

INVASIVE MEDICAL DEVICE COVER WITH MAGNET

FIELD

5 [0001] Aspects of the present disclosure relate to a cover for magnetizing a tissue-penetrating medical device.

BACKGROUND

10 [0002] Traditionally, penetration of an invasive medical device such as a needle and catheter tubing through skin tissue to reach the vein during catheter insertion is invisible to clinicians. For this reason, clinicians must rely on their first-hand experience with needle insertion in combination with tactile sense to successfully identify the location of the vein. This may be a difficult task when attempting to access a small vein in a deep location under the skin, increasing risk of excess pain and/or injury to the patient. There are similar problems with
15 insertion of other invasive medical devices such as guidewires, catheters, introducer needles, stylets, scalpel and guidewire with respect to the inability to precisely visualize the location of the invasive medical device.

[0003] Emerging procedural guidance systems utilize a combination of ultrasound and magnetic technologies to provide visualization of subdermal anatomy and device position in
20 the in-plane and out-of-plane orientations. This combination of ultrasound and magnetic methods also allows for the projection or anticipation of the insertion device position relative to the patient's anatomy, and thereby improves the likelihood of successfully accessing the vascular and completing the invasive procedure.

[0004] One leading technology targets the a portion of the device that is inserted into the
25 patient, e.g., the needle cannula, as the portion of the invasive device for magnetization, while another leading technology uses a permanent magnet located on the hub (e.g., needle hub) of the device. Current needle guidance systems typically utilize a magnetic field generated by magnetizing the needle by burying the needle into a magnetizer until the point of the needle hits a rubber stopping surface. Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of a currently available
30 disposable needle magnetizer 11. As shown in Figure 1, current practice uses an unprotected needle 13 that is placed within the external disposable needle magnetizer 11 to a depth defined by the bottom of the magnetizer. The current devices for magnetizing a needle prior to insertion generally are not sterile, not disposable, and not electronic.

[0005] In systems of the type shown in Figure 1, damage to the needle can occur that is not apparent to the user that can negatively affect the insertion process. Also, the step of the user actively magnetizing the metal cannula has some limitations and inherent risks as this approach does not guarantee consistent magnetization since variability in clinician procedures such as depth of insertion, speed of process, and centering of the needle in the magnetizer will result in different degrees of magnetization. Considering the potential inconsistency of a user fully inserting the needle to the bottom of the magnetizer 11, the significant risk of damaging the needle tip, and the increased potential for contamination during this step, it would be advantageous to have a system that passively and consistently magnetizes the needle without introducing the aforementioned additional risks, such as needle tip damage and increased potential for contamination. Thus, there is a need for a system that passively and consistently magnetizes invasive medical devices while reducing or eliminating risks, such as needle tip damage and needle contamination.

15 SUMMARY

[0006] A first aspect of the disclosure pertains to a cover for magnetizing a tissue-penetrating medical device. A first embodiment pertains to a cover comprising a sleeve member having a hollow body, the hollow body having a distal end and a proximal end to form a protective closure over a portion (e.g., a shaft) of a tissue-penetrating medical device. In one or more embodiments, the sleeve member may have a length to cover the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device, and there are one or more magnets disposed on the sleeve member. In one or more embodiments, the open end of the hollow tubular body provides a receiving space for receiving at least a portion (e.g., the shaft) of the tissue-penetrating medical device.

[0007] In one or more embodiments, the device-receiving space permits movement of the tissue-penetrating medical device into and out of the device-receiving space. In one or more embodiments, the device-receiving space permits movement of the tissue-penetrating medical device in a parallel direction to the longitudinal axis of the tissue-penetrating medical device.

[0008] In one or more embodiments, one or more magnets are provided on one side of the device-receiving space. In one or more embodiments, two or more magnets are provided, with the two magnets disposed around the device-receiving space. According to one or more embodiments, the two or more magnets are disposed in slots positioned around the sleeve

member. In one or more embodiments, the slots positioned around the sleeve member surround the device-receiving space.

[0009] In one or more embodiments, the cover may be sterile. In one or more embodiments, the cover may be disposable. In one or more embodiments, the cover may be both sterile and
5 disposable. In one or more embodiments, the cover is plastic.

