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(54) **Title:** VASCULAR ACCESS SYSTEM

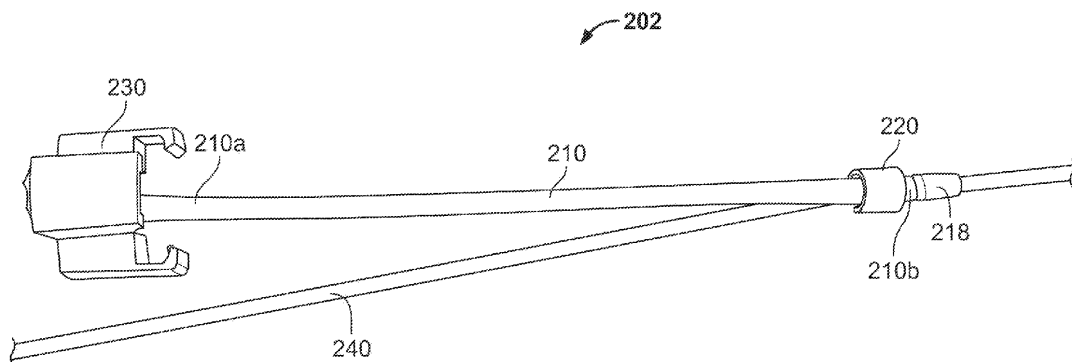


FIG. 2

(57) **Abstract:** A vascular access system (300, 500) comprising a sheath (350), a slitted sleeve (110), and a sealing portion of the slitted sleeve (110). The slitted sleeve (110) comprises a tubular sleeve body (111) having a longitudinal slit (112) along its length, wherein the slitted sleeve (110) is adapted to receive a first portion of a medical device therein. The longitudinal slit (112) closes, but does not seal, after the first portion of the medical device is inserted therein. The sealing portion of the slitted sleeve (110) is configured to fill a gap and form a seal between an inner surface of the sheath (350) and a portion of the first portion of the medical device disposed in the sheath (350) when the sheath (350) is inserted in the blood vessel and the slitted sleeve (110) is inserted into the sheath lumen. A vascular access device accessory (102, 202, 302, 502) and a method for inserting it into a sheath (350) are also provided.

[Continued on next page]

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