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

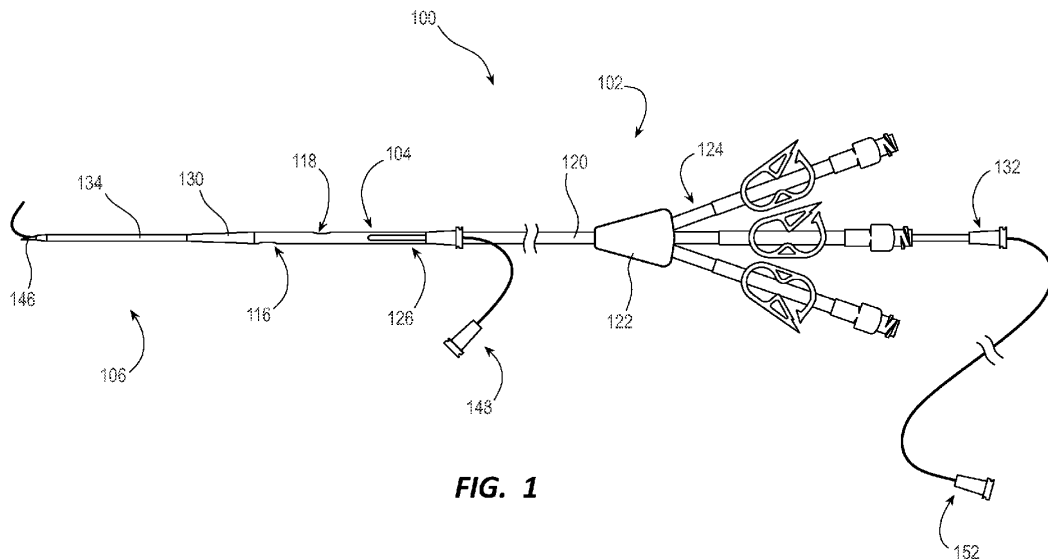


FIG. 1

(57) **Abstract:** A rapidly insertable central catheter (RICC) assembly 100 includes a RICC (102) and an introducer (106). The RICC includes a soft catheter tube (120) having an introducing aperture (104) that opens into a primary lumen of the RICC. The introducer includes an introducer catheter (132) including a hard catheter tube (134) having an introducing hole (140) that opens into a single lumen of the introducer catheter. When the RICC assembly is in a ready-to-deploy state thereof, the introducer catheter is disposed in the primary lumen of the RICC such that a distal end of the introducer catheter extends past a distal end of the RICC. In addition, an introducer needle (126) of the introducer is disposed in the introducer catheter through both the introducing aperture and the introducing hole such that a beveled tip of the introducer needle extends past the distal end of the introducer catheter.

[Continued on next page]

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