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(54) Title: ELECTROPORATION FOR OBESITY OR DIABETES TREATMENT

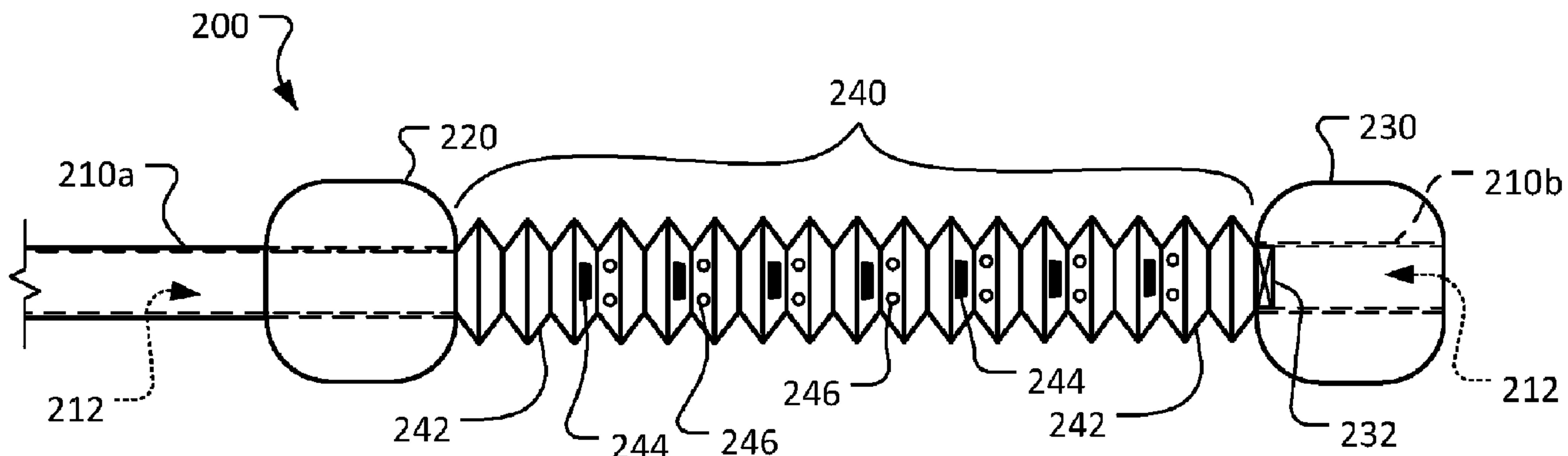


FIG. 2

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

Endolumenal devices and methods can be used for the treatment of health conditions including obesity and diabetes. In some embodiments, the methods and systems provided herein can cause weight loss or control diabetes by reducing the caloric absorption of an individual. For example, this document provides several devices and methods for treating obesity and diabetes by using electroporation to modulate the duodenal mucosa. In addition, this document provides devices and methods for bypassing portions of the gastrointestinal tract to reduce nutritional uptake.

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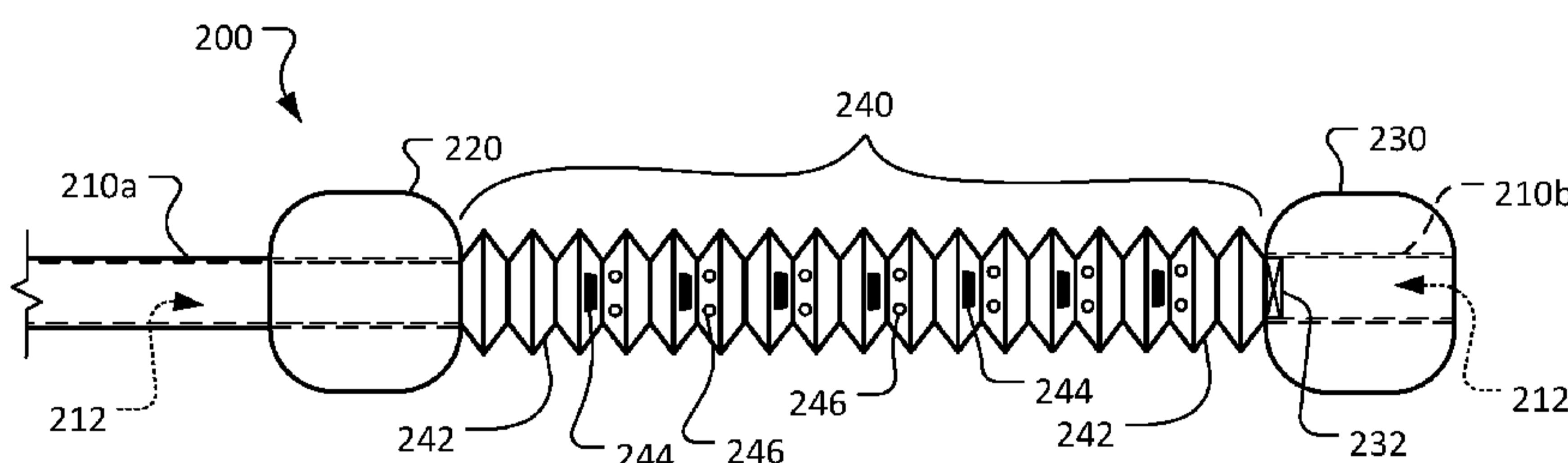


FIG. 2

(57) Abstract: Endolumenal devices and methods can be used for the treatment of health conditions including obesity and diabetes. In some embodiments, the methods and systems provided herein can cause weight loss or control diabetes by reducing the caloric absorption of an individual. For example, this document provides several devices and methods for treating obesity and diabetes by using electroporation to modulate the duodenal mucosa. In addition, this document provides devices and methods for bypassing portions of the gastrointestinal tract to reduce nutritional uptake.

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ELECTROPORATION FOR OBESITY OR DIABETES TREATMENT

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to U.S. Application Serial No. 62/238,191, filed on 5 October 7, 2015. This disclosure of the prior application is considered part of (and is incorporated by reference in) the disclosure of this application.

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

10 This document relates to devices and methods for the treatment of health conditions including obesity and diabetes. For example, this document relates to devices and methods for treating obesity and diabetes using electroporation endoscopically.

15 *2. Background Information*

Obesity is a global problem crossing age, ethnic, and socioeconomic boundaries. In general, obesity means having too much body fat. Morbid obesity is a serious health condition that can interfere with basic physical functions such as breathing or walking. Individuals who are morbidly obese are at greater risk for 20 illnesses including diabetes, high blood pressure, sleep apnea, gastroesophageal reflux disease, infertility, low back pain, asthma, gallstones, osteoarthritis, heart disease, and cancer. Billions of dollars are spent each year treating millions of individuals around the world suffering from such diseases. Many people suffering from morbid obesity find it nearly impossible to lose weight by controlling their diet and exercising.

25 Type 2 diabetes is a chronic condition that affects the way a body metabolizes sugar (glucose). With type 2 diabetes, the body either resists the effects of insulin — a hormone that regulates the movement of sugar into cells — or doesn't produce enough insulin to maintain a normal glucose level. More common in adults, type 2 diabetes increasingly affects children as childhood obesity increases. There is no 30 known cure for type 2 diabetes. In some cases it may be managed by eating well, exercising and maintaining a healthy weight. If diet and exercise aren't enough to manage blood sugar well, diabetes medications or insulin therapy may be needed.

Ablation/electroporation therapy is a type of minimally invasive procedure used to destroy tissue associated with various conditions. For example, ablation

procedures can be used to treat tumors or to destroy heart tissue that's causing abnormally rapid heart rhythms. Ablation therapy may be administered using probes inserted through the skin, flexible tubes (catheters) inserted through a body conduit, or energy beams to reach the area being treated. Imaging techniques may be used to 5 guide the ablation. The tissue is injured or destroyed with heat (e.g., radiofrequency ablation), extreme cold (cryoablation), lasers or a chemical.

SUMMARY

This document provides devices and methods for the treatment of health conditions including obesity and diabetes. In some embodiments, the methods and 10 systems provided herein can cause weight loss or control diabetes by reducing the caloric absorption of an individual, by increasing levels of gut hormones important in appetite regulation and insulin secretion, and/or by reshaping the mucosa of the small intestines. For example, this document provides several devices and methods for treating obesity and diabetes by using electroporation to modulate the duodenal 15 mucosa. In addition, this document provides devices and methods for bypassing portions of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract to reduce nutritional uptake.

In one implementation, an electroporation device includes a shaft defining a first lumen therethrough; a proximal balloon circumferentially attached about a distal portion of the shaft; a middle portion extending distally of the proximal balloon; and a 20 distal balloon extending distally of the middle portion. The middle portion defines a middle portion lumen in communication with the first lumen. The middle portion includes one or more electrodes configured to administer electroporation energy. The middle portion includes one or more apertures through a wall of the middle portion and in communication with the middle portion lumen. The middle portion has a 25 longitudinally contracted configuration and a longitudinally extended configuration that is longer than the longitudinally contracted configuration. In some embodiments, the middle portion has a fixed length.

Such an electroporation device may optionally include one or more of the following features. The distal balloon may have a distal balloon lumen therethrough 30 that is in communication with the middle portion lumen. The distal balloon lumen may be defined by a distal shaft on which the distal balloon is circumferentially attached. The shaft may define a proximal balloon inflation lumen in communication with the proximal balloon. The shaft and the middle portion may define a distal

balloon inflation lumen in communication with the distal balloon. The middle portion may comprise an accordion configuration that facilitates the middle portion to reconfigure between the longitudinally contracted configuration and the longitudinally extended configuration. The first lumen and the middle portion lumen may be 5 configured to receive an endoscope or to advance through the working channel of an endoscope. This catheter can also be advanced over a guide wire under endoscopic and/or fluoroscopic guidance.

In another implementation, a method of administering electroporation energy to patient includes deploying an electroporation device at a target location within the 10 patient, energizing the one or more electrodes with electroporation energy, and, while energizing the one or more electrodes, supplying electrically conductive liquid into the electroporation device such that the electrically conductive liquid flows through the one or more apertures. The electroporation device includes a shaft defining a first lumen therethrough; a proximal balloon circumferentially attached about a distal 15 portion of the shaft; a middle portion extending distally of the proximal balloon; and a distal balloon extending distally of the middle portion. The middle portion defines a middle portion lumen in communication with the first lumen. The middle portion includes one or more electrodes configured to administer electroporation energy. The middle portion includes one or more apertures through a wall of the middle portion 20 and in communication with the middle portion lumen. The middle portion has a longitudinally contracted configuration and a longitudinally extended configuration that is longer than the longitudinally contracted configuration. In some embodiments, the middle portion has a fixed length.

Such a method of administering electroporation energy to patient may 25 optionally include one or more of the following features. The target location may be a duodenum or a jejunum. The method may further comprise, before supplying electrically conductive liquid into the electroporation device, inflating the proximal balloon and the distal balloon. The method may further comprise, before supplying electrically conductive liquid into the electroporation device, extending the middle 30 portion to reconfigure the middle portion from the longitudinally contracted configuration to the longitudinally extended configuration. The electrically conductive liquid may carry the electroporation energy from the one or more electrodes to tissue of the patient. The method may further comprise installing an endoscope shaft into the first lumen and the middle portion lumen, and using a single

or double channel endoscope to deploy the electroporation device and or inject the electrically conductive liquid. This catheter can also be advanced over a guide wire under endoscopic and/or fluoroscopic guidance.

In another implementation, an electroporation device includes a shaft defining a lumen therethrough; a balloon circumferentially attached about a distal portion of the shaft, wherein the balloon has a longitudinal length between 5 to 20 cm; and one or more electrodes disposed on an outer surface of the balloon. The lumen is configured to receive an endoscope therein. In some embodiments, the balloon is a porous material that facilitates passage of an electrically conductive liquid therethrough. This catheter can also be advanced over a guide wire under endoscopic and/or fluoroscopic guidance.

In another implementation, a method of treating a patient includes deploying an electroporation device at a target location within an intestine of the patient. The electroporation device includes a shaft defining a first lumen therethrough; a distal balloon circumferentially attached about a distal portion of the shaft; a middle portion extending proximal to the distal balloon, where the electroporation electrodes are mounted; and an overtube with proximal balloon delivered over a single or double channel endoscope capable of inflating and deflating separate from distal balloon. The electroporation catheter is advanced through the working channel of the single or double channel endoscope to deliver therapy to the target tissue. The inflated distal balloon on the electroporation catheter and the inflated proximal balloon on the overtube over the endoscope provide a seal to create a column of electrically conductive liquid injected through the working channel of the endoscope.

In another implementation, a method of treating a patient includes deploying an electroporation device at a target location within an intestine of the patient. The electroporation device / catheter includes a shaft defining a first lumen therethrough, with no balloon on this shaft just electrodes delivered through the working channel of a single or double channel endoscope. An overtube with two balloons (proximal and distal) separated by a tissue supporting structure to spread the duodenal or jejunal folds is delivered over a single or double channel endoscope to the target small intestinal segment. The endoscope is retracted from the distal overtube balloon and a self sealing valve in the lumen of the distal portion of the overtube / distal balloon is sealed. After the proximal balloon is inflated and electrically conductive liquid is injected through the working channel of the endoscope to create a liquid column. The

electroporation catheter is then delivered through the endoscope into the liquid column to deliver the electroporation current. In one example, the tissue supporting structure can be a collapsible/expandable stent or mesh, while in its expanded configuration the tissue supporting structure can spread mucosa folds to increase the 5 surface area of mucosa that is accessible and exposed to the conductive liquid.

In another implementation, a method of treating a patient includes deploying an electroporation device at a target location within an intestine of the patient. The electroporation device includes a shaft defining a first lumen therethrough; a proximal balloon circumferentially attached about a distal portion of the shaft; a middle portion 10 extending distally of the proximal balloon; and a distal balloon extending distally of the middle portion. The middle portion defines a middle portion lumen in communication with the first lumen. The middle portion includes one or more electrodes configured to administer electroporation energy. The middle portion includes one or more apertures through a wall of the middle portion and in 15 communication with the middle portion lumen. The middle portion has a longitudinally contracted configuration and a longitudinally extended configuration that is longer than the longitudinally contracted configuration.

Such a method of treating a patient may optionally include one or more of the following features. The method may further comprise energizing the one or more 20 electrodes with electroporation energy. The method may further comprise supplying liquid into the electroporation device such that the liquid flows through the one or more apertures and into the intestine. The liquid may comprise medicinal solutions or drugs. The method may further comprise stretching at least a portion of the intestine 25 to increase an intestinal surface area in contact with the liquid.

Such a method of treating a patient may optionally include one or more of the following features. The liquid may comprise medicinal solutions or drugs that can be delivered to target small intestinal cell through the process of reversible 30 electroporation. The method may further comprise stretching at least a portion of the intestine to increase an intestinal surface area in contact with the liquid. The method may further comprise an over the scope overtube with tissue retraction structure in between two balloons delivered over an endoscope to create a liquid column with stretch intestinal surface to effectively deliver electroporation current through a catheter delivered through the working channel of the endoscope. Finally, any of the

electroporation catheters described can also be delivered over a guidewire under fluoroscopic guidance.

Particular embodiments of the subject matter described in this document can be implemented to realize one or more of the following advantages. In some 5 embodiments, methods and systems provided herein provide a minimally invasive weight loss and/or diabetes therapy. For example, in some embodiments electroporation of the duodenal mucosa is performed endoscopically. Such minimally invasive techniques can reduce recovery times, patient discomfort, and treatment costs. In some embodiments, the methods and systems provided herein alter the 10 body's ability to process sugar and may improve glycemic control for patients with Type 2 diabetes. Additionally, these catheters and/or overtubes can be used to ablate other portions of the gastrointestinal tract where superficial mucosal ablation can be utilized such as in the treatment of metaplasia, dysplasia, or superficial neoplasia of the gastrointestinal tract and/or cystic neoplasms of the pancreas where the 15 electroporation catheter with electrodes is delivered through a 19 gauge endoscopic ultrasound needle to the cyst under endosonographic guidance.

Unless otherwise defined, all technical and scientific terms used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this invention pertains. Although methods and materials similar or equivalent 20 to those described herein can be used to practice the invention, suitable methods and materials are described herein. All publications, patent applications, patents, and other references mentioned herein are incorporated by reference in their entirety. In case of conflict, the present specification, including definitions, will control. In addition, the materials, methods, and examples are illustrative only and not intended 25 to be limiting.

The details of one or more embodiments of the invention are set forth in the accompanying drawings and the description herein. Other features, objects, and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the description and drawings, and from the claims.

30

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a portion of a human GI tract, including a stomach and duodenum.

FIG. 2 is a plan view of a device for administering electroporation to a GI tract (e.g., duodenum) in accordance with some embodiments provided herein. The device is shown in an expanded configuration.

5 FIG. 3 is a plan view of the device of FIG. 2 shown in a contracted delivery configuration.

FIG. 4 shows the device of FIGS. 2 and 3 deployed in a duodenum in an arrangement where the device can provide an electroporation treatment to modulate the duodenal mucosa.

10 FIG. 5 is a plan view of another device for administering electroporation to a GI tract (e.g., duodenum) in accordance with some embodiments provided herein. The device is shown in an expanded configuration.

FIG. 6 is a plan view in longitudinal cross-section of another device for administering electroporation to a GI tract (e.g., duodenum) in accordance with some embodiments provided herein. The device is shown in an expanded configuration.

15 FIG. 7 shows the device of FIGS. 5 or 6 deployed in a duodenum in an arrangement where the device can provide an electroporation treatment to modulate the duodenal mucosa.

20 FIG. 8 is a plan view of another device for administering electroporation to a GI tract in accordance with some embodiments utilizing a proximal balloon mounted on an overtube on the endoscope. The electroporation catheter with its distal balloon is delivered through the working channel of the endoscope to deliver electroporation.

FIG. 9 shows the device of FIG. 8 deployed in a duodenum in an arrangement where the device can provide an electroporation treatment to modulate the duodenal mucosa.

25 FIG. 10 is a plan view of another device for administering electroporation to a GI tract in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 11 shows the device of FIG. 10 deployed in a duodenum in an arrangement where the device can provide an electroporation treatment to modulate the duodenal mucosa.

30 FIG. 12 is a plan view of another device for administering electroporation to a GI tract in accordance with some embodiments.

FIG. 13 shows the device of FIG. 12 deployed in a duodenum in an arrangement where the device can provide an electroporation treatment to modulate the duodenal mucosa.

Like reference numbers represent corresponding parts throughout.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

This document provides devices and methods for the treatment of health conditions including obesity and diabetes. In some embodiments, the methods and systems provided herein can cause weight loss and/or can control diabetes by reducing the caloric absorption of an individual, by increasing levels of gut hormones important in appetite regulation and insulin secretion, and/or by reshaping the mucosa of the small intestines. For example, this document provides several devices and methods for treating obesity and diabetes by using electroporation to modulate the duodenal mucosa. In addition, this document provides devices and methods for bypassing portions of the GI tract to reduce nutritional uptake.

Referring to **FIG. 1**, a human GI tract portion 100 includes a stomach 110 and a duodenum 120. The lining of duodenum 120 is made up of duodenal mucosa 122. Duodenal mucosa 122 is made up of short tubular invaginations called crypts, where intestinal stem-cells (cells that can differentiate to a different cell type) and paneth cells (cells that fuel the activity of stem cells) reside. Duodenal mucosa 122 also includes villi, where enterocytes (columnar epithelium consisting of one layer of tall rectangular cells concerned with absorbing nutrients from the gut); goblet cell (cells that produce alkaline mucus to protect the small intestines); and enteroendocrine cells (specialized endocrine cells of the gastrointestinal tract that produce gastrointestinal hormones important for digestion and glucose control) reside.

As described further below, devices and methods for administering electroporation to modulate the duodenal mucosa 122 are provided herein. Moreover, using the provided devices and methods for administering electroporation, the depths and cell composition of the crypts and villi of duodenal mucosa 122 can be modulated. Using such devices and techniques, weight loss and/or control of diabetes by reducing the caloric absorption, by increasing gut hormones, and/or by re-setting the diseased intestinal mucosa of an individual can be achieved.

Referring to **FIG. 2**, an example mucosa electroporation device 200 includes a proximal shaft 210a, a proximal balloon 220, a distal balloon 230, a distal shaft 210b, and a middle portion 240. Proximal balloon 220 is attached to proximal shaft 210a in a circumferential fashion. Middle portion 240 is attached to proximal shaft 210a and extends distally from proximal shaft 210a. The distal end of middle portion 240 is

attached to distal shaft 210b. Distal balloon 230 is attached to distal shaft 210b in a circumferential fashion.

Proximal shaft 210a, middle portion 240, and distal shaft 210b define a lumen 212. In some embodiments, lumen 212 is sized to slidably receive an endoscope shaft. In some embodiments, lumen 212 is sized to slidably receive a guidewire.

Proximal balloon 220 and distal balloon 230 are inflatable members. Accordingly, inflation media (e.g., saline, water, CO₂, air, etc.) can be supplied to proximal balloon 220 and distal balloon 230 to cause their inflation. In some embodiments, the wall of proximal shaft 210a defines an inflation lumen through which inflation media is supplied to proximal balloon 220. In some embodiments, (i) the wall of proximal shaft 210a, (ii) the wall of middle portion 240, and (iii) the wall of distal shaft 210b defines an inflation lumen through which inflation media is supplied to distal balloon 230. Accordingly, in some embodiments the inflation and deflation of proximal balloon 220 and distal balloon 230 can be controlled separately. Alternatively, in some embodiments the inflation and deflation of proximal balloon 220 and distal balloon 230 are controlled unitarily. While balloons 220 and 230 are deflated, in some embodiments mucosa electroporation device 200 can pass through the working channel of an endoscope.

Proximal balloon 220 and distal balloon 230 are flexible, elastic, conformable balloon members. In some embodiments, proximal balloon 220 and distal balloon 230 are made from silicone, or latex, or other types compliable materials.

Accordingly, when inflated, proximal balloon 220 and distal balloon 230 are conformable to the topography of the GI conduit. Therefore, proximal balloon 220 and distal balloon 230, when inflated, provide a substantial seal against the wall of the GI conduit. While in some embodiments proximal balloon 220 and distal balloon 230 are made from the same material, in some embodiments proximal balloon 220 and distal balloon 230 are made from dissimilar materials.

In some embodiments, the maximum outer diameter of proximal balloon 220 and/or distal balloon 230, when inflated, is in a range from about 30 mm to about 50 mm. The maximum inflated outer diameter of proximal balloon 220 and distal balloon 230 is scalable to any suitable size. For example, in some embodiments the maximum outer diameter of proximal balloon 220 and/or distal balloon 230, when inflated, is in a range from about 35 mm to about 45 mm, or from about 40 mm to about 50 mm, or from about 30 mm to about 40 mm, or from about 25 mm to about

35 mm, or from about 30 mm to about 60 mm. In some embodiments, the maximum outer diameters of proximal balloon 220 and distal balloon 230 are equal to each other. In some embodiments, the maximum outer diameters of proximal balloon 220 and distal balloon 230 are unequal.

5 As described further below, distal shaft 210b or distal balloon 230 includes a valve 232 disposed within the lumen 212. Valve 232 allows passage of an instrument (e.g., an endoscope or guidewire) therethrough. But, when no such instrument is in contact with valve 232, valve 232 acts as a closure at the distal end of lumen 212 so that lumen 212 is dead ended at or near distal balloon 230.

10 Middle portion 240 is longitudinally extendable and laterally deflectable and flexible. In the depicted embodiment, middle portion 240 is configured as an accordion member having multiple pleats and multiple flexible, extendable portions 242. In some embodiments, middle portion 240 is configured in other arrangements that are longitudinally extendable and laterally flexible. For example, and without 15 limitation, in some embodiments middle portion 240 is configured as a coil (e.g., helically), an elastic member, an inter-foldable member, a rolled-up member, a telescoping member, and the like, and combinations thereof.

20 In some embodiments, middle portion 240, when fully longitudinally extended, is about 30 cm in length. The fully longitudinally extended length of middle portion 240 is scalable to any suitable size. For example, in some embodiments the fully longitudinally extended length of middle portion 240 is in a range from about 25 cm to about 35 cm, or from about 30 cm to about 40 cm, or from about 20 cm to about 30 cm, or from about 15 cm to about 35 cm, or from about 25 cm to about 50 cm.

25 Middle portion 240 is configured to facilitate electroporation. Accordingly, middle portion 240 includes one or more electrodes 244. Electrodes 244 can be different types of electrodes, and/or electrodes 244 can be configured to deliver different types of energy in different embodiments of electroporation device 200. For example, in the depicted embodiment electrodes 244 are DC electrodes.

30 Alternatively, or additionally, mucosa electroporation device 200 can be configured to deliver other types of electroporation energy such as, but not limited to, radiofrequency (RF), AC, cryogenic, chemical, and the like. In some embodiments, a combination of such energy sources can be used within a single embodiment of electroporation device 200 (e.g., RF and DC are used in combination in some

embodiments). The electroporation energy can be monopolar or bipolar. Electrodes 244 can be electrically wired to an electroporation energy source (not shown) located external to the patient. In some implementations, two or more types of electroporation energy sources can be coupled to electrodes 244. For example, in one 5 particular non-limiting implementation a RF source and a NANOKNIFE® irreversible electroporation system by AngioDynamics, Inc. are both coupled to electrodes 244 such that a switch box is used to select between the two sources of energy.

Middle portion 240 also includes one or more apertures 246. Apertures 246 are openings through the wall of middle portion 240 such that lumen 212 is in fluid 10 communication with the exterior of electroporation device 200 via apertures 246. In some embodiments, alternatively or additionally, the material comprising middle portion 240 is porous such that lumen 212 is in fluid communication with the exterior of mucosa electroporation device 200 via the pores of the material. As described further below, apertures 246 can provide passageways for a conductive liquid that will 15 carry electroporation energy from electrodes 244 to the wall of the tissue structure (e.g., the duodenum) in which electroporation device 200 is resident.

Referring also to **FIG. 3**, in some embodiments electroporation device 200 can be configured in a contracted configuration for minimally invasive deployment into the GI tract. For example, in the depicted arrangement electroporation device 200 is 20 disposed over an endoscope 300 (only the distal end portion of endoscope 300 is illustrated), and electroporation device 200 is in a radially and longitudinally contracted configuration (as compared to the radially expanded and longitudinally extended configuration of **FIG. 2**). Endoscope 300 is disposed within lumen 212. Proximal balloon 220 and distal balloon 230 are deflated such that their outer 25 diameters are reduced in comparison to their inflated outer diameters. Middle portion 240 is longitudinally contracted (as compared to the longitudinally extended configuration of **FIG. 2**). In this configuration, electroporation device 200 is configured to be endoscopically deployed within the GI tract of a patient using endoscope 300.

30 In some embodiments, electroporation device 200 is configured to be deployed via a working channel of an endoscope or laparoscope. In some embodiments, electroporation device 200 is configured to be deployed over a guidewire instead of over endoscope 300. One or more radiopaque markers or

echogenic markers, or both, may be disposed on one or more locations or on one or more portions of electroporation device 200 (e.g., on the balloons 220 and/or 230).

Referring to **FIG. 4**, electroporation device 200 can be deployed within duodenum 120 to provide electroporation treatments to a patient. Electroporation device 200 can treat obesity and diabetes using electroporation to modulate the duodenal mucosa 122.

Electroporation device 200 is shown after removal of a delivery device, such as endoscope 300 (FIG. 3). In some deployment techniques, endoscope 300 is used to position the distal balloon 230 in a desired location within duodenum 120 or distal 10 small intestines (such as the jejunum). In some deployment techniques, electroporation device 200 is positioned within a working channel of an endoscope. Then, distal balloon 230 is inflated to temporarily fix distal balloon 230 in the desired location. Next, endoscope 300 is pulled back, proximally. In doing so, middle portion 240 is longitudinally extended and laterally deflected within duodenum 120. 15 When proximal balloon 220 is positioned in a desired location within duodenum 120, then proximal balloon 220 is inflated to temporarily fix proximal balloon 220 in the desired location. Then, endoscope 300 can be further pulled back proximally (and may be completely disengaged from electroporation device 200).

When fully deployed, proximal balloon 220 is inflated to occlude the proximal 20 portion of the duodenum 120, and distal balloon 230 is inflated to occlude the distal portion of duodenum 120. The interior space of duodenum 120 defined between the proximal balloon 220 and the distal balloon 230 is substantially sealed from other portions of the GI tract 100.

With the balloons 220, 230 inflated, an electrically conductive liquid 400 can 25 be delivered into the interior space between the balloons 220, 230 by injecting it via lumen 212 and apertures 246 (refer to FIG. 2). In some implementations, saline is used for electrically conductive liquid 400. In some implementations, hypertonic saline is used for electrically conductive liquid 400. In some implementations, dextrose is used for electrically conductive liquid 400. Other types of electrically 30 conductive liquid 400 can also be used. For example, conductive liquid 400 can include, but is not limited to, cation-rich solutions such as sodium ion, potassium ion, calcium ion, magnesium ion, etc., of varying concentrations, for example 3% sodium chloride, calcium chloride, calcium carbonate, potassium chloride, potassium carbonate, etc.. In the same regard, ionized forms of known medicinal solutions or

drugs may be infused into the interior space between the balloons 220, 230 to be placed intracellularly in target cells, such as the duodenal mucosa, both for stimulation, regeneration, and otherwise targeted therapies for obesity and diabetes.

The electroporation and/or current source will serve as a vehicle for intracellular

5 delivery and the electronic transfer of the electroporation energy is achieved by ionization of these solutions. In some implementations, a combination of different types of drugs and or other types of electrically conductive liquid 400 are used.

Electrodes 244 can be energized to provide a source of electroporation energy.

The electrically conductive liquid 400 within the interior space between the balloons

10 220, 230 will carry the electrical energy from the electrodes 244 to duodenal mucosa 122. The pressure of electrically conductive liquid 400 within the interior space should be adjusted to be high enough such that electrically conductive liquid 400 is forced into the crypts of duodenal mucosa 122.

In some implementations, a sequential ablation technique where saline and

15 dextrose are circulated in the interior space between the balloons 220, 230 sequentially, while delivering electroporation energy throughout is used. This would be a mechanical method to create phased ablation to minimize sloughing and essentially completely prevent bleeding or stricture. There would be a timed sequence with a pre-time set of two pumps that would create the phased delivery. The 20 setup would be one pump continuously infuses the saline, and through the tubing a second pump will change the volume of dextrose or lactated ringers going in. The electroporation source could be kept constant, or alternatively more than one electrode placed along electroporation device 200 and a more standard electronic phasing circuit can be implemented.

25 In some embodiments, a hydrogel is used to electrically carry electroporation energy. In some cases the hydrogel may facilitate longer lasting contract of electroporation energy with duodenal mucosa 122, including within the crypts of duodenal mucosa 122.

In some embodiments, proximal balloon 220 is positioned so as to envelop the 30 ampulla and to protect the ampulla during electroporation. Accordingly, in some embodiments proximal balloon 220 is highly compliant to provide such protection to the ampulla.

After administration of electroporation using electroporation device 200 and electrically conductive liquid 400, the delivery of the electroporation energy can be

stopped. Then the balloons 220, 230 can be deflated, and electroporation device 200 can be removed from GI tract 100 of the patient.

Referring to **FIG. 5**, another example electroporation device 500 embodiment is illustrated. Electroporation device 500 includes a balloon 510, a shaft 520, and one or more electrodes 530. Balloon 510 is circumferentially disposed about shaft 520. Electrodes 530 are disposed on the outer surface of balloon 520.

Shaft 520 defines a lumen 522 that is analogous to lumen 212 of electroporation device 200. In some embodiments, shaft 520 also defines one or more apertures 526. Apertures 526 allow an electrically conductive liquid to flow from lumen 522 to an interior space of balloon 510. However, such electrically conductive liquid is optional. That is, in some embodiments electrodes 530 deliver electroporation energy to duodenal mucosa 122 without the use of electrically conductive liquid.

Balloon 510 can be made of the materials described above in reference to balloons 220, 230 of electroporation device 200, for example. In some embodiments, the longitudinal length of balloon 510 is about 15 cm. The longitudinal length of balloon 510 is scalable to any suitable size. For example, in some embodiments the longitudinal length of balloon 510 is in a range from about 10 cm to about 20 cm, or from about 15 cm to about 25 cm, or from about 10 cm to about 25 cm, or from about 15 cm to about 20 mm, or from about 10 cm to about 15 cm. Balloon 510 can have an inflated maximum outer diameter that is sized as described above in reference to balloons 220, 230 of electroporation device 200, for example.

In some embodiments, electroporation device 500 is an example of a weeping balloon design. That is, balloon 510 can be partly or fully made from a porous or microporous material such that an electrically conductive liquid can elute, weep, or be otherwise transmitted through balloon 510 to form droplets 540. Accordingly, droplets 540 of electrically conductive liquid can carry electroporation energy from electrodes 530 to duodenal mucosa 122. In some embodiments, a hydrogel is used to electrically carry electroporation energy. In some cases the hydrogel may facilitate longer lasting contract of electroporation energy with duodenal mucosa 122, including within the crypts of duodenal mucosa 122.

Electrodes 530 can be analogous to electrodes 244 of electroporation device 200 as described above.

Referring to **FIG. 6**, another example electroporation device 600 embodiment is illustrated. Electroporation device 600 is an example of a weeping balloon design. That is, electroporation device 600 includes a balloon 610 that can be partly or fully made from a porous or microporous material such that an electrically conductive 5 liquid or gel can elute, weep, or be otherwise transmitted through balloon 610 to form droplets 640. Electroporation device 600 is shown with balloon 610 in longitudinal cross-section to provide visibility within the interior space defined by balloon 610.

Electroporation device 600 includes balloon 610, a shaft 620, and one or more electrodes 630. Balloon 610 is circumferentially disposed about shaft 620. 10 Electrodes 630 are disposed on the outer surface of shaft 620. Electrodes 630 can be analogous to electrodes 244 of electroporation device 200 as described above.

The size and materials of construction of balloon 610 can be analogous to those of balloon 510 described above.

Shaft 620 defines a lumen 622 that is analogous to lumen 212 of 15 electroporation device 200. Shaft 620 also defines one or more apertures 626. Apertures 626 allow an electrically conductive liquid to flow from lumen 622 to an interior space of balloon 610 where electrically conductive liquid can be energized with electroporation energy from electrodes 630. Thereafter, the energized electrically conductive liquid can elute, weep, or be otherwise transmitted through 20 balloon 610 to form droplets 640 that carrying electroporation energy to duodenal mucosa 122, including within the crypts of duodenal mucosa 122.

Referring also to **FIG. 7**, electroporation device 600 can be deployed within duodenum 120 or more distally in the small intestines such as in the jejunum to provide electroporation treatments to a patient. Electroporation device 600 can treat 25 obesity and diabetes using electroporation to modulate the duodenal or distal small intestinal mucosa 122. Electroporation device 500 (FIG. 5) can be implemented in an analogous manner.

Electroporation device 600 is shown after removal of a delivery device, such as endoscope 300 (FIG. 3) or a guiding wire. In some deployment techniques, 30 endoscope 300 is used to position the balloon 620 in a desired location within duodenum 120. Then balloon 620 is inflated to temporarily fix balloon 620 in the desired location. Then, endoscope 300 can be further pulled back proximally (and may be completely disengaged from electroporation device 600.

With balloon 620 inflated, an electrically conductive liquid can be infused into the interior space of balloon 620 by injecting it via lumen 622 and apertures 626 (refer to FIG. 6). In some implementations, saline is used for electrically conductive liquid. In some implementations, hypertonic saline is used for electrically conductive liquid.

5 In some implementations, dextrose is used for electrically conductive liquid. Other types of electrically conductive liquid can also be used. In some implementations, a combination of different types of electrically conductive liquid are used.

Electrodes 630 can be energized to provide a source of electroporation energy. The electrically conductive liquid within the interior space of balloon 610 will carry 10 the electrical energy from the electrodes 630, through the wall of balloon 610, and to duodenal mucosa 122, including into the crypts of duodenal mucosa 122.

In some embodiments, a hydrogel is used to electrically carry electroporation energy. In some cases the hydrogel may facilitate longer lasting contract of electroporation energy with duodenal mucosa 122, including within the crypts of 15 duodenal mucosa 122.

After administration of electroporation using electroporation device 600 and the electrically conductive liquid, the delivery of the electroporation energy can be stopped. Then balloon 620 can be deflated, and electroporation device 600 can be removed from GI tract 100 of the patient.

20 Referring to **FIGS. 8 and 9**, another example electroporation device 700 embodiment is illustrated. Electroporation device 700 can be used to treat conditions such as obesity and diabetes using electroporation to modulate, for example, the duodenal mucosa 122.

In the depicted embodiment, electroporation device 700 includes an endoscope 25 710, a proximal balloon 720, a distal balloon 730, and a catheter 740 that includes one or more electrodes 742. Proximal balloon 720 is located at a distal end region of endoscope 710. Catheter 740 is configured to be slidably disposed within a working channel of endoscope 710. Distal balloon 730 is attached at a distal end region of catheter 740. Electrodes 742 are attached at spaced-apart locations along the length of 30 catheter 740.

In some embodiments, proximal balloon 720 is attached to the distal end region of endoscope 710 (and endoscope 710 includes an inflation lumen). In some embodiments, proximal balloon 720 is attached to a distal portion of a sheath (not

shown) that includes an inflation lumen, and that defines a larger lumen that can slidably receive endoscope 710.

Balloons 720 and 730 can be compliant balloons that are sized and constructed like balloons 220, 230 of electroporation device 200, for example. Electrodes 742 can 5 be analogous to electrodes 244 of electroporation device 200 as described above.

Endoscope 710 includes a lumen (e.g., an irrigation lumen) through which electrically conductive liquid 400 can flow. When electroporation device 700 is in use (as depicted in FIG. 9), electrically conductive liquid 400 can flow through the lumen of endoscope 710, and thereafter reside in duodenum 120 between proximal 10 balloon 720 and distal balloon 730. In this arrangement, energy from energized electrodes 742 can be conducted by electrically conductive liquid 400 to duodenal mucosa 122, including within the crypts of duodenal mucosa 122.

Referring to **FIGS. 10 and 11**, another example electroporation device 800 embodiment is illustrated. Electroporation device 800 can be used to treat conditions 15 such as obesity and diabetes using electroporation to modulate, for example, the duodenal mucosa 122. In some embodiments, electroporation device 800 is configured to be slidably disposed within a working channel of an endoscope such that electroporation device 800 can be delivered via the endoscope. In some embodiments, electroporation device 800 includes a lumen that can slidably receive a 20 guidewire such that electroporation device 800 can be delivered over a wire.

In the depicted embodiment, electroporation device 800 includes catheter shaft 810, a proximal balloon 820, a distal balloon 830, one or more electrodes 812, and one or more apertures 814. Proximal balloon 820 is attached to catheter shaft 810 at any suitable distance proximal from the distal end of catheter shaft 810. Distal 25 balloon 830 is attached at a distal end region of catheter shaft 810. Electrodes 842 are attached at spaced-apart locations along the length of catheter shaft 810. Apertures 814 are defined at spaced-apart locations along the length of catheter shaft 810.

Balloons 820 and 830 can be compliant balloons that are sized and constructed like balloons 220, 230 of electroporation device 200, for example. Electrodes 812 can 30 be analogous to electrodes 244 of electroporation device 200 as described above.

Catheter shaft 810 defines one or more apertures 814 through which electrically conductive liquid 400 can flow. When electroporation device 800 is in use (as depicted in FIG. 11), electrically conductive liquid 400 can flow through a lumen of catheter shaft 810, exit catheter shaft 810 via apertures 814, and thereafter

reside in duodenum 120 between proximal balloon 820 and distal balloon 830. In this arrangement, energy from energized electrodes 812 can be conducted by electrically conductive liquid 400 to duodenal mucosa 122, including within the crypts of duodenal mucosa 122.

5 Referring to **FIGS. 12 and 13**, another example electroporation device 900 embodiment is illustrated. Electroporation device 900 can be used to treat conditions such as obesity and diabetes using electroporation to modulate, for example, the duodenal mucosa 122.

In the depicted embodiment, electroporation device 900 includes an endoscope 10 overtube 910, a proximal balloon 920, a distal balloon 930, a radially and/or longitudinally expandable middle portion 940, and an electroporation catheter 950 that includes one or more electrodes 952. An endoscope 300, along with the electroporation device 900, comprises an electroporation device system.

Proximal balloon 920 is attached to overtube 910 in a circumferential fashion. 15 Middle portion 940 extends between proximal balloon 920 and distal balloon 930. Each of the overtube 910, proximal balloon 920, distal balloon 930, and middle portion 940 define a lumen that can slidably receive endoscope 300.

Within the lumen of distal balloon 930 is a distal valve 932. Valve 932 allows the passage of an instrument (e.g., endoscope 300 or guidewire) therethrough. But, 20 when no such instrument is in contact with valve 932, valve 932 acts as a fluidic closure at the distal end of the lumen so that the lumen is dead ended at or near distal balloon 930.

Electroporation catheter 950 is configured to be slidably disposed within a 25 working channel of endoscope 300 (as depicted in FIG. 13 where endoscope 300 has been pulled back such that its distal tip is within proximal balloon 920). Electrodes 952 are attached at spaced-apart locations along the length of electroporation catheter 950.

Balloons 920 and 930 can be compliant balloons that are sized and constructed like balloons 220, 230 of electroporation device 200, for example. Electrodes 952 can 30 be analogous to electrodes 244 of electroporation device 200 as described above.

Middle portion 940 is made of a foldable mesh or porous material. Hence, middle portion 940 can be radially and/or longitudinally compressed (as shown in FIG. 12) for delivery of the electroporation device 900 into the GI tract. Additionally, middle portion 940 can be radially and/or longitudinally extended (as shown in FIG.

13) while electroporation device 900 is administering electroporation to modulate duodenal mucosa 122.

Endoscope 300 includes a lumen (e.g., an irrigation lumen) through which a supply of electrically conductive liquid 400 can be delivered as depicted in FIG. 13.

5 Using electroporation device 900 and endoscope 300 to deliver electroporation as depicted in FIG. 13, the depths and cell composition of the crypts and villi of duodenal mucosa 122 can be modulated. Using such devices and techniques, weight loss and/or control of diabetes by reducing the caloric absorption, by increasing gut hormones, and/or by re-setting the diseased intestinal mucosa of an individual can be
10 achieved.

When electroporation device 900 is in use, electrically conductive liquid 400 can flow through the lumen of endoscope 300, pass through the porous material of middle portion 940, and thereafter reside in duodenum 120 between proximal balloon 920 and distal balloon 930. In this arrangement, energy from energized electrodes
15 952 can be conducted by electrically conductive liquid 400 to duodenal mucosa 122, including within the crypts of duodenal mucosa 122. In some cases, the irregular wall topography and/or crypts of duodenal mucosa 122 may become more planar by the mechanical forces applied by electroporation device 900 to duodenal mucosa 122.

20 **ADDITIONAL EMBODIMENTS AND/OR ADDITIONAL FEATURES**

In some embodiments, the electroporation devices and systems provided herein can include design features to prevent or inhibit undesired electro-stimulation of non-targeted bodily structures such as, but not limited to, the patient's heart and/or nervous system. For example, in some embodiments insulating elements can be
25 included on or adjacent to one or more portions of the electroporation devices provided herein. Such insulating elements can block the emitted energy from following particular paths so as to protect non-targeted bodily structures. In some embodiments, insulated bipolar electroporation is incorporated (e.g., where the electrodes are mounted within or on a balloon, and/or separate electrodes are placed in
30 the proximal duodenum). Such electrodes can be used as the anode or cathode when the complimentary cathode or anode are located within, on, or as a separate electrode to a balloon placed in the distal duodenum. For example, the insulation can be an insulating coating on a particular side of a balloon, a second balloon which insulated, or an air sac acting as insulation element to cover one side of the external surface of a

balloon. In some embodiments, such insulating techniques can be used to cover one side of the external surface of a weeping balloon. In some embodiments, the energy delivery devices make use of the curvature of the duodenum to provide the desired electroporation without extra duodenum stimulation. In some embodiments, bipolar 5 electrodes are included (e.g., a distal electrode and a proximal electrode on an electroporation device).

In some cases when the aforementioned insulation is included, because of the insulation on the external surface, the adjacent duodenal tissue to the insulated surface will require remaining treatment. To do this, for the proximal duodenum some 10 embodiments use a return electrode in the greater curvature of the stomach, and for the distal and mid duodenum electrodes are placed in the proximal jejunum or other portions of the GI tract. These embodiments can be in alternatives or additions to the already described configuration with the return electrode placed on the abdomen, on the back, or somewhere else externally.

15 In some embodiments, undesired electro-stimulation of non-targeted bodily structures can be avoided or inhibited using a unique method of electroporation where pulse DC currents are delivered judiciously at various times throughout the cardiac cycle. In some embodiments, continuous electroporation throughout the cardiac cycle is given; however, if ectopy or any change in the cardiac rhythm is noted, then that 20 trigger (e.g., the far-field ventricular electrogram) can be used as the sensor wherein the energy delivery will be limited to only the first 200 msec, for example, following the detected far-field QRS. In some embodiments, an internal ECG sensor and electric field sensor can be placed on the insulated surface of the electroporation device. If there is no electric field pointing in the direction of heart, then substantially 25 no danger of electroporation interfering with normal heart rhythm exists, and continuous electroporation can be carried out. If there is electric field pointing towards the direction of the heart, then the signal from the internal ECG sensor can be used for timing the electroporation pulse delivery so that the pulse is not delivered in the most vulnerable phase of heart rhythm.

30 While the implementations described above pertain to the delivery of electroporation to the duodenal cells relevant for the management of diabetes and obesity, the duodenum and the adjacent portions of the GI tract also offer unique vantage points to deliver electroporation and other energy delivery to neighboring structures. Such neighboring structures included, but are not limited to, the celiac

ganglion and plexus, lymphatic ganglia and plexus, and the renal nerves and associated plexuses. Since the GI tract is curved and tortuous, bipolar electroporation can be carried out by deploying a distal electrode and a proximal electrodes along GI tract in such a way that the electric field created in between these two points will 5 cover the visceral tissues and organs on the path outside of GI tract. Therefore, therapy can be delivered using some embodiments provided herein for the treatment of conditions such as, but not limited to, pancreatic malignancy, pancreatic and deep visceral pain and for hypertension by reversible and irreversible electroporation of the ganglia. Such hypertension management, in turn, would help with a metabolic 10 syndrome that results from the combination of obesity, diabetes, and hypertension.

In some additional embodiments, stent devices for treating health conditions including obesity and diabetes are combination devices that combine the benefit of placing internal conduits covering the surface of the duodenal mucosa along with the 15 benefits of more permanent electroporation-based modulation. By combining the two (a stent and electroporation electrodes), a system to secure the stent is attained. The conduit is essentially a covered stent, but instead of a crossing diamond-type of scaffold, linear struts are included. The purpose of the linear struts is to elute a gel which on electroporation will adhere to the mucosa, providing a secure hold.

Between the linear struts, there is nothing apposing the covered stent to the duodenal 20 mucosa so that secretions may still come out and enter the duodenal lumen. Food would pass through the stent, and thus a two-pronged approach for treating this region can be attained. Additional iterations could include one-way valves placed in between the linear struts, or a blood sugar sensor/RF feedback for electroporation release to titrate for an individual an ideal total energy load to maintain blood sugars.

25 In another embodiment using a stent conduit, the known benefits of a roux-en-Y procedure with that of electroporation are combined. Here, a deflectable catheter which has both an internal lumen for a wire, RF electrodes which can place energy on the central wire, and a second monorail wire is maneuvered out of the lumen of the proximal duodenum. The catheter is then moved to enter the proximal jejunum, and 30 then is deflected back towards its initial entry site, and through the monorail lumen, a snare is used to grab the central lumen wire. Thus, a rail that essentially leaves the lumen and reenters, feeding back to itself is created. Over this wire, at least three iterations are possible: a) a covered stent/conduit is advanced over the distal wire, and then to secure it, a suture is advanced over both proximal and distal wires and

tightened on the duodenum, b) the conduit is placed over the proximal wire following its course and essentially creating the anastomosis externally and with a similar locking mechanism to keep it in place, and c) there is a combination of the prior two such that a conduit, a covered stent, and a locking mechanism are all used in a given patient.

In some embodiments, the stent could be adjusted with noninvasive methods, including magnets or endoscopically placed stents, and the stent itself may be delivered via a laparoscopic approach.

Additionally, the devices and techniques described herein can be applied in contexts beyond that of the duodenum. For example, the devices and techniques described herein can be applied in the contexts of the mucosa of the distal small and large intestines, and other endoluminal organs such as the gallbladder, pancreas, and in the arteriovenous system.

Additionally, the devices and techniques described herein can be applied to
15 pherese drugs to cells within the mucosa of the duodenum 122 to alter their function.
For example drugs such as rapamycin known to modulate the effects of paneth and
stem cells within the crypts of the small intestines can be ionized and pheresed into
these cell using electroporation. Furthermore, sweet substances known to stimulate
the enteroendocrine cells within the villi of the duodenum can be applied. Similarly,
20 tacrolimus can be used to stimulate stem cells in some cases. As such, these devices
and techniques may cycle energy alone, drug or substance alone, or in combination to
treat obesity and diabetes.

Some of the devices and methods provided herein can also incorporate stimulatory electrodes or other devices that can be used to ascertain cell death or 25 activity, or to measure the temperature, electrical field strength, and/or charge density of the delivered electroporative therapy.

Some of the devices provided herein which incorporate a balloon or balloon-like elements may be used to achieve stretch of the intestine, not only to increase the surface area of contact to the crypt cells, but by virtue of the stretch itself produce membrane poration and induced apoptosis.

Some embodiments of the balloon or mesh incorporated devices are designed to increase the charge density of delivery through injection-like ports that may be achieved by a serrated surface or actual expandable, low surface area, pointed elements. These may serve as actual injection ports for charge or an electrolyte-rich

solution to transfer the electroporation rendering energy or serve as regions of high electron or other electrical force density by virtue of their shape, which would match the required area where the increased density of charge is required and thus minimizing risks of electrical or thermal injury to the non-targeted sites.

5 It should be understood that one or more of the features described anywhere herein may be combined with one or more other features described anywhere herein to create hybrid devices and/or methods, without departing from the scope of this disclosure.

While this specification contains many specific implementation details, these
10 should not be construed as limitations on the scope of any invention or of what may be claimed, but rather as descriptions of features that may be specific to particular embodiments of particular inventions. Certain features that are described in this specification in the context of separate embodiments can also be implemented in combination in a single embodiment. Conversely, various features that are described
15 in the context of a single embodiment can also be implemented in multiple embodiments separately or in any suitable subcombination. Moreover, although features may be described herein as acting in certain combinations and even initially claimed as such, one or more features from a claimed combination can in some cases be excised from the combination, and the claimed combination may be directed to a
20 subcombination or variation of a subcombination.

Similarly, while operations are depicted in the drawings in a particular order, this should not be understood as requiring that such operations be performed in the particular order shown or in sequential order, or that all illustrated operations be performed, to achieve desirable results. In certain circumstances, multitasking and
25 parallel processing may be advantageous. Moreover, the separation of various system modules and components in the embodiments described herein should not be understood as requiring such separation in all embodiments, and it should be understood that the described program components and systems can generally be integrated together in a single product or packaged into multiple products.

30 Particular embodiments of the subject matter have been described. Other embodiments are within the scope of the following claims. For example, the actions recited in the claims can be performed in a different order and still achieve desirable results. As one example, the processes depicted in the accompanying figures do not necessarily require the particular order shown, or sequential order, to achieve

desirable results. In certain implementations, multitasking and parallel processing may be advantageous.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electroporation device comprising:
 - a shaft defining a first lumen therethrough;
 - a proximal balloon circumferentially attached about a distal portion of the shaft;
 - a middle portion extending distally of the proximal balloon, the middle portion defining a middle portion lumen in communication with the first lumen, the middle portion including one or more electrodes configured to administer electroporation energy, the middle portion including one or more apertures through a wall of the middle portion and in communication with the middle portion lumen, the middle portion having a longitudinally contracted configuration and a longitudinally extended configuration that is longer than the longitudinally contracted configuration; and
 - a distal balloon extending distally of the middle portion.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the distal balloon has a distal balloon lumen therethrough that is in communication with the middle portion lumen.
3. The device of claim 2, wherein the distal balloon lumen is defined by a distal shaft on which the distal balloon is circumferentially attached.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein the shaft defines a proximal balloon inflation lumen in communication with the proximal balloon.
5. The device of claim 1, wherein the shaft and the middle portion define a distal balloon inflation lumen in communication with the distal balloon.
6. The device of claim 1, wherein the middle portion comprises an accordion configuration that facilitates the middle portion to reconfigure between the longitudinally contracted configuration and the longitudinally extended configuration.
7. The device of claim 1, wherein the first lumen and the middle portion lumen are configured to receive an endoscope or to advance through the working channel of an endoscope.

8. A method of administering electroporation energy to a patient, the method comprising:

deploying an electroporation device at a target location within the patient, wherein the electroporation device comprises:

a shaft defining a first lumen therethrough;

a proximal balloon circumferentially attached about a distal portion of the shaft;

a middle portion extending distally of the proximal balloon, the middle portion defining a middle portion lumen in communication with the first lumen, the middle portion including one or more electrodes configured to administer electroporation energy, the middle portion including one or more apertures through a wall of the middle portion and in communication with the middle portion lumen, the middle portion having a longitudinally contracted configuration and a longitudinally extended configuration that is longer than the longitudinally contracted configuration; and

a distal balloon extending distally of the middle portion;

energizing the one or more electrodes with electroporation energy; and

while energizing the one or more electrodes, supplying electrically conductive liquid into the electroporation device such that the electrically conductive liquid flows through the one or more apertures.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the target location is a duodenum or a jejunum.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising, before supplying electrically conductive liquid into the electroporation device, inflating the proximal balloon and the distal balloon.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising, before supplying electrically conductive liquid into the electroporation device, extending the middle portion to reconfigure the middle portion from the longitudinally contracted configuration to the longitudinally extended configuration.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein the electrically conductive liquid carries the

electroporation energy from the one or more electrodes to tissue of the patient.

13. The method of claim 8, further comprising installing an endoscope shaft into the first lumen and the middle portion lumen, and using the endoscope to deploy the electroporation device.

14. An electroporation device comprising:

- a shaft defining a lumen therethrough, wherein the lumen is configured to receive an endoscope therein;
- a balloon circumferentially attached about a distal portion of the shaft, wherein the balloon has a longitudinal length between 5 to 20 cm; and
- one or more electrodes disposed on an outer surface of the balloon.

15. The device of claim 14, wherein the balloon is a porous material that facilitates passage of an electrically conductive liquid therethrough.

16. A method of treating a patient, the method comprising:

- deploying an electroporation device at a target location within an intestine of the patient, wherein the electroporation device comprises:

- a shaft defining a first lumen therethrough;
 - a proximal balloon circumferentially attached about a distal portion of the shaft;

- a middle portion extending distally of the proximal balloon, the middle portion defining a middle portion lumen in communication with the first lumen, the middle portion including one or more electrodes configured to administer electroporation energy, the middle portion including one or more apertures through a wall of the middle portion and in communication with the middle portion lumen, the middle portion having a longitudinally contracted configuration and a longitudinally extended configuration that is longer than the longitudinally contracted configuration; and

- a distal balloon extending distally of the middle portion.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising energizing the one or more electrodes with electroporation energy.

18. The method of claim 16 further comprising supplying liquid into the electroporation device such that the liquid flows through the one or more apertures and into the intestine.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the liquid comprises medicinal solutions or drugs.

20. The method of claim 18, further comprising stretching at least a portion of the intestine to increase an intestinal surface area in contact with the liquid.

21. An electroporation device comprising:

- a sheath defining a first lumen therethrough;
- a first balloon attached to a distal end portion of the sheath, the first balloon inflatable via a first inflation lumen defined by the sheath;
- an endoscope slidably disposable within the first lumen, the endoscope defining a second lumen and a third lumen;
- a catheter slidably disposable within the second lumen;
- a second balloon attached to a distal end portion of the catheter, the second balloon inflatable via a second inflation lumen defined by the catheter; and
- one or more electrodes attached to the catheter.

22. An electroporation device comprising:

- an endoscope defining a first inflation lumen, a working channel, and an irrigation lumen;
- a first balloon attached to a distal end portion of the endoscope, the first balloon inflatable via the first inflation lumen;
- a catheter slidably disposable within the working channel;
- a second balloon attached to a distal end portion of the catheter, the second balloon inflatable via a second inflation lumen defined by the catheter; and
- one or more electrodes attached to the catheter.

23. An electroporation device comprising:

- a catheter defining a first inflation lumen, a second inflation lumen, an

irrigation lumen, and a plurality of apertures, the apertures configured to allow liquid to flow from the irrigation lumen to outside of the catheter;

 a first balloon attached to a distal end portion of the catheter, the first balloon inflatable via the first inflation lumen;

 a second balloon attached to the catheter and spaced proximally apart from the first balloon, the second balloon inflatable via a second inflation lumen; and

 one or more electrodes attached to the catheter between the first balloon and the second balloon.

24. The electroporation device of claim 23, wherein the electroporation device is configured to be slidably disposed within a working channel of an endoscope.

25. A method of administering electroporation energy to a patient, the method comprising:

 deploying the electroporation device of claims 21, 22, or 23 at a target location within the patient;

 energizing the one or more electrodes with electroporation energy; and

 while energizing the one or more electrodes, supplying electrically conductive liquid into the electroporation device such that at least some of the electrically conductive liquid exits the electroporation device and conducts the electroporation energy to tissue at the target location.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the target location is a duodenum or a jejunum.

27. The method of claim 25, further comprising, before supplying electrically conductive liquid into the electroporation device, inflating the first balloon and the second balloon.

28. An electroporation device comprising:

 an overtube defining a first lumen therethrough configured to slidably receive an endoscope;

 a proximal balloon circumferentially attached about a distal portion of the overtube;

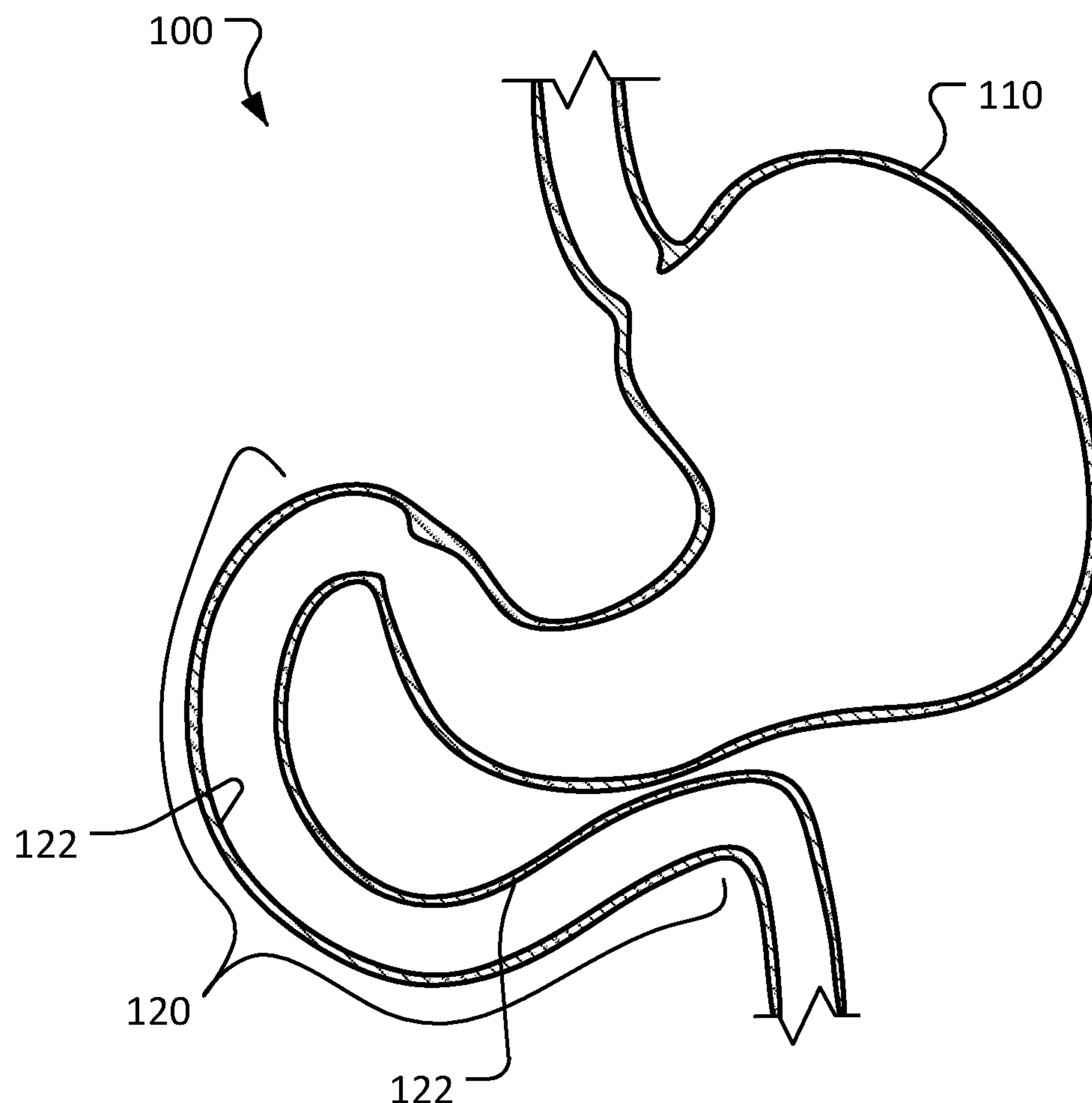
 a middle portion extending distally of the proximal balloon, the middle portion

defining a middle portion lumen in communication with the first lumen and configured to slidably receive the endoscope, the middle portion being porous such that a liquid can pass through the middle portion, the middle portion having a longitudinally contracted configuration and a longitudinally extended configuration that is longer than the longitudinally contracted configuration;

a distal balloon extending distally of the middle portion, the distal balloon defining a distal balloon portion lumen in communication with the first lumen and the middle portion lumen, the distal balloon portion lumen configured to slidably receive the endoscope; and

an electroporation catheter configured to slidably extend through a working channel of the endoscope, the electroporation catheter including one or more electrodes configured to administer electroporation energy.

29. The electroporation device of claim 28, further comprising a valve disposed within the distal balloon portion lumen, the valve configured to allow passage of the endoscope and to provide a liquid seal when the valve is closed.

**FIG. 1**

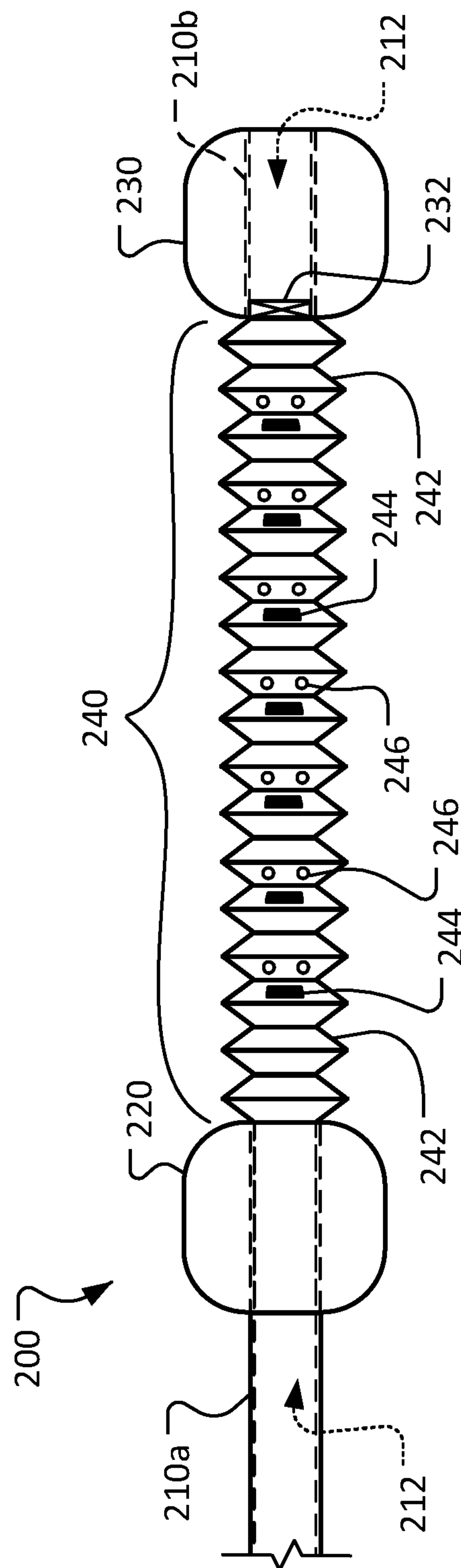
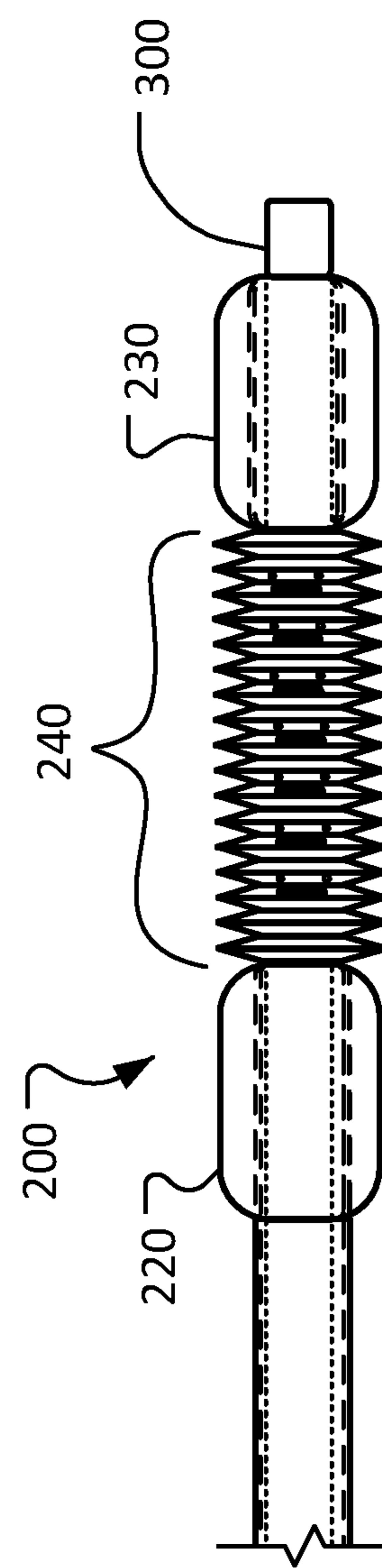
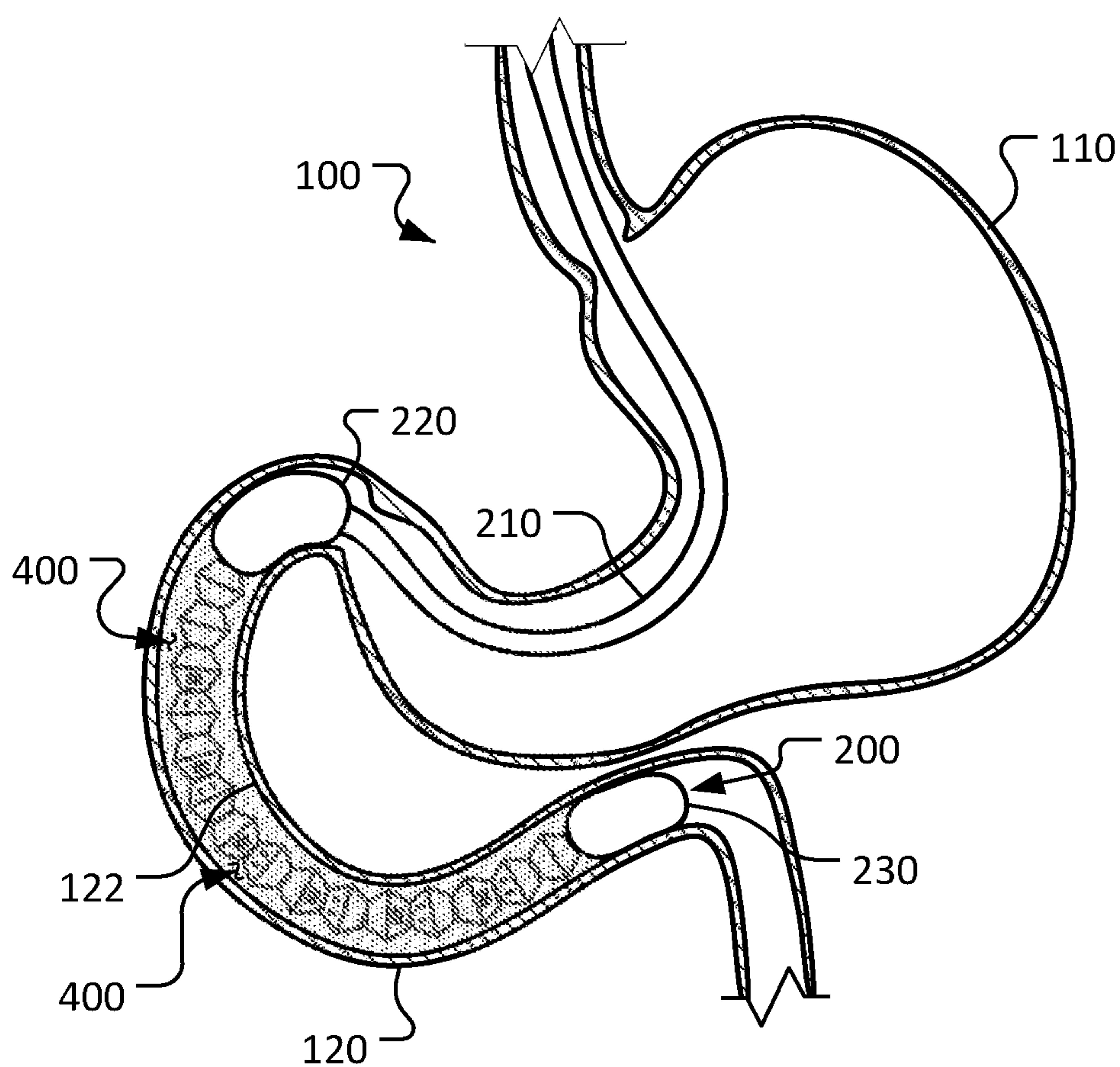


FIG. 2



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**FIG. 4**

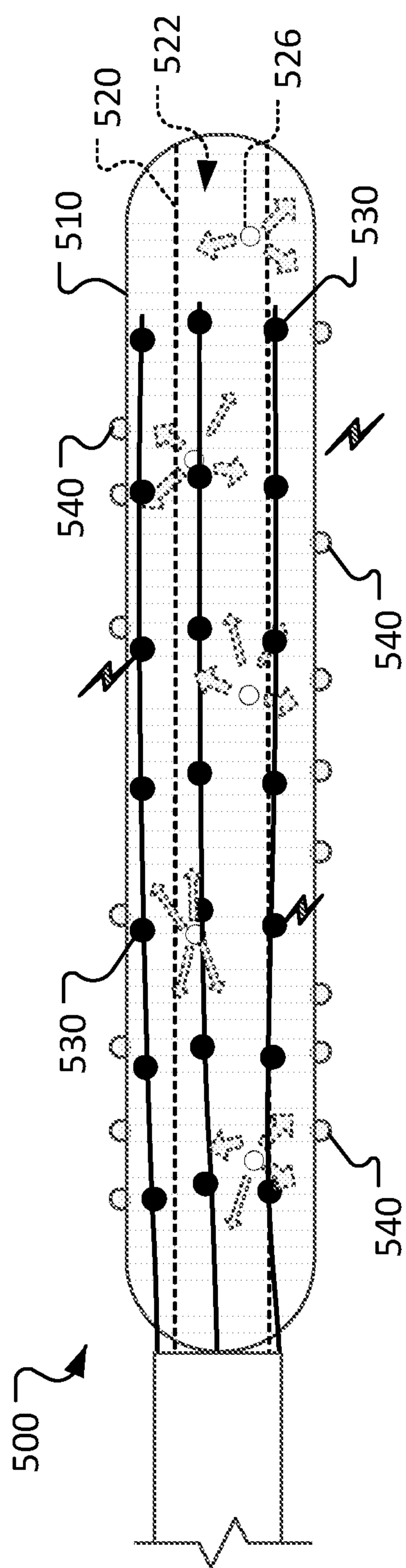


FIG. 5

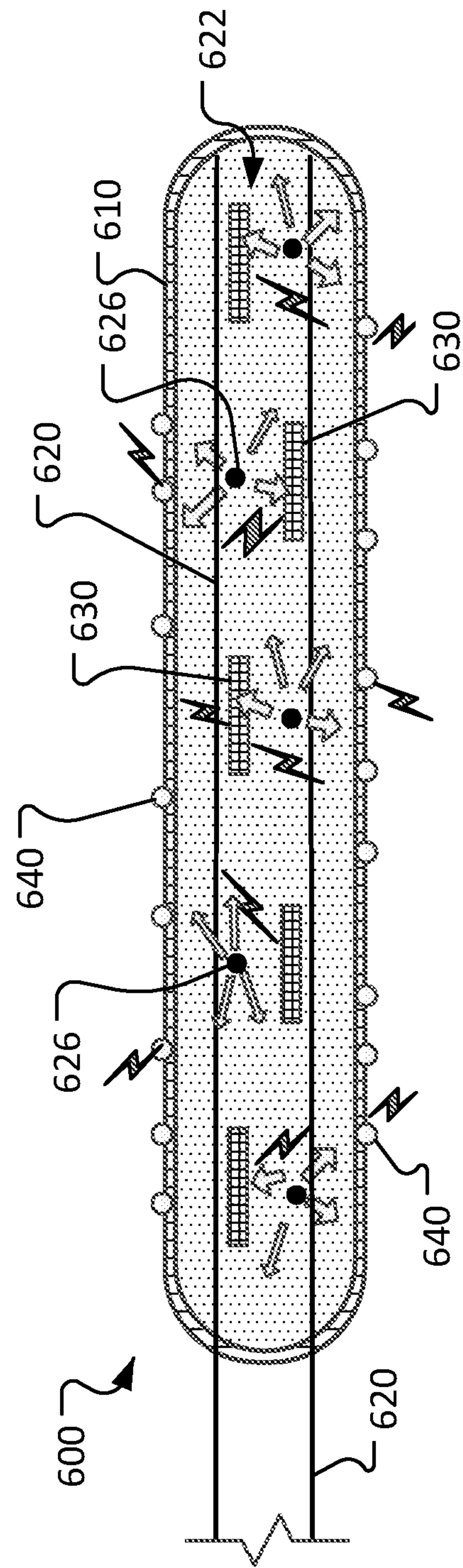
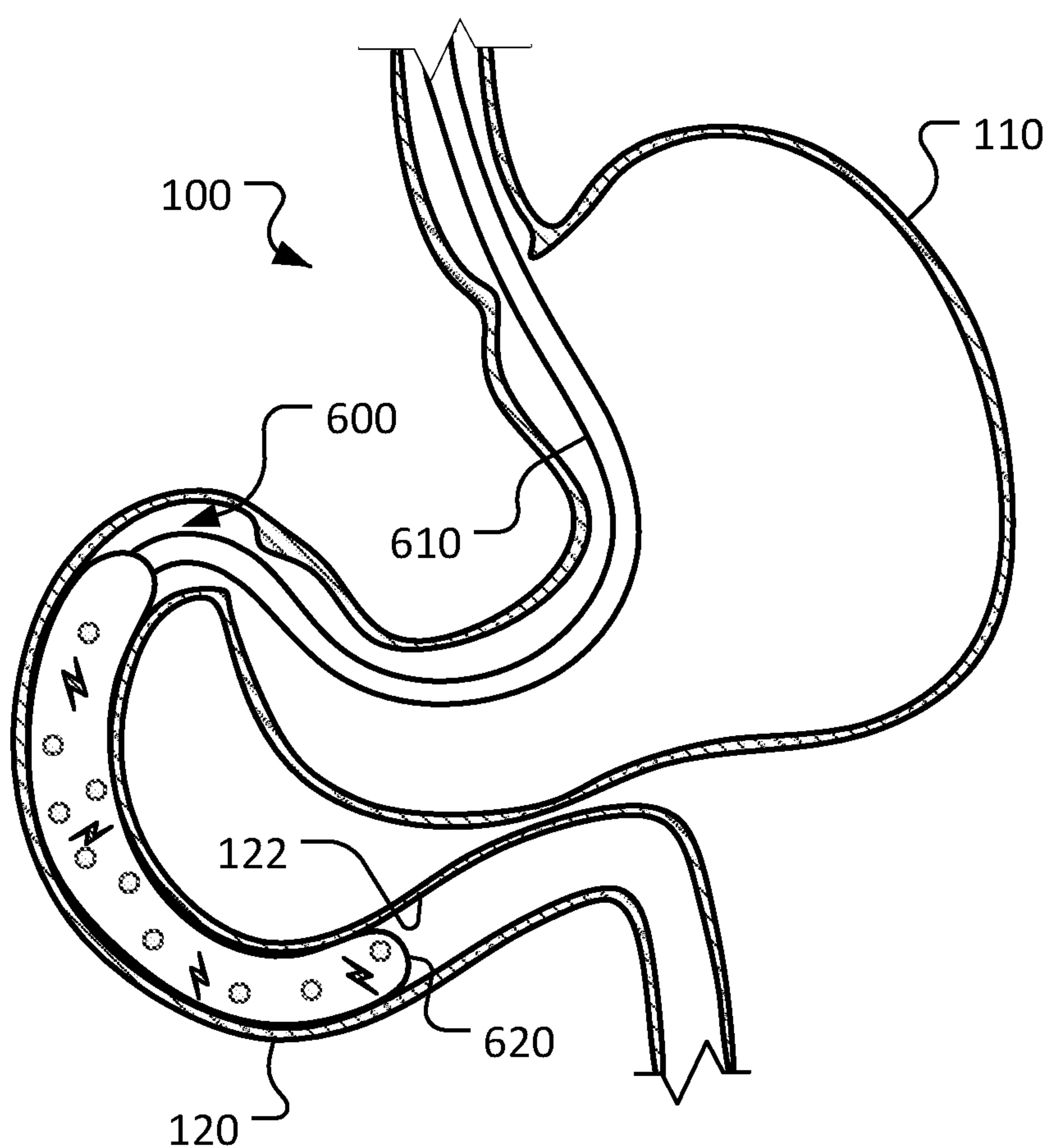
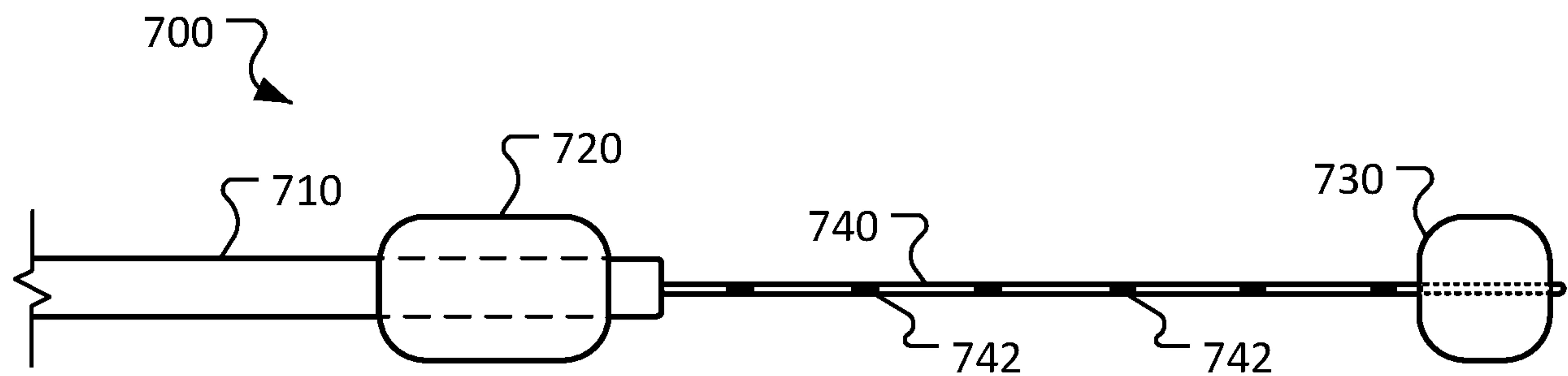
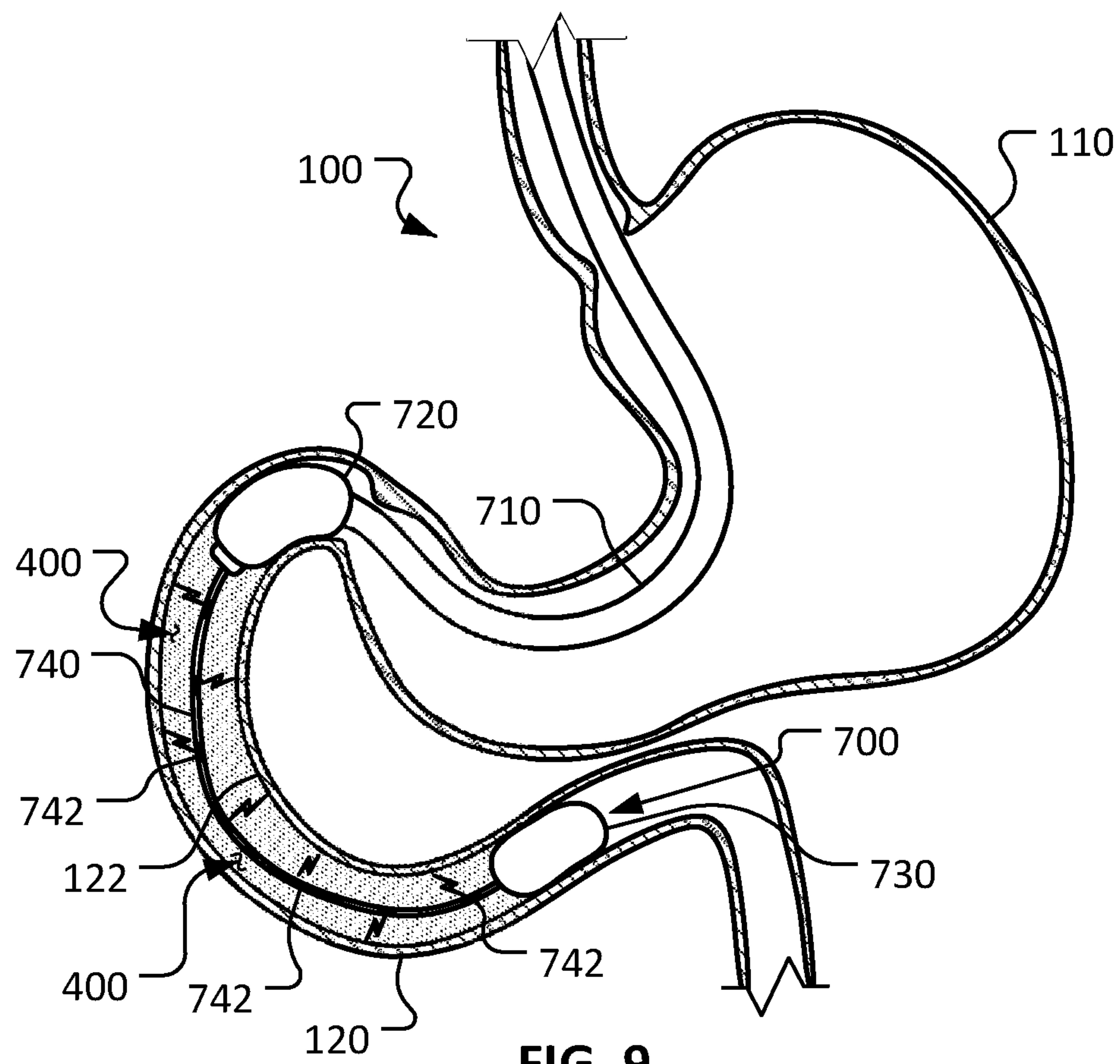
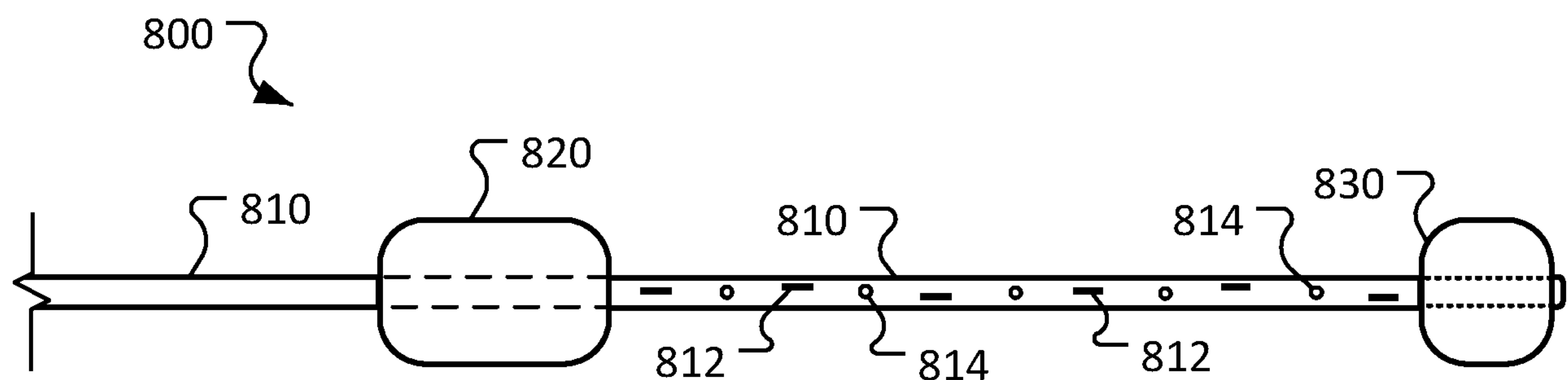
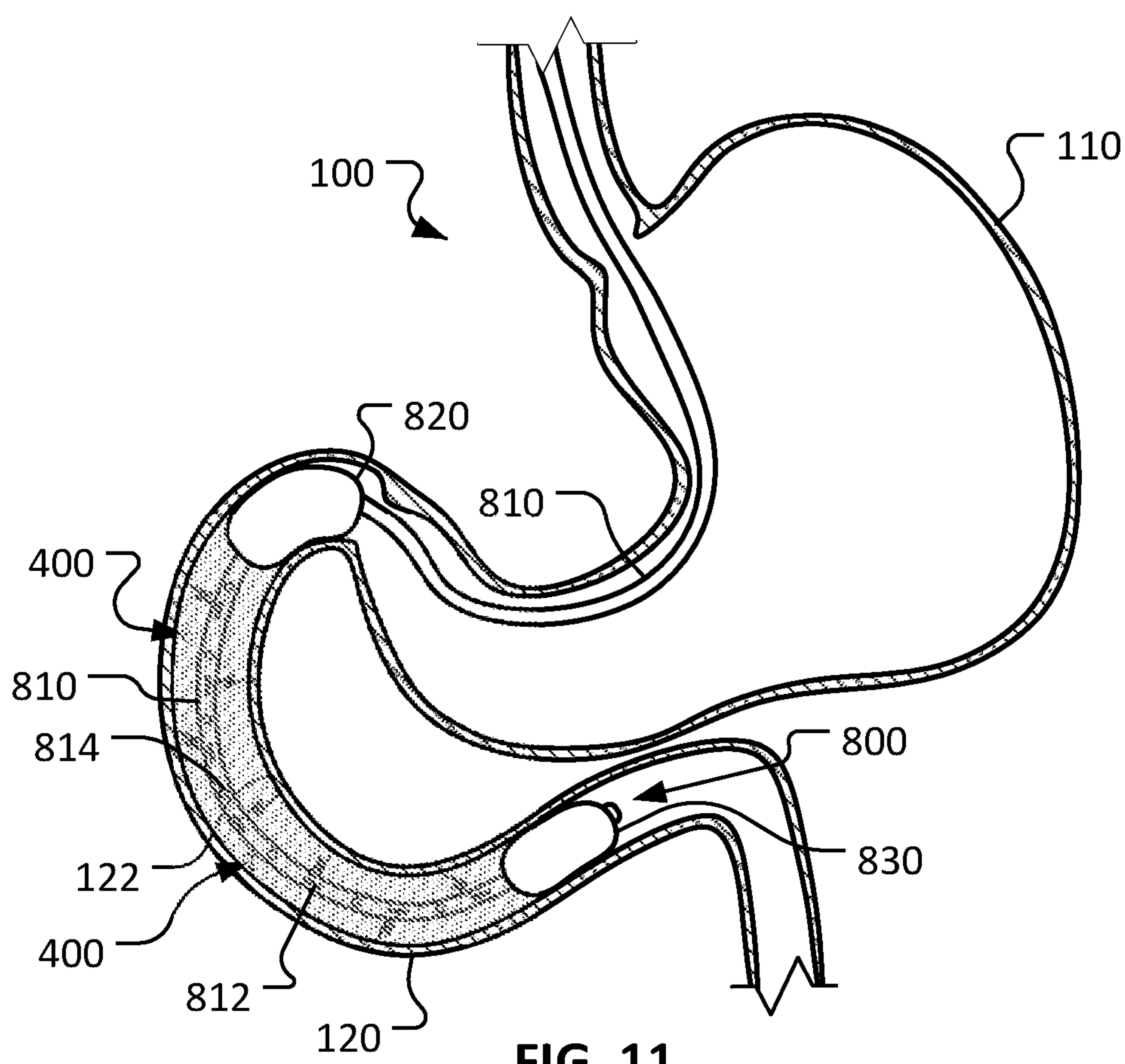
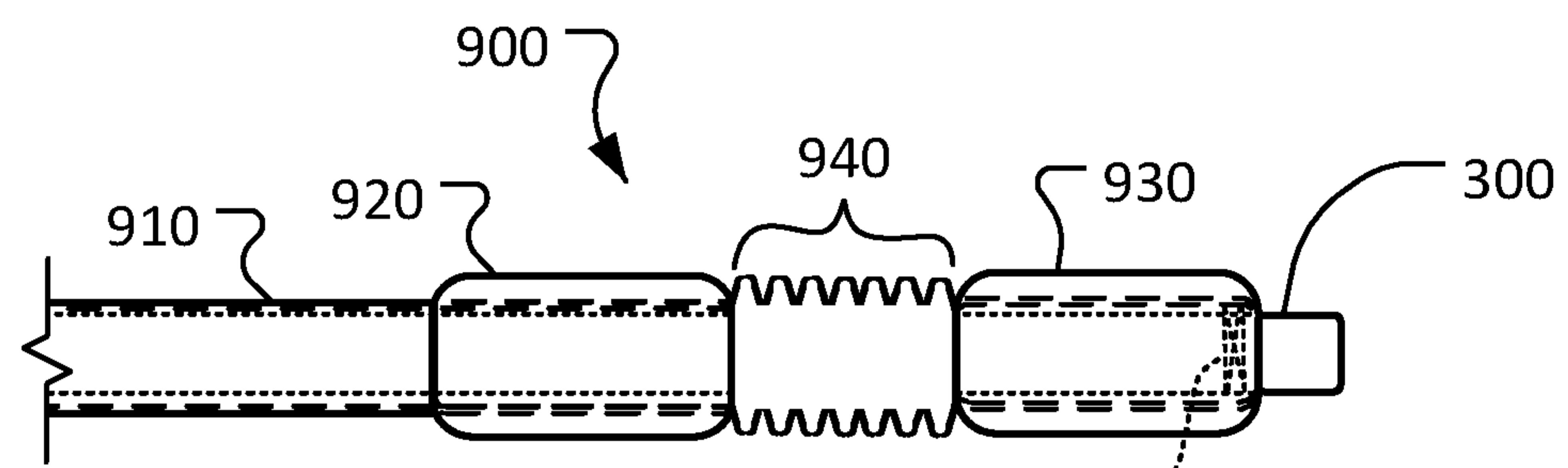
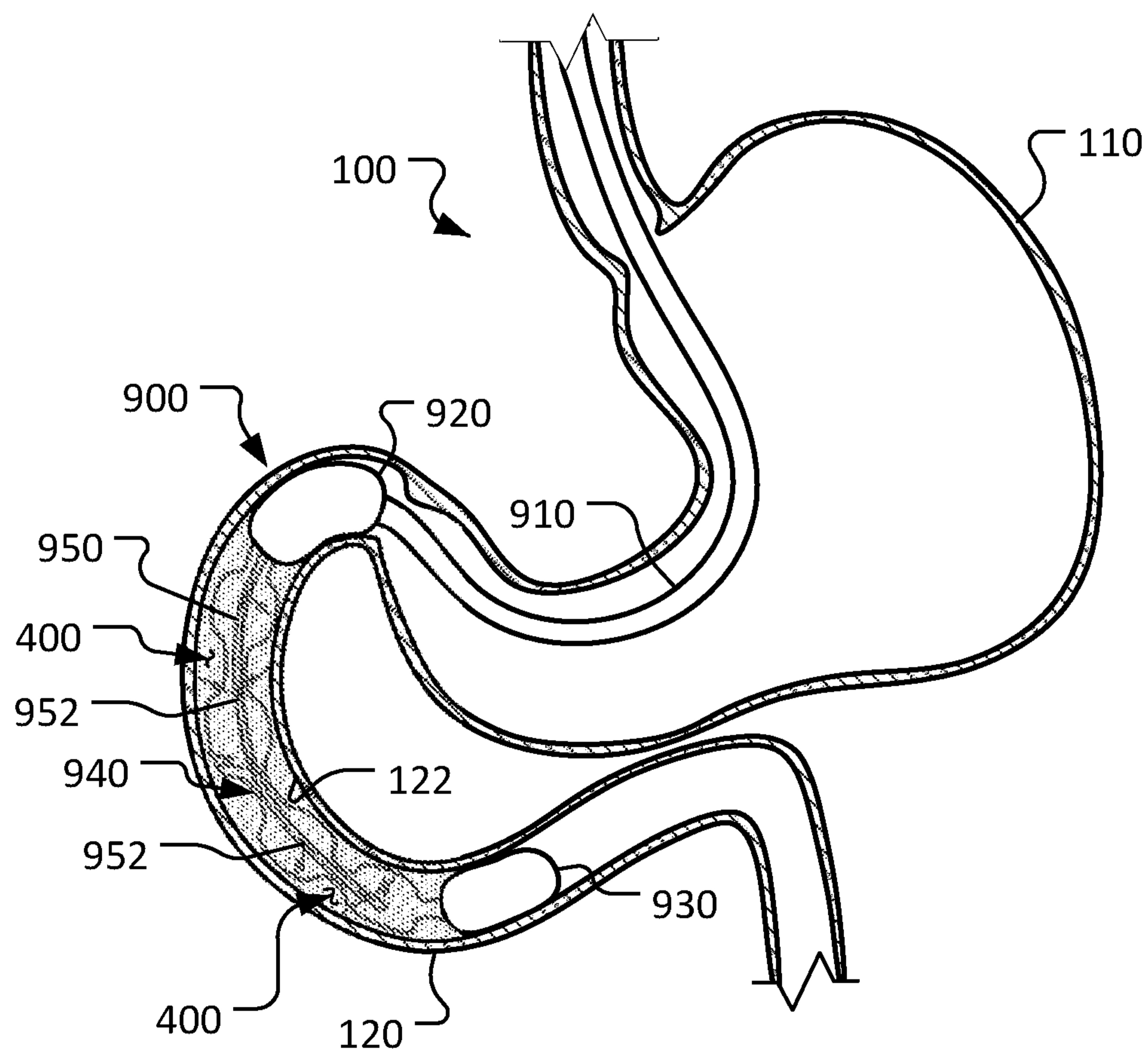


FIG. 6

**FIG. 7**

**FIG. 8****FIG. 9**

**FIG. 10****FIG. 11**

**FIG. 12****FIG. 13**

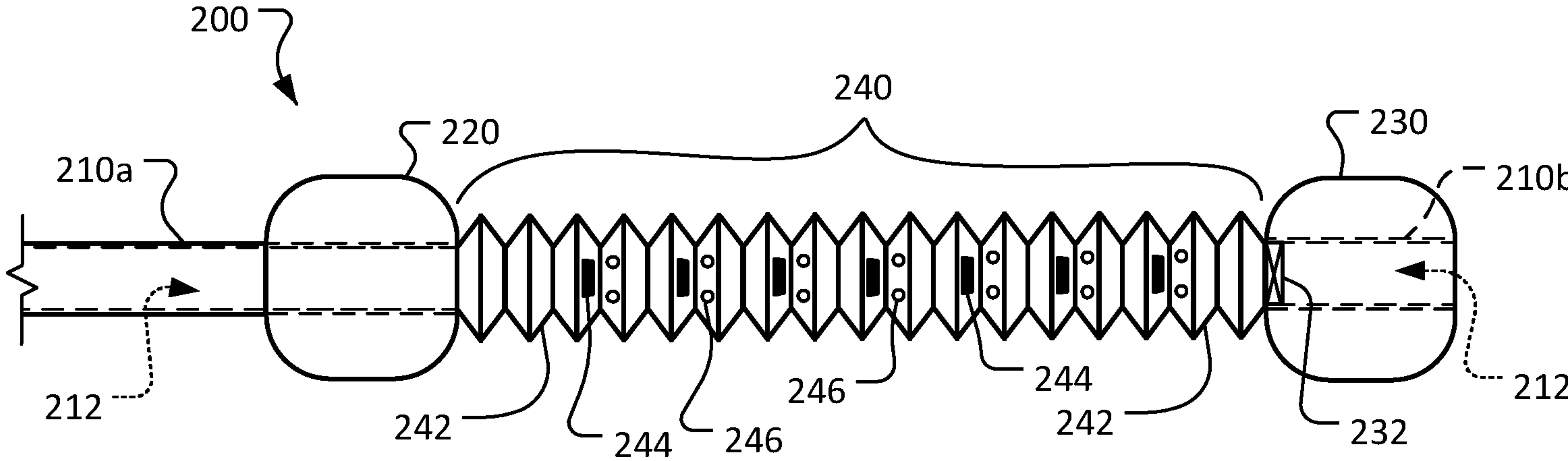


FIG. 2