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Box III Text of the abstract

A safety needle assembly having a catheter hub (152) attached to a catheter tube (154) and a needle hub (156) attached to a needle (158) projecting through the catheter tube (154). A needle guard (122) has a proximal wall (130) having an opening (132) and two arms (134, 136) each with an end (138, 140). The needle guard is positioned in an interior cavity of the catheter hub and a support is formed with the catheter hub or a valve opener located inside the catheter hub. Alternatively, the needle guard is positioned in an interior cavity of a third hub (164) located proximally of the catheter hub and a support is formed with the third hub. The support spaces the two ends of the needle guard from the needle in a ready position.