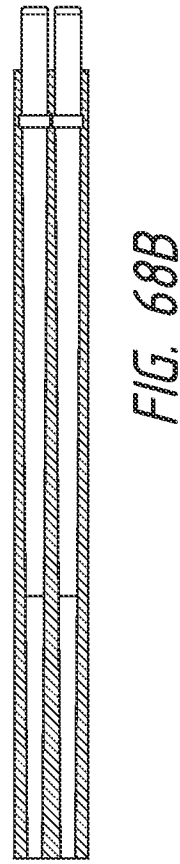
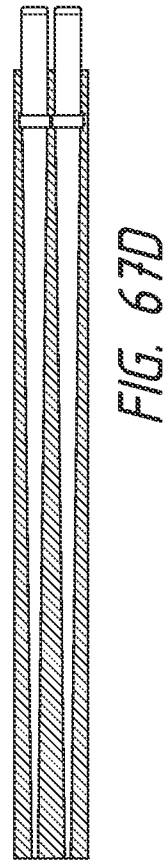
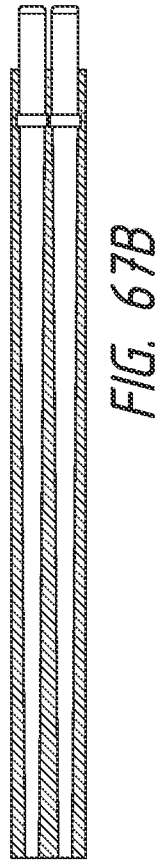
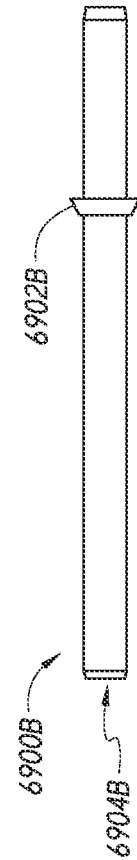
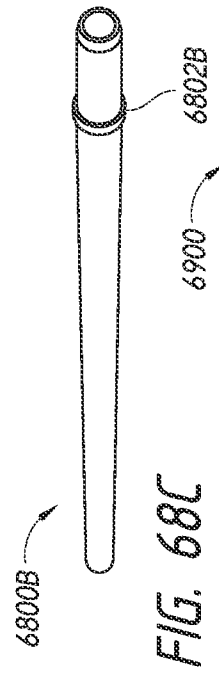
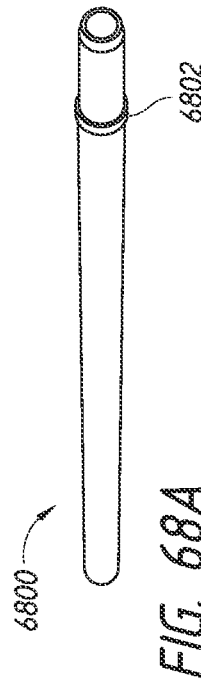
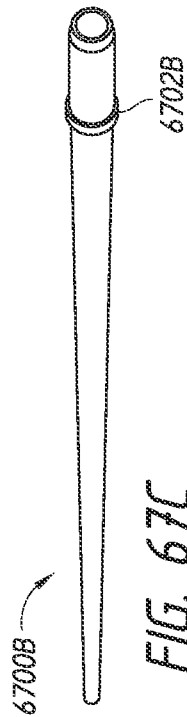
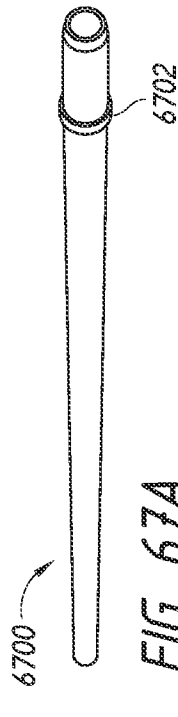
FIG. 61C

