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(54) Title: RAPIDLY INSERTABLE CENTRAL CATHETERS, CATHETER INSERTION ASSEMBLIES, AND METHODS

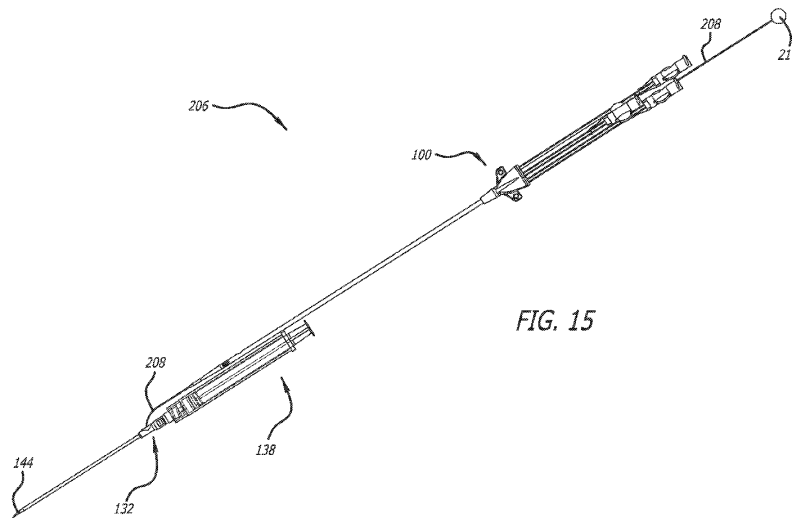


FIG. 15

(57) Abstract: Rapidly insertable central catheters ("RICCs"), RICC insertion assemblies, and methods are disclosed. RICC insertion assembly includes a RICC (100), an introducer (132), and an access guidewire (208). An introducer needle includes a needle shaft having a longitudinal gap extending from a proximal portion of the needle shaft through a needle tip. An introducer sheath includes a splittable sheath hub coupled to a splittable sheath body. The introducer sheath is disposed over the introducer needle with the sheath body sealing the needle shaft for drawing a vacuum through the introducer needle. The access guidewire (208) extends along an entirety of a primary lumen of the RICC, through a splittable valved port of the sheath hub, along a sheath body-covered needle channel of the needle shaft, and to a location in the introducer proximal of the needle tip (144) in a ready-to-operate state of the RICC insertion assembly.

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