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(54) Title: OPTIMIZED STRUCTURAL SUPPORT IN CATHETER INSERTION SYSTEMS

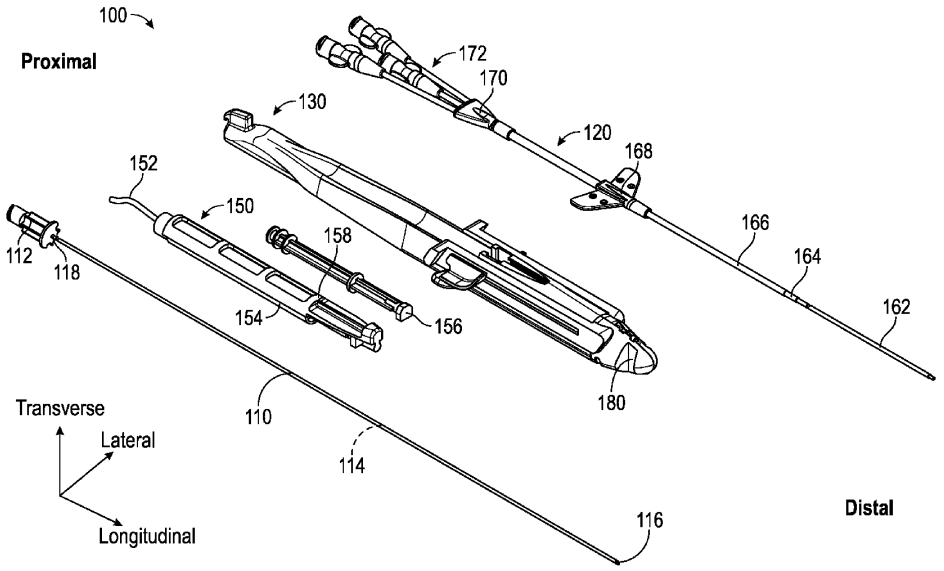

FIG. 2A

(57) Abstract: Embodiments disclosed herein are directed to catheter placement systems including distally extendable support devices. When placing elongate catheters advanced insertion systems are required to maintain a "touch-free" insertion. Further longer needles are desirable to access deeper veins or penetrate deeper surface tissues. Distally extendable support devices provide columnar support to one of the elongate catheter or the needle to prevent buckling or kinking of the catheter, and maintain the needle tip within a predetermined bending arm distance. This prevents the user from contacting one of the needle or the catheter directly to provide additional support, maintaining a "touch-free" insertion.

[Continued on next page]

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