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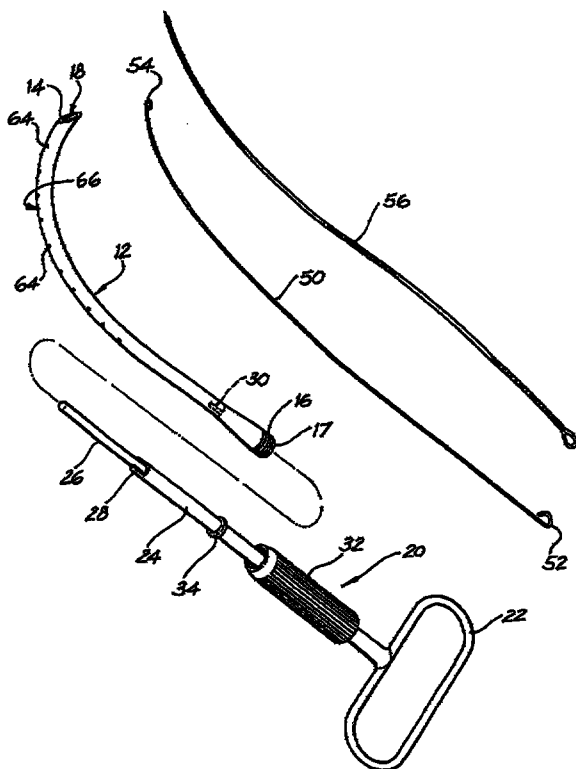
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(54) Title: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a surgical instrument for inserting an elongate element into a human patient. In the preferred form of the invention the instrument has a curved hollow shaft defining an arc corresponding to the general curvature of a passage between the anterior vaginal wall and the abdomen of a female patient and having a cutting tip at one end and a handle at the other end. An elongate threading element is used draw a filamentary element through the shaft. Once the filamentary element is in position the shaft is removed from the patient, leaving the element in position. The instrument is preferably used to insert a U-shaped loop of filamentary material into the patient which passes around the patient's urethra and helps the patient improve her urinary control.

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