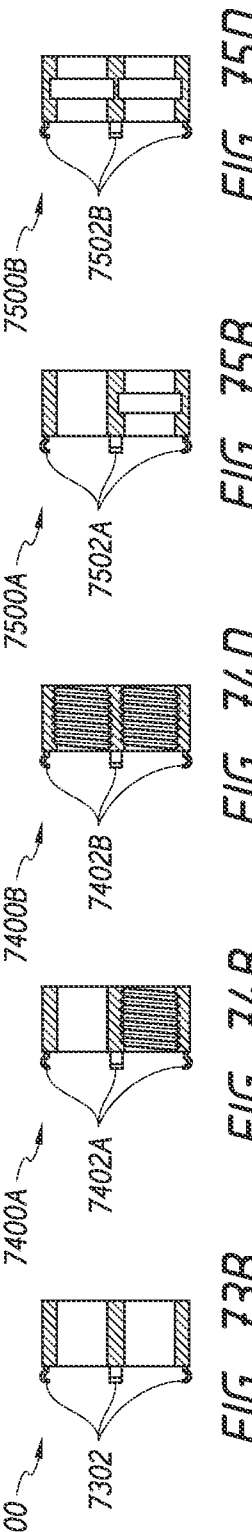
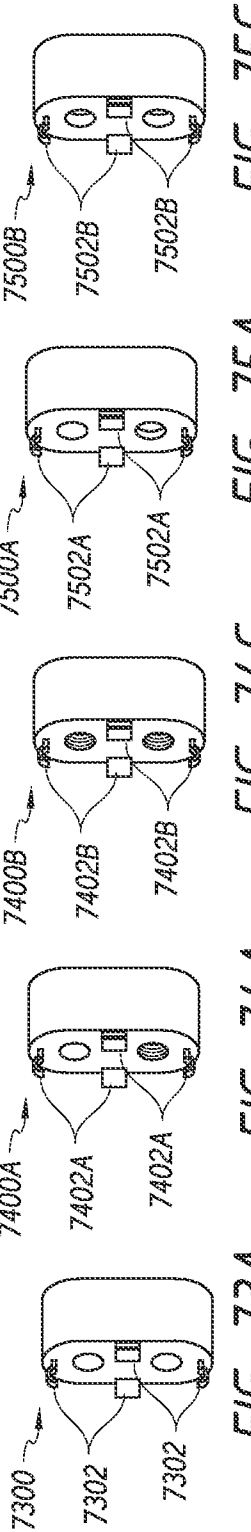
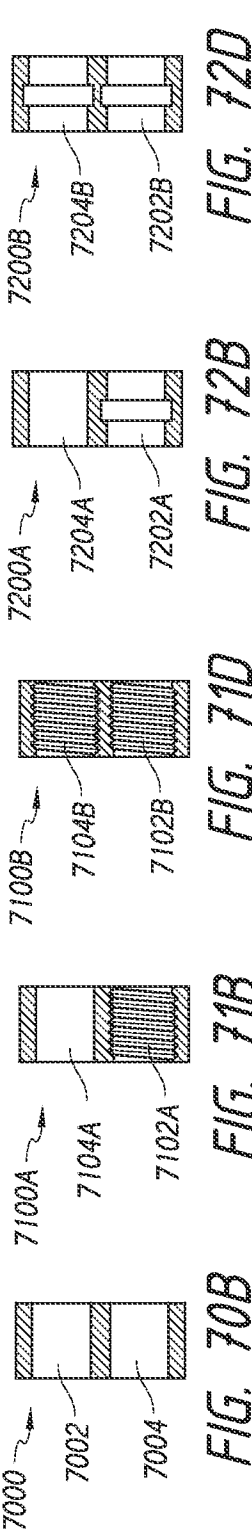
