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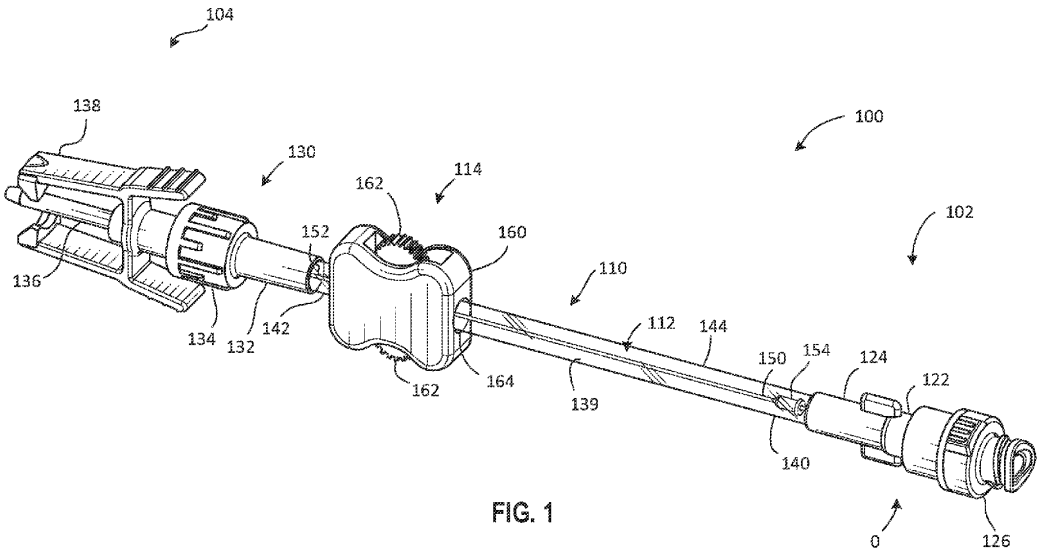

FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A system (100) for accessing a patient's vascular system having a tube (110) with a wall (139) that defines an exterior surface (144) and lumen with a proximal end and a distal end, and a guidewire (112) that is deployable, by sliding distally, from a retracted position in which the guidewire resides in the lumen, to a deployed position in which the guidewire extends beyond the distal end. The system may further have a retraction mechanism (114) that can be actuated to retract the guidewire from the deployed position to the retracted position; alternatively a protective shield (1514) that can be actuated to extend distally from the distal end of the tube to cover the guidewire in the deployed position.

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