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(54) Title: RAPIDLY INSERTABLE CENTRAL CATHETERS INCLUDING CATHETER ASSEMBLIES

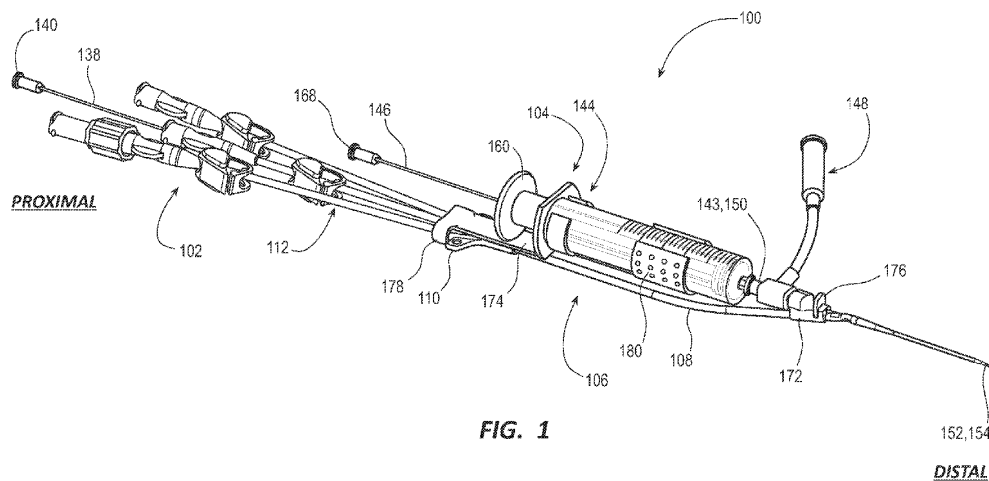


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Rapidly insertable central catheters ("RICCs") including catheter assemblies are disclosed. A RICC assembly can include a RICC, an introducer (104), and a coupling system configured to couple the RICC and the introducer together. A catheter tube (108) of the RICC includes a side aperture (116) in a distal-end portion of the catheter tube, which opens into an introducing lumen extending from the side aperture to a distal end of the RICC. The introducer includes a syringe (144) and an introducer needle (143) having a cannula. The coupling system includes a distal coupler (172) slidably attached to the catheter tube proximal of the side aperture. The cannula extends through a longitudinal through hole of the distal coupler, through the side aperture of the catheter tube, along the introducing lumen of the catheter tube, and through the distal end of the RICC when the RICC assembly is in at least a ready-to-deploy state thereof.

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WO 2021/216902 A1

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