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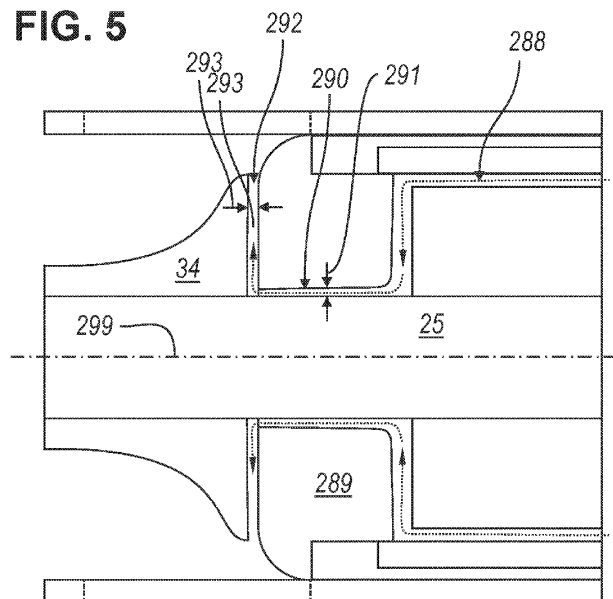
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(54) Title: METHOD OF PURGING A BLOOD PUMP

FIG. 5



(57) Abstract: Devices, system, and methods are provided based on a technique for purging a blood pump. The technique may include providing a blood pump having an impeller and providing a fluid comprising a bicarbonate. The technique may include flowing the fluid through a first gap between a bearing and an outer surface of a rotatable shaft coupled to the impeller, the bearing and gap being disposed within a lumen of a tubular member and depending on the flow rate of the fluid and the speed of the impeller, the fluid may flow through the first gap and into a second gap between the bearing and a surface of the impeller facing the bearing. The bicarbonate reduces denaturation and adsorption of any blood proteins in the gap(s).

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