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(54) Title: RAPIDLY INSERTABLE CENTRAL CATHETERS INCLUDING CATHETER ASSEMBLIES

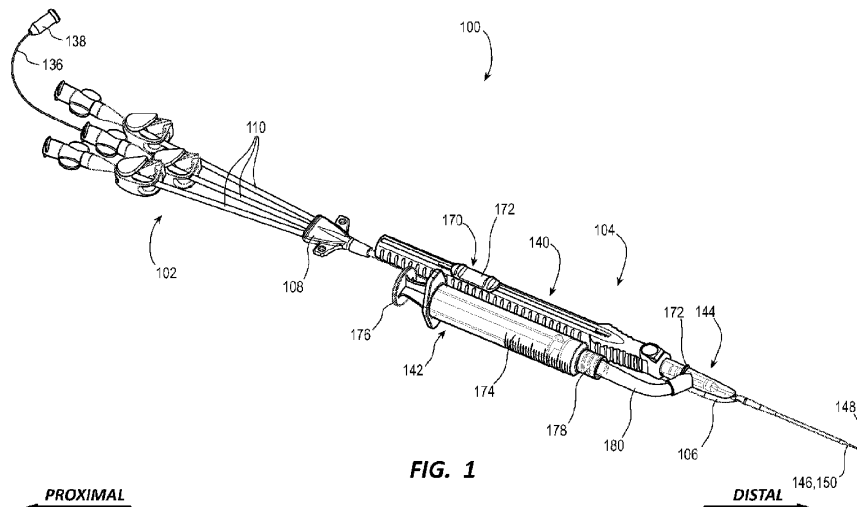


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Rapidly insertable central catheters ("RICCs") including catheter assemblies are disclosed. For example, a RICC assembly includes a RICC (102) and an introducer (104). The RICC includes a catheter tube (106), a catheter hub (108), and one or more extension legs (110) coupled in the foregoing order. The catheter tube includes a side aperture (114) that opens into an introducing lumen that extends from at least the side aperture to a distal end of the RICC. The introducer includes a retractable-needle device (140), a syringe (142), and a coupling hub (144) that couples the retractable-needle device and the syringe together proximal of the side aperture in a ready-to-deploy state of the RICC assembly. The retractable-needle device includes an introducer needle (146). A needle tip in a distal-end portion of a shaft of the introducer needle extends beyond the distal end of the RICC when the RICC assembly is in the ready-to-deploy state of the RICC assembly.

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