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(71) Applicant: **BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY**
[US/US]; 1 Becton Drive, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey
07417 (US).

(72) Inventors: **LAUER, Shaun**; 331 East Garfield Avenue,
Salt Lake City, Utah 84115 (US). **NALLASWAMY, Ra-**
jakumar; 11721 South Danta Drive, Draper, Utah 84020

(US). **WHEAT, Mitchell**; 8964 S Heights Drive, Sandy,
Utah 84094 (US). **MOLLOY, Rachel**; 9360 Alvey Lane,
Sandy, Utah 84093 (US). **LACKEY, John**; 1409 West
3630 South, West Valley City, Utah 84119 (US).

(74) Agent: **BLAIR, Whitney**; 36 South State Street, Suite
1900, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111 (US).

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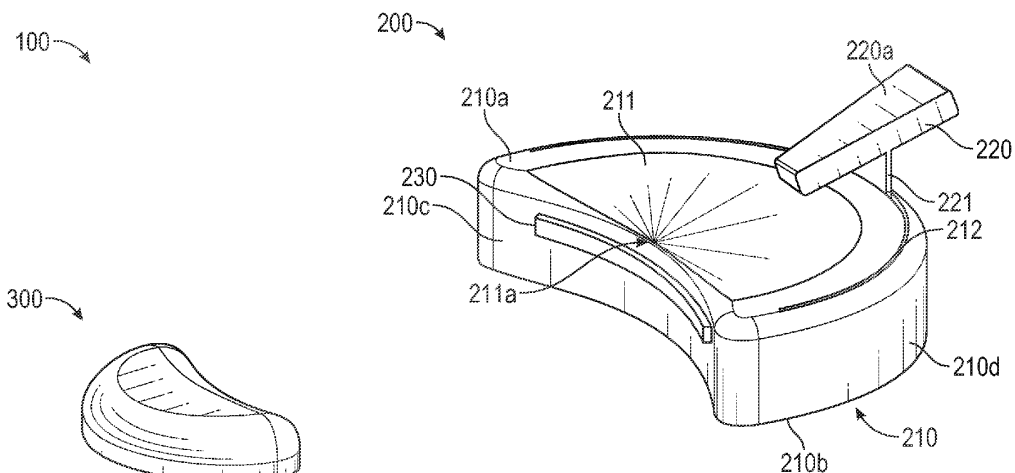


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: An IV catheter insertion guide (100) is configured to reduce the pain a patient may experience during catheter insertion. The IV catheter insertion guide (100) includes two platforms (200,300) that can be positioned on opposing sides of the insertion site. An downstream platform (200) includes an ultrasonic transducer or another type of heating component for increasing the temperature of tissue near the insertion site. This heating of the tissue can cause the targeted vessel to relax and increase its cross-sectional area prior to insertion of the catheter. An upstream platform (300) includes an ultrasonic transducer for stimulating nerves downstream from the insertion site during the insertion of the catheter. The stimulation of the downstream nerves may reduce the pain signal that is transmitted to the central nervous system in response to the catheter insertion.

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