[0010] In one or more embodiments, the tissue-penetrating medical device may be a needle, cannula, stylet, catheter, scalpel or guidewire. According to one more embodiments, the cover passively magnetizes the tissue-penetrating medical device upon removal of the tissue-
10 penetrating medical device from the cover. In a specific embodiments, the tissue-penetrating medical device is a needle, which, when magnetized is adapted for use with a procedural guidance system which can locate and project the position of the needle during an invasive medical procedure.

[0011] In one or more embodiments, the distal end of the tissue penetrating device includes a notch to provide immediate confirmation of vessel entry at a point of insertion.

15 [0012] A second aspect of the disclosure pertains to a medical device assembly which comprises a tissue-penetrating medical device, a cover for magnetizing the tissue-penetrating medical device including a sleeve member having a hollow body having a distal end and a proximal end to form a protective closure over at least a portion (e.g., a shaft) of tissue-
20 penetrating medical device. In one or more embodiments, one or more magnets may be disposed on the sleeve member. In one or more embodiments, the sleeve member has a length to cover the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device, for example, a needle cannula. In one or more embodiments, the open end of the hollow tubular body provides a receiving space for receiving at least part of the tissue-penetrating medical device. In one or more
25 embodiments, the tissue-penetrating medical device includes a needle assembly including a needle and the shaft, and when the shaft is magnetized, the tissue-penetrating medical device is configured for use in a procedural guidance system to locate and project a position of the shaft during an invasive medical procedure. In one or more embodiments, the medical device assembly further comprises a catheter having a proximal end and a distal end; a catheter
30 adapter having a distal end, a proximal end, an overall length extending from the distal end to the proximal end, an internal cavity, an upper portion, a lower portion and a tip region having a distal opening having a circumference through which the catheter extends, the catheter adapter being connected to the proximal end of the catheter; and the shaft having a proximal end and a

distal end, and the needle assembly includes a needle hub connected to the proximal end of the shaft, the needle hub including a hub magnet. In one or more embodiments, the catheter adapter is connected to the proximal end of the shaft.

[0013] A third aspect of the disclosure pertains to a method of magnetizing a tissue-penetrating medical device. The method includes positioning at least a shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device in a cover including a receiving space, the cover including a magnet on the cover; and removing the tissue-penetrating medical device from the receiving space to magnetize the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device in said receiving space. The tissue-penetrating medical device is a needle, cannula, stylet, catheter, scalpel or guidewire.

10 In one or more embodiments, the magnet is a collar surrounding the cover. Alternatively, the cover includes at least two magnets.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0014] Fig. 1 shows a perspective view of a prior art disposable needle magnetizer;

15 [0015] Fig. 2 shows a perspective view of an embodiment of a needle cover of the present disclosure;

[0016] Fig. 3A shows an embodiment of a tissue-penetrating medical device prior to insertion into a needle cover of the present disclosure;

[0017] Fig. 3B shows an embodiment of a tissue-penetrating medical device partially inserted

20 into a needle cover of the present disclosure;

[0018] Fig. 3C shows an embodiment of a tissue-penetrating medical device fully inserted into a needle cover of the present disclosure;

[0019] Fig. 4 shows an embodiment of a tissue-penetrating medical device fully magnetized after being removed from a needle cover of the present disclosure;

25 [0020] Fig. 5 shows an embodiment of a tissue-penetrating medical device with a magnetic collar;

[0021] Fig. 6A shows a partial perspective view of a tip of a needle cover with an embedded magnet;

[0022] Figure 6B shows an end view of a needle cover with one embedded magnet;

30 [0023] Figure 6C shows an end view of a needle cover with two embedded magnets; and

[0024] Figure 7 shows an embodiment of a medical device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0025] Before describing several exemplary embodiments of the disclosure, it is to be understood that the description provided is not limited to the details of construction or process steps set forth in the following description. The devices and methods described herein are

5 capable of other embodiments and of being practiced or being carried out in various ways.

