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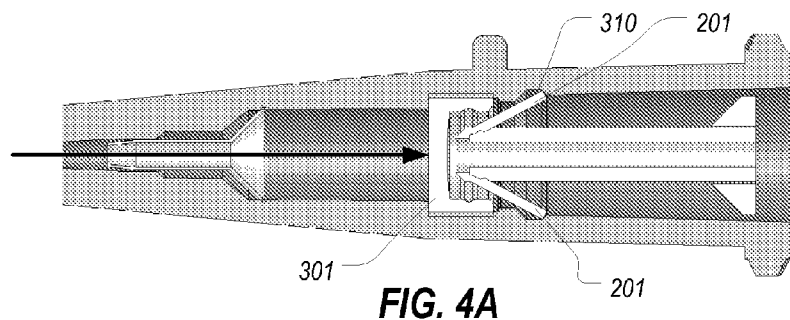
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(54) Title: BLOOD CONTROL CATHETER VALVE EMPLOYING ACTUATOR WITH FLEXIBLE RETENTION ARMS



(57) Abstract: The present invention extends to a blood control catheter valve for use in a catheter adapter. The blood control catheter valve employs an actuator for passing through a septum (301) to open the blood control catheter valve. The actuator includes flexible retention arms (201) positioned on one end which retract into the body of the actuator while the end of the actuator passes through the septum, and then expand outwardly to maintain the actuator positioned within the septum. This design facilitates the manufacturing of catheter adapters (as well as blood control catheter valves and other components that attach to the catheter adapter) because the design can reduce the tolerance requirements of such components. Further, the design provides a reliable blood control catheter valve that does not require the catheter adapter to be increased in size to accommodate the valve.