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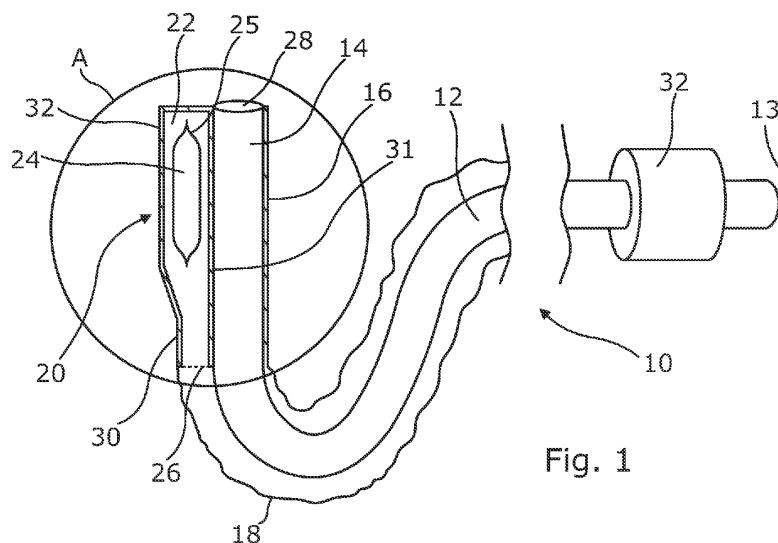


Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a catheter (10). The catheter (10) includes a catheter tube (12) having a tip end (13) and a distal end (14), with the distal end (14) being coupled to or forming at least part of a funnel 16 for discharging fluid from within the catheter tube (12). A sleeve (18) is provided about the catheter tube (12) which is coupled at an end thereof to the funnel 16 and extends towards the tip end (13) of the catheter tube (12). The catheter (10) additionally includes a wetting mechanism (20) which is integrally formed with the funnel (16) and includes a holding chamber (22) and a fluid outlet (26) operable to allow fluid (24) from within the holding chamber (22) to be released within the sleeve (18) for wetting an outer surface of the catheter tube (12).

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