[0026] In this disclosure, a convention is followed wherein the distal end of the device is the end closest to a patient and the proximal end of the device is the end away from the patient and closest to a practitioner.

[0027] Aspects of the disclosure pertain to an improved system that addresses the challenges to

10 the existing technology and systems to passively magnetize a needle, such as a needle used with a peripheral intravenous (IV) catheter. One or more embodiments of the present disclosure relate to a tissue-penetrating medical device with a needle cover with an integrated magnet on or within the needle cover. According to one or more embodiments, the device and system of the present disclosure passively and consistently magnetizes the needle. In one or

15 more embodiments, passive magnetization of an invasive medical device is achieved with no additional or new clinical steps because the invasive medical device already includes a cover that covers the distal tip of the device. In one or more embodiments, the devices and systems described herein provide more precise control of the location of the magnet relative to the device to be magnetized, resulting in a more consist and predictable magnetic field applied to

20 the invasive medical device. In one or more embodiments, the devices and methods described herein create no additional risk of needle damage compared to existing magnetizer devices and no additional risk for contamination compared to existing magnetizer devices.

[0028] Referring now to Figure 2, showing one aspect of the disclosure pertains to a cover 12 for magnetizing a tissue-penetrating medical device 10 comprising a sleeve member 14 having

25 a hollow body 20 having a distal end 21 and a proximal end 22 to form a protective closure over the shaft 34 of a tissue-penetrating medical device 30. In one or more embodiments, the hollow body 20 can be tubular or any other suitable shape. In the embodiment shown, the tissue-penetrating medical device 30 is shown as a needle assembly including a needle housing 32 and a shaft 34 of the needle having a sharp distal tip 36. It will be appreciated that in

30 Figure 2, the sleeve member 14 is shown as transparent and the shaft 34 of the tissue-penetrating medical device 30 is visible. The sleeve member 14 has a length L that covers the shaft 34 of the tissue-penetrating medical device 30, including the sharp distal tip 36 to prevent

accidental needle sticks. The arrows shown in Fig. 2 with respect to the length "L" also show the longitudinal axis of the shaft 34. The open end 22 of the hollow body 20 provides a device-receiving space 40 for receiving at least the shaft 34 of the tissue-penetrating medical device 30. The cover 12 includes at least one magnet 50, and in the embodiment show, at least
5 two magnets 50 disposed on the sleeve member 14.

[0029] The device-receiving space 40 is sized and shaped to permit movement of the shaft 34 of the tissue-penetrating medical device 30 into and out of the device-receiving space 40. In one embodiment, the device-receiving space 40 permits movement of the shaft 34 of the tissue-penetrating medical device 30 into the device-receiving space 40 in a movement that is parallel
10 to the longitudinal axis of the shaft 34 of tissue-penetrating medical device 30. The cover 12 passively magnetizes the shaft 34 of the tissue-penetrating medical device 30 when the cover 12 is removed from the shaft 34 of the tissue-penetrating medical device.

[0030] Figures 3A to 3C show a medical device 100 including a tissue-penetrating medical device 130, a cover 112 for magnetizing the shaft 134 of the tissue-penetrating medical device
15 130. The cover 112 includes a sleeve member 114 having a hollow tubular body 120 having a distal end 121 and a proximal end 122 to form a protective closure over the shaft 134 of the tissue-penetrating medical device 130, the sleeve member 114 having a length L to cover the shaft 134 of the tissue-penetrating medical device 130, the shaft 134 having a length L2 and a distal tip 136. The open end 122 of the hollow tubular body 120 provides a receiving space
20 140 for receiving at least the shaft 134 of the tissue-penetrating medical device 130, and two magnets 150 on the sleeve member 134. It will be understood that while two magnets 150 are shown, the device is not limited to a particular number of magnets or to a particular location of the magnets around the sleeve member. Magnets 150 may be positioned in any position or orientation around the sleeve member. In one or more embodiments, a single magnet can be
25 utilized to magnetize the shaft 134, or more than two magnets can be utilized.

