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(54) Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS TO IMPROVE INSTRUMENT GUIDANCE WITHIN AN INTRAVENOUS CATHETER ASSEMBLY

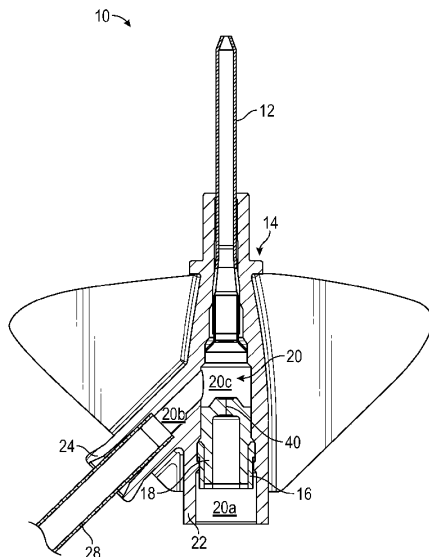


FIG. 1A

(57) Abstract: A catheter assembly and/or an introducer may include one or more features configured to guide a probe and/or a catheter distally through a septum. The catheter assembly may include a catheter adapter, which may include a distal end, a proximal end, and a lumen extending there between, and a septum disposed within the lumen. The septum may include a proximal surface that is tapered inwardly in a distal direction such that the proximal surface of the septum is configured to guide the probe and/or the catheter distally through the septum. The catheter assembly may be configured to receive an introducer, which may include an introducer element. A proximal end of the introducer element may include another proximal surface that is tapered inwardly in the distal direction such that the other proximal surface is configured to guide the probe or the catheter distally through the septum.

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