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

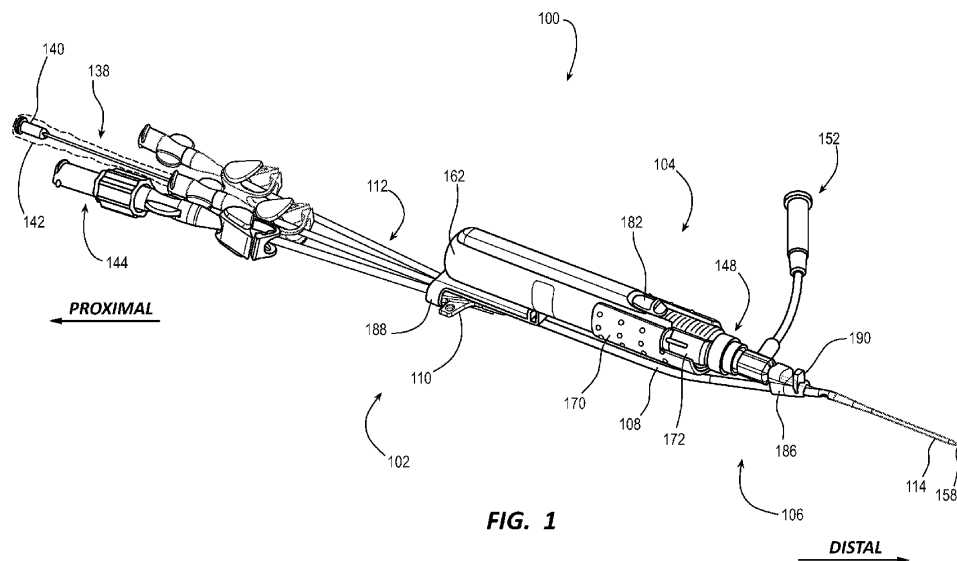


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Rapidly insertable central catheters ("RICCs") (102) including catheter assemblies (100) and methods thereof are disclosed. A RICC assembly (100) can include a RICC (102), an introducer (104), and a coupling system (106) 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 (108), which opens into an introducing lumen (124) extending to a distal end of the RICC (102). The introducer (104) includes an introducer needle (146) extending through the distal end of the RICC (102) when the RICC assembly (100) is in at least a ready-to-deploy state thereof. The introducer (104) is configured to be actuated with a single finger of a hand while holding a distal-end portion of the introducer (104) between a thumb and another finger or fingers of the hand. The coupling system (106) includes a distal coupler (186) slidably attached to the catheter tube (108) proximal of the side aperture (116).

[Continued on next page]

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