[0031] In embodiments in which two magnets are utilized, the orientation of the magnetic fields of the two magnets can vary. One magnet can have north and south poles on axis with shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device, while the second magnet can have north and south poles off-axis or perpendicular to the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device.
30 Alternatively, the two magnets both can have north and south poles off axis with the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device, or the two magnets both can have north and south poles on axis with the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device.

[0032] Fig. 3A shows the tissue-penetrating medical device 130 prior to insertion into the cover 112 of the present disclosure. The tissue penetrating medical device 130 includes the shaft 134 having a length L2, a distal tip 136, and the shaft 134 is mounted to the housing 130 by a hub 152. In one or more embodiments, the hub 152 includes a hub magnet 155. In one or more embodiments, hub magnet 155 is a permanent fixed magnet. Hub magnet 155 may provide for a fixed magnetic reference point when the tissue-penetrating needle is used with a combination of ultrasound and magnetic technologies to provide visualization of subdermal anatomy and device position. Fig. 3B shows the shaft 134 of the tissue-penetrating medical device 130 partially inserted into a cover 112 of the present disclosure. Fig. 3C shows the shaft 134 of the tissue-penetrating medical 30 device fully inserted into a cover 112 of the present disclosure. The medical device 100 as shown in Figure 3C can be packaged and ready for use for a medical procedure. The medical device 100 shown in Figure 3C can be packaged together with other devices as part of a larger medical device assembly. Thus, Figure 3C shows a medical device 100 which is a needle subassembly having a cover 112 having at least one magnet 150 configured to magnetize shaft 134 of the medical device 100 upon removal of the cover 112 from the shaft. The medical device 100 could further be packaged as part of a catheter assembly including a catheter adapter subassembly.

[0033] Fig. 4 shows the tissue-penetrating medical device 130 with the shaft 134 magnetized after the shaft 134 has been removed from the needle cover shown in Figures 3B-3C. As shown in Figures 3B-3C, two magnets 150 can be integrated into cover 112 so that the cover 112 passively magnetizes the shaft 134 upon removal of cover 112. The embodiment shown in Figures 3B-3C shows two magnets 150 positioned around cover 112. Such a cover could be easily integrated in existing catheter assemblies and other invasive medical devices such as guidewires and stylets to enable the magnetization of the shafts of various invasive medical devices upon removal of the cover to passively magnetize the shaft. The axial position of the magnets can be modified and positioned relative to the shaft length and the desired portion of the shaft to be magnetized. For example, in the case of a needle, the magnets can be specifically positioned based on the gauge and length of the needle. As shown in Figure 3B, the positioning of the magnets would result in the shaft 134 being magnetized from the approximately the position P shown in Figure 3 to the distal tip 136 of the shaft 134 as the portion of the shaft from P to the distal tip P will be moved through the magnetic field provided by the magnets 150. This the tissue-penetrating medical device 130 can now be used

with a procedural guidance system that utilize magnetic sensors as a means of measuring and predicting needle tip location relative to the target anatomy. In one or more embodiments, the distal end of the tissue penetrating medical device 130 includes a notch 137 located on the distal tip 136 of the shaft 134 to provide immediate confirmation of vessel entry at a point of
5 insertion.

[0034] Fig. 5 shows an embodiment of a tissue-penetrating medical device 230 including a cover 212 having a magnetizing collar 260, which can be a magnet in the shape of the collar 260 as shown. The cover 212 includes a sleeve member 214 having a hollow tubular body 220 having a distal end 221 and a proximal end 222 to form a protective closure over the shaft 234
10 of the tissue-penetrating medical device 230. The open end 222 of the hollow tubular body 220 provides a receiving space 240 for receiving at least the shaft 234 of the tissue-penetrating medical device 230. The magnetizing collar 260 is shown as being disconnected from the cover 212, but the magnetizing collar 260 is variably positioned along the length L3 of the cover 212 relative to the shaft 234. The magnetizing collar 260 can be used as a single use disposable
15 item, or the magnetizing collar 260 may be reusable since the needle cover stays in place during the magnetization step. Therefore, according to one or more embodiments, the magnetizing collar 260 is detachably mounted to the cover 212. In alternative embodiments, the magnetizing collar 260 is permanently mounted to the cover 260. The magnetizing collar 260 can be slidably moved along the length of the cover 212. In other embodiments, the length
20 L4 of the magnetizing collar 260 may be equal to the length L3 of the cover 212 such that the entire shaft 234 of the tissue-penetrating medical device 230. In other embodiments, the length L4 of the magnetizing collar 260 is 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80% or 90% of the length L3 of the cover 212. The magnetizing collar 260 can be a tubular magnet that substantially surrounds the periphery of the cover, or the magnetizing collar 260 can be a cover
25 made of plastic or other material with an array of magnets substantially surrounding the periphery of the cover.