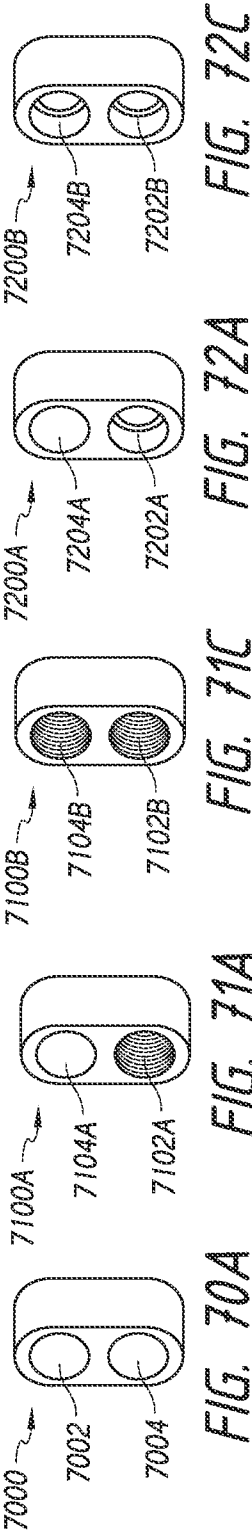


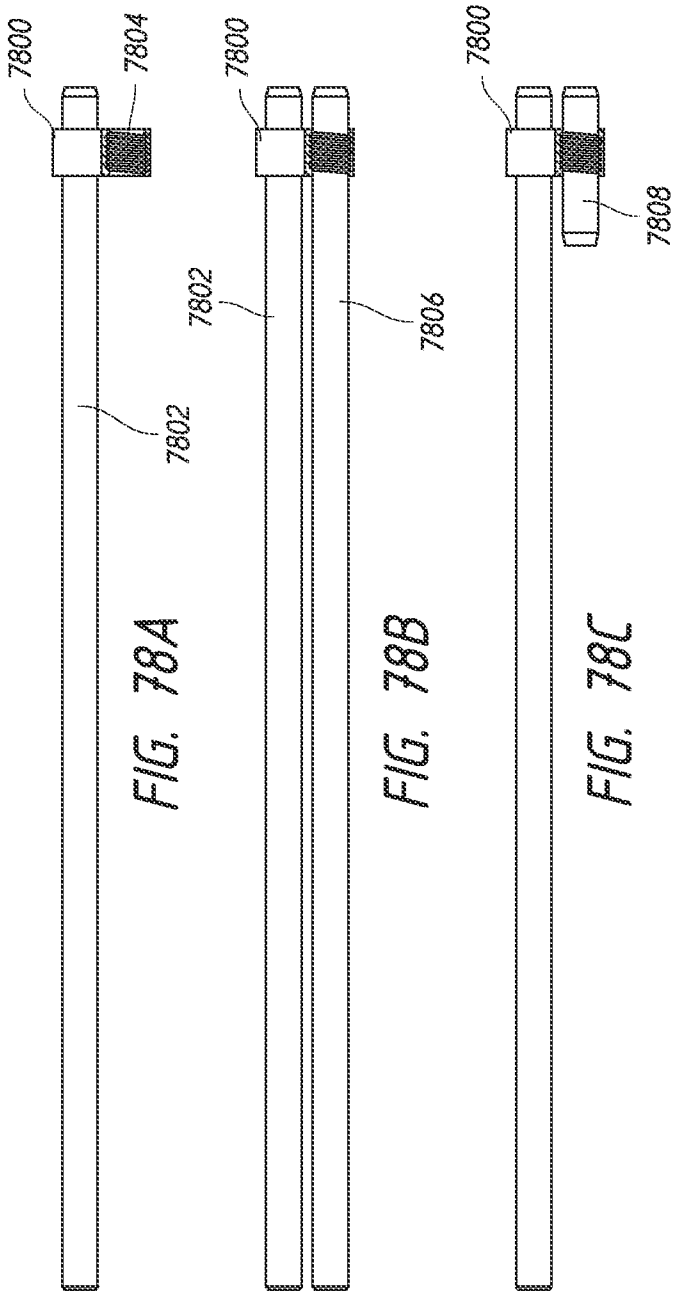
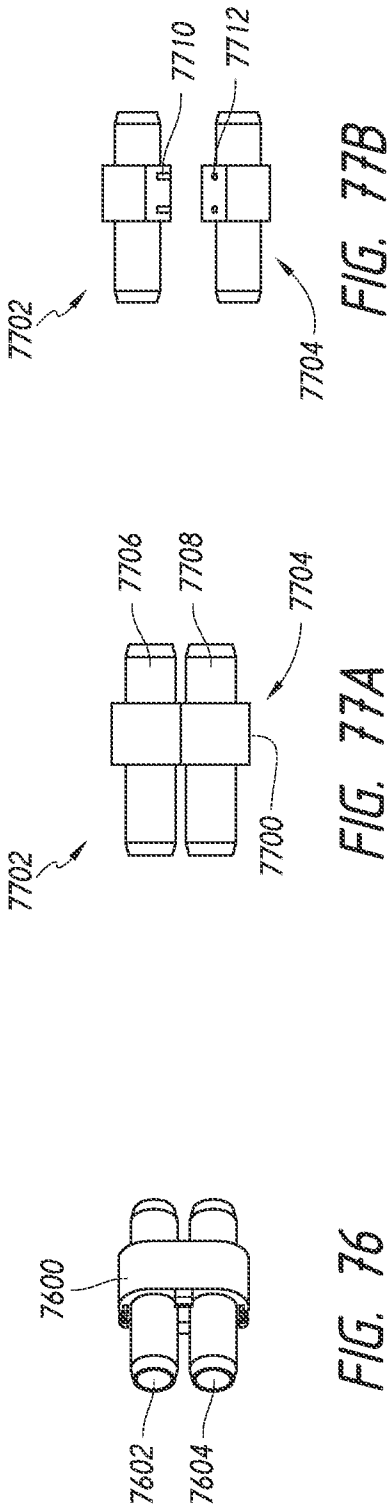
FIG. 61D











