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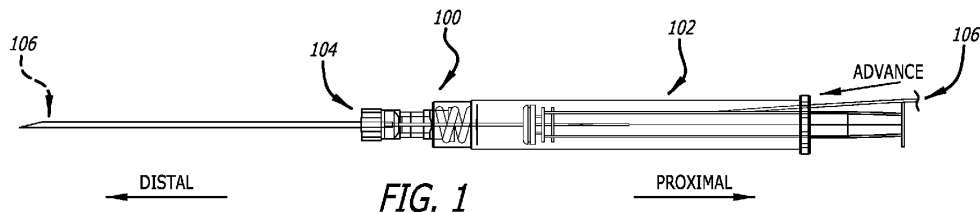
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(54) **Title:** INTRODUCER ASSEMBLIES AND METHODS THEREOF



(57) **Abstract:** An introducer assembly (100) including a syringe (102) and a needle (104) fluidly connected to the syringe. The syringe includes a barrel (112) and a plunger (114) disposed in the barrel. The plunger includes a one-piece plunger shaft (130) and a piston (132) fitted over the distal end of the plunger shaft. The plunger shaft include a longitudinal plunger-shaft passageway (138) extending from the distal end of the plunger shaft. The piston includes a piston through hole (140) forming a portion of an access-guidewire passageway of the introducer assembly with the plunger-shaft passageway. The needle includes a needle shaft (150) and a needle hub (154) over a proximal portion of the needle shaft. A method for securing vascular access with the foregoing introducer assembly.

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