[0035] Figures 6A-6C show one way of integrating at least one magnet with a cover for a tissue-penetrating medical device. Figure 6A shows a partial perspective view and Figure 6B shows an end view of a cover 312 having an embedded magnetic 350 in the wall 360 of the
30 cover 360. The magnet 350 is embedded in a slot 362. The magnet 350 can be sized to be slidably mounted within the slot 362 and held in place by friction fit, or the magnet can be attached with an adhesive or other suitable ways. Alternatively, the magnet 350 could be

integrally molded into the wall 360 during the forming process for the cover 312. The length L5 of the magnet 350 shown in Figure 6A is shown as being less than the length of the cover. According to one or more embodiments, the length L5 of the magnet 350 can be equal to the length of the cover, or 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80% or 90% of the length of the cover.

[0036] Figure 6C shows an embodiment of a cover 412 with a first magnet 450 in a first slot 462 of the wall 460 of the cover 412, and a second magnet 452 in a second slot 464 in the wall 460 of the cover. The first magnet 450 and second magnet 452 are shown as being positioned around the cover 412, for example, 180 degrees from each other. It will be understood that the two magnets can be in other positions with respect to each other. Additionally, the cover 412 can include more than two magnets. The first magnet 450 and second magnet 452 can be slidably mounted in the respective first slot 462 and the second slot 464 and held in place by friction fit, or they could be held in place by adhesive. In alternative embodiments, the magnets can be integrally molded with the cover 412. The two or more magnets may have oppositely oriented poles.

[0037] In alternative embodiments, a needle cover is provided that has geometric dimensions that permit the needle cover to be placed inside existing needle magnetizing devices while the needle cover is covering the shaft of the needle. The distal end of the needle cover may be used to limit the depth of insertion by providing a stop to contact the bottom of the needle magnetizing device. Alternatively, a feature near the proximal portion of the needle cover can be provided on the cover to limit the depth of insertion by a stop on the proximal opening of the needle magnetizer.

[0038] The covers described herein can have a variety of properties. In one or more embodiments, the covers are formed from plastic. In one or more embodiments, the covers are sterile. In one or more embodiments, the covers are disposable. In other embodiments, the covers may be both sterile and disposable.

[0039] The tissue-penetrating medical device may be a needle, catheter, introducer needle, stylet, scalpel or guidewire. In one embodiment, the tissue-penetrating medical device is a needle, which when magnetized can be used with a procedural guidance system to locate and project the position of the needle during an invasive medical procedure. The tissue-penetrating medical device according to one or more embodiments includes a magnetizable metallic

material. In a specific embodiment, the magnetizable metallic material is magnetizable stainless steel.

[0040] The covers described herein may also be incorporated into a vascular access device comprising a catheter, a catheter adapter subassembly, and a needle subassembly including an introducer needle, a needle hub connected to the proximal end of the introducer needle and a
5 needle cover according to any of the embodiments described herein. The needle cover may include a plastic sleeve member having a hollow tubular body to form a protective closure over the introducer needle, and two or more magnets disposed on the needle cover as described herein.

10 [0041] An example of a medical device assembly, specifically a vascular access device including a catheter according to any of the foregoing embodiments described above is illustrated in Fig. 7. The medical device assembly 500 shown in Figure 7 comprises a tissue penetrating medical device in the form of a needle subassembly 514, and a catheter adapter subassembly 512 including a catheter adapter body 516 and a catheter tubing 518 and a
15 permanent magnet element 532. In one or more embodiments, the catheter adapter is connected to the proximal end of the shaft.

