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(54) Title: INTRODUCER NEEDLE AND ASSEMBLY

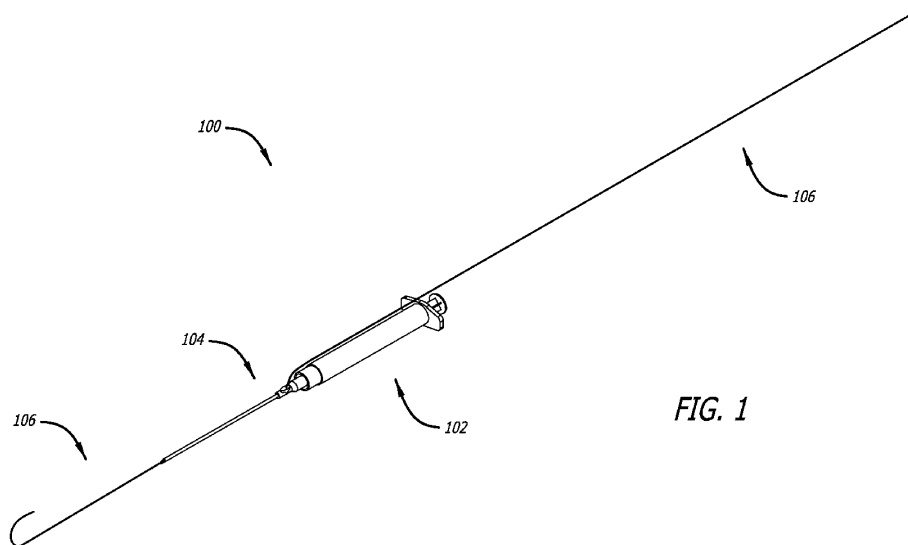


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Disclosed is an introducer needle (104) and an introducer assembly (100). The introducer assembly (100) includes a fluidly connected syringe (102) and the needle (104). The needle (104) includes a needle shaft and a needle hub, which includes a port and a valve disposed in the port. The port is in a side of the needle hub proximal of a proximal end of the needle shaft. The valve is configured to form a fluid-tight seal around an elongate medical device such as an access guidewire (106) when passed through the port and into a needle-hub lumen of the needle hub. Such an access guidewire (106) can be pre-disposed in the introducer assembly just proximal of a needle tip of the needle. In this way, the access guidewire (106) can be immediately advanced into a blood-vessel lumen upon establishing a needle tract thereto with the needle (104).

[Continued on next page]

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