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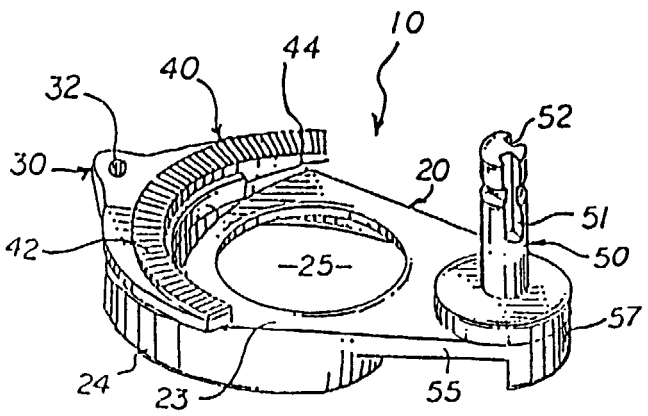
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(54) Title: A POSITIONING ASSEMBLY FOR RETAINING AND POSITIONING A CORNEA



(57) Abstract: A positioning assembly (10) for retaining, positioning and at least partially exposing a cornea of an eye during a surgical procedure, the eye being disposed in a latitudinally narrowed ocular access. The positioning assembly (10) includes a positioning segment (20) having a retention plate (23) with an aperture (25) defined therein to receive and expose the cornea (C) of the eye, and a flange member (24) disposed about the aperture (25), a closely spaced apart distance from a latitudinal radius thereof, and structured to engage the eye. The positioning assembly (10) further includes a suctioning assembly (30) associated with the position segment (10) for at least temporarily attaching the positioning segment (20) to the eye, the suctioning assembly (30) including a vacuum port (32) extending vertically from the positioning segment (10) and angled outwardly away from a guide track (40) integrally disposed on the retention plate (23) to define an arcuate cutting path for a microkeratome cutting head assembly (15). A Pivot assembly including at least a post member (50) is further provided, the post member (50) defining a pivot axis about which a coupling assembly, pivots. A cut origination control is provided at the post member (50) to define an origination point at which movement, and accordingly cutting, by the cutting head assembly (15) begins.