[0042] Permanent magnet element 532 may serve as an additional reference point when used in combination with ultrasound and magnetic technologies to provide visualization of subdermal anatomy and device position. A needle (not shown) within the catheter tubing 518
20 shows a magnetic portion 530, and the needle has been magnetized upon removal of a cap including a magnet as described with respect to Figures 2-7 herein. Magnetizing the needle with the cover as described herein creates a magnetic field 515 in the magnetic region 530.

[0043] The medical device 500 may be a vascular access device which includes a lateral access port 556 and may be connected to a section of an extension tube 560 for establishing fluid
25 communication between an IV fluid source and the catheter tubing 518. In one or more embodiments, the extension tube 560 is built-in to reduce contamination and mechanical phlebitis by eliminating manipulation at the insertion site. In one or more embodiments, the extension tube 560 is compatible with high pressure injection. In one or more embodiments, the extension tube 560 provides continuous confirmation of vessel access during advancement
30 of the catheter into the patient vein.

[0044] In one or more embodiments, a needle of a needle subassembly 514 is inserted into a lumen of the catheter tubing 518. The needle subassembly 514 is shown as including finger

grips 584 positioned at the sides of the needle subassembly 514 to facilitate various insertion techniques. In one or more embodiments, bumps may be present on the finger grip to indicate where to the user may grip the device for needle removal. In one or more embodiments, a thumb pad 585, having a gently convex surface, is provided at the proximal end of the needle subassembly 514. A flange 586, having a gently convex surface, is provided at the proximal end of the needle subassembly 514 to provide a finger pad. A wing member 570, thumb pad 585 and flange 586 may be utilized by the user during insertion, permitting the user to elect which insertion technique to employ.

[0045] In one or more embodiments, the needle subassembly 514 includes a needle shield 580. The needle shield 580 may be a design adapted to secure the tip of the needle within the shield after use. In one or more embodiments, the needle shield 580 may be activated passively. The needle tip is completely covered by the needle shield 580 in a fixed position. In one or more embodiments, a ferrule, crimp or other structure may be included near the tip for engagement with a needle shield in certain applications.

[0046] A push tab 581 may be provided to facilitate catheter advancement during insertion. The push tab 581 also allows for one-handed or two-handed advancement. In one or more embodiments, the push tab 581 is removed with the needle shield 580. A clamp 582 may also be included on the extension tubing to prevent blood flow when replacing the access port.

[0047] In one or more embodiments, the vascular access device 500 further includes a first luer access 572 and a second luer access 573 in fluid communication with the extension tube 560, a blood control split septum 574 associated with the first luer access 572, and an air vent 576 associated with the second luer access 573. Split septum 574 allows for a reduction in catheter-related bloodstream infection (CRBSI) while providing unrestricted flow and a straight fluid path and functions as a blood control septum. In one or more embodiments, the split septum 574 may be located in an internal cavity of the catheter adapter or on the distal end of the catheter adapter. In yet another embodiment, the split septum 574 may be located on a distal end of the extension tube 560. The air vent 576 allows air to escape from the system during insertion, providing continuous confirmation of vascular access while preventing leakage of blood from the system during insertion. In one or more embodiments, the air vent 576 may be at the distal end of extension tube 560.

[0048] In one or more embodiments, the base unit can be integrated into the ultrasound system with the ultrasound processor and a magnetometric detector being in direct communication with the ultrasound system either via wireless link or using the same physical cable.

[0049] Another aspect of the disclosure pertains to a method of magnetizing a tissue-

5 penetrating medical device. Embodiments of the method include positioning a shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device in a cover including a device-receiving space, the cover including at least one magnet on the cover; removing the tissue-penetrating medical device from the device-receiving space to magnetize the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device.

10 [0050] Reference throughout this specification to "one embodiment," "certain embodiments," "one or more embodiments" or "an embodiment" means that a particular feature, structure, material, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment is included in at least one embodiment of the disclosure. Thus, the appearances of the phrases such as "in one or more embodiments," "in certain embodiments," "in one embodiment" or "in an embodiment"

15 in various places throughout this specification are not necessarily referring to the same embodiment of the disclosure. Furthermore, the particular features, structures, materials, or characteristics may be combined in any suitable manner in one or more embodiments.

