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(54) Title: SPLITTABLE NEEDLE AND DILATOR CATHETER PLACEMENT DEVICE AND ASSOCIATED METHODS

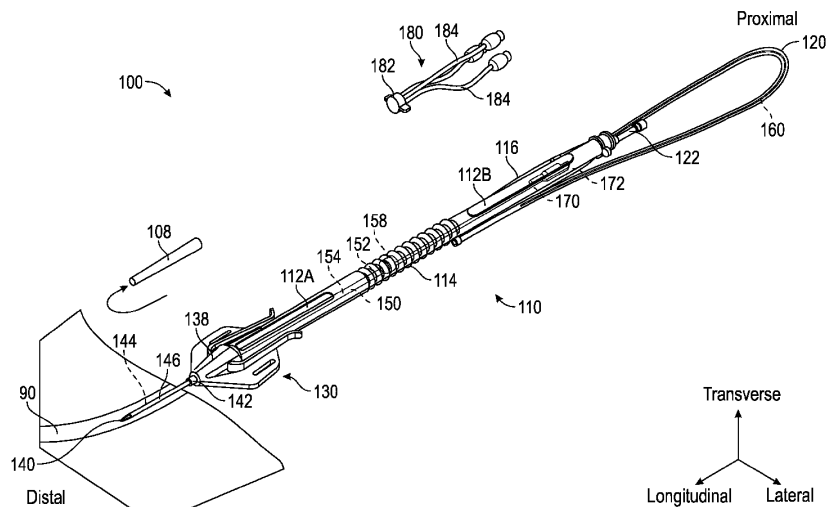


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Disclosed herein is a catheter placement system including a splittable needle and dilator. The system can include a housing having one or more flexible sections and a pleated section. A user can grasp an elongate medical device using the flexible sections and transition the housing pleated section between an extended and collapsed configuration to urge the elongate medical device proximally or distally. The system can also include a needle retraction mechanism configured to split the needle long a longitudinal axis and roll up the separate portions to allow one or more elongate medical devices to pass therebetween. The system can also include a dilator splitter configured to separate a dilator along a longitudinal axis and radially displace the dilator portions to allow one or more elongate medical devices to pass therebetween. Advantageously, the system can maintain the elongate medical device in a sterile environment, mitigating the introduction of pathogens.

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