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(54) Title: INTRAVASCULAR GUIDEWIRE AND MICROCATHETER SYSTEM

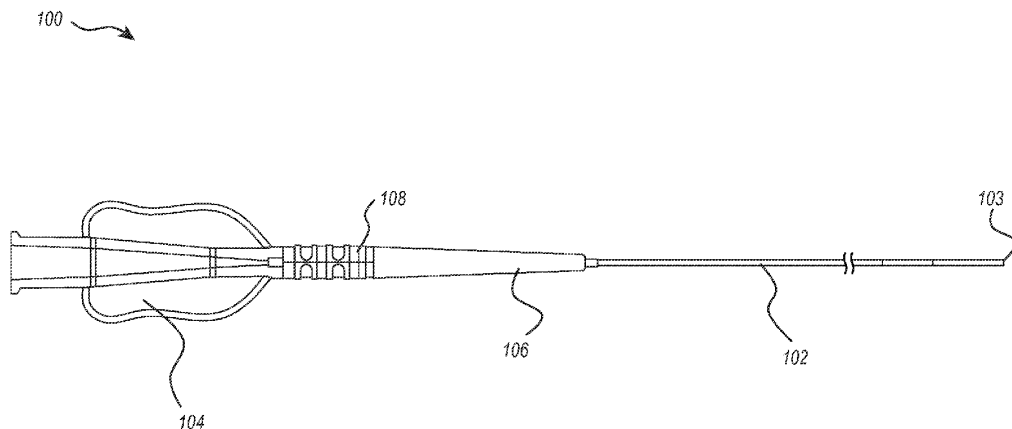


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Disclosed are guidewire and catheter systems that can be used to facilitate desirable catheter axial response (e.g., pushability) over a guidewire for advancement through patient vasculature. Features of the guidewire and catheter systems enable the catheter to advance over the guidewire within the tortuous paths of a patient's vasculature in response to push forces that do not exceed 50 g. A catheter device constructed may advance over a guidewire within the tortuous paths of a patient's vasculature in response to push forces of 50 g or below. For instance, for an example tortuous path model with a total path length of 21.5 cm, with inner diameter of 3.68 mm, with three full loops, guidewire and catheter systems constructed were able to advance over a guidewire without exceeding 30 grams of push force.

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