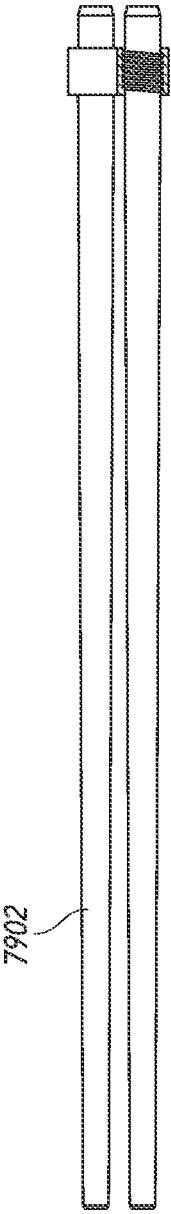


FIG. 79

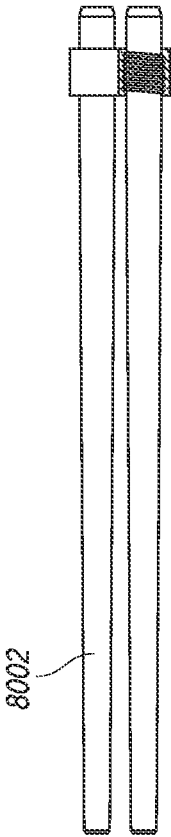


FIG. 80

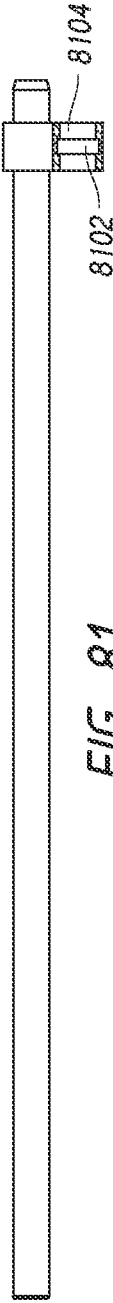


FIG. 81

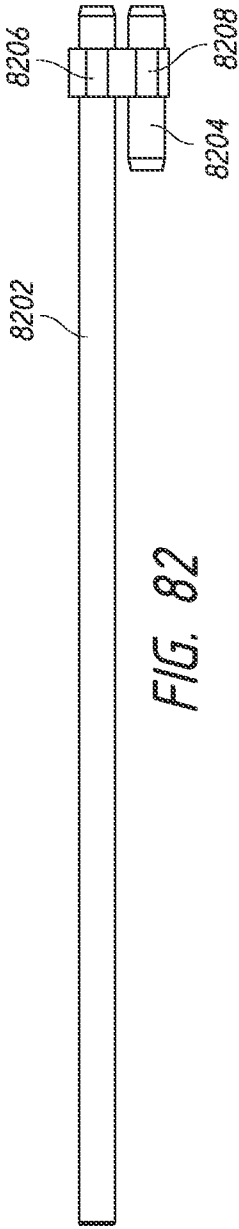
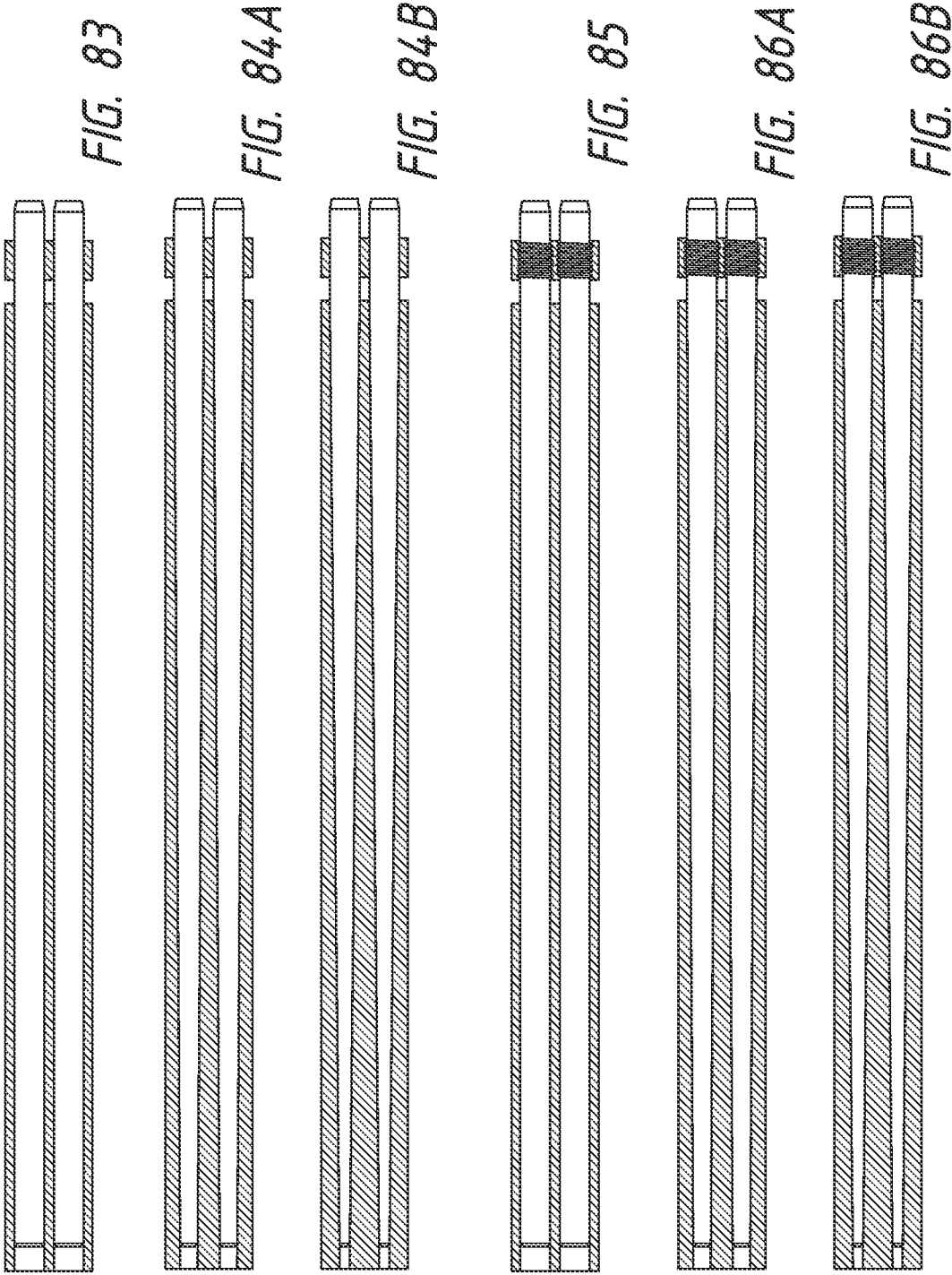
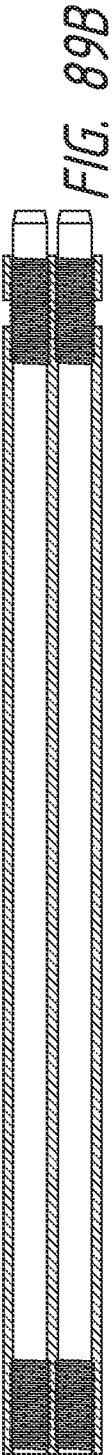
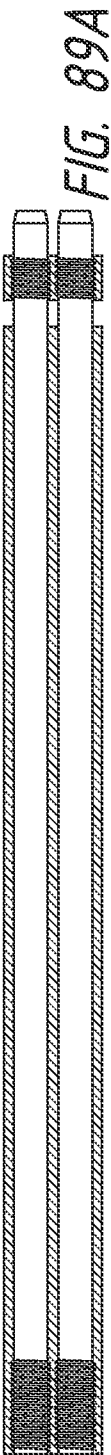
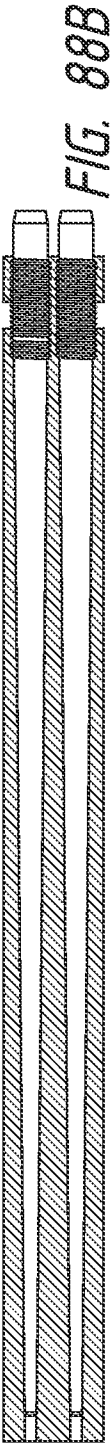
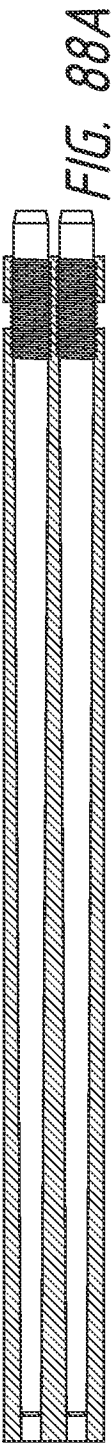


