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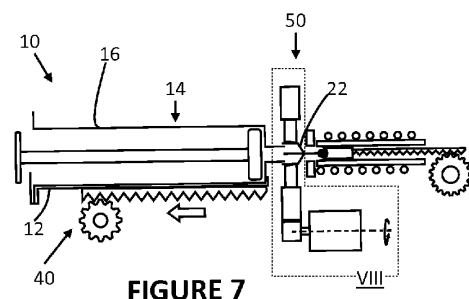


FIGURE 7

(57) **Abstract:** An apparatus (10) for destroying syringes-needle assemblies (14, 24) is disclosed, which comprises a cradle (12) for holding the syringe (14) and a hub grip (52) for gripping the hub (22) of a needle (24) affixed to the syringe (14). The apparatus (10) comprises means (60, 62, 64, 66, 74) for destroying the needle (24) for example, by passing a current (74) through it to soften/melt it, whilst at the same time, applying an axial compressive force (66) to blunt and compress the needle (24). The hub grip (52) is moveable relative to the cradle (12) so that the needle (24) can be pulled, unscrewed or otherwise detached from the syringe (14). The apparatus (10) is preferably automated, and thus enables the destroyed needle (24, 74) and syringe (14) to be separated, and therefore disposed of in separate waste streams (80, 86) without manual intervention.

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