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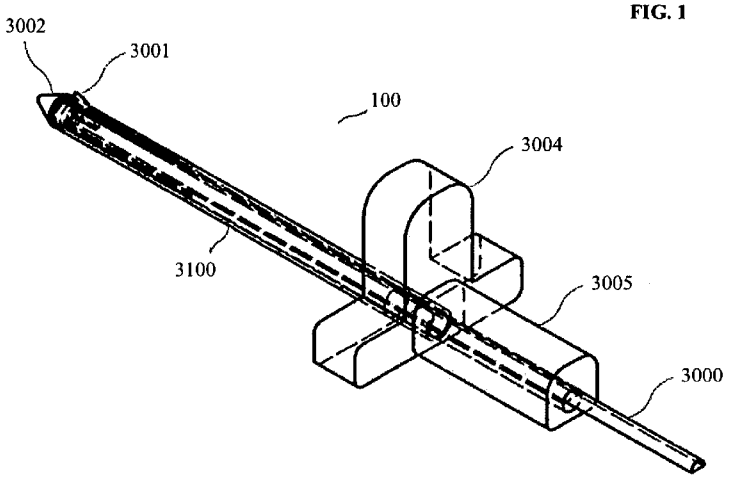
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(54) **Title**: CUTTING DEVICE FOR CUTTING TISSUE

FIG. 1



(57) **Abstract**: The present invention refers to a cutting device for cutting tissue or a tissue layer. A cutting device can comprise a sleeve having a first end and a second end. The sleeve may comprise a slit extending from a position at the first end of the sleeve. The first end of the sleeve may be shaped to allow insertion of the sleeve between two tissue layers. Further comprised may be a cutting rod carrying a cutting blade at a first end, the cutting rod being insertable into the sleeve through the second end of the sleeve and being movable within the sleeve. The cutting rod may be positioned within the sleeve so that the cutting blade can protrude through the slit of the sleeve. The cutting device may further comprise a support rod, the support rod being insertable into the sleeve through the second end of the sleeve and being movable within the sleeve. The cutting rod and the support rod may fit together into the sleeve. When the cutting rod and the support rod are arranged together within the sleeve the cutting blade of the cutting rod is protruding through the slit of the sleeve. The present invention is further directed to a control rod, a retrieval rod and a system comprising the aforementioned elements.

WO 2011/123062 A2