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(54) **Title:** METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INTRODUCING A NEEDLE FOR CATHETER PLACEMENT

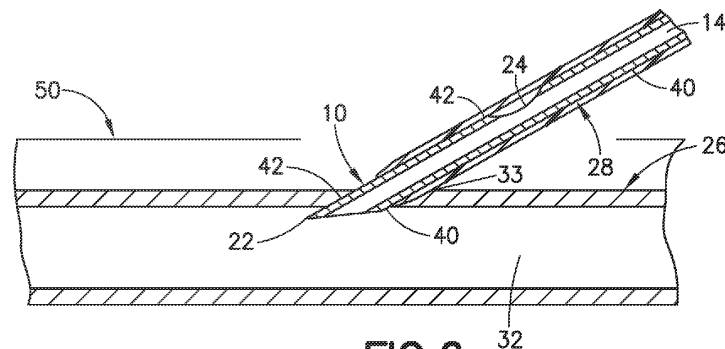


**FIG. 6**

(57) **Abstract:** A catheter assembly and method for introducing a needle (10) to position a catheter (28), such as a peripheral TV catheter into a patient includes piercing a vein (26) with a needle that extends from the distal end of the catheter. The needle has a distal tip (22) with a configuration that pierces the vein at an angle to penetrate a vein with a reduced incidence of transfixing, injury of the inner surface of the vein or inadvertently passing through side wall of the vein. The distal tip (22) of the needle is introduced into the lumen (32) of the vein at an incline where the distal tip is (22) spaced from an inner surface (34) of the vein and a bevel surface (20) of the distal tip faces the inner surface (34) of the vein opposite the entry point of the needle into the vein. A catheter (28) on the needle (10) is advanced from the distal tip of the needle into the lumen of the vein.

[Continued on next page]

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