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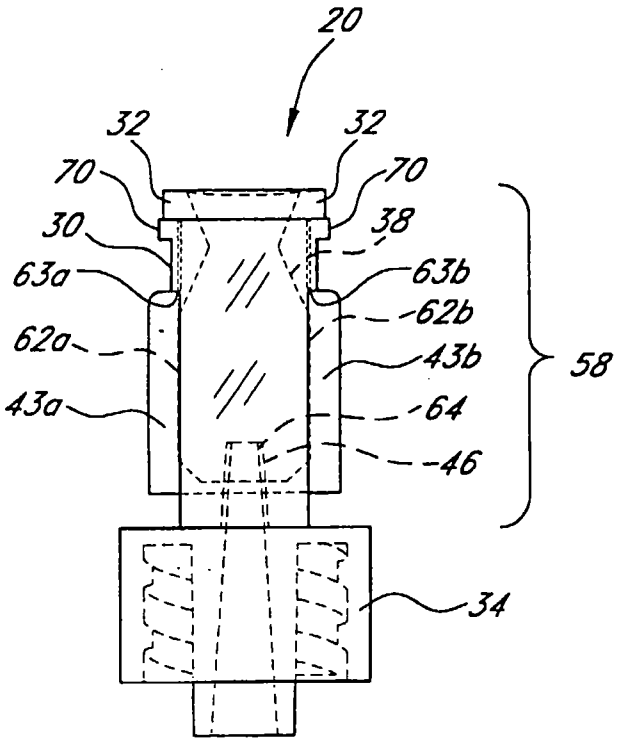
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(54) Title: MEDICAL VALVE WITH POSITIVE FLOW CHARACTERISTICS



(57) Abstract: A valve for selectively permitting a fluid flow between first and second medical implements is disclosed. The valve has a housing with an interface suitable for receiving a connector portion of a first medical device such as a catheter, and a seal made of a flexible material. The seal has a first end in fluid communication with the interface, a second end suitable for receiving the second medical device, and at least one slit in fluid communication with the first end and the second end. The slit defines a restricted fluid flow path and a relatively small interior volume when in an undisturbed state, defines an expanded fluid flow path and a larger interior volume upon the introduction of the second medical instrument into the slit, and retracts to define a restricted flow path and a small interior volume upon the withdrawal of the second medical device from the seal. The slit is constructed such that its upstream end initially is sealed as the second medical device is withdrawn. A fluid occupying the small interior volume of the slit is forced toward the downstream end of the slit.

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