FIG. 82





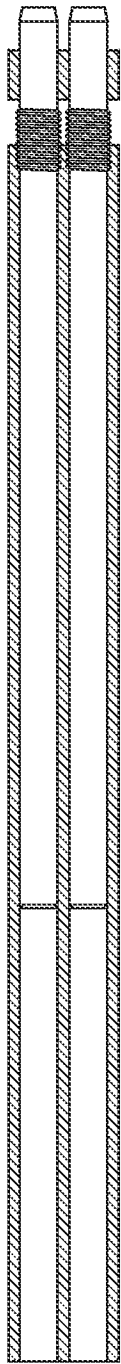


FIG. 90

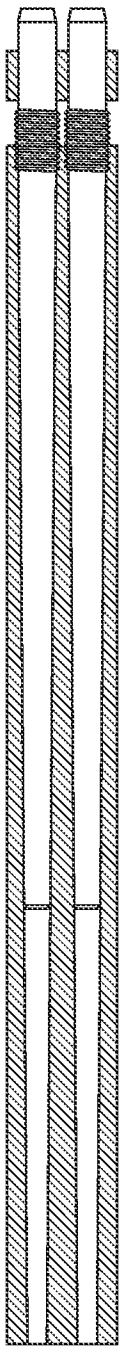


FIG. 91A



FIG. 91B



FIG. 92A



FIG. 92B



FIG. 93

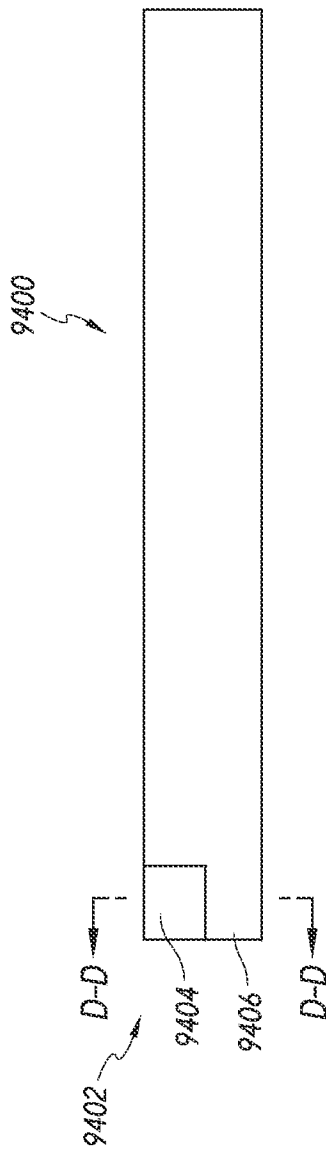


