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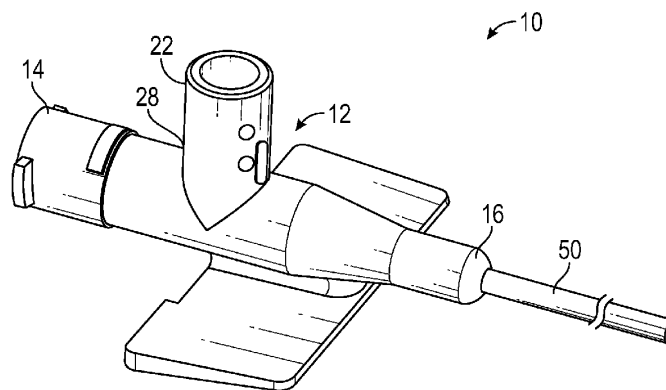


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A vascular access device including a catheter adapter (12), a port opening (28), and an elastomeric valve (24). The catheter adapter extends along a longitudinal axis (20) and includes a proximal end (14), a distal end (16), and a lumen (18) extending therebetween. The port opening is formed in a surface of the catheter adapter in fluid communication with a side port (22) of the catheter adapter and the lumen. A structural geometry of the port opening directs a fluid into the lumen in a proximal direction. The elastomeric port valve is disposed within the lumen and configured to deform in response to a transverse force applied thereto. A proximal gap may result between the inner wall forming the lumen and a proximal side of the elastomeric port valve, thereby opening a fluid path.

[Continued on next page]

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