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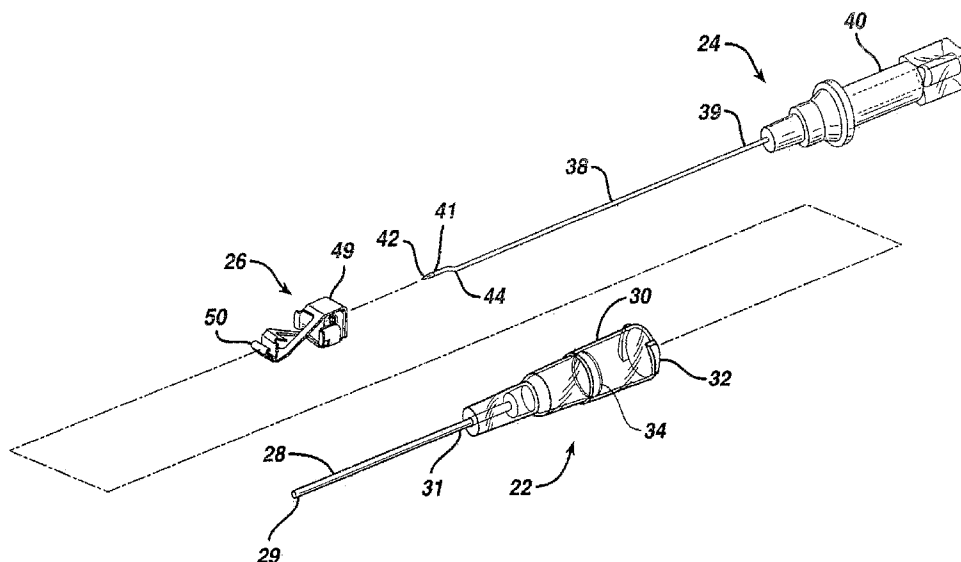
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(54) Title: SAFETY NEEDLE AND CATHETER ASSEMBLY



(57) Abstract: A catheter and introducer needle assembly having an introducer needle (38) with proximal and distal ends (39, 41) attached to a needle hub (40) and a bent area (44) therebetween. The device further includes a tubular catheter (28) having proximal and distal ends (31, 29) in which the introducer needle (38) can be coaxially received within the catheter (28). The device has a hollow catheter hub (30) having a distal end attached to the proximal end of the catheter and is in fluid communication therewith. The assembly includes a needle tip protector (26) having a proximal end (49) and a distal end (50) disposed within the catheter hub (30). The distal end of the protector covers the needle tip when the needle is removed from the catheter. The protector has a proximal opening (72) at its proximal end wherein the bent area (44) is angled away from the proximal opening such that when the needle is removed from the catheter the protector remains attached to the needle.

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