FIG. 94

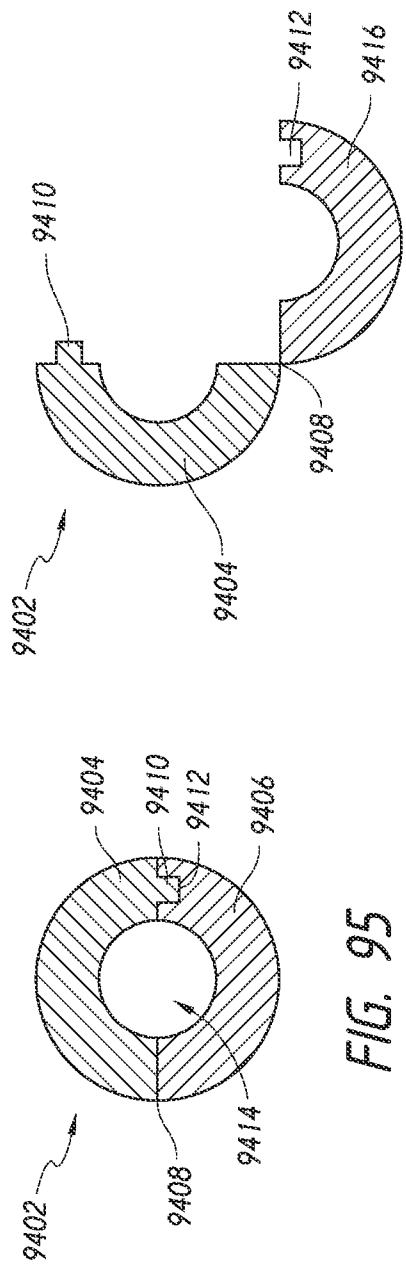
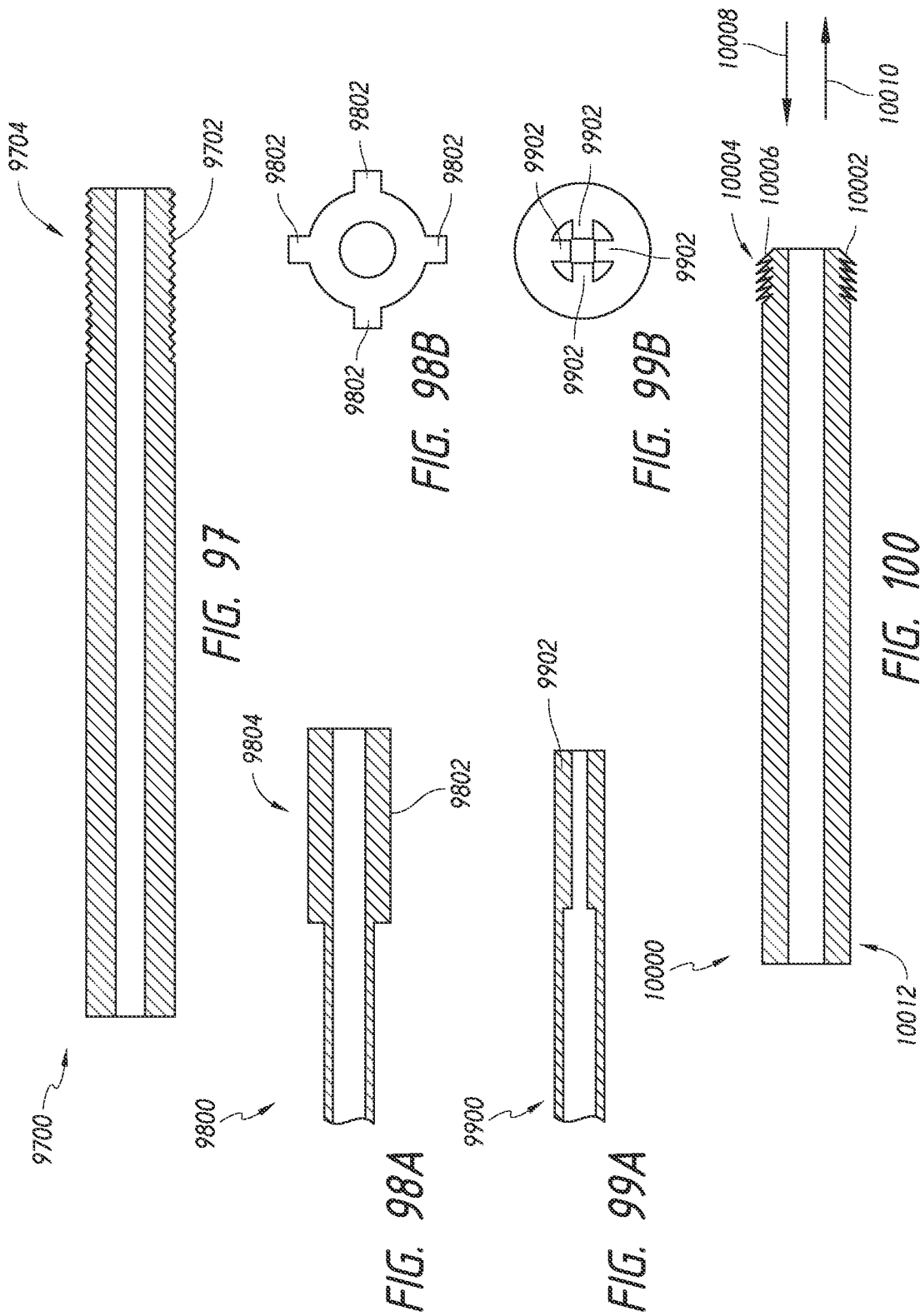
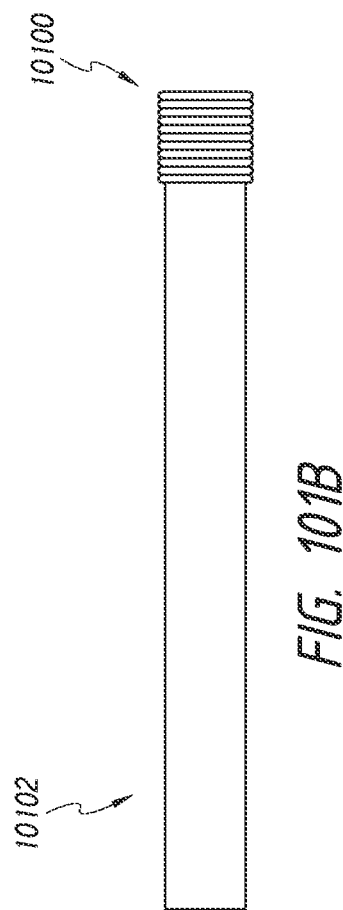
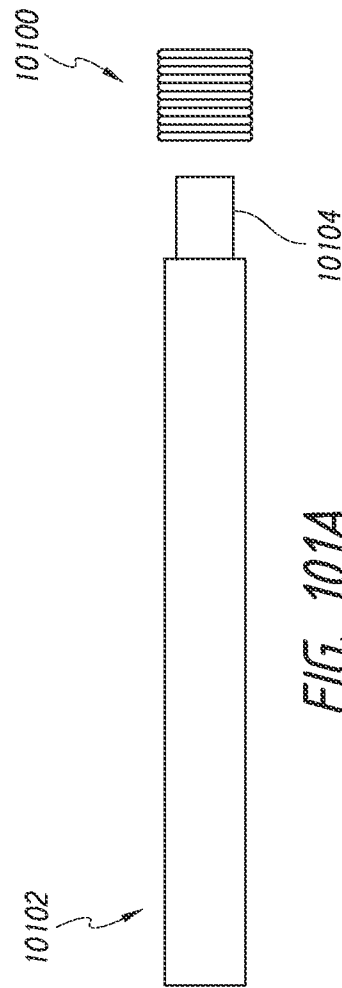


