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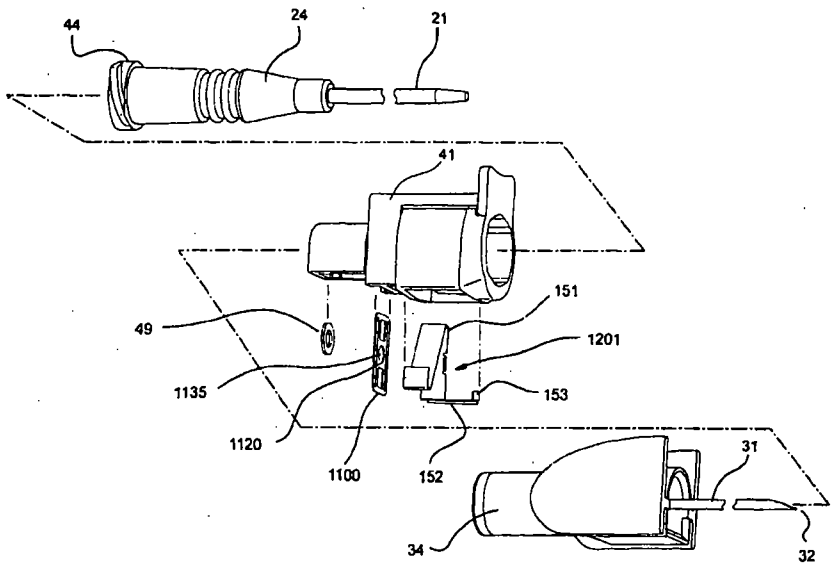
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(54) Title: CATHETER AND INTRODUCER NEEDLE ASSEMBLY WITH NEEDLE SHIELD



(57) Abstract: A catheter and introducer needle assembly with a needle shield is provided. The needle shield (40) includes a means for preventing unwanted distal movement of the needle (31) once the needle has been withdrawn into the needle shield. The needle shield also includes a means for connecting the needle shield to the catheter hub (24) until the sharp distal tip of the introducer needle has been withdrawn into the needle shield. Thus, when the distal end of the introducer needle extends from the distal portion of the needle shield, the needle shield is connected to the catheter hub and when the sharp distal end of the introducer needle is withdrawn into the needle shield, the needle shield is disconnected from the catheter hub.

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