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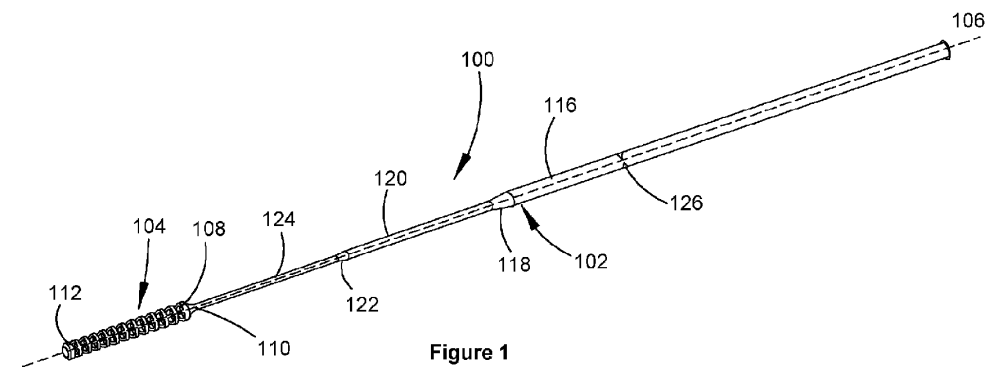


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: Described is a swab. The swab includes a rod having a longitudinal axis and a tip. The tip includes a proximal region at a distal end of the rod, a distal region opposite the proximal region, a plurality of posts extending from the proximal region to the distal region, and a plurality of circumferential supports, each support extending between two said posts. The posts and circumferential supports form a frame that resists plastic deformation of the tip due to forces applied laterally at the tip.

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