FIG. 95

FIG. 96





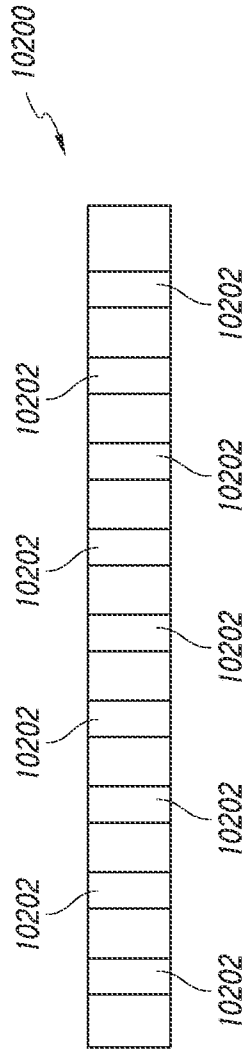


FIG. 102A

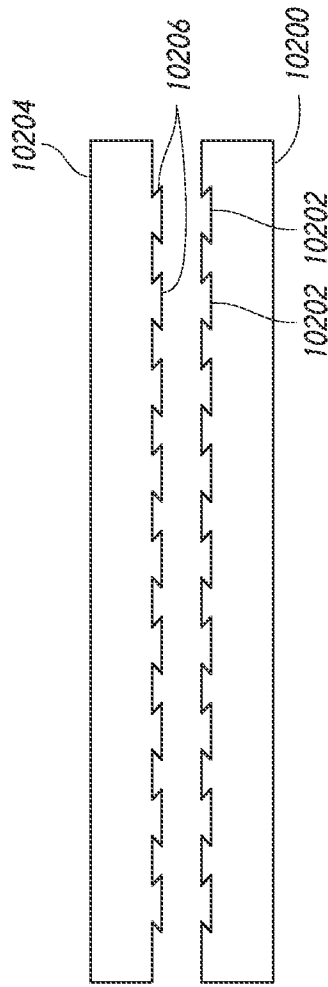


FIG. 102B

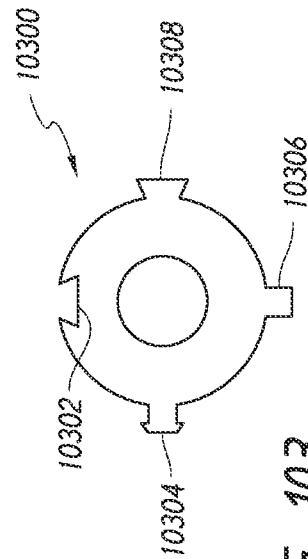
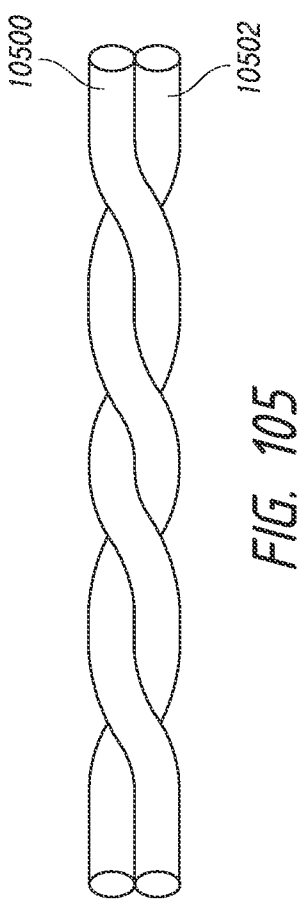
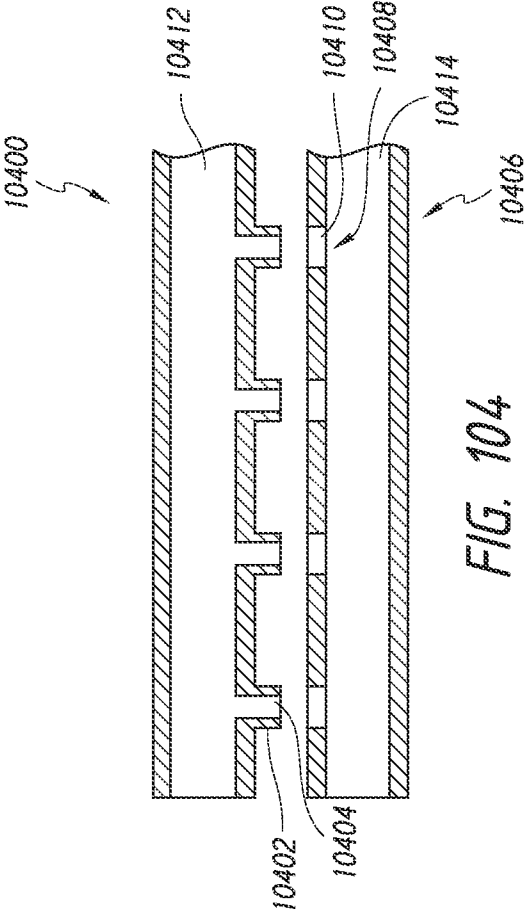
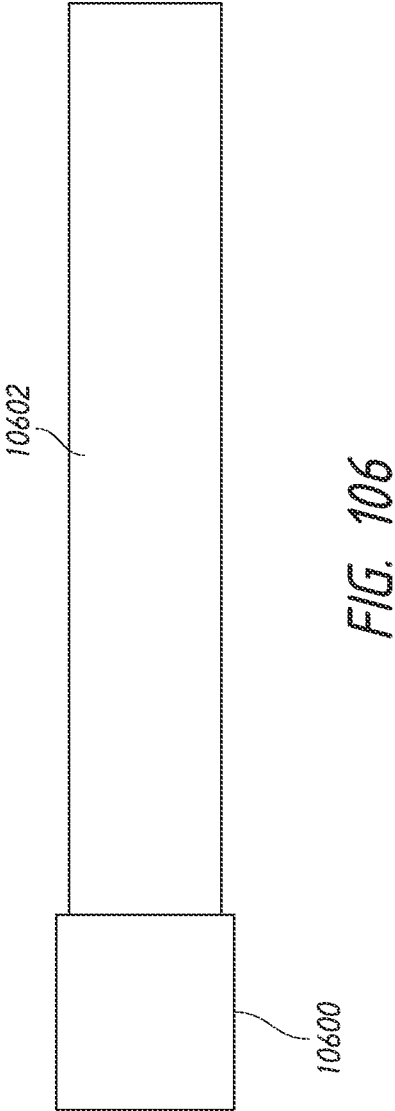


