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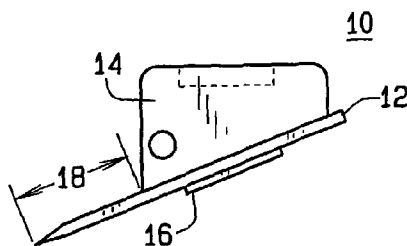
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(54) Title: CERAMIC MICROKERATOME BLADE ASSEMBLY



(57) **Abstract:** A cutting blade assembly (20) includes a ceramic blade (22) with a forward cutting edge (24). A lower portion (28) of a blade holder (26) is formed of ceramic and is integral to ceramic blade (22). An upper blade holder portion (30) is attached to the lower blade holder portion (28), such that the upper blade holder portion (30) is structured for engagement with a microkeratome oscillation mechanism (84).



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