[0051] Although the disclosure herein has provided a description with reference to particular embodiments, it is to be understood that these embodiments are merely illustrative of the

20 principles and applications of the present disclosure. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made to the method and apparatus of the present disclosure without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosure. Thus, it is intended that the present disclosure include modifications and variations that are within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

CLAIMS

1. A cover for magnetizing a tissue-penetrating medical device comprising:
a removable, transparent sleeve member having a hollow body to form a protective closure over a shaft of a tissue-penetrating medical device prior to use, the sleeve member comprising a longitudinal axis, an open end of the hollow tubular body providing a receiving space for receiving at least the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device; and
a first magnet slidably mounted within a first slot on the sleeve member and a second magnet slidably mounted within a second slot on the sleeve member, the first magnet and the second magnet disposed on the sleeve member effective to passively magnetize the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device when the sleeve member is removed from the shaft of a tissue-penetrating medical device..
2. The cover of claim 1, wherein the receiving space permits movement of the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device in the receiving space in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the tissue-penetrating medical device.
3. The cover of claim 1, wherein the receiving space permits movement of the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device into and out of the receiving space.
4. The cover of claim 1, wherein the first and second magnets are on one side of the sleeve member.
5. The cover of claim 1, wherein the first and second slots and the first and second magnets on the sleeve member partially surround the receiving space.
6. The cover of claim 1, wherein the cover is sterile.
7. The cover of claim 1, wherein the cover is disposable.
8. The cover of claim 1, wherein the cover comprises plastic.

9. A medical device assembly comprising:
a tissue-penetrating medical device including a shaft; and
a removable, transparent cover for magnetizing the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device, the removable cover including a sleeve member having a hollow tubular body to form a protective closure over the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device prior to use, the sleeve member comprising a length that covers the shaft, an open end of the hollow body providing a receiving space for receiving at least the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device, and a first magnet slidably mounted within a first slot on the sleeve member and a second magnet slidably mounted within a second slot on the sleeve member, the first magnet and the second magnet on the sleeve member to passively magnetize the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device when the sleeve member is removed from the shaft of a tissue-penetrating medical device.
10. The medical device assembly of claim 9, wherein the tissue-penetrating medical device is a needle assembly, a stylet, catheter, introducer needle, scalpel or guidewire.
11. The medical device assembly of claim 9, wherein the tissue-penetrating medical device includes a needle assembly and the cover is effective to magnetize the shaft upon removal of the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device from the cover.
12. The medical device assembly of claim 11, wherein the tissue-penetrating medical device includes a needle assembly including a needle and the shaft, and when the shaft is magnetized, the tissue-penetrating medical device is configured for use in a procedural guidance system to locate and project a position of the shaft during an invasive medical procedure.
13. The medical device assembly of claim 12, further comprising:
a catheter having a proximal end and a distal end;
a catheter adapter having a distal end, a proximal end, an overall length extending from the distal end to the proximal end, an internal cavity, an upper portion, a lower portion and a tip region having a distal opening having a circumference through which the catheter extends, the catheter adapter being connected to the proximal end of the catheter; and

the shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, and the needle assembly includes a needle hub connected to the proximal end of the shaft, the needle hub having one or more magnets thereon.

14. The medical device assembly claim 13, wherein the one or more magnets comprises a fixed permanent magnet.

15. The medical device assembly claim 13, wherein the one or more magnets comprises a magnetic collar, the magnetic collar surrounding the cover and being moveable along the shaft.

16. The device of claim 13, wherein a distal portion of the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device includes a notch to provide immediate confirmation of vessel entry at a point of insertion.

17. A method of magnetizing a tissue-penetrating medical device comprising:
positioning at least a shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device in a cover as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8; and
removing the tissue-penetrating medical device from the receiving space to magnetize the shaft of the tissue-penetrating medical device in said receiving space.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the tissue-penetrating medical device is a needle, cannula, stylet, catheter, scalpel or guidewire.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the magnet is a collar surrounding the cover.