FIG. 103





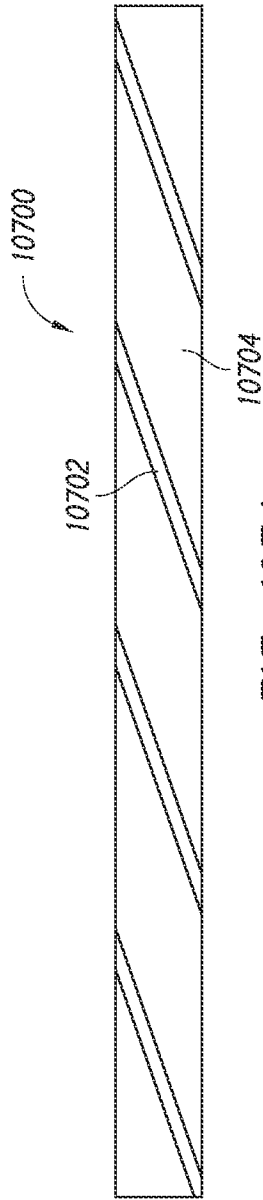


FIG. 107A

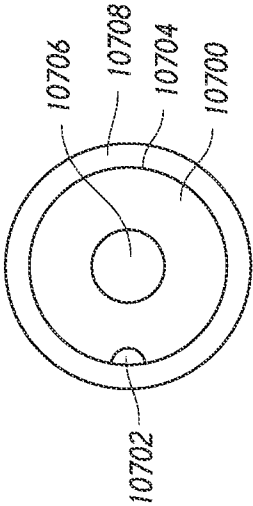


FIG. 107B

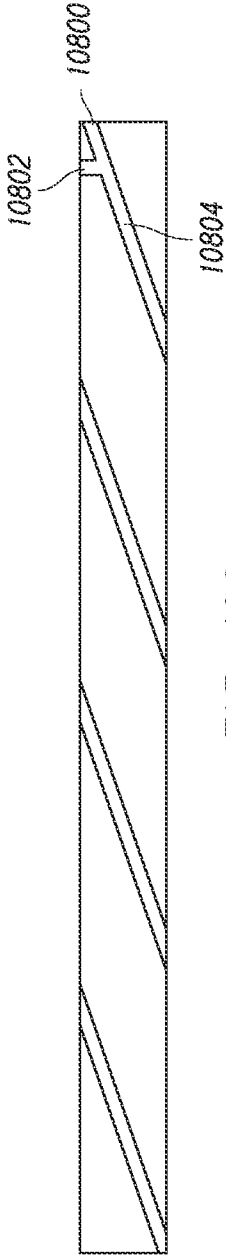


FIG. 108

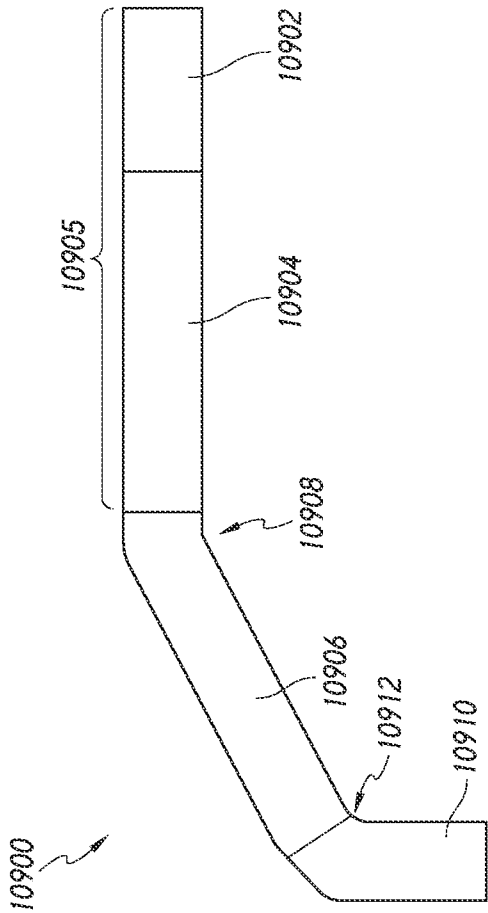


FIG. 109

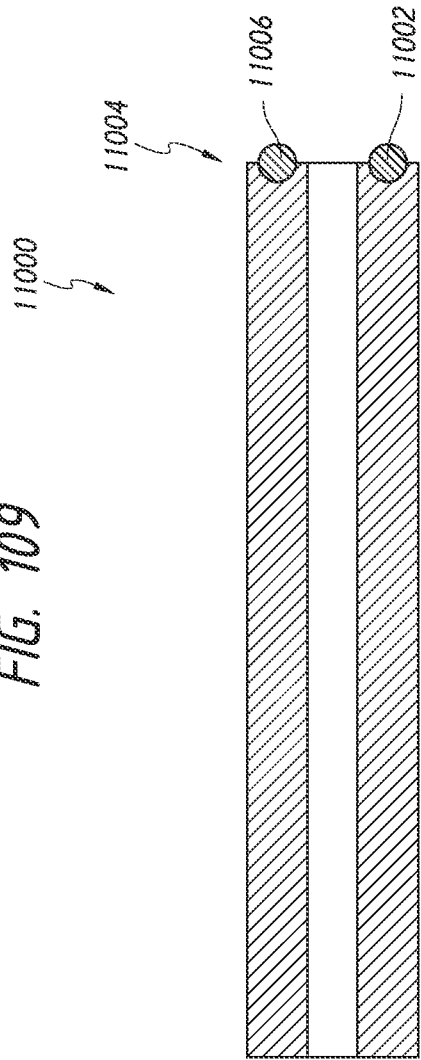


FIG. 110