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(71) Applicant: **BARD ACCESS SYSTEMS, INC.** [US/US];
605 North 5600 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 (US).

(72) Inventors: **MCKINNON, Austin, J.**; 5618 Adeline Court,
Herriman, UT 84096 (US). **HOWELL, Glade, H.**; 2037
East Bear Mountain Drive, Draper, UT 84020 (US).

(74) Agent: **WIGHT, Todd, W.**; Rutan & Tucker LLP, 18575
Jamboree Road, 9th Floor, Irvine, CA 92612 (US).

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(54) Title: NEEDLE TIP BLUNTING USING A LENGTH OF A GUIDEWIRE

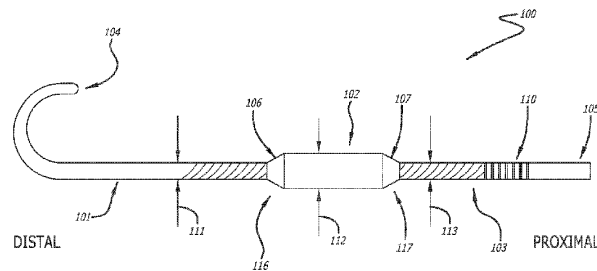


FIG. 1

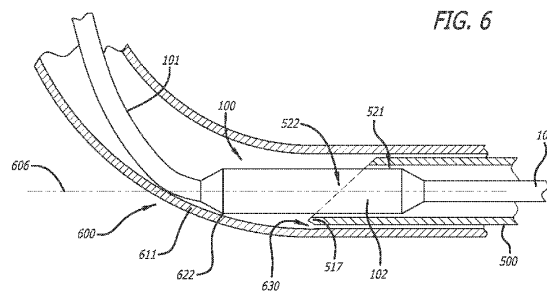


FIG. 6

(57) Abstract: Guidewire 100 including a distal section 101, a proximal section 103 and a middle section 102 disposed between the distal section and the proximal section, wherein the middle section has a flexural stiffness that is greater than a flexural stiffness of both of the distal section and the proximal section. The distal section is configured for insertion into a vasculature of a patient. A diameter of the middle section may be greater than a diameter of the distal section. The guidewires may include a tapered distal transition portion disposed between the distal section and the middle section and a solid core wire extending a length of the guidewire, the solid core wire including a first diameter extending along the distal section, a second diameter extending along the proximal section, and a third diameter extending along the middle section, wherein the third diameter is greater than the first and second diameters.

[Continued on next page]

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