

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
31 January 2019 (31.01.2019)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2019/023609 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

A61B 8/00 (2006.01) A61B 18/14 (2006.01)
A61B 17/34 (2006.01) A61M 25/00 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2018/044143

(22) International Filing Date:

27 July 2018 (27.07.2018)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

62/538,552 28 July 2017 (28.07.2017) US
62/592,061 29 November 2017 (29.11.2017) US

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(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ,
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO,
DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN,
HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP,
KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME,
MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ,
OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA,
SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN,
TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH,
GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ,
UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ,
TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK,
EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV,
MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM,

(54) Title: DIRECTIONAL BALLOON TRANSSEPTAL INSERTION DEVICE FOR MEDICAL PROCEDURES

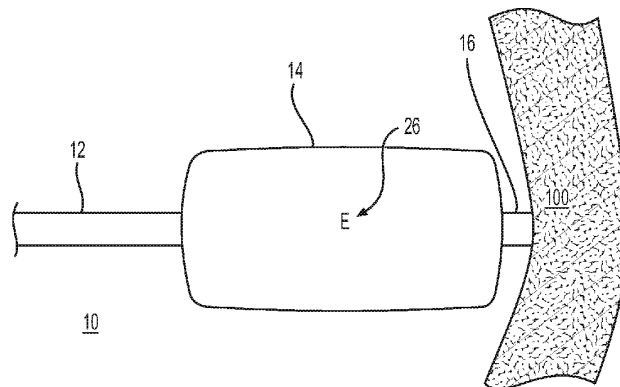


FIG. 8

(57) Abstract: A transseptal insertion device suitable for facilitating precise and safe transseptal puncture of a cardiac interatrial septum (100) includes a sheath (12) that defines a lumen and has a distal end that is closest to the cardiac interatrial septum of a patient and a proximal end that is external to the patient, a balloon (14) that is connected to the distal end of the sheath (12) in which the balloon (14), when inflated, overhangs and extends past the distal end of the sheath, preventing accidental puncturing of the cardiac interatrial septum (100) and stabilizing the transseptal insertion device against fossa ovalis of the cardiac interatrial septum (100), and a dilator (16) that is positioned within the at least one lumen. The dilator (16) has a distal end and is designed to and is capable of precisely puncturing the cardiac interatrial septum without the use of a needle or other sharp instrument. The balloon (14) includes one or more ultrasound transceivers (26).

[Continued on next page]

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TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW,
KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- *with international search report (Art. 21(3))*
- *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the
claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of
amendments (Rule 48.2(h))*