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- (54) **Title:** APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR FORMING BARBED SUTURES

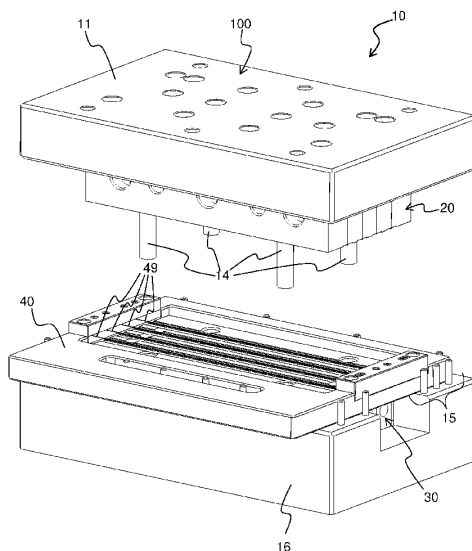


Fig. 21

(57) **Abstract:** An apparatus and method for forming barbed sutures, the apparatus comprising: a mould comprising at least one set of mould inserts, wherein the mould cavity comprises a core-shaped cavity configured to form the core of the barbed suture therein and a plurality of barb-shaped cavities configured to form the barbs of the barbed suture therein, wherein the core-shaped cavity is defined by all the mould inserts in each set of mould inserts together and wherein each barb-shaped cavity is defined by two adjacent mould inserts in each set of mould inserts when the mould is in the close position; a suture cartridge configured to present at least one length of suture for moulding in the mould cavity to form the barbed suture therefrom; and heating elements provided to heat the mould inserts during compression moulding of the length of suture in the mould cavity.

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