

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
04 November 2021 (04.11.2021)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2021/222116 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:

A61M 25/00 (2006.01) A61M 25/06 (2006.01)
A61M 25/01 (2006.01) A61M 25/09 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2021/029183

(22) International Filing Date:

26 April 2021 (26.04.2021)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

63/016,085 27 April 2020 (27.04.2020) US

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(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, DJ, DK, DM, DO,
DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,
HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, IT, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN,
KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, 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, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(54) Title: RAPIDLY INSERTABLE CENTRAL CATHETERS INCLUDING CATHETER ASSEMBLIES AND METHODS THEREOF

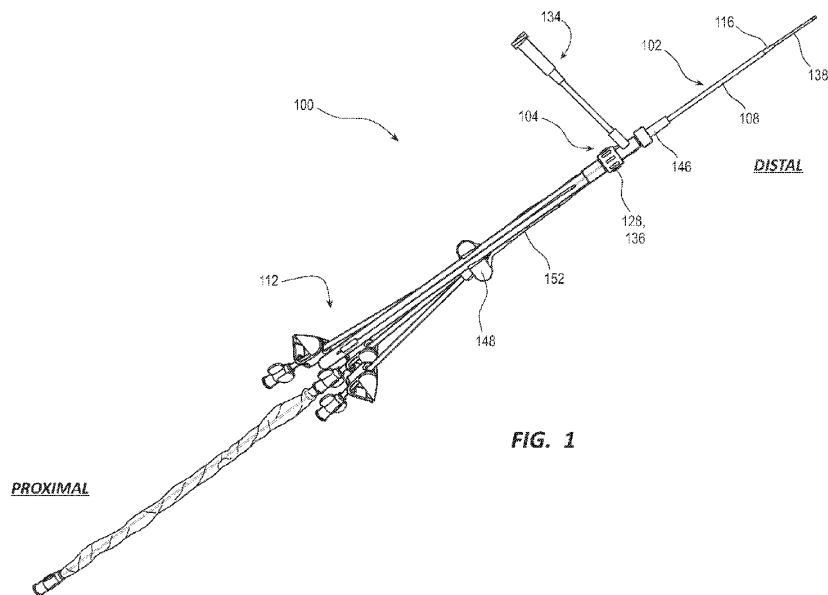


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Rapidly insertable central catheters ("RICCs") including catheter assemblies and methods thereof are disclosed. A RICC assembly (100) can include a RICC (102), an introducer (104), and a coupling system (106) configured to couple the RICC and the introducer together. A catheter tube (108) of the RICC can include a side aperture (114) in a distal-end portion of the catheter tube, which opens into an introducing lumen (118) extending from the side aperture to a distal end of the RICC. The introducer can include an introducer needle (128) having a cannula (138). The coupling system can include a distal coupler (146) slidably attached to the catheter tube proximal of the side aperture. The cannula extends through a longitudinal through hole of the distal coupler, through the side aperture of the catheter tube, along the introducing lumen of the catheter tube, and through the distal end of the RICC when the RICC assembly is in a ready-to-deploy state thereof.

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(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, ST, 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))*

Published:

— *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

09 December